



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

GEORGE L. GEARY PAPERS
1862-1927

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INTRODUCTION

The Tennessee State Library and Archives purchased the George L. Geary Papers, 1862-1927, from Charles Apfelbaum, a manuscript dealer from Washington, New Jersey. The collection consists of letters, clippings, publications, estate papers, and two diaries. There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The George L. Geary Papers, 1862-1927 consists of correspondence, diaries, estate papers, a financial agreement, government documents, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets. Correspondence includes four letters from George L. Geary when he served with the 46th Ohio Infantry Regiment as a corporal during the Civil War. Two of these letters are dated 1862 whereas the remaining two are undated; however, all four provide detail of Geary's experiences. Other correspondence of note is a letter from an unidentified person to their cousin, dated June 2, 1863. This letter mentions the "dreadful scare" of the Rebel raid in Morgantown, Virginia. The remaining letters are from family and friends regarding family, friends, politics, business, and community news.

Of special interest is George L. Geary's diaries. The first diary contains entries from April 19, 1864, through November 1, 1864, in which he gives extensive details of his experiences and daily activities as a soldier. Included are entries on his travels, a train explosion, the weather, his health, camp life, marching, rations, his pet squirrel, the capture of 200 Rebel soldiers, Sherman's fighting, and deaths of fellow soldiers and commanders. The second diary of Geary's is from January 1, 1880, through August 24, 1880, and primarily describes his daily life after the war as a farmer.

This collection also holds a list of names of unmarried youths between the ages of 6 and 21, dated July 1862. The list shows the children's names, sex, and ages. The origin and purpose of the document remain unknown. Also included are the estate papers for Barnet J. Cosgray, dated January 17, 1906. His will lists George Cosgray, Elizabeth Finch, Martha J. Geary, and Sarah C. Haskinson as his heirs. Also housed within the collection is a financial agreement for George L. Geary, dating April 9, 1877, naming him the supervisor of the Road District No. 6 in Washington, Franklin County. The agreement includes the signatures of both Geary and Joseph C. Cosgray.

Also included in the collection are patriotic and pension related papers and two pamphlets titled "This Song Souvenir of Old War Songs and G.A.R. and Patriotic Songs," and the "Official Programme [sic] 35th National Encampment and the Grand Army of The Republic and Guide to Cleveland," dated 1901. Pension related papers include a copy of a bill from the House of Representatives "[g]ranting an increase of pension to certain soldiers, sailors, and marines of the Civil War, and to widows of soldiers, sailors, and marines." There is a note and correspondence from *The National Tribune* address the Act of May 1, 1920, which advocated for \$72 per month pension for Civil War soldiers.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

George L. Geary served as a corporal in the Union Army, mostly in Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1864, with the 46th Ohio Infantry Regiment. He returned home to Ohio on November 1, 1864 and became a farmer.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Clippings, 1882-1927
2. Correspondence --- George L. Geary, 1862
3. Correspondence --- Various, 1863-1916,
4. Diaries --- George L. Geary, 1864, 1880
5. Ephemera, 1916-1919
6. Estate Papers --- Barnet J. Cosgray, 1906
7. Financial agreement --- Joseph Cosgray & George L. Geary, 1877
8. List, 1892
9. Pamphlets, 1901
10. Pension documents, 1920-1921