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**DOUGLAS, BYRD, FAMILY PAPERS
1819-1968**

Processed by:

Ted Guillaum
Archival Technical Services

Accession Number: 94-132
Date Completed: October 21, 1997
Location: VIII-K-2-4
Oversized Location: VIII-J Top
Microfilm Accession Number: 1547

MICROFILMED

INTRODUCTION

The Byrd Douglas Family Papers, 1819-1968, focus mainly on Judge Byrd Douglas (1894-1965), who was the author of a history of the Cumberland River entitled *Steamboatin' On The Cumberland*. The majority of the collection pertains to the writing of his book and consists of original handwritten notes, an original register of steamboats, captains and crew members on the Cumberland River from 1870-1890, several manuscript copies, galley sheets, 143 photographs of steamboats and river scenes, and replies for autographed books. Other materials included in the collection pertaining to Judge Douglas but not necessarily to the writing of *Steamboatin' On The Cumberland* are copies of some of his speeches. The collection also consists of correspondence, genealogical materials, mementos of membership in the Downtown Presbyterian Church, and legal documents spanning three generations of the Douglas Family. Also in this collection is one box of oversized materials that includes some steamboat and river related photographs, diagrams of river navigation rules, certificates of membership to the Ladies Hermitage Society, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and an application to the Virginia Society, Colonial Dames of America.

The collection was donated by Mrs. Byrd Douglas in 1969 and partially processed in 1973. The collection as donated measured 12 cubic feet and was reduced to 8 cubic feet by eliminating secondary materials. Examples of discarded materials would include blank note tablets and Broadway theater *Playbills*. There are no restrictions on the use of the materials in this collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Byrd Douglas Family Papers spanning the years 1819 to 1968 consisting of eight cubic feet of materials, represents three generations of the Douglas family. The majority of the collection (five cubic feet) focuses on Judge Byrd Douglas (1894-1965) and the publication of his book, *Steamboatin' On The Cumberland*. These materials consist of original handwritten notes, an original register of steamboats, captains and crew members on the Cumberland River from family 1870-1890, several manuscript copies with corrections, galley sheets, replies for autographed books and 143 photographs of steamboats and river scenes. Please note that the photographs are located in the vault. An index to the photographs is included in this finding aid. Other materials in the collection pertaining to Judge Douglas, but not necessarily to the writing of *Steamboatin' On The Cumberland*, include copies of some of his speeches.

The remainder of the collection deals with other family members, particularly his parents and grandparents. The earliest section of correspondence (1/2 cubic feet) is dated beginning 1830. The Douglas family was very active in the membership of the Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tennessee, which accounts for the six folders of related materials. The oldest of this material contains one folder of financial records listing members' names in the Annual Report of the Aid Committee.

Genealogical materials include six folders accumulated by Adelaide Gaines Douglas, mother of Judge Douglas, for the purpose of making application to the Colonial Dames Society. These materials are related mainly to the Douglas, Wharton and Reed Families.

Legal documents in four folders include fire insurance papers, estate papers, partnership agreements and the will of Byrd Douglas (d.1882), grandfather of Judge Douglas.

Oversized materials are contained in one box and include some steamboat pictures, handmade charts of river pilot rules and regulations and certificates of membership in the Ladies Hermitage Society and the Virginia Society of the Colonial Dames of America, belonging to the grandmother of Judge Douglas. Box 15 contains three artifacts that include a leather letter file inscribed with the name of Byrd Douglas, a lock of hair and a pipe bowl, that according to the Tobacco Museum of U. S. Tobacco Company of Nashville, Tennessee is possibly a variety called "Catlinite" used by Native Americans as a "peace pipe". The stem of the pipe was not included.

The collection was donated by the wife of Judge Douglas in 1969 and was partially processed in 1973. It measured 12 cubic feet as received and was reduced to 8 cubic feet by eliminating secondary materials. Examples of discarded materials include blank note tablets, newspaper clippings and Broadway theater programs collected by Judge and Mrs. Mary Douglas on their annual trips to New York. There are no restrictions on the use of the materials in this collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Byrd Douglas

Judge Byrd Douglas was in Nashville on August 28, 1894, the son of Byrd and Adelaide Wharton Gains Douglas. His home in Nashville was located at 2019 Castleman Drive. Douglas authored two books, *The Science of Baseball*, published in 1921, and *Steamboatin' On The Cumberland*, published in December of 1961, that sold 1300 copies its first day of sale.

Judge Douglas attended the Wallace University School, Vanderbilt University, Princeton University, and Cumberland University of Lebanon, Tennessee. He received a Bachelor of Literature degree at Princeton in 1916. At Princeton, he lettered in baseball as an All-American catcher, and coached the team for several seasons. In 1917 he completed his legal training at Cumberland University and earned his law degree. He later taught at Cumberland University, served on the Board of Trustees, and was Director of Athletics for 2 years. At Vanderbilt, he coached the baseball team, producing the championship team of 1920, and was a member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity.

About 1920 Douglas married Mary Stahlman who was born in 1895 and died in 1979. She was the daughter of Edward C. and Mary Geddes Stahlman, and sister of James G. Stahlman, who had once owned the *Nashville Banner* newspaper. Mrs. Douglas was a graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia, from which she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1916. In 1942, she was invited to be the alumnae speaker at her alma mater on the merit of being chosen Outstanding Alumnae in her field. Mrs. Douglas began her profession career with the *Nashville Banner* in 1916 as a drama critic and reporter, and later became Book Review Editor serving in that capacity from 1935-1972. In 1922 and 1923, she was Dean, as well as teacher, at the Yancy School of Journalism at Cumberland University. During the writing of *Steamboatin' On The Cumberland*, she edited, proofread, and indexed the book for her husband.

During World War I Douglas volunteered in the first Officers Training School at Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia, serving until an injury forced him to leave military service. He joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation becoming Agent in Charge for the U. S. Department of Justice in Tampa, Florida. During World War II Douglas was active in organizing and training auxiliary units of the Coast Guard in Tennessee. In 1943 he was named Captain of Division 6, which comprised eight CGA flotillas in the Tennessee Valley area. Douglas was a licensed operator, owning a variety of boats, including towboats and barges, which he piloted along nearly every navigable mile of the Cumberland River. In 1930, he began practicing law with his brother Lee, until 1942 when he became Judge of the 2nd Circuit Court. In 1958, he was appointed Judge of the Circuit Court of Davidson County.

Douglas was an active civic and church leader. He was an ordained elder of the Downtown Presbyterian Church, and member of the Session, the governing body of the church. He was a Charter Member of the Nashville Chapter of the Propeller Club, a member of the Rivers & Harbors Congress, served as President of the Larry Gilbert Junior Baseball League, and served as director of the Red Cross, and the Boy's Club. Judge Douglas died of a brain hemorrhage at his summer home, Hunters Point, in Wilson County, Tennessee, on August 11, 1965, after serving 21 years on the bench.

Source: TSLA Vertical File, Newspaper obituary.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Byrd Douglas, Sr.

Byrd Douglas, Sr., as he is referred to in this collection, was born September 12, 1845, in Fayetteville, Tennessee, and died on December 3, 1911, in Nashville. Douglas, Sr. served in the Civil War, joining Baxter's Battery, and participated in the Battle of Shiloh and during the Siege of Corinth. He was later assigned to Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's Command. In his professional life, Douglas, Sr. was a banker and grain dealer, and an active member and officer in the Nashville Grain Dealers Association.

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Reel #1

Box 1

1. Accounts
2. Autograph Book - "The Ghosts of My Friends"
3. Biographical Sketches
4. Certificates – Memberships & Stock
5. Clipping – Calling Cards – Ephemera
6. Correspondence – Douglas, Adelaide Gains
7. Correspondence – Douglas, Byrd (d.1882)
8. Correspondence – Douglas, Byrd (d.1911)
9. Correspondence – Douglas, Byrd (d.1965), Letters 1912-1961
10. Correspondence – Douglas, Byrd (d.1965), Letters 1962-1964
11. Correspondence – Douglas, Byrd (d.1965), Letters - Drafts
12. Correspondence – Douglas, Byrd (d.1965), Greeting Cards
13. Correspondence – Douglas Hanna

Box 2

1. Correspondence – Douglas, Mary Stahlman
2. Correspondence – Nichol, Bradford
3. Correspondence – Reed, Forrest
4. Correspondence – Wharton, Eliza
5. Correspondence – Wharton, Lucinda
6. Clippings – Family Members
7. Clippings – First Presbyterian Church Relocation
8. Church Records - First Presbyterian Church – Bulletins, 1911-1955
9. Church Records - First Presbyterian Church – Reports – Dissent to Relocation
10. Church Records - First Presbyterian Church – Financial Records – Aid Committee
11. Church Records - First Presbyterian Church – Printed Materials
12. Church Records – First Presbyterian Church – Sermons, 1871-1955
13. Genealogical Materials – Claiborne Family
14. Genealogical Materials – Gaines Family
15. Genealogical Materials – Heaton Family
16. Genealogical Materials – Reed Family
17. Genealogical Materials – Wharton Family and Connections to Miller, Morris, Leaks, Sheltons, Farrars, and Banks, given to Douglas by his Cousin, Minnie Bullock
18. Genealogical Materials – Wharton Family
19. Historical Sketch – Memorial to Battle of Nashville
20. Insurance Papers – Douglas, Adelaide G. & Lee
21. Legal Documents – Estate Papers – Douglas, Byrd (d.1911)
22. Legal Documents – Partnership Agreements – Samuel Douglas and Byrd Douglas, 1881-1908
23. Legal Documents – Will – Douglas, Byrd (d.1882)

Box 3

1. Publications – Booklets – Scott, Adie, Ltd., and In the Garb of Old Gaul
2. Publications – Bulletins, Invitations, and Programs
3. Publications – The Railroad Journal – History of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad
4. Printed Materials – History – “The Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis, A Pioneer Railroad”
5. Subject File – Nashville Grain Dealers Association – Speeches, By-laws, Invitation, Journal
6. Speeches – “An Echo From Egypt”
7. Speeches – “The Bell Rings”
8. Speeches – Cumberland University, Commencement Address
9. Speeches – “Gardens and Trees of the Bible”
10. Speeches – “Lean Jimmy Jones – Forgotten Governor and Polk’s Nemesis”
11. Speeches – “Lean Jimmy Jones – Forgotten Governor and Polk’s Nemesis” - Notes
12. Speeches – “Maritime Day”, 1952
13. Speeches – “Nashville’s Changing Skyline”
14. Speeches – “Nashville’s Changing Skyline” - Notes
15. Speeches – “Sidelights and Sources for the Writing of *Steamboatin’ On The Cumberland*”
16. Speeches – Untitled

Box 4

1. Photographs – A-D
2. Photographs – E-J
3. Photographs – K-N
4. Photographs – O-T
3. Photographs – V-W
4. Photographs – Unidentified

Photograph list located on pages 13-17

Box 5

1. “Steamboatin’ On The Cumberland” – Autographed Book Replies
2. “Steamboatin’ On The Cumberland” – Certificates
3. “Steamboatin’ On The Cumberland” – Inventory Sheets – Tennessee Book Company
4. “Steamboatin’ On The Cumberland” – List – Diesel & Gas Towboats, 1910-1944
5. “Steamboatin’ On The Cumberland” – List – Steamboats, 1830-1860
6. “Steamboatin’ On The Cumberland” – List – Regular Packets, 1850-1860
7. “Steamboatin’ On The Cumberland” – List – Steamboats, 1860-1870
8. “Steamboatin’ On The Cumberland” – List – Steamboats, 1880-1890
9. “Steamboatin’ On The Cumberland” – List – Steamboats, 1890-1900

10. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – List – Steamboats, 1900-1920
11. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – List – Steamboats, 1920-1944
12. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – List – Vessels and Commercial Operators from Reed Berthurn
13. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Maps
14. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Printed Materials – "Rules and Regulations to Govern the Operation of Drawbridges Crossing the Mississippi River and All Navigable Tributaries and Outlets"
15. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Recollections – Goad, Capt. R. A. & Hunter, Capt. W. T.

Microfilm Reel #2

Box 6

1. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Notes
2. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Notes
3. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Notes
4. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Notes
5. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Notes
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26. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Notes
27. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Notes
28. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Notes

Box 7

1. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Notes
2. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Notes
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26. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Notes
27. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Notes

Box 8

1. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Notes
2. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Notes
3. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Notes

Box 9

1. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Steamboat Directory – Chattahoochee-Apalachicola River System
2. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Register – Steamboats, Captains & Crew, 1870-1890

Microfilm Reel #3

3. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – Rough Draft – Part A
4. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – Rough Draft – Part B

Box 10

1. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – Rough Draft
2. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – Rough Draft
3. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – Rough Draft – Old & Revised Copy Sheets – Part A
4. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – Rough Draft – Old & Revised Copy Sheets – Part B

Box 11

1. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – Chapter 1-5
2. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – Chapter 6-End
3. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – 3rd Typewritten Copy

Box 12

1. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – Chapter 5 – Corrected Copy
2. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – Chapter 5 – Off Sheets
3. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – Corrected Copy, 2-1-51

Microfilm Reel #4

4. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – Chapter 1-7
5. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – Chapter 7-End
6. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Reviews

Box 13

1. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – Unbound
2. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Manuscript – Bound

Box 14

1. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Galley Sheets – Sept. 1, 1961
2. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Galley Sheets – Sept. 16, 1961
3. "Steamboatin' On The Cumberland" – Galley Proofs – Illustrations
4. Painting – Original Oil
5. Drawings - Etchings

Box 15 Artifacts

1. Lock of Hair
2. Letter File
3. Catlinite Pipe Bowl

Microfilm Reel #5

Box 16 Oversized Material

1. Photograph reproductions #1-45
 1. Accounts Sheets, Str. H. W. Buttorff
 2. Accounts Sheets, Str. H. W. Buttorff, enlargement
 3. Alex Perry
 4. Alex Perry (1891) and R. Dunbar (1895)
 5. Alex Perry (1891) and R. Dunbar (1895)
 6. Arkansas, C. S. Ram
 7. B. S. Rhea
 8. C. M. Pate and Dick Clyde
 9. E. G. Ragon
 10. Electra
 11. Galate, Steam Launch
 12. General Sterling Price, C. S. S.
 13. Golden Eagle
 14. Golden Eagle
 15. Gracey Childers
 16. Henry Harley
 17. Hunter, Capt. W. T.
 18. J. B. Richardson
 19. J. J. Odil
 20. James N. White
 21. John W. Hart and W. K. Phillips
 22. Lock & Dam #7
 23. Lotus Sims and Nashville
 24. Lotus Sims and Nashville, negative copy
 25. Louisville, U. S. S.
 26. Map, Reynoldsburg Island and vicinity
 27. Minesweeper #96, Launched at Nashville Bridge Company, 1942
 28. Nashville Grain Dealers Association, Members, 1904
 29. Nashville Grain Dealers Association, Members, 1904, negative copy
 30. Nashville, Walking the Frozen Cumberland River
 31. P. D. Staggs
 32. P. D. Staggs, negative copy
 33. R. Dunbar
 34. Red Rover, U. S. Hospital Ship
 35. Robert Rhea
 36. Rowena
 37. Ryman, Capt. Thomas G. Sr.
 38. Scene At The Nashville Wharf
 39. Switzerland, U. S. Ram

40. T. T. Hillman
41. Tennessee, C. S. Ram
42. Tyner, Capt. James S. and Ryman, Capt. Thomas G. Sr.
43. Virginia, A Modern Towboat, 1940
44. Wharf Scene, Cumberland River, Nashville, Tennessee
45. Will J. Cummins

2. Photograph reproduction – Henry Harley – Nashville Booster Tour
3. Certificate – Membership – Ladies Hermitage Association, Mrs. Addie Gaines Douglas
4. Certificate – Membership – United Daughters of Confederacy, Mrs. Addie Gaines Douglas
5. Certificate – Douglas Family Coat of Arms
6. Certificate – Applications – Virginia Society of the Colonial Dames of America, Mrs. Adelaide Wharton Gaines Douglas
7. Resolution – Nashville & Decatur Railroad – Death of Mr. Byrd Douglas
8. Map – Partitioned Tract of Douglas Estate
9. Map – Inland Waterways – Civil War Facts
10. Diagrams – River Navigation
11. Correspondence – Wharton, John
12. Schedule – Table of Distances on Cumberland River, Tennessee and Kentucky
13. Chart – Number of Steamboats at Nashville and Average Yearly Tonnage, 1819-1950
Location: Manuscript Oversize Drawer #1
14. Chart – Number of Steamboats at Nashville and Average Yearly Tonnage, 1819-1950
Location: Manuscript Oversize Drawer #1

Photograph List

Box 4 Folder 1

1. Alex Perry
2. Alex Perry
3. Allen J. Duncan
4. Allen J. Duncan
5. Bedford – Cumberland River “Gas Packet” about 1927
6. Bedford – Cumberland River “Gas Packet” about 1927
7. Bob Dudley
8. B. S. Rhea
9. B. S. Rhea – at Canton, KY
10. B. S. Rhea – Stranded at Canton, KY
11. B. S. Rhea – Stranded at Canton, KY
12. Burnside
13. Burnside (1916)
14. Celina (1913)
15. Celina (1913)

16. Celina – Burnside, KY
17. Clarksville Wharf – Airplane View
18. Clarksville Wharf (1889)
19. Clarksville Wharf (1889)
20. Clarksville Wharf (1935)
21. Clarksville Wharf (1935)
22. Clarksville Wharf (1935)
23. Cumberland Falls
24. Cumberland Falls
25. Cumberland Falls
26. D. H. Pike
27. D. H. Pike
28. Desarc
29. Dick Clyde – at Carthage Docked Inside a Barge
30. Douglas, Byrd (d. 1911)
31. Douglas, Byrd (d. 1911)
32. Douglas, Byrd (d. 1911) Residence
33. Dover Landing – Airplane View
34. Douglas, Judge Byrd

Box 4 Folder 2

1. E. G. Ragon – Loading Tobacco at Cloverport, KY
2. E. G. Ragon – Loading Tobacco at Cloverport, KY
3. E. G. Ragon – Loading Tobacco at Cloverport, KY
4. Electra
5. Electra
6. Electra
7. Fall – Interior Cabin
8. Fred Frague – Lock #5
9. Fred Frague – Lock #5
10. Fox Bluff
11. Golden Eagle
12. Golden Eagle
13. Grace Devers
14. Grace Devers
15. Graduation Group
16. H. G. Hill
17. H. G. Hill
18. H. R. W. Hill
19. H. R. W. Hill
20. H. W. Buttorff
21. H. W. Buttorff
22. Henry Harley

23. Henry Harley (1898)
24. Henry Harley (1898)
25. Henry Harley – Nashville Booster Tour
26. Henry Harley - Nashville Booster Tour
27. Hunter, W. A. and Family
28. Idlewild
29. Idlewild
30. Idlewild – At Nashville
31. J. J. Odil
32. J. J. Odil
33. J. N. Pharr
34. James Lee (1908) – Cabin Interior
35. Jo Horton Fall
36. Jo Horton Fall
37. Jo Horton Fall - At Nashville Just Down From Wolf Creek
38. Jo Horton Fall - At Nashville Just Down From Wolf Creek
39. Jo Horton Fall - Crew
40. Jo Horton Fall – Crew
41. Julien Gracey
42. Julien Gracey

Box 4 Folder 3

1. Loading Hogs On Steamboat
2. Lock #5 - Montgomery
3. Lock & Dam #7
4. Lotus Sims
5. Louisville
6. Martin, T. J. (Caddy) – Mate on Dunbar
7. Martin, T. J. (Caddy) – Mate on Dunbar
8. Matt F. Allen
9. Matt F. Allen
10. Nashville
11. Nashville
12. Nashville – Bond Chadwell Co. Warehouse ca. 1930
13. Nashville – Cumberland River Sand Co. – High Water
14. Nashville – Nashville Bridge Co. – High Water
15. Nashville – Shelby Street Bridge – High Water
16. Nashville – Tennessee State Capitol Building – Civil War Era
17. Nashville Wharf
18. Nashville Wharf (1860)
19. Nashville Wharf (1860)
20. Nashville Wharf (1860)
21. Nashville Wharf (1862)

22. Nashville Wharf (1862)
23. Nashville Wharf (1862)
24. Nashville Wharf (1907)
25. Nashville Wharf (1907)
26. Nashville Wharf (ca.1930)
27. Nashville Wharf – Postcard
28. Nashville Wharf - Rowena

Box 4 Folder 4

1. P. D. Staggs (1893)
2. Patrol
3. Patrol (1905)
4. Patrol (1905)
5. Peosta
6. R. Dunbar – At Burksville, KY
7. R. Dunbar (1895) – At Nashville “Flattened Out”: With Upper River Cargo.
8. R. Dunbar (1895) – At Nashville “Flattened Out”: With Upper River Cargo.
9. R. Dunbar (1895) – At Nashville “Flattened Out”: With Upper River Cargo.
10. R. Dunbar (1895) – At Nashville “Flattened Out”: With Upper River Cargo.
11. Robert Rhea (1908)
12. Rowena
13. Rowena
14. Rowena
15. Rowena
16. Rowena
17. Rowena
18. Rowena
19. Rowena
20. Rowena – (1904) At Burnside, KY
21. Rowena – (1904) At Burnside, KY
22. Rowena – At Burnside, KY
23. Rowena – At Nashville
24. Rowena – At Nashville
25. Rowena – Locking Through
26. Rowena – Locking Through
27. Rowena – Locking Through
28. Shiloh, Battle of
29. Theodore Roosevelt

Box 4 Folder 5

1. Virginia
2. W. K. Phillips
3. Wariota
4. Wariota
5. Warioto – Pilothouse Interior
6. Water Queen Showboat – Towed by Grace Devers
7. Water Queen Showboat – Towed by Grace Devers
8. Wenonah
9. Will J. Cummins (1895)
10. Will J. Cummins (1895)

Box 4 Folder 6

1. Unidentified – Side-wheeler – Civil War Era
2. Unidentified – Steamboat
3. Unidentified – Steamboat – Interior Cabin