

**Edwin A. Price Family Papers
1855-1934**

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INTRODUCTION

This collection of the Edwin A. Price Family Papers contains correspondence, copies of speeches, and legal documents, most of which relate to Edwin Armstrong Price, (1860-1933), City Attorney of Nashville, Tennessee, and Attorney General for Davidson County. A limited amount of material relating to his eldest son, Edwin Price, Jr. is also included. One additional folder of material related to another of Edwin Price's sons, Alfred S., an engineer with Vultee Aircraft Company, was discarded as it contained only technical journals and previously published material about the use of Plexiglas in aircraft.

Edwin A. Price represented the City of Nashville during the legal battles between railroads and streetcar companies to gain franchises and right of ways in the 1890's. As a result of his political position and his membership in many fraternal and civic organizations, Price became a popular local orator, and was often called upon for introductions and inspirational lectures. The bulk of the collection consists of copies of his speeches, and legal briefs pertaining to his work as City Attorney.

The collection was acquired by the Tennessee State Library and Archives from W. Terry Jackson in 1994. The extent of the collection was originally 1 cubic foot, but was reduced to .75 cubic feet by removal of the Alfred Shook Price technical journals. The collection has been microfilmed and there are no restrictions on its use.

Additional material may be located in the Edwin A. Price Scrapbooks, 1911- 1934, accession number: 1471; location: VII-E-1. These scrapbooks are a collection of newspaper clippings assembled by Price.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Edwin A. Price Family Papers, 1855-1934, include correspondence, copies of speeches, and court documents predominantly relating to the life and legal career of Edwin A. Price. The correspondence is divided into two folders, the first mostly containing letters written to Edwin A. Price from his father and sisters during his college years; and the second containing letters written to and from his son, Edwin Price, Jr., in his efforts to obtain special privileges on his honeymoon trip in 1934. After his marriage to "Miss Cheek," of the prominent Belle Meade family, Edwin, Jr. requested and received a letter of introduction from Secretary of State Cordell Hull, probably as a result of his father's political connections and the eminence of the Cheek family. He was not able to obtain "courtesy of the port" which would allow him to bypass customs on his return.

The collection contains several legal briefs of cases which came to trial during the elder Price's tenure as city attorney, some of which deal with the litigation surrounding the consolidation of railroad and streetcar lines before the turn of the century. Other large and significant periods of his legal career are not represented, such as his early years as a private attorney in Nashville until his election as City Attorney. Price was well known as an orator, and there are also several folders containing copies of speeches he gave, including memorials he gave for deceased club members, inspirational speeches, and political speeches. These survive primarily in the form of typewritten copies, but there are some handwritten notes as well. The collection sheds some insight into the career of a locally prominent attorney, and into the legal issues surrounding Nashville's rail and streetcar lines in the early 1900's.

The collection was reduced from 1.0 cubic foot to .75 cubic feet by removal of published magazines and articles about the properties of Plexiglas, saved by Price's younger son, Alfred Shook Price. The collection has been microfilmed, and there are no restrictions on its use.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Edwin A. Price was born in 1860 in Alabama to Dr. George W. Price, who later became founder and principal of the Nashville College for Young Ladies, and professor of physiology at Vanderbilt Medical School, and Elizabeth Pooser Price of South Carolina. A renowned educator, Dr. Price was president of the Huntsville Female College, Huntsville, Alabama, during Edwin's youth, and educated all four of his children: sons George H. and Edwin, and daughters Elizabeth and Ida. Edwin Price attended Parks Field School in Tuskegee and Alabama Polytechnic in Auburn, Alabama, and graduated from Vanderbilt Law School in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1880.

Edwin A. Price joined the Tennessee Bar Association in 1888. On December 21st of 1898, Price married Margaret Shook, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Alfred Shook of Nashville. Price served two terms as Nashville's City Attorney until his election as Attorney General for Davidson County in 1900. Included in the collection are court documents involving Nashville railroad and streetcar franchises and rights of way, divisive and locally controversial issues at the turn of the century given the competitive environment and consolidation of lines.

Price's success as City Attorney brought him to the attention of Democratic leaders, and he was entered as a candidate for Attorney General of Davidson County in 1900. Taking place during the contentious debate over prohibition and during a serious split in the party, Price's election was hotly contested. He was opposed by political reformers such as the Anti-Saloon League, who accused him of currying favor with the liquor interests and with the anti-reform Democratic political machine. Despite the opposition, Price won and held the position of Attorney General until he resigned in 1906 to return to private practice, forming Price, Schlater, and Price, with his son Edwin Price, Jr. Price never held public office again.

Price remained active in the Tennessee and Nashville Bar Associations, and was also a member of a number of fraternal organizations and clubs, including the Knights of Pythius, Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks, the Erskine Club, Hermitage Society, and Nashville Board of Trade. Well known for his oratorical skills, Price was often in demand as a speaker, and was chosen to introduce President Taft at his reception at the Ryman Auditorium during his visit to Nashville in 1911. Although the Taft introduction speech has not survived, copies of many of his other speeches and notes are included in the collection.

Edwin A. Price died of a heart attack at his law office on October 5, 1933, and was survived by his wife; three sons: Edwin Jr., Alfred S., and George H.; and by his daughter, Margaret Price Voss.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

Folder 1	Certificate- "Baby Roll", Edwin A. Price Jr., 1906
Folder 2	Correspondence- Dec., 1876 through Oct., 1906
Folder 3	Correspondence- Edwin A. Price, Jr., 1924 - 1934
Folder 4	Correspondence- Valentine and envelope, 1855
Folder 5	Financial Documents- Insurance Balance Statements, Edwin A. Price, Jr.
Folder 6	Invitations and Announcements
Folder 7	Legal Document- Address of J. C. Bradford, Nashville Street Railroad
Folder 8	Legal Documents- Briefs, Blazer vs. State of Tennessee
Folder 9	Legal Documents- Briefs, Goodman, Goodman, Brown vs. Laflin & Rand Powder Company.
Folder 10	Legal Documents- Briefs relating to Nashville railways and streetcars
Folder 11	Legal Documents- Briefs, Renner vs. Stokes
Folder 12	Legal Document- Deposition of W. T Young, Groton Bridge and Manufacturing Company vs. Mayor and City Council of Nashville
Folder 13	Notebook- "Lectures in 1885" "Charles Wesley, the Poet of Methodism"
Folder 14	Notebook- "The Teaching of Patriotism" July 20, 1889, Toast to Peabody Board Nov. 21, 1889
Folder 15	Photograph, Edwin A. Price, Jr. ca. 1934
Folder 16	Poetry- "Death" by Eliza Price Cooper April 9, 1899
Folder 17	Programs- Vanderbilt Commencement, 1924 & 1926

Box 2

Folder 1	Speeches- Dated 1891 through 1914
Folder 2	Speeches, Handwritten Notes, - Dated 1875 through 1902
Folder 3	Speeches, Handwritten notes - Undated
Folder 4	Speeches- Undated