

WILES PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION
1896-1910
(THS COLLECTION)

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INTRODUCTION

The Wiles Photographic Collection, ca.1896-ca.1910, is centered around the photographs of Marvin Willard Wiles (ca.1883-1957). The Wiles Photographic Collection is a gift of Herschel Gower of Nashville, Tennessee.

The collection occupies .24 cubic feet of shelf space, and numbers approximately 60 items. Single copies of unpublished writings in the Wiles Photographic Collection may be made for the purposes of scholarly research.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Marvin Willard Wiles

c.1883 Born in Hagerstown, Maryland

1895 Moved to Nashville, Tennessee

1903 Married Miss Lessie Hood

1910 Professional photographic studio, 27 Arcade, Nashville, Tennessee

1912 Nov. 4, city reservoir broke, Wiles photographs for city news

1913 Covered inauguration of Woodrow Wilson

1940 Entered partnership with Steve Hood; Studio becomes Wiles - Hood

1953 Mrs. Lessie Hood Wiles dies

1954 Retires. Sold studio to Steve Hood

1957 Died, Aug. 22

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Marvin Willard Wiles was born ca. 1883, in Hagerstown, Maryland. He moved to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1895, where he married the former Miss Lessie Hood in 1903. Mrs. Wiles died in 1953.

Wiles was a pioneer Nashville news photographer. He opened his studio at 27 Arcade in 1910. His advertisement in the *1910 Nashville City Directory* reads: "Commercial photographer, view and flashlight photographs, Special Reflex camera for animals, chickens, and instantaneous work". One of his outstanding achievements in news photography was his coverage when the city reservoir broke on Nov. 4, 1912. His pictures of the resulting flood and damage were published within a few hours-- a major achievement in photography for the time.

Wiles also took pictures for the local newspapers of the inauguration of Woodrow Wilson and the first soldiers to return to America after World War I.

Additionally, he photographed many Tennessee scenes that won him nationwide fame. One of his pictures of a log cabin in rural surroundings has been widely marketed for many years.

In 1940, the Wiles studio became Wiles-Hood when he entered a partnership with Steve Hood. When Wiles retired in 1954, after almost 50 years as a commercial photographer, Hood acquired full interest in the firm and the studio was moved from the Arcade to Inglewood in 1955. Wiles died on August 22, 1957, after an extended illness.

The Wiles Photographic Collection consist of 60 photographs reproduced from glass negatives taken by Marvin Willard Wiles. The glass negatives are located in the vault of the Tennessee State Library and Archives. The bulk of the collection is comprised of photos taken at the Tennessee Centennial and International Exposition, 1897.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

Photo # Description

Folder 1

1. Three ladies picking berries

Folder 2

2. Tennessee Centennial Parthenon, 1897
3. Tennessee Centennial statue "Water Lilies", 1897
4. Tennessee Centennial, 1897
5. Tennessee Centennial building, 1897
6. Tennessee Centennial, 1897
7. Tennessee Centennial parade, 1897
8. Tennessee Centennial building and lake, 1897
9. Tennessee Centennial building, 1897
10. Tennessee Centennial fireworks on water, 1897
11. Tennessee Centennial ride, 1897
12. Tennessee Centennial Machinery Hall, 1897
13. Tennessee Centennial Parthenon, 1897
14. Tennessee Centennial Building, 1897
15. Tennessee Centennial Parthenon, 1897
16. Tennessee Centennial Agriculture Building, 1897
17. Tennessee Centennial Railway Exhibits Building, 1897
18. Tennessee Centennial History Building, 1897
19. Tennessee Centennial Hygiene and Educational Building, 1897
20. Pond in Centennial Park., n.d.
52. Building at Tennessee Centennial, 1897
53. Buildings at Tennessee Centennial, 1897
54. Building at Tennessee Centennial, 1897
55. Building at Tennessee Centennial, 1897

Folder 3

21. Stream and fence row, n.d.
22. Stream and trees, n.d.
23. Shocks of corn, n.d.
24. Field, n.d.
25. Fence and field, n.d.
26. Field, n.d.
28. Field, n.d.
29. Stream and trees. n.d.
35. Shocks of corn, n.d.

CONTAINER LIST

Folder 3, continued:

- 36. Trees on creek bank, n.d.
- 37. Brick Bridge over creek, n.d.
- 38. Stream in field, n.d.
- 39. Trees by stream, house nearby, n.d.
- 40. Field and stream scene, n.d.
- 42. Trees and sky, n.d.
- 43. Stream through trees. n.d.
- 44. Stream and trees, n.d.
- 45. Lone tree in field, n.d.
- 46. Trees in field, n.d.

Folder 4

- 27. E.W. Cole residence, built ca. 1893, picture ca. 1906

Folder 5

- 30. Black family eating watermelon, n.d.
- 31. Black family on porch, n.d.

Folder 6

- 32. People reading on porch, n.d.

Folder 7

- 33. Campsite in woods with tents, n.d.

Folder 8

- 34. Two unidentified girls seated in grass, n.d.

Folder 9

- 41. "When the band played Dixie" Unidentified man tipping hat, n.d.

Folder 10

- 47. Child at fireplace, Christmas stocking, n.d.
- 48. Toddler in walker, n.d.
- 49. Toddler in floor by basket, n.d.
- 50. Three children, n.d.
- 51. Boy playing guitar, girls singing, n.d.
- 56. Three children on bed, n.d.

