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# Whittle, Charles Edward, Sr., 1900-1973 (MSS 257)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
Department of Library Special Collections  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

**MSS 257 WHITTLE, Charles Edward, Sr., 1900-1973**

3 boxes. 27 folders. 329 items. 1820-1998. Originals and typescripts.

1998.81.1; SC2016.64

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Charles Edward "Charlie" Whittle, Sr. was born 7 January 1900 in Edmonson County, near Silent Grove, to Elijah Emerson and Mossie (Stephens) Whittle. He attended the Silent Grove public school until age ten when his parents moved to Brownsville after his father's election as county court clerk. His father soon died and he moved to Bowling Green with his mother and maternal grandparents so that he could complete his education. He graduated from Ogden Prep School at age 15, Ogden College at age 18, and Yale University at age 19. He returned to Kentucky to teach at Ogden College and in 1923 was named president of that institution. He resigned in 1925 to run for Edmonson County attorney, having previously studied law under Marvel Mills Logan and passed the Kentucky bar exam. He served in this capacity until 1930. Although he ran unsuccessfully as the Republican candidate for Congress in 1926, he continued to be actively involved in state and local politics while maintaining his law practice. He was assistant campaign manager for Simeon Willis in the 1943 governor's race. During the Willis administration he served as legal counsel to the Department of Agriculture, as a member of the Tax Commission, and as a member of the State Fair Board. He was also appointed to the Kentucky Public Service Commission for the term 1946-1950, serving as chairman from 1946 to 1949. He was appointed county attorney in 1970 and elected to the position in 1971, serving until his 1973 death.

Charlie Whittle's interests were wide ranging. He was an authority on Edmonson County history writing *Baker Iron Furnace on Nolin, Post Offices and Postmasters of Edmonson County, Kentucky for 1825-1928, Brief Sketches on Members of the Edmonson County Bar at Brownsville, Kentucky (1909-1971), and Sketches in Edmonson County: Flashlights in Folklore*. His other works include *No Laughter in the Courtroom, Collectible Commentaries* and the *Trial of Jesus*. He also wrote poems, editorials, and essays and was widely known as a storyteller.

He married Lillian Skaggs in 1929 and fathered a family of nine children. Charlie died 28 January 1973 and is buried in the cemetery of Brownsville Missionary Baptist Church where he was a member.

## **COLLECTION NOTES**

The bulk of this collection relates to Whittle's activities in Kentucky Republican Party politics. There is information regarding his own campaigns of 1925 (county attorney) and 1926 (U.S. Congress), as well as correspondence, editorials, news clippings, and campaign material related to political issues and state-wide elections from the 1920s to the 1960s. The collection also reveals his devotion to his native county. Five folders in Box 2 contain partial manuscripts of his history of Edmonson County as well as writings about incidents and people in the area. Also included are a short play and miscellaneous poems and essays by Whittle. Box 2, Folder 13 contains two political cartoons rendered by Whittle.

Box 2, Folder 14 contains a small notebook in which Whittle recorded "Tid Bits" related to his life and times. It includes a piece of doggerel in which Whittle discusses the deportment of a proper Ogden College student in 1917; it notes that this was written for the 1917 annual. It also includes a 1917 school composition entitled "All for Himself," in which Whittle records "a character study of an old gentleman" in Bowling Green. The penultimate item in the notebook is a speech given at the Father and Son Banquet at Bowling Green's YMCA on 26 February 1918. The last item in the notebook is a biographical sketch of Whittle's great-great grandfather, Jackie Whittle.

Box 3 contains a scrapbook that has been disassembled. Its contents include poetry, political news clippings, small printed items, notes, postcards, and quotations clipped from various sources.

## **SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>WHITTLE, Charles E., Sr.</b>	<b>1923-1998</b>	<b>244 items</b>
Folder 1a	Finding aid, separation sheet, transfer information and biographical material	1973-1998	7 items
Folder 1	County attorney election – Campaign materials of B. M. Vincent	[1925]	4 items
Folder 2	Campaign material – U. S. Congress	[1926]	10 items
Folder 3	Correspondence re: loss in 1926 Congressional election	1926-1927	19 items
Folder 4	Correspondence re: 1927 state elections including governor's race	1927	124 items
Folder 5	Clippings, notes, campaign literature, precinct lists re: state election	[1927]	21 items
Folder 6	Correspondence	1929-1967	10 items

Folder 7	Correspondence re: patronage, GOP committee and 1928 elections; Senator Otis C. Thomas letter	1928-1951	24 items
Folder 8	Poem and play	192[?]	5 items
Folder 9	Speeches	1922-1947	9 items
Folder 10	Political writings	[n.d.]	3 items
Folder 11	Minutes of a Republican meeting in Edmonson County	March 31, 1928	1 item
Folder 12	Typescripts of editorials, poems, speeches, essays	1923-1966	5 items
Folder 13	Political cartoons – Original drawings	n.d.	2 items
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>WHITTLE, Charles E., Sr.</b>	<b>1820-1973</b>	<b>84 items</b>
Folder 1	Edmonson County history – Partial manuscript	1932	1 item
Folder 2	Edmonson County history – Partial manuscript	[n.d.]	1 item
Folder 3	Edmonson County history – Partial manuscript	[n.d.]	1 item
Folder 4	Edmonson County – Writings about	[n.d.]	8 items
Folder 5	Mammoth Cave – Deeds, miscellaneous	1913-1939	8 items
Folder 6	Writings about Major Woodford Mitchell Houchin and Noah T. Parsley	[n.d.]	3 items
Folder 7	"The Lynching of Lancaster" by Elijah Parsley	Oct. 28, 1930	1 item
Folder 8	Editorials	[n.d.]	2 items
Folder 9	News clippings	1943-1973	42 items

Folder 10	Hardin County deeds	1820	2 items
Folder 11	Warren County deeds	1910-1918	4 items
Folder 12	Miscellaneous	1937-1943	11 items
<b>BOX 3</b>	<b>WHITTLE, Charles E., Sr.</b>	<b>n.d.</b>	<b>1 item</b>
Folder 1	Scrapbook (1/2)	n.d.	1 item
Folder 2	Scrapbook (1/2)	n.d.	1 item (cont'd)

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS WHITTLE, Charles E., Sr., 1913-1966  
257 1900-1973

Correspondence of Edmonson County attorney and Republican Party stalwart Whittle; his political writings and speeches; partial manuscript of his Edmonson County history; scrapbook containing poetry, political news clippings, quotations, postcards, etc.  
3 boxes. 27 folders. 329 items.  
1998.81.1; SC2016.64

### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Beauchamp, Isaac Emerson, 1899-1971 B1,F3  
Cook, C. G. B1,F6  
Cooper, John Sherman, 1901-1991 – Relating to B1,F10; B2,F9  
*Courier-Journal* – Comments about, 1947 B1,F9  
Deeds – Edmonson County, 1913 B2,F5  
Deeds – Hardin County, 1820 B2,F10  
Deeds – Mammoth Cave, 1913-1939 B2,F5  
Deeds – Warren County, 1910-1918 B2,F11  
Denhardt, Henry H., 1876-1937 B1,F4  
Denhardt, Henry H., 1876-1937 – Speech, 1927 B1,F5  
Drawings B1,F13  
Edmonson County – Deeds, 1913 B2,F5  
Edmonson County – History B2,F1-4  
Edmonson County – Lawyers  
Education – Comments about, 1947 B1,F9  
Elections and election campaigns – Edmonson County, 1925 B1,F1&12

Elections and election campaigns – Edmonson County, 1926 B1,F2-3&9  
 Elections and election campaigns, 1927 B1,F4-5  
 Elections and election campaigns, 1928 B1,F7  
 Evolution – Relating to, [1925] B1,F1  
 Hardin County – Deeds, 1820 B2,F10  
 Hines, Thomas Walter, 1905-1983 B1,F3  
 Houchin, Woodford Mitchell, 1836-1906 – Relating to B2,F6  
 Lancaster, Thomas – Relating to B2,F7  
 Lawyers – Edmonson County  
 Lincoln, Abraham, Pres. U. S., 1909-1865 – Comments about B1,F12  
 Logan, Marvel Mills, 1875-1939 B1,F6  
 Lucas, Robert Hendry, 1888-1947 – Correspondence, 1927 B1,F4  
 Mammoth Cave – Deeds, 1913-1939 B2,F5  
 Membership cards – Kentucky Educational Association, 1920 B2,F12  
 Meredith, Gus, d. 1929 – Relating to B2,F4  
 Moore, John William, 1877-1941 – Relating to B1,F2  
 Moore, John William, 1877-1941 – Correspondence B1,F4  
 Natcher, William Huston, 1904-1994 – Comments about B1,F12  
 Ogden College – Bowling Green – Relating to B1,F14;  
 Parsley, Elijah B2,F7  
 Parsley, Noah T., 1890-1956 – Relating to B2,F6  
 Patriotism B1,F14  
 Phelps, William Lyon – Letter to, 1941 B1,F6  
 Poetry B1,F8,12; B3,F1-2  
 Political cartoons B1,F13  
 Politics B1,F1-5,7,&9-12; B2,F9&12  
 Republican Party B1,F1-5,7,&9-12; B2,F9&12  
 Roosevelt, Theodore, Pres. U. S., 1858-1919 – Comments about, 1919 B2,F12  
 Sackett, Frederic Mosley, 1868-1941 – Correspondence B1,F4&7  
 Sampson, Flemon Davis, 1875-1967 – Correspondence B1,F4&7  
 Sampson, Flemon Davis, 1875-1967 – Relating to B1,F5  
 Scrapbooks B3,F1-2  
 Slaves – Edmonson County – Relating to B2,F4  
 Speeches, 1927 – Denhardt, Henry H., 1876-1937 B1,F5  
 Speeches, 1922-1947 – Whittle, Charles Edward, Sr., 1900-1973 B1,F9&12  
 Thomas, Otis C. B1,F7  
 Vincent, Beverly Mills, 1890-1980 – Relating to, [1925] B1,F1  
 Ward, S. M. B1,F6  
 Warren County – Deeds, 1910-1918 B2,F11  
 Whittle, Charles Edward, Sr., 1900-1973 – Speeches B1,F9&12  
 Whittle, Jackie, d. 1866? – Comments about B1,F14  
 Whittle, Lillian (Skaggs), 1911-2002 – Relating to B1,F12  
 Willis, Simeon Slavin, 1879-1965 – Correspondence B1,F6  
 Willis, Simeon Slavin, 1879-1965 – Comments about, 1947 B1,F9  
 Wilson, Woodrow, Pres. U. S., 1856-1924 – Comments about, 1924 B2,F12  
 Women in politics, 1926-1927 B1,F4-5&9

Young Men's Christian Association – Bowling Green – Relating to B1,F14

Lile/Jeffrey 06/19/2009