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GARRETT, FINIS JAMES
(1875-1956)
CORRESPONDENCE
1904-1907, 1916

Processed by:

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Archival Technical Services

Date Completed: February 8, 1961
Accession Number: 271
Location: II-G-3,4
Microfilm Accession Number: 629

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of Finis James Garrett (1875-1956), Democratic Representatives in Congress, 1905-1929; Judge of United States Court of Customs and Patents Appeals, 1929-1956; were given to the Manuscript Section by Bethel College, McKenzie, Tennessee, in return for which they are to receive a microfilm copy of the papers. The papers and a number of books were given to the College by Garrett who was an alumnus of the school.

The materials in this finding aid measures 4.2 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Garrett papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Garrett Papers, approximately 3000 items, are composed of the correspondence of Finis James Garrett, both incoming and outgoing, for the years 1905-1907 with some letters for 1916. This correspondence seems to be complete for the years 1905-1907 when Garrett was first elected to Congress but, with the exception of a few letters for 1916, the later years are missing.

Requests for recommendations, for speaking engagements, for help with debates, for free seed distributed by the Department of Agriculture, for help in obtaining indemnity for stolen or damaged property during the Civil War, and for help in obtaining pensions, make up a large portion of the correspondence. Another large portion deals with political subjects.

The outgoing mail has been arranged in a chronological order, and the incoming mail is alphabetically arranged by author. An index has been made of the more important correspondents which includes E. W. Carmack, Caruthers Ewing, W. W. House, R. T. Lewis (Garrett's law partner), John W. Morton, Malcolm R. Patterson, Thomas and Wardlaw Steele, and a number of law firms such as Moyers and Consaul, of Washington, D. C.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Finis James Garrett

- 1875 August 26 Born near Ore Springs, Weakley County, Tennessee
- 1880s & 1890s Attended Common Schools and Clinton (Ky.) College
- 1896 Edited Country Newspapers at Dresden and McKenzie, Tennessee, before finishing College Course
- 1897 Graduated from Bethel College, McKenzie, Tennessee
- 1899 Admitted to Bar and commenced practice in Dresden, Tennessee
- 1900-1905 Appointed Master in Chancery
- 1905-1929 Served as Democratic Representative in Congress
- 1929 Judge U. S. Court of Customs and Patents Appeals
- 1937 Presiding Judge of Court of Customs and Patent Appeals
- 1956 May 25 died

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Reel #1

Box 1

Correspondence – Carbon Copies

1. 1904 – December 1905
2. No month, 1906
3. January 1-15, 1906
4. January 16-20, 1906
5. January 21-31, 1906
6. February 1-10, 1906
7. February 11-15, 1906
8. February 16-20, 1906
9. February 21-28, 1906
10. March 1-5, 1906
11. March 6-10, 1906
12. March 11-15, 1906
13. March 16-20, 1906
14. March 21-25, 1906
15. March 26-31, 1906

Box 2

Correspondence – Carbon Copies

1. April 1-15, 1906
2. April 16-30, 1906
3. May, 1906
4. June, 1906
5. July, 1906
6. August, 1906
7. September, 1906
8. October, 1906

Microfilm Reel #2

Box 2

9. November, 1906
10. December 1-10, 1906
11. December 11-20, 1906
12. December 21-31, 1906

Box 3

Correspondence – Carbon Copies

1. January 1-7, 1907
2. January 8-15, 1907
3. January 16-22, 1907
4. January 23-31, 1907
5. February 1-7, 1907
6. February 8-11, 1907
7. February 12-15, 1907
8. February 16-20, 1907
9. February 21-24, 1907
10. February 25-28, 1907

Box 4

Correspondence – Carbon Copies

1. March, 1907
2. April 1-16, 1907
3. April 17-30, 1907
4. May 1-14, 1907
5. May 15-31, 1907
6. June, 1907
7. July, 1907
8. August, 1907
9. 1916

Box 5

Accounts and Correspondence – Incoming, A-B

1. Accounts: Notes and Receipts, 1904-1906
2. Correspondence – Incoming, A's, Ab-Ad, 1906-1907
3. Correspondence – Incoming, A's, Agriculture, 1905-1907

Microfilm Reel #3

Box 5

Accounts and Correspondence – Incoming, A-B

4. Correspondence – Incoming, A's, Ak-AI, 1906-1907
5. Correspondence – Incoming, A's Allman, 1905-1907
6. Correspondence – Incoming, A's, Am-Ar, 1905-1907
7. Correspondence – Incoming, A's, As-At, 1905-1907
8. Correspondence – Incoming, A's, Au-Ay, 1906-1907
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10. Correspondence – Incoming, B's, Be, 1906-1907
11. Correspondence – Incoming, B's, Bi-Bo, 1905-1907

12. Correspondence – Incoming, B's, Br, 1905-1907
13. Correspondence – Incoming, B's, Bu-By, 1905-1907

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Correspondence – Incoming, C-D-E

1. C's, Car, 1906-1907
2. C's, Carmack, 1906-1907
3. C's, Car-Cl, 1905-1916
4. C's, Coc-Con, 1905-1907
5. C's, Coo- Coz, 1905-1907
6. C's, Cra-Cus, 1905-1916
7. D's, Da-De, 1906-1907
8. D's, Di-Dy, 1905-1907
9. E's, 1906-1907

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Correspondence – Incoming, F-G-H-I-J

1. F's, Fa-Fi, 1886-1907
2. F's, Fl-Fu, 1906-1907
3. G's, Ga-Gl, 1906-1907
4. G's, Gol-Gom, 1905-1907
5. G's, Goo-Guy, 1906-1907
6. H's, Has-Ham, 1905-1907
7. H's, Han-Har, 1905-1907
8. H's, Har-Hay, 1905-1916

Microfilm Reel #4

Box 7

Correspondence – Incoming, F-G-H-I-J

9. H's, Hea-Hit, 1905-1916
10. H's, Hol-Hy, 1905-1907
11. I's, 1906-1907
12. J's, 1905-1916

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2. L's, La-Lee, 1905-1907
3. L's, Lev-Lew, 1905-1916
4. L's, Li-Ly, 1905-1907
5. M's, Mac-May, 1906-1907
6. M's, McA-McW, 1905-1907
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8. M's, Mor-My, 1905-1907
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10. O's, 1906-1907

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Correspondence – Incoming, P-Q-R-S

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2. P's, Pea-Pur, 1905-1916
3. R's, Rag-Ray, 1905-1907
4. R's, Rea-Rey, 1905-1907
5. R's, Rh-Ri, 1905-1916
6. R's, Ri-Ry, 1905-1916
7. S's, Sa-Si, 1905-1907
8. S's, Smith, 1905-1907

Microfilm Reel #5

Box 9

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9. S's, So-Su, 1905-1916

Box 10

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4. We-Wh, 1905-1907
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6. Y, 1905-1907

Other Documents

7. Depositions re: stolen cotton, 1866-1867
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9. Clippings and broadsides, 1903, 1916, n.d.
10. Printed materials, 1904-1907

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