



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

**WEEMS, GEORGE HATTON (1891-1957)**  
**PAPERS, 1915-1965**

*Processed by:*

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## INTRODUCTION

The papers of Brigadier General George Hatton Weems (1891-1957), U.S. Army, founder of the G.H. Weems Educational Loan Fund, and teacher of military subjects, were given to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Miss Lucile Monroe of Clarksville, Tennessee, in 1965. Additional materials were donated by Col. William Slayden III, Knoxville, in 1968. See addenda.

The materials in this collection measure 1.26 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the George Hatton Weems Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The papers of George Hatton Weems, numbering approximately 900 items, are for the period 1915 to 1965 and contain correspondence, military award certificates, biographical data, invitations and programs, news clippings, obituaries, military orders, photographs, and military speeches and writings. The bulk of the material is correspondence, which is separated into family and general correspondence.

The biographical data deals with the life of George Hatton Weems; the invitations and programs relate to military events; the miscellaneous file includes two passports (with attached portraits of Weems) and a news clipping mentioning Brigadier General Hanford McNider as a possible U.S. presidential candidate for 1944; the obituaries are of G.H. Weems; military orders are those issued to and from Weems; photographs are of Weeks, Miss Lucile Monroe, and the Weems family; Weems's speeches included are mainly of the patriotic type; military writings of General Weems include "The Opposing Forces and Strategic Plans" at the outset of World War I, produced by Weems in 1932-1933 while at the U.S. Army Air Corps Tactical School, Maxwell Field, Alabama, and a detailed Study on the "Meuse-Argonne Operation" of World War I, written at the same school during 1931-1932.

The correspondence contains valuable conjecture by General Weems and others on the situation in Eastern Europe, especially Hungary, in the late 1940s. Of use in this connection would be a check of Weems's outgoing correspondence and his incoming from such persons as Congressman Alvin M. Bentley, Edward J. Czerniuk, Frank and Mary Dastich, Thyra Pallavicini Dora, Oliver Edgecumbe, Nagy Ferenc, Andrew Matrai, Robert A. Schow (C.I.A.), W.P. Scobey, Sisters of Social Service, Dallas S. Townsend and Charles E. Valeric. The experience of Weems serving in the Allied Control Council for Hungary during Allied occupation after World War II enabled him to acquaint himself aptly with various problems encountered and contemplated regarding defense requirements for Europe. Most of the general correspondence, however, deals with the day-to-day social and business affairs of General Weems.

Also contained in the collection is correspondence between General Weems and Lieutenant Frank Goad Clement, later Governor of Tennessee.

There is much family correspondence including letters from William Loch Cook, Andrew Gennett, J.A. Slayden, Mrs. J.A. Slayden, William M. Slayden, Joe B. Weems, P.V.H. Weems, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Nat Weems, and several others.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

### George Hatton Weems

- 1891 Born – September 27<sup>th</sup> in Southside, Montgomery County, Tennessee, son of Joseph Burch Weeks, Sr. and May Elizabeth “Bessie” (Rye) Weems
- 1896 Father died
- 1903 Mother died
- 1907 Went to live with sister, Mrs. J.A. Slayden, Waverly, Humphreys County, Tennessee
- 1917 Graduated from U.S. Military Academy at West Point
- 1917-1918 Went overseas and commanded a machine gun company (9<sup>th</sup> Infantry) with rank of captain; saw service at Verdun and Chateau-Thierry and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and two War Department citations for his part in the capture of Vaux
- 1923 Graduated from the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia
- 1923-1927 Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina
- 1928 Graduated from the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Infantry instructor at U.S. Military Academy
- 1932 Organized the G.H. Weems Educational Fund to aid deserving students who are unable to finance their college education
- 1934 Graduated from the Army War College, Washington, DC
- 1939 Chief of U.S. Military Mission to Haiti at Port-au-Prince and Director of Haiti’s West Point; for his work as director he was awarded the Order of Honor and Merit by the President of Haiti
- 1942 Promoted to Brigadier General; became Assistant Commandant of Fort Benning Infantry School and Head of the Academic Department of the School
- 1945-1947 Served as a member of the Allied Control Council for Hungary and as Provost Marshal of Germany

1949	Chief of the Georgia Military District
1951	Retired from active duty, U.S. Army
1957	Died – February 25 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

1. Awards, military – George Hatton Weems
2. Biographical data – George Hatton Weems
3. Invitations and programs – George Hatton Weems
4. Miscellaneous
5. News clippings – Military career of George Hatton Weems
6. Obituaries – George Hatton Weems
7. Orders, military – to and from George Hatton Weems
8. Photographs – George Hatton Weems, *et al.*
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3. J.A. Slayden – 1927
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6. Elizabeth Weems – 1934, 1939
7. Euvalla (Mrs. John C.) Weems – 1933-1934
8. Jimmy Weems - 1939
9. Joe B. Weems – 1917-1929
10. Joe B. Weems – 1930-1949
11. Joe B. Weems, Jr. – 1943
12. John Weems – 1927-1941
13. Lillian (Mrs. Tom Nat) Weems – 1929-1946
14. Mary Weems – 1940
15. Minna Weems – n.d.
16. P.V.H. Weems – 1917-1929
17. P.V.H. Weems – 1930-1939
18. P.V.H. Weems – 1940-1949
19. P.V.H. Weems – 1950-1956
20. Sara Weems – n.d.
21. Tom Nat Weems, – 1921-1951
22. Tom Nat Weems, Jr. (“Boots”) – 1921-1951
23. Various relatives – 1926-1956

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25. “Dear Folks” – 1918-1949
26. Andrew Gennett – 1927-1940

27. Alvin Slayden, Jr. – 1927-1938
28. J.H. Slayden – 1925, 1927; Mrs. J.A. Slayden – 1915-1952
29. W.M. Slayden, 1934-1946
30. John C. Weems – 1926-1941; Mrs. John C. Weems – 1933-1938
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35. Tom Nat Weems – 1927-1951; Mrs. Tom Nat Weems – 1932-1939
36. Various relatives – 1924-1955

### **Box 3**

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6. General – Outgoing – George Hatton Weems – June 9, 1941-February 18, 1949
7. General – Outgoing – George Hatton Weems – November 21, 1949-October 2, 1956
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9. General – Incoming – to George Hatton Weems – Godwin - Lorigans
10. General – Incoming – to George Hatton Weems – MacConnell - Younts
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12. Miscellaneous – Incoming to Monroe, Lucile – 1957-1965

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## **ADDENDA**

These additional materials were donated to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Colonel William M. Slayden III, of Knoxville, Tennessee, November 28, 1968.

The provision of the gift was that these papers be incorporated into the existing George Hatton Weems Papers. The addition included: a small amount of correspondence; biographical data on General Weems; military orders; military pay and allowance accounts; military commendation letters; and a couple of news releases.

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