



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

**TENNESSEE DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
WOMEN'S DIVISION RECORDS  
1938**

**(THS Collection)**

*Processed by:*

Francis W. Kunstling and P. J. R.  
Archival Technical Services

Accession Number: THS 96  
Date Completed: September 9, 1968  
Location: THS I-A-5

## **INTRODUCTION**

These are letters concerning organizational efforts made by the Tennessee Democratic Party for their statewide campaign before the election of November 8, 1938. The letters focus on the activities of the Women's Division of the party and contain much correspondence of Bess Taylor Anthony, chairman of that division, and of John W. Harton, State Campaign Manager of the Tennessee Democratic Party, 1938. The donor of these materials is unknown.

There are approximately 60 items contained in this collection. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Tennessee Democratic Party Women's Division Records may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

These letters deal with the organization of the Democratic Party in Tennessee for the statewide campaign of 1938, in which year Prentice Cooper (1895-1969) was the Democratic nominee for Governor and Arthur Thomas ("Tom") Stewart (1892-1972) was the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senator. The letters especially center around the activities of the Women's Division of the Tennessee Democratic Party in that campaign. There are approximately 60 items in the collection, all of which are dated in the late summer and fall of 1938.

Much of the correspondence is that of Bess Taylor Anthony (Mrs. Marc Anthony), Chairman of the Women's Division of the Tennessee Democratic Party in 1938. There are several letters from Mrs. Anthony to various women around the state asking their assistance in the coming campaign and appointing them to serve as county or precinct chairmen in their districts. Also included are many replies written by these women to Mrs. Anthony giving her details about their specific plans for the election to be held November 8, 1938.

Included in the collection is some correspondence belonging to John W. Harton, State Campaign Manager of the Tennessee Democratic Party for 1938. In his letters, Harton congratulates various ladies for their efforts on behalf of the state ticket and urges them to continue their work for the party.

These letters are useful in illuminating the organizational techniques used by political parties in general and the Tennessee Democratic Party in particular to marshal support for candidates. The correspondence is especially useful for a study of political party organization at the local (county and precinct) levels. Attached to or included in many of the letters are lists of district, precinct, and/or street chairmen and their helpers for the Democratic campaign of 1938 in the following counties in Tennessee: Decatur, Gibson, Hardin, Haywood, Henry, Lauderdale, Loudon, McNairy, Madison, Pickett, Putnam, Rutherford, Smith, Tipton, Wayne, Weakley, Williamson, and Wilson.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

1. Correspondence – Abernathy-Harton
2. Correspondence – Hassler-Vinson

## NAME INDEX

This is a name index of only the correspondence in the Tennessee Democratic Party Women' s Division Records, along with the dates of the letters. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the folder in which the material is to be found.

Abernathy, Mrs. Cora, 1938, 1  
Alston, Mrs. N.J., 1938, 1  
Anthony, Mrs. Marc (12), 1938, 1  
Bell, Mrs. Whit, 1938, 1  
Brown, Mrs. Evan, 1938, 1  
Cannon, Mrs. W.D., 1938, 1  
Carroll, Montrose, 1938, 1 (telegram attached)  
Dickerson, Miss Mary (3), 1938, 1  
Dowland, Mrs. Vernon, 1938, 1  
Estes, Mrs. Mary Lee, 1938, 1  
Green, Grace (3), 1938, 1  
Gurley, Vera, 1938, 1  
Hampton, C.D. (2), 1938, 1  
Harton, John W. (6), 1938, 1  
Hassler, Mrs. Everett, 1938, 2  
Hill, Mrs. Albert (2), 1938, 2  
Humphrey, Geneva, 1938, 2  
Keith, Louise, 1938, 2  
Lacefield, Esther, 1938, 2  
Leach, Clara, 1938, 2  
Moore, Mrs. J. House, 1938, 2  
Nash, Mrs. H.M., 2  
Peeler, Floy, 1938, 2  
Phillips, Mrs. Tillman (2), 1938, 2  
Sanford, Mary B. (5), 1938, 2  
Scruggs, Annie, 1938, 2  
Smith, Burl, 1938, 2  
Smith, Lawrence, 1938, 2  
Smith, Mrs. Watt, 1938, 2  
Sugg, Elizabeth, 1938, 2  
Swink, Eula, 1938, 2  
Vinson, Rubye, 1938, 2

