



State of Tennessee  
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403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**MORGAN, Dr. WALTER McNAIRY**  
**(1889-1978)**  
**PAPERS**  
**1932-1958**

*Processed by:*

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**MICROFILMED**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This finding aid focuses on the papers of Dr. Walter McNairy Morgan, Sr., dentist, of Nashville, Tennessee, born 1889. Spanning the years 1932-1958, the papers contain numerous correspondence concerning the philosophy, history, and practice of dentistry in Tennessee, with special emphasis on the controversy between the Memphis Dental Society and the University of Tennessee Dental college over the services rendered by the College Clinic.

The materials were donated by Dr. Morgan over a period of several months in 1966-1968. The collection measures approximately 3.5 cubic feet. There are no restrictions on the material. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Dr. Morgan, Sr., Papers may be made for scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Dr. Walter McNairy Morgan, Sr., Papers, containing approximately 1,500 items, span the period 1932-1958. The collection is composed of certificates, clippings, correspondence, a diary, photographs, speeches, writings, and several miscellaneous items.

A large portion of the collection is primarily concerned with the controversy, 1932-1935, between the Memphis Dental Society and the University of Tennessee Dental College over the services rendered by the College Clinic at a rate which was 60 to 70% less than the practicing dentist in Tennessee could afford to charge. A similar controversy is covered in the Fifth District Dental Society and the Atlanta-Southern Dental College, 1932-1937.

Much of the collection is composed of correspondence between Dr. Morgan, chairman of the Special Committee on Tennessee Dental College, and a member of the Council on Dental Education in the American Dental Association, with associate dentists on common dental problems and related matters.

Prominent political correspondents that may be found in the general correspondence are Nathan L. Bachman, Kenneth McKellar, Richard M. Atkinson, Gordon Browning, Prentice Cooper, and Cordell Hull. There is also a letter from General W. C. Westmoreland.

Apart from professional correspondence, there are several interesting letters from a serviceman, Sergeant L. M. Frazer stationed in Okinawa after the end of World War II, lamenting the delay in the return of military personnel to the States for separation (see Box 2, Folder 2).

There are several photographs of Webb School (Bell Buckle, Tennessee) class members including one depicting Walter M. Morgan in the senior class of 1910.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **Walter McNairy Morgan**

- 1889 August 20, born in Tennessee, the son of Dr. William Henry and Matilda Evans Morgan.
- ca. 1898-1910 Attended and graduated from Webb School, Bell Buckle, Tennessee.
- 1910-1917 Attended and graduated from Vanderbilt Dental School.
- 1917-1974 Practiced dentistry in Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1918 Married Virginia Carver of Memphis.
- 1978 September 13, died in Nashville, Tennessee, and interred in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

### **Organizations and Honors**

Former Nashville and state tennis singles champion  
Member of Board of Trustees of Meharry Medical College  
Member of Judiciary Committee of Tennessee Dental Association  
Member of Council on Dental Education, American Dental Association  
Chairman of Special Committee on Dental College  
Chairman of Code of Ethics Committee, American Dental Association  
Trustee of Webb School, Bell Buckle, Tennessee

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box Number 1**

1. Association, institutions, etc.—Meharry Medical College
2. Certificates—Ewell Hill Dental Society—Dr. Walter M. Morgan, March 22, 1943
3. Certificates—Medical Advisory Board (Selective Service)—Walter M. Morgan, 1941
4. Certificates—Tennessee State Dental Association—Walter M. Morgan, 1941, 1942
5. Clippings--Miscellaneous
6. Correspondence—A
7. Correspondence—B
8. Correspondence—C

### **Box Number 2**

#### **Correspondence**

1. D—E
2. F—G
3. H
4. I—J—K
5. L

### **Box Number 3**

#### **Correspondence**

1. M
2. Murray—Wagner bill, 1946
3. N—O
4. N. I. R. A, 1933
5. P—Q

### **Box Number 4**

#### **Correspondence**

1. R
2. S
3. T
4. U—Z

### **Box Number 5**

#### **Dental Education**

1. Controversies—Columbia University, 1945-1946
2. Controversies—Fifth District Dental Society and Atlanta-Southern Dental College, 1932-1937
3. Controversies—Memphis Dental Society and Univ. of Tenn. Dental College, 1932-1934
4. Controversies—Memphis Dental Society and Univ. of Tenn. Dental College, 1935

## **Box Number 6**

### **Dental Education**

1. Controversies—Memphis Dental Society and Univ. of Tenn. Dental College, 1935
2. Controversies—Memphis Dental Society and Univ. of Tenn. Dental College, 1936-1938
3. Correspondence, resolutions, proposals, etc.

## **Box Number 7**

1. Dental education—Correspondence, surveys, etc.
2. Dental education—Council on Dental Education
3. Dental education—Definition of dentistry
4. Diaries, memoirs, journals, commonplace books, etc.—A. Leroy Johnson, D.M.D—“A Winding Way,” 1959
5. Eulogies—A. LeRoy Johnson, October 20, 1967
6. Lists—School of Dentistry, 1916
7. Photographs—Junior class, Webb School, 1919-1920
8. Photographs—Senior Class, Webb School, 1910
9. Programs—Atlanta-Southern Dental College Alumni association 6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, May 30, 31-June 1, 1938
10. Speeches-addresses—C.N. Johnson—“Life and World of William Henry Morgan, M.D.D.D.S
11. Speeches-addresses—Hugh W. MacMillan—“The School of Medicine and Dentistry, Univ. of Rochester,” 1931
12. Speeches-addresses—Walter M. Morgan—Before American Dental Association
13. Speeches-addresses—Walter M. Morgan—“The Gold Inlay”
14. Speeches-addresses—Walter M. Morgan—“Operative Procedures Following Extractions...”
15. Writings—Walter M. Morgan (?)—“Absenteeism Due to Diseases of the Teeth and Gums...”
16. Writings—Walter M. Morgan—“Dental Education”
17. Writings—Walter M. Morgan—“Dentistry Should be Defined,” January 1946
18. Writings—Walter M. Morgan—Editorials
19. Writings—Walter M. Morgan—“A Splint for Fractures of the Maxillary Bones”
20. Writings—Walter M. Morgan—“Vincent’s Infection”