



**State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives**

**Bell Family Papers,
1833-1947**

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:

Bell family

Inclusive Dates:

1833-1947, bulk 1918-1943

Scope & Content:

Consists of a variety of items including accounts, photographs, photograph albums, scrapbooks, certificates, ephemera, programs, postcards, an invitation, funeral notice, newspaper clippings, and an autograph book.

The collection includes an account document from W. M. Watkins & Co., a merchant in Gallatin, Tennessee, dating June 1, 1846. This account provides a list of clothing totaling \$81.83. The collection also contains an autograph book, belonging to Kathleen Bell of Gallatin, Tennessee, and dated 1899; however, several signatures and notes bear dates between 1896 and 1898.

The collection also contains three church certificates dating 1890 to 1908 for Joyce Camp, Elizabeth Joyce Camp, and Mrs. Ada E. Camp. There are also several items of ephemera in the collection including three of Kate Bell's calling cards, a breast pin that says A. B. Denning, and a sketch of William G. Straw. The collection also includes a funeral notice for Mrs. J. P. Edmunds from November 14, 1922 in Franklin, Kentucky.

In addition, the Bell Family Papers include three graduation programs for Central High School in Gallatin, five postcards, and a newspaper clipping of the Central High School in Gallatin; a wedding invitation from July 1887 for Will J. Malcomson and Willie F. Bell; and eight musical programs, five of which are recitals for the pupils of Mrs. Prudence Simpson Dresser and Miss Elizabeth

Martin Blue. The other programs are for plays at Central High School and Potter College.

Also worth noting are the many photographs and the three photograph albums held in the collection. There are twenty-nine photographs, sixteen of which are unidentified and undated. There are four thumbnail sized portraits of Clara M. Austin, Nell Bell, and Henry Elliot; a portrait of Elizabeth Joyce Camp; a group picture of thirteen older ladies with their names written on the back of the photograph; a picture of Mrs. Eliza Malcomson and her son, W. J. Malcomson; a group picture of "The Elliot Family," dated April 1947; a portrait of Ada Edmund de Camp; and a portrait of Captain Sam Simpson. The photo albums appear to have belonged to Miss Willie Bell and her sisters, dating from 1884-1888. The majority of the albums consists of numerous unidentified portraits, some of which are tintypes.

Lastly, the scrapbooks consist of newspaper clippings and a *Southern Woman's Magazine* from December 1916. The majority of the scrapbook contains cartoons and political cartoons with the exception of a couple of news articles. The second scrapbook, labeled, "Sumner County Boys in World War II and Maneuvers in Tennessee, 1941, 1942, 1943," consists of WWII newspaper clippings with a focus on soldiers from Sumner County, Tennessee.

Physical Description/Extent:

3 cubic feet

Accession/Record Group Number:

1994-064

Language:

English

Permanent Location:

V-L-5

Repository:

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

Administrative/Biographical History

Alfred Erasmus Bell was born on February 10, 1836 in Sumner County, Tennessee. He was the sixth of nine children of Patton and Jane (Gilbert) Bell. Alfred's grandparents emigrated from Germany. He married Emeline C. Cline on

November 22, 1855, and they had seven children: Mary Jane Amanda (later Mrs. Rutledge), Alfred Porterfield, Charley J., Eliza Louisa (later Mrs. Garrison), Willie F., Jessie M., and Kathleen. After their marriage, the Bells bought a 150-acre farm in Sumner County. During the Civil War, Bell was Captain of the 9th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment (C.S.). During John Hunt Morgan's raid into Ohio in 1863, Bell fought at the Battle of Blissingate/Salineville after which he became a prisoner-of-war. Taken to Johnson's Island, he remained imprisoned until the end of the war. He returned to Sumner County on July 25, 1865. In 1897, Emeline Bell died. Alfred Bell married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Baker on December 20, 1904. They had one daughter, Ada Kathleen. Bell was a member of the Sumner County Court and the House of Representatives in the 53rd General Assembly (1903-1904). Alfred died on February 21, 1913 at the age of 77 and was buried in the Gallatin City Cemetery in Gallatin, Tennessee.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

The collection is arranged in alphabetical and chronological order.

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:

No restrictions.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

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Index Terms

Personal/Family Names:

Bell family
Bell, Kathleen, active 1896-1899
Bell, Willie F., active 1884-1888
Camp, Ada E., active 1908
Camp, Elizabeth Joyce, active 1890
Camp, Joyce, active 1899
Elliott family
Malcomson, Elizabeth, active 1933

Malcomson, Will J., active 1887-1933

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:

Central High School (Gallatin, Tenn.)
W. M. Watkins & Co. (Gallatin, Tenn.)
United States. Army -- Maneuvers

Subjects:

World War, 1939-1945

Geographic Names:

Gallatin (Tenn.) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources
Gallatin (Tenn.) -- History -- 20th century -- Sources
Gallatin (Tenn.) -- Social life and customs -- 20th century
Sumner County (Tenn.) -- History -- 20th century -- Sources

Document Types:

Accounts
Autograph albums
Baptismal certificates
Breast pins
Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Photograph albums
Photographs
Postcards
Programs (documents)
Scrapbooks
Sketches
Tintypes (prints)
Visiting cards

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:

This collection was donated by the Edward Ward Carmack Public Library of Gallatin, Tennessee.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

Bell Family Papers, 1833-1947, Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Kimberly Mills and completed on April 31, 2006.

Existence and Location of Copies:

Mf. 1875

DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

CONTAINER LIST

Contents/Item Title	Date	Box	Folder
Account -- W. M. Watkins & Co.	1846	1	1
Autograph Book --- Bell, Kathleen	1899	1	2
Correspondence --- Mary H. Cannon	1833	1	3
Church certificates	1899-1908	1	4
Ephemera	undated	1	5
Funeral notice --- Edmunds, Mrs. J. P.	1922	1	6
Graduation programs	1918	1	7
Leather photograph portfolio	undated	1	8
Musical programs	1897-1923	1	9
Newspaper clippings	undated	1	10
Postcards	undated	1	11
Photographs	1933-1947	1	12
Photographs --- unidentified	undated	1	13
Photo album --- Bell, Jessie	1888	2	1
Photo album --- Bell, Willie and Sister	1884	3	1
Photo album	undated	4	1
Scrapbook	1916	5	1
Scrapbook	1941-1943	6	1