



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**MAY, DANIEL**  
**(1898-1982)**  
**PAPERS**  
**ADDITION**  
**1914-1983**

*Processed by:*

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Archival Technical Services

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**MICROFILMED**

## INTRODUCTION

The Daniel May Papers, Addition, 1914-1983, contains approximately 650 items and spans the period 1914 through 1983, although the bulk of the papers are limited to the years 1920 through 1980. The collection is composed of account books, audit reports, business ledgers, certificates, clippings, correspondence, deeds, insurance papers, legal documents, and reports.

The son of Jacob May (1861-1946), founder of the May Hosiery Mills in Nashville, Tennessee, Daniel May (1893-1982) became Chairman of the Board after his father's death. May was an active member of numerous Nashville area civic and educational organizations and served as a director or trustee for many of these associations.

The bulk of the collection consists of materials pertaining to the May Corporation — a family owned investment company, and the May Hosiery Mills (now part of the Wayne-Gossard Corporation), and provides research information on the hosiery industry in Nashville throughout most of the twentieth century, as well as on a prominent Nashville family.

The materials in this finding aid measure 2.5 cubic feet, reduced from its original 3 cubic feet by removal of binders and blank pages. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Daniel May Papers Addition may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Daniel May Papers, Addition, 1914-1983, consists primarily of correspondence, account books, audit reports, and other financial documents relating to the May Hosiery Mills of Nashville, Tennessee. Of particular note are the account book which documents Daniel May's personal expenses and charitable contributions, and the May Company payroll register from 1915-1917, which shows skilled and unskilled hosiery worker's salaries in Nashville. The correspondence consists primarily of letters to and from Ira Mendell of New York, a friend and business associate. All of the company audits and financial statements from 1914-1982 are included, which document the growth and success of the May Company during Daniel May's tenure. Some copies of legal documents pertaining to Daniel May's power of attorney and will are also included, which explain the eventual disposition of his estate. The correspondence is placed in folders in its original, roughly chronological order. All of the other materials have been placed in folders and arranged alphabetically by the type of document.

For additional material on Daniel May and the May Hosiery Mills, see the Daniel May Papers, 1946-1974, accession number THS 453, microfilm number 1167.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

### Daniel May

- 1898 December 25, born in Nashville, Tennessee, the son of Jacob and Rebecca Weingarten May  
Attended Hume School, Nashville
- 1918 U. S. Army – Private
- 1919 Received an A. B. Degree from Vanderbilt University
- 1924-1927 Partner in the Bloch Clothing Co., Nashville
- 1927 June 14, married Dorothy Fishel
- 1927-1963 Associated with May Hosiery Mills, Nashville, Tennessee  
1933-1946- Treasurer  
1946-1959- Chairman of the Board  
1959-1963- President
- 1982 December 16, died in Nashville, and is buried in the Temple cemetery

### **Organizations and Accomplishments:**

The Bill Wilkerson hearing and Speech Center, Board of Directors  
Council of community Services  
Davidson County Quarterly Court  
Fisk University Board of Trustees, 1950-1959  
Jewish Community Center, Board of Directors, President-1950  
Joint University Libraries, Board of Trustees  
Metropolitan Action Commission  
Metropolitan Government of Nashville, Councilman-At-Large  
Mid-Cumberland Comprehensive Health Planning Commission  
Nashville Board of Education, 1943-1953  
Rotary Club of Nashville, President, 1962  
Vanderbilt University Board of Trust, 1951-1982  
War Manpower Commission, 1943  
War Production Board Consultant, 1945  
Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, Board of Trustees

## **ORGANIZATIONAL SKETCH**

### **May Hosiery Mill**

- 1896      Founded in Nashville, Tennessee by Jacob May and Leo Kaufman as the Rock City Hosiery Co.
- 1901      Jacob May bought out Leo Kaufman and became the sole owner
- 1909      October 20, incorporated under Tennessee laws as the May Hosiery Mills, with an authorized capital of \$40,000
- 1956      September, May Hosiery Mills, merged with Vaughan Knitting Co., Wytheville, Virginia and its three subsidiaries
- 1965      May Hosiery Mills, merged into Wayne Knitting Mills of Humboldt, Tennessee
- 1966      May Hosiery Mills, acquired the Athens Hosiery Mills of Athens, Tennessee
- 1968      The Wayne Knitting Mills acquired the H. W. Gossard Co., of Chicago, Illinois and the corporation changed its name to Wayne-Gossard Corp.
- 1983      The Renfro Hosiery Mills, of Mount Airy, North Carolina acquired the May Hosiery Mills from Wayne-Gossard and operated the Nashville plant as Renfro Hosiery-May Plant

## CONTAINER LIST

### Microfilm Roll #1

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#### Box 1

1. Certificates, Stock, May Hosiery Mills and May Corporation
2. Correspondence - Daniel May, 1954-1962
3. Correspondence - Daniel May, 1973-1981
4. Court Records - Probate of Will, Daniel May, 1982
5. Estate Papers, Jacob May, 1932 and 1946
6. Financial Documents - Account Book, May Hosiery Mills, 1959-1981
7. Financial Documents - Audits, May Hosiery Company, 1914 and 1916
8. Financial Documents - Audits, May Hosiery Company, 1921-1930
9. Financial Documents - Audits, May Hosiery Company, 1931-1940

#### Box 2

1. Financial Documents - Audits, May Hosiery Company, 1941-1945
2. Financial Documents - Audits, May Hosiery Company, 1946-1950
3. Financial Documents - Audits, May Hosiery Company, 1951-1955
4. Financial Documents - Audits, May Hosiery Company, 1956-1958
5. Financial Documents - Financial Statements, May Hosiery Mills, 1959-1969
6. Financial Documents - Financial Statements, May Hosiery Mills, 1970-1982

#### Box 3

1. Financial Documents - Stockholder's Ledger, May Corporation, 1936-1984
2. Land Records - Deed of Trust, Charles Lewis Graham, 1954
3. Legal Documents - Agreements, Daniel May and May Corporation, 1960 & 1978
4. Legal Documents - Agreements, Mortimer May and Daniel May, 1947
5. Legal Documents - Power of Attorney, Daniel May, 1973
6. Legal Documents - Power of Attorney, Dorothy May, 1978
7. Legal Documents - Trust Agreement, Daniel May, 1977
8. Legal Documents - Wills, Daniel May, 1982
9. Legal Documents - Wills, Dorothy May, 1983
10. Minutes, Board of Directors, May Hosiery Mills, 1936-1984
11. Minutes, Board of Directors, May Hosiery Mills, 1953-1983
12. Minutes, Profit Sharing Committee May Hosiery Mills, 1944-1978
13. Organizational Papers - Amended By-Laws, May Hosiery Mills, 1946
14. Organizational Papers - Amendment to Charter of Incorporation, 1965
15. Sketches, Biographical, Daniel May, 1982
16. Vital Statistics - Death Certificate, Daniel May, 1982

**Microfilm Roll #2**

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**Box 4 (Oversized)**

Cash Book, 1921-1922

Cash Book, 1952-1976

**Box 5 (Oversized)**

Payroll Register, 1915-1917

Record Book - Cumulative Increase, 1933-1939

Record Book - Income and Expenditures, 1952-1956

Trial Balance Book, 1924-1935