



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**MOORE, FREDERICK WIGHTMAN**  
**(1863-1911)**  
**PAPERS**  
**1904-1905**

**(THS Collection)**

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## INTRODUCTION

These papers concern attempts made by the Tennessee Historical Society to obtain passage of a law authorizing the construction of a permanent, fireproof building to house the Tennessee State Archives. Included is some correspondence of Frederick Wightman Moore (1863-1911), who served on the Tennessee Historical Society's committee to petition the State Legislature on behalf of such legislation, as well as some correspondence of John C. Kennedy, a member of the Tennessee Historical Society's committee on plans and arrangements for a public meeting concerning the archives. The donor of these materials is unknown.

There are approximately 75 items included in this collection. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Frederick Wightman Moore Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, containing approximately 75 items, covers the years 1904-1905. The letters relate to the Tennessee Historical Society's unsuccessful efforts to encourage passage in 1905 of a law authorizing the erection of a permanent, fireproof building in which to house the State Archives.

A major part of the collection is composed of the correspondence of Frederick Wightman Moore (1863-1911), who held the Chair in History and Economics at Vanderbilt University from 1892 until 1911. Moore was appointed by President James David Porter of the Tennessee Historical Society to serve on a committee which petitioned the State Legislature to construct a building for the archives and as chairman of a committee to make arrangements for a public meeting concerning the archives held by the Tennessee Historical Society in January 1905. In his attempts to engage speakers of the January meeting and to marshal support for a permanent home for the archives, Dr. Moore corresponded with, among others, Herman V. Ames, chairman of the Public Archives commission of the American Historical Association; R.M. Barton, a judge of the Court of Chancery Appeals of Tennessee; George P. Garrison, recording secretary and librarian of the Texas State Historical Association; A.V. Goodpasture, secretary of the Tennessee Historical Society; Seymour Allen Hynders, Superintendent of the Tennessee Department of Public Instruction; Thomas H. Owen, director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History; Franklin L. Riley, secretary of the Mississippi Historical Society; and St. George Leakin Sioussat, who succeeded Dr. Moore in the history department at Vanderbilt. Sioussat's letter expresses encouragement for Moore's efforts on behalf of a building for the archives, explains how the State of Massachusetts has preserved and cared for her records, and suggests a possible relationship between a Northern bias in the writing of U.S. History and the scarcity of available public records in the South.

In addition to the correspondence of Dr. Moore, some letters of John C. Kennedy are in the collection. Kennedy, the purchasing agent for the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railway, was a member of the committee in charge of arrangements of the public meeting held by the Tennessee Historical Society in January 1905, to discuss the fate of the archives. This correspondence centers on Kennedy's efforts to arouse interest in and urge attendance at that meeting.

Other letters include one from J.R. Curl, Secretary of State for Texas, to James David Porter; one from P.E. Hanson, Secretary of State for Minnesota to Porter; one signed by Porter; and one from James H. Yarborough to Professor E.W. Kennedy concerning the value of some property adjacent to the Tennessee Capitol.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

### **Frederick Wightman Moore**

- 1863            October 18 – Born in New London, Connecticut; son of Ezra and Juliette Moore
- 1891-92        Lectured on sociology in Wharton School of Finance of the University of Pennsylvania
- 1892            Succeeded Edward W. Bemis in the Chair of History and Economics at Vanderbilt University
- 1894            Vanderbilt Southern History Society founded during Moore's tenure
- 1899            First Ph.D. in history awarded by Vanderbilt conferred on David Duncan Wallace during Moore's tenure
- 1903            Organized a conference on the study and teaching of history in the South, which was held in conjunction with the meeting of the American Historical Association at New Orleans
- 1904            Sat as the representative of the Tennessee Historical Society at the conference of state and local historical societies organized by the American Historical Association; drew up report of the consultations at that meeting
- Chairman of committee on plans and arrangements appointed by the Tennessee historical Society to arrange for a public meeting concerning the permanent housing of the State Archives
- Appointed by President James D. Porter to a committee of ten of the Tennessee Historical Society; the purpose of this committee was to petition the State Legislature for funds to erect a fireproof building for the State Archives
- 1905            January 10, 11 – Public meeting to discuss a permanent structure for the State Archives held by the Tennessee Historical Society; Moore was chairman of the committee on arrangements and an important participant

1911

Retired from Chair of History and Economics at Vanderbilt University,  
due to bad health

April 23 – Moore died in Denver, Colorado, where he had moved  
because of failing health.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

1. Correspondence, Incoming – Kennedy, John C.
2. Correspondence, Outgoing – Kennedy, John C.
3. Correspondence, Incoming – Moore, Frederick W. (Ames-Owen)
4. Correspondence, Incoming – Moore, Frederick W. (Raine-Wrenne)
5. Correspondence, Outgoing – Moore, Frederick W.
6. Correspondence – Porter, James D.

## NAME INDEX

This is a name index of the incoming correspondence of **John C. Kennedy** along with the dates of the letters. The last numbers refer to the box and folder in which the material is to be found. All of the letters deal with Kennedy's efforts to aid in obtaining a permanent depository for the Tennessee Archives.

Fort, Joel B., 1904, 1-1  
Gooch, J.S., 1904, 1-1  
Ingersoll, Henry H., 1904, 1-1  
Irion, John T., 1904, 1-1  
Kelley, D.C., 1904, 1-1  
Weakley, Hickman, 1904, 1-1

## NAME INDEX

This is a name index of the incoming correspondence of **Frederick Wightman Moore**, holder of the Chair in history and economics at Vanderbilt University from 1892 until 1911, along with the dates of the letters. The figures in parentheses immediately following the name denote the number of letters if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder in which the material is to be found. All of the letters center on Moore's attempts to secure legislation authorizing the construction of a permanent building for the Tennessee Archives.

Ames, Herman V., 1905, 1-3  
Barton, R.M., 1904, 1-3  
Bass, John M. (3), 1904, 1-3  
Caldwell, Joshua W. (4), 1904, 1-3  
Collier, W.A. (2), 1905, 1-3  
Gardner, John M., 1905, 1-3  
Garrison, George P., 1905, 1-3  
Goodpasture, A.V. (2), 1904, 1-3  
Halley, R.A. (2), 1904, 1905, 1-3  
Harned, P.L., 1904, 1-3  
Hayes, C.L., (2), 1904, 1-3  
Hays, Stockly D., 1904, 1-3  
Hoss, Elijah Embree, 1904, 1-3  
Howse, H.E., 1904, 1-3  
Mellen, George F. (3), 1904, 1-3  
Owen, Thomas M. (7), 1904, 1905, 1-3

Raine, Gilbert D., 1905, 1-4  
Riley, Franklin L., 1904, 1-4  
Sanford, Edward T. (2), 1904,1905, 1-4  
Sioussat, St. George L., 1905, 1-4. (Attached is a handwritten copy of a Maryland law setting up a Public Records Commission and a report of the Historical Committee of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans in pamphlet form.)  
Washington, Joseph E., 1905, 1-4  
Whitthorne, W.J., 1905, 1-4  
Wrenne, Thomas W., 1904, 1-4