

**BEELER, ROY H.
(1882-1954)
PAPERS
1904-1954**

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of Roy Hood Beeler (1882-1954), Knoxville lawyer (1911-1927), Assistant State Attorney General (1927), attorney for the Railroad and Public Utilities Commission (1927-1931), Solicitor General of Tennessee (1931-1932), and Attorney General and Reporter for the State of Tennessee (1932-1954), were given to the Archives & Manuscripts Unit by his family at the time of his death. The collection occupies 3.78 linear feet of shelf space and contains approximately 600 items and 11 volumes.

Literary rights to the unpublished writings of Roy H. Beeler have been dedicated to the public. Single photocopies of materials in the collection may be made for the purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Beeler Papers, composed of approximately 600 items and 11 scrapbooks, contain correspondence; a docket book; memoranda, programs, and minutes of the Southern and National Association of Attorneys General; papers concerning anti-lynch legislation; legislation on education, labor, crime, highway, tidelands oil and transportation; photographs; reports on gasoline tax evasions, gambling, and public welfare; progress report of State Planning Board; and speeches of Beeler and others.

The eleven scrapbooks deal with the career of Roy Beeler for the years 1938-1954. They contain information about William Bean, Gordon Browning, Edward W. Carmack, Invin S. Cobb, Protease Cooper, E. H. Crump, and Eurico Gaspar Dutra (Brazilian President), Samuel Gompers, A.D. Huddleston, Cordell Hull, Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson, Douglas MacArthur, James McCord, Kenneth D. McKellar, Fred Russell, and W.H. Yarbrough; subjects dealt with are Alcoa Aluminum Plant; Associations of Attorneys General; frontier life; Grainger and Polk Counties; the historic houses of Carton, Cragfont, Sam Davis and Mooreland; politics; schools segregation, tidelands oil and others. A large number of obituaries, photographs, etc. are in the volumes.

The largest portion of the letters were written by Frank Bane, William F. Barry, Jere Cooper, Wirt Courtney, Price Daniel, Albert Gore, Hall Hammond, Fred N. Howser, Walter R. Johnson, Robert W. Kenny, Kenneth McKellar, Harry McMullan, John L. Madden, Tom Murray, A. B. Neil, J. Percy Priest, Greek L. Rice, and J. Thomas Watson.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Roy Hood Beeler
(1882-1954)

1882, February 10	Born at Powder Springs (Grainger County), Tennessee, 27 miles north of Knoxville, Tennessee - descendant of Colonel Ben Cleveland, a commander of Revolutionary forces at King's Mountain
1906	Graduated from Maryville College - in 1905 was captain of Maryville's football team - also attended Carson-Newman College
1906-1910	Taught school at \$60.00 a month
1907	Ran for Superintendent of Schools in Grainger County, defeated - turned to the study of law
1910	Graduated from the law school of the University of Chicago
1911	Admitted to the Tennessee bar - formed a law partnership with two former schoolmates, Karl Steinmetz and A. H. Mitchell
1911-1927	Lawyer at Knoxville, Tennessee
1913	Married Beulah Hines (d. 19965), of Blount County, Tennessee, daughter of Joshua and Isabella (Pickens) Hines only child - Frances, later Mrs. Arthur B. Stephens of Nashville
1919-1924	Knoxville city attorney
1918	Ran for Knox circuit judge - defeated
1919-1925	Served as Knox County Election Commission Chairman
1927	Appointed an Assistant State Attorney General by Attorney General L. D. Smith
1927-1931	Served by Special appointment as attorney for the Railroad and Public Utilities Commission
1931-1932	Solicitor General of Tennessee
1932	Named Attorney General and Reporter for the state of Tennessee on the death of Attorney General L.D. Smith - was 50th Attorney General and Served longer than any of his predecessors, 22 years, being elected to 8 year terms in 1934, 1942, and 1950 - was at the time of his death the State's most highly paid official
1954	Died of complications following a hip fracture caused by a fall in his 72nd year
Associations and Clubs	Active in the bar associations and in the Alpha Delta law fraternity, belonged to the Nashville University Club and to the Elks, was in 1951-1952 president of the National Association of Attorneys General
Hobbies	Hunting and fishing, reading and collecting
Sources	Green, John W. <u>Law and Lawyers</u> . Jackson, Tenn.; McCowat Mercer Press, 1950. Pp. 150-152

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Reel #1

Box 1

Correspondence

1. Anti-Lynch Legislation, 1948 - Incoming
2. Anti-Lynch Legislation, 1948 - Outgoing
3. Association of Attorneys General, Regional Meeting, 1948 - Incoming
4. Association of Attorneys General, Regional Meeting, 1948 - Outgoing
5. National Association of Attorneys General - Frank Bane, 1946-1948 (34) - Incoming
6. National Association of Attorneys General - Barnes-Spector, 1946-1948 - Incoming
7. National Association of Attorneys General - Tom Watson, 1947-1948 (36) - Incoming
8. National Association of Attorneys General, 1945-1948 - Outgoing
9. Tidelands Oil - Adams-Howser, 1945-1952 - Incoming
10. Tidelands Oil - Ickes-Worthwine, 1945-1949 - Incoming
11. Tidelands Oil, 1946-1949 - Outgoing
12. General, 1946-1954 - Incoming
13. Outgoing Correspondence - 1904-1907

Box 2

1. Biographical Data
2. Council of State Governments
3. Deeds - Dodson
4. Docket Book - Justice William L. Cook
5. Highway Construction and Legislation
6. Law Enforcement Conference on Crime
7. Legislation - Anti-Lynch Legislation
8. Legislation - Education
9. Legislation - Greyhound Bus Company's Petition
10. Legislation - Labor
11. Legislative Bulletin
12. Memoranda, Programs, Minutes, etc. - National Association of Attorneys General, 1945, 1947, 1948

Microfilm Reel #2

13. Memoranda, Programs, etc. - Southern Association of Attorneys General, 1946, 1948
14. Miscellaneous - Unrestricted Suffrage and Municipal Home Rule
15. Photographs
16. Questionnaire sent to Attorneys General
17. Reports - Association of Attorneys General - Southern Regional Conference, 1944
18. Reports - Gasoline Tax Evasions, 1936

19. Reports - Gambling, 1952
20. Reports - Public Welfare
21. Reports - State Planning Board - Progress Report, 1939

Box 3

1. Speeches - Remarks of Roy H. Beeler at Association of Attorneys General Regional Conference, 1948
2. Speeches - Beeler: Financial Condition of the Country
3. Speeches - Beeler: Knox County Democratic Women's Club, 1952
4. Speeches - Beeler: Organization and Operation of the Office of Attorney General
5. Speeches - Dulles: Address at the Governor's Conference, 1951
6. Speeches - Faricy: "The National Transportation Inquiry"
7. Speeches - Judd: "Legal Problems Arising from the War's End"
8. Speeches - Kuper: "Thomas Jefferson, the Giant"
9. Speeches - Sokolsky: Korean War - Radio Address
10. Speeches - Sparks: "Present Day Departures from the Original Conception of State and Federal Governments"
11. Speeches - Watson: Concerning Political Parties
12. Speeches - Williams: "The Race Question with Particular Reference to the Negro Voting Question"
13. Speeches - Wright: Address to the Mississippi Legislature, 1948
14. Tidelands Oil Cases - Briefs, etc., 1945, 1946
15. Tidelands Oil Data
16. Tidelands Oil Legislation
17. Travel Accounts

Microfilm Reel #3

Scrapbooks - Separately Wrapped

- Scrapbook No. 1 - 1938 - 1941
Scrapbook No. 2 - 1938-1941
Scrapbook No. 3 - 1942 - 1943
Scrapbook No. 4 - 1943 - 1944
Scrapbook No. 5 - 1944 - 1946
Scrapbook No. 6 - 1949

Microfilm Reel #4

- Scrapbook No. 7 - 1949 - 1951
Scrapbook No. 8 - 1950-1952
Scrapbook No. 9 - February-April, 1952
Scrapbook No. 10 - May-December, 1952
Scrapbook No. 11 - 1951-1954
Scrapbook No. 12 - Photographs (Originals)