

CHEAIRS - HUGHES FAMILY PAPERS
1636-1967

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INTRODUCTION

The Cheairs - Hughes Family Papers (1636-1967) are centered around Nathaniel F. Cheairs (1818-1914), Civil War veteran and businessman of Spring Hill, Tennessee. The Cheairs - Hughes Family Papers are the gift of Mr. Nathaniel Cheairs Hughes, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The collection occupies 1.68 cubic feet of shelf space, and numbers approximately 500 items. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Cheairs - Hughes Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Nathaniel Francis Cheairs

- 1818 December 6, born near Spring Hill, Maury County, Tennessee,
 the son of Nathaniel and Sarah (Rush) Cheairs
- 1841 September 2, married Susan Peters McKissack
- 1841-1861 Involved in many land deals through which he increased the
 family estate
- 1851-1855 Construction on his plantation home in Spring Hill
- 1861 April, organized the Tennessee Third Volunteer Regiment
- 1862 February 16, fought at the Battle of Fort Donelson and
 personally surrendered the Fort to General Ulysses S. Grant
- 1862-1865 Fought with Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest
- 1866 Rented land and operated a sawmill in Madison, Ark.
- 1866-1909 Continued in land dealings and business enterprises in
 Tennessee
- 1910-1914 Involved in land deals in Harlingen, Texas
- 1914 January 2, died in Waco, Texas, and interred in Rose Hill
 Cemetery, Columbia, Tenn.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William "Patsy" Hughes

- 1866 September 5, born at Union City, Tennessee, son of Daniel Webster and Margaret Walker McClanahan Hughes
- 1889 Graduated from Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tennessee.
- 1889-1892 Taught at Webb School, Bell Buckle, Tennessee.
- 1892-1896 Attended Vanderbilt University; Delta Kappa Epsilon, Class Vice-President, 1892-94; Varsity Eleven, 1893-96; YMCA, 1893-94; Class President, 1894-95; Editor, Vanderbilt Hustler, 1895-96; Class Day Speaker, 1896; Center, Vanderbilt Commodores Football team
- 1897 Graduate Fellow and Assistant in Mathematics, Vanderbilt University.
- 1897 Along with W.C. Branham, established the Branham and Hughes School at Spring Hill, Tennessee
- 1899 Married Susan Peters Cheairs (1874-1947) of Spring Hill, Tennessee; children: William Cheairs (1902-1958), Margaret Cheairs [Phillips] (1903-1980); Mary Louise Cheairs [Rose] (1905); Nathaniel Cheairs (1907-1964); Henry Cheairs (1910); Susie Cheairs [McKeand] (1913)
- 1901 Director of Bank of Spring Hill.
- 1903 Founded Spring Hill Star
- 1900-1916 Member of Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of Vanderbilt University.
- Treasurer, Tennessee Conference, Methodist Episcopal, South
- 1910 President, Vanderbilt Alumni Association
- 1916 May 14, died in Nashville, Tennessee and interred in Rose Hill Cemetery, Columbia, Tennessee.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Cheairs - Hughes Family Papers, containing approximately five hundred items, span the period 1636-1967. The collection is composed of Bible records, birth and death records, clippings, correspondence, estate papers, genealogical data, inventories, journals, land records, legal documents, military records, obituaries, and several miscellaneous items.

The bulk of the papers consist of correspondence, financial, legal, and genealogical materials. The letters are primarily from members of the family of Nathaniel Francis Cheairs (1818-1914). The most frequent correspondence is from Nathaniel Cheairs to his daughter and wife. These letters relate principally to Cheairs' Civil War experiences and his ordeal as a prisoner of war. A few letters were written by family members while in Europe during World War I. Several letters deal with William Cheairs Hughes (1866-1916) and his activities as a member of the Board of Trustees of Vanderbilt University.

Financial and legal materials in the collection deal primarily with deeds, land plats, wills, and estate settlements. Most of the deeds relate to the land dealings of Nathaniel Cheairs, in and around Spring Hill, Tennessee. Wills and estate inventories pertain to settlements for the property of Nathaniel F. Cheairs and other relatives of the Cheairs family.

The genealogical data are primarily notes made by Nathaniel Cheairs Hughes on the various branches of his family. Although some of the materials pertains to Nathaniel Francis Cheairs and his immediate family, most of it concerns the Cheairs line and collateral branches from which Hughes is descended. The data provides information as to births, deaths, marriage and military service. Among the data is information on family homes, the origin of family names and family history. All of this material is photocopies.

Also in the collection are photocopies of newspaper clippings relating to the Civil War and to the Cheairs and Hughes families. Material concerning the Civil War includes a serialization of Nathaniel F. Cheairs' memoir, articles on the fall of Fort Donelson, and the assassination of General Earl Van Dorn (1820-1863). Other clippings include marriage announcements, obituaries, biographical information about Nathaniel F. Cheairs and other family members, and an article about a race horse belonging to the Pointer family.

Miscellaneous materials include sketches written about the family, journals of several members of the family pertaining to the Civil War, and military muster rolls and prisoner of war rolls. Military pension applications provide the researcher with information about the applicant, the applicant's family and active military service.

The Cheairs and Hughes Family Papers represent a small but genealogically important contribution to the study of two prominent Maury County, Tennessee families during the nineteenth century. In addition to its genealogical value, the collection has general social interest concerning Southern life during the Antebellum and Reconstruction periods.

NAME INDEX

This is a name index of correspondences in the Cheairs - Hughes Family Papers, together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parentheses 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.

- Adams, John to John Steele, 17;98, re: received the Resolutions and the address of Bladen County, North Carolina; pleased with the election of Federalist, Archibald Henderson to the United States Congress, 1-17.
- Allen, Alexander A. (2) to George W. Allen, 1852-1862, re: life in Bainbridge, Georgia; problems with the cotton crop; death of a child, 1-17.
- Bond, T.B. to Major Campbell Brown, 1875, re: rebuilding the Nashville Male and Female Academy after the Civil War; invites Brown to serve on the Board of Trustees, 1-17.
- Boyers, Lillie to Carrie Jacoway, 1915, re: expresses sympathy after the suicide of J.P. Jacoway, 1-17.
- Buckner, Simon B. to W.R. Boggs, 1865, re: requests assignment and promotion to Brig.General St. John R. Liddell, 1-17.
- Cason, Charles to William Hughes, 1916, re: requests that Hughes send invitations to the members of the Vanderbilt Class of 1896; plans for the Alumni Day, 1-18.
- Cheairs, John to John Underwood, 1770, re: poor health of family; other family news, 1-18.
- Cheairs, Nathaniel III to county officials, 1816, re: resigns from the road commission because of old age, 1-19.
- Cheairs, Nathaniel III to Nathaniel F. Cheairs IV, 1846, re: describes the poor condition of his Mississippi plantation, 1-19.
- Cheairs, Nathaniel F. IV (3) to Jennie Cheairs, 1862, re: describes life as a prisoner of war at Fort Warren in Boston, 1-19.
- Cheairs, Nathaniel F. IV (3) to Nancy Rush Cheairs, 1862-64, re: concern over family at home in Maury County; military censorship of the mail; life in a military prison; the sufferings of the people of Missouri because of the war; guerrilla warfare; fear of slave uprisings, 1-19.
- Cheairs, Nathaniel F. IV to Susan M. Cheairs, 1864, re: would like to hear from her; life in a military prison; fears he will not be exchanged, 1-19.
- Cheairs, Nathaniel F. IV to Nancy C. Perkins, 1864, re: will organize a masonic association for the purpose of nursing the sick at the prison; the deplorable conditions at the prison, 1-19.
- Crane, M. to St. John R. Liddell, 1865, re: photocopy cannot be deciphered, 1-20.
- Fulton, R.S. to Dewey Pruitt, 1967, re: description of the collection at the Memphis State University Library, 1-20.
- Holland, James to John Haywood, 1808, re: land transactions; discusses embargo laws and problems with France and England, 1-20.

Name index, continued:

- Hughes, J.L. to D.W. Hughes, 1879, re: orders fish for his fish business, 1-20.
- Hughes, William (3) to Charles Cason, 1915-1916, re: request for information about each new student at Vanderbilt (1915); recommends Ed Bullock to study at Vanderbilt; regrets that he cannot attend the Alumni Day Celebration because of his operation, 1-20.
- Jacoway, Albert Griggs (2) to Eula Jacoway Raulston, 1917-1918, re: stationed "somewhere in France;" had influenza, 1-20.
- Jacoway, Archibald to Benjamin J. Jacoway, 1843, re: will send a shipment of hogs to Tennessee; sympathy over the death of his son; would like to see Benjamin, 1-20.
- Jacoway, John G. to Gov. Joseph G. Brown, 1862, re: requests promotion from a private to the Quartermaster Department, 1-20.
- Jacoway, John G. to Lt.Col. C.H. May, 1862, re: requests furlough to accompany the remains of Stephen Phillips to Dade County, Georgia, 1-20.
- Jacoway, John P. to D.M. Raulston, 1913, re: weather conditions; arrival of family members to Chattanooga, 1-20.
- Johnson, J.I. to Carrie Jacoway, 1915, re: condolences on death of J.P. Jacoway, 1-20.
- Johnston, Albert Sidney to Jefferson Davis, 1862, re: introduces St. John Liddell and offers his services to Davis, 1-20.
- Latimore, Joseph M. to T.C. Latimore, 1913, re: farm prices for his crops; Latimore family history, 1-20.
- Liddell, St. John R. to D.G. White, 1862, re: report on the equipment and conditions of the regiment of the Texas Rangers, 1-20.
- McClanahan, John K. to Margaret Hughes, 1845, re: discusses problems with his health; calls for family togetherness, 1-21.
- Negley, J.S., Major-General to Brig.General James A. Garfield, 1863, re: would like to find position for _____, 1-21.
- Pointer, Henry P. to Samuel A. Pointer, 1874, re: payment for land, 1-21.
- Pointer, Henry P. to T.A. Pointer, 1879, re: opposed to renting property would like to sale if can find a responsible buyer, 1-21.
- Rush, Abigail to Miles and Mary Baird, 1833, re: will not allow Grigsby to clear a swamp for her; family news, 1-21.
- Smiser, James A. to Flourney Rivers, 1895, re: describes search for family cemetery; family history news, 1-21.
- Smith, E. Kirby to Simon B. Buckner, 1865, re: urges the promotion of Liddell and his assignment to command an unknown regiment, 1-22.
- Thorn, R.H. to S.A. Pointer, 1874, re: discusses lawsuit over land, 1-21.
- Wheat, A. to Robert Wheat, 1865, re: provides history of the Wheat Family, 1-23.
- Wheat, Moses K. (5) to Commission on Indian Affairs, 1846, re: attempts to help Indians "resettle" out west; accusations of Indian slavery, 1-23.
- Williams, Samuel to Ella Spears, 1910, re: Triplett Family history; relation to the Virginia Marshall family, 1-24.

Name index, continued:

Wolfe, Frank to Lloyd Magruder, 1863, re: army camp life; explosion of a steamboat; Battle of Lookout Mountain; future for the South, 1-24.

Unidentified letter from prisoner at Camp Chase to cousin, 1864, re: describes life in a military prison, 1-22.

CONTAINER LIST

Box Number 1

1. Address--"Unveiling of the Turner Monument at Guilford Courthouse," 1902.
2. Applications--Daughters of the American Revolution.
3. Bank Notes--Greenbury-Williams.
4. Bible Records--Cheairs Family.
5. Bill of Sale--Sale of slaves, Pointer, Samuel A., 1852.
6. Bill of Sale--Sale of slaves, Stone, P.P. to A.A. Myrick, 1853.
7. Birth Certificate--Jacoway, Celeste.
8. Booklet--"Dedication of the Douglas County Court House," 1913.
9. Brochure--"Berkeley Plantation."
10. Brochure--"Middelton Place Gardens."
11. Cemetery Record--Moses Wheat Family Cemetery.
12. Census Record--Bourbon County, Kentucky, 1880.
13. Census Record--Dade County, Georgia, 1840.
14. Clippings--Cheairs-Jacoway Family news.
15. Clippings--Civil War Centennial.
16. Clippings--Hughes, William C.
17. Correspondence--Adams-Buckner.
18. Correspondence--Cason-Cheairs, John.
19. Correspondence--Cheairs, Nathaniel.
20. Correspondence--Crane-Liddell.
21. Correspondence--McClanahan-Smiser.
22. Correspondence--Smith-Unidentified.
23. Correspondence--Wheat.
24. Correspondence--Williams-Wolfe.
25. Death Certificate--Bennett-Williams.
26. Declaration of Loyalty--Cheairs, Nathaniel II, 1776.
27. Diploma--Hollan, Sarah Myra, 1845.
28. Estate Records--Asbury-Cheairs.
29. Funeral Notice--Cheairs, Nathaniel F., 1914.
30. Genealogical Data--Cheairs Family.
31. Genealogical Data--Lee Family.
32. Genealogical Data--Ligon Family.
33. Genealogical Data--Marshall Family.
34. Genealogical Data--Patten Family.
35. Genealogical Data--Peters Family.
36. Genealogical Data--Pope Family.
37. Genealogical Data--Spears Family.

Box Number 1, continued:

38. Genealogical Data--Triplett Family.
39. Inventories--Caldwell-Taylor.
40. Journal--Baxter, Charles H.
41. Journal--McGavock, Randall.
42. Journal--Pointer, C.R.
43. Journal--Scott, M.W.
44. Land Records--Deeds--Bons-Byrd.
45. Land Records--Deeds--Cheairs-Driver.

Box Number 2

1. Land Records--Deeds--Gordon-Jacoway, W.D.
2. Land Records--Deeds--Jacoway, W.D.
3. Land Records--Deeds--Kern-McVay.
4. Land Records--Deeds--Middleton-Pointer.
5. Land Records--Deeds--Porter-Thompson.
6. Land Records--Deeds--Ussery-Witt.
7. Land Records--Grants--Allen-Cheairs.
8. Land Records--Grants--Forman-Holland.
9. Land Records--Grants--Johnson-Middleton.
10. Land Records--Grants--Safford-Taylor.
11. Land Records--Mortgages--Branham and Hughes School, 1927.
12. Legal Documents--Contracts--Bailey, William-Pointer, Samuel.
13. Legal Documents--Contracts--Pointer, Samuel A.-Thompson.
14. Legal Documents--Court Cases--Childress v. Holland, 1817.
15. Legal Documents--Court Cases--Jeffers v. McKissack, 1847.
16. Legal Documents--Court Cases--Rhondes v. Holland, 1830.
17. Legal Documents--Court Cases--Scott v. Cheairs, 1850.
18. Legal Documents--Guardianship--Asbury, George, 1824.
19. Legal Documents--Power of Attorney--Tatum, P.B., 1896.
20. Legal Documents--Wills--Asbury-Cheairs.
21. Legal Documents--Wills--Cheairs, Green-Cheairs, John.
22. Legal Documents--Wills--Cheairs, Joseph-Cheairs, Nathaniel.
23. Legal Documents--Wills--Cheairs, Sarah-Cheairs, Vachel.
24. Legal Documents--Wills--Copeland-Falconnet.
25. Legal Documents--Wills--Ford-Holland.
26. Legal Documents--Wills--Le Villan-McClanahan, Alexander.
27. Legal Documents--Wills--McClanahan, T.-McClanahan, W.
28. Legal Documents--Wills--McKissack, Arabella-McKissack, Susan.
29. Legal Documents--Wills--McKnight-Middleton.
30. Legal Documents--Wills--Peters-Pointer.

Box Number 2, continued:

31. Legal Documents--Wills--Sandford-Sheegog.
32. Legal Documents--Wills--Tatum-Triplett.
33. Legal Documents--Wills--Thomas-Ward.
34. Legal Documents--Wills--Wills-Wheat.

Box Number 3

1. Licenses--Marriage--Barrier-Turner.
2. Memorials--"Mr. Webb of the YMCA," 1888.
3. Military Records--Cheairs, Nathaniel F., 1862.
4. Military Records--Dispatches, 1862.
5. Military Records--Dispatches, 1865.
6. Military Records--Dispatches, 1865.
7. Military Records--Dispatches, 1865.
8. Military Records--Dispatches, 1865.
9. Military Records--Dispatches, 1865.
10. Military Records--Dispatches, 1865.
11. Military Records--Dispatches, 1865.
12. Military Records--Dispatches, 1865.
13. Military Records--Dispatches, 1865.
14. Military Records--Dispatches, 1865.

Box Number 4

1. Military Records--Muster Rolls--Company E, 10th Regiment.
2. Military Records--Muster Rolls--Baxter-Cheairs, Benjamin.
3. Military Records--Muster Rolls--Cheairs, E.M.-Cheairs, N.F.
4. Military Records--Muster Rolls--Cheairs, P.B.-Jacoway, Archibald.
5. Military Records--Muster Rolls--Jacoway, Archibald-William, Samuel.
6. Military Records--Official Records, 1862-1864.
7. Military Records--Ordinance Receipts, 1863.
8. Military Records--Pension Applications--Asbury-Cheairs, A.S.
9. Military Records--Pension Applications--Cheairs, James-Cheairs, John.
10. Military Records--Pension Applications--Gilbert, William.
11. Military Records--Pension Applications--Gilreath, Alexander.
12. Military Records--Pension Applications--Holland, Henry.
13. Military Records--Pension Applications--Holland, William.
14. Military Records--Pension Applications--Jacoway, Archibald-Jacoway, John.
15. Military Records--Pension Applications--Jacques, Richard-Jakways, William.

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16. Military Records--Pension Applications--Linton-McClanahan, Thomas.
17. Military Records--Pension Applications--McKissack, Daniel-Middleton,
Greenburn.
18. Military Records--Service Records--Prince, B.E., 1815.
19. Military Records--Prisoner of War Rolls--Cheairs, J.N.-Liddell, St. John
20. Military Records--Regimental Offices--104th Georgia State Regiment, 1861
21. Minutes--Dade County, Georgia-Superior Court, 1876.
22. Obituaries--Cheairs, Nathaniel Francis, 1914.
23. Obituaries--Hughes, William C., 1916.
24. Obituaries--Jacoway, Benjamin S., 1861.
25. Obituaries--Jacoway, J.G., 1892.
26. Obituaries--Jacoway, Sidney, 1908.
27. Obituaries--Lattimore, Thomas C.
28. Obituaries--Loring, W.W.
29. Obituaries--McKissack, Alexander C., 1898.
30. Obituaries--Pace, Amanda C., 1911.
31. Obituaries--Sandford, C.O., 1883.
32. Obituaries--Spears, W.F., 1884.
33. Photograph--Lee, Robert E.
34. Poster--Land Sale of S.A. Pointer Estate, 1883.
35. Proclamation--Demison, Robert, 1865.
36. Receipts--Core-Porter.
37. Sketches--"Annals of Augusta County."
38. Sketches--"Dade County Sketches."
39. Sketches--"History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison, Kentucky."
40. Sketches--"History of Douglas County, Illinois."
41. Sketches--"History of Frank Wolfe."
42. Sketches--"Hon. William D. Jacoway."
43. Sketches--"Origin of the Ku Klux Klan."
44. Sketches--"Recollections of Spring Hill and Rally Hill."
45. Sketches--"Thomas Graham Cheairs."