

Albert Gore

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



Title: Aaron Weise Papers

Dates: 1913-1939 (Bulk: 1918-1929)

Creator: Aaron Louis Weise

Summary/Abstract: Aaron Weise was a Murfreesboro native and husband of Leah Goldstein Weise, of the Goldstein Department Store family. He served as an aviator in World War I and performed Minstrel shows at the opera house on the Murfreesboro Square for charity. These papers document his career in aviation and his charitable interests, as well as his family life, of particular interest since the Weises and Goldsteins made up a portion of the small Jewish community in Murfreesboro.

Quantity/Physical Description: Approximately 1.5 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository: Albert Gore Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, (615) 898-2632

Restrictions on Access: None

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Preferred Citation: (Box Number, Folder Number), Aaron Weise Papers, Albert Gore Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Acquisition: Peggy Leftwich, March 1, 2002

Processed By: Original processor undetermined.

Arrangement: These papers are arranged by series, sub-series, alphabetically by title, chronologically, and by type, where applicable.

Biographical Note: Aaron Louis Weise was born on June 5, 1888, to Emmanuel and Nettie Weise. During his life, Weise studied to be a rabbi at the Hebrew Union College and also worked as a salesman. On July 20, 1918, Weise married Leah Goldstein. Weise served as an aviator from October 1917 to February 1919. His service took him to Park Field in Millington, Tennessee, Camp Dix, and Taliaferro Field in Fort Worth, Texas. In the 1920s, Weise, “Kitty” Kerr, John Nelson and Chip Ransom put on minstrel shows for charity at the Opera House on the Murfreesboro square. On February 26, 1924, Weise was promoted in the reserves to the grade of captain and assigned to Flight B, 306 Observation Squadron of the Eighty-First Division, whose headquarters were in Knoxville, Tennessee. Weise died on December 29, 1929.

Scope and Content: Documents covering primarily the period from 1918 to 1929 and relating to Weise’s experiences as an aviator and minstrel performer comprise the majority of the 1.5 linear foot collection. The Aaron L. Weise Papers include aviation/military related items, biographical materials, correspondence from 1913 to 1935, minstrel musical booklets, certificates, and scrapbooks that document his experiences as an aviator and as a minstrel performer.

SERIES 1: Aviation/Military, 1918-1929 (7 Folders)

This series includes aviator certificates, a pilot book that belonged to Weise, and war department special orders for Weise during his career as an aviator.

SERIES 2: Biographical, 1916-1929 (5 Folders)

This series provides announcements and programs related to the death and funeral of Aaron Weise. In addition, the series has an insurance certificate and brief notes that offer an insight into the life experiences of Weise.

SERIES 3: Correspondence, 1913-1935 (8 Folders)

The correspondence series includes various letters that were sent to Aaron and Leah. Also, the series contains condolence letters sent to Leah after the death of her husband Aaron.

SERIES 4: Goldstein, Undated (2 Folders)

This series contains a notebook that belonged to Bernice Goldstein during her second year of high school and a sixth grade paper that belonged to Leah Goldstein.

SERIES 5: Minstrel Shows, 1919-1920s (6 Folders)

These files include musical booklets on various minstrel shows. Some of the musical shows include opening choruses and finales for “Searchlight,” “Sunshine,” and “Plantation.” In addition, the series has a souvenir program from a minstrel show from 1919 and a poster advertisement for the 2nd annual Junior Chamber of Commerce Minstrels.

SERIES 6: Memorabilia, 1912-1918 (5 Folders and 2 items)

This series contains a variety of materials such as Aaron Weise’s “Masons of Tennessee” certificate, his aviation goggles, his marriage certificate, and two scrapbooks that contain newspaper clippings of aviation and minstrel shows, photos of airplanes, and certificates and ribbons.

Related Collections: The Licker Papers include materials related to Leah Goldstein, who was Aaron Weise’s wife and a cousin of the Licker sisters, and also a boyhood photo of Aaron Weise. The Goldstein Papers contain more information about Leah Goldstein Weise and her family. The James Gillespie Papers have numerous items related to aviation.

Subject Terms:

Persons

Weise, Aaron

Weise, Leah Goldstein

Goldstein, Bernice

Places

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Millington, Tennessee

Fort Worth, Texas

Subjects (General)

Aviation

Military aviation

Minstrel shows

World War I

Material Types

Certificates

Books

Ephemera

Memorabilia

Printed Material

Correspondence

Musical booklets

Programs

Inventory:

Box	Folder	Series	Description of Contents
1	1	Aviation, Military	AERO Club of America Aviator's Certificate; 1 certificate dated Oct. 30, 1918
1	2	Aviation, Military	Air Service-U.S. Army Rating Certificate; 1 certificate dated Feb. 8, 1929
1	3	Aviation, Military	Base Pass for Mrs. Weise; 1 item dated Aug. 15, 1918
1	4	Aviation, Military	Pilot's Book-Aaron L. Weise; 1 book dated Jan. 5, 1918
1	5	Aviation, Military	Special Orders-War Dept. May 16 & 17, 1918; 2 items dated May 16, May 17 1918
1	6	Aviation, Military	War Dept. Extract Personnel Orders; 1 item dated Apr. 1, 1925
1	7	Aviation, Military	"War Veteran Promoted in the Reserve Corps"; 1 article

1	8	Biographical	Announcement of the Death of Aaron L. Weise; Items dated Dec. 29, 1929
9	0	Biographical	Insurance Certificate of Aaron Louis Weise; 1 item dated May 10, 1916
1	9	Biographical	Insurance Certificate of Aaron Louis Weise; 1 item dated May 10, 1916
1	10	Biographical	Memorandum Funeral of Aaron L. Weise; 1 item dated Dec. 31, 1929
1	11	Biographical	Notes on "Uncle Red;" Items pertaining to Aaron "Red" Weise
1	12	Biographical	"A Tribute to the Memory of Aaron L. (Red) Weise;" 3 programs dated Dec. 31, 1929
1	13	Correspondence	No Date Letters; 3 items, undated
1	14	Correspondence	Correspondence:1913; 4 items
1	15	Correspondence	Correspondence:1916; 3 items
1	16	Correspondence	Correspondence:1921-1923; 18 items
1	17	Correspondence	Correspondence:1925, 1927, 1929; 6 items
1	18	Correspondence	Correspondence: Jan. 1930 (Letters of Condolences); 5 items, condolences related to the death
1	19	Correspondence	Correspondence: 1930, 1934, 1935; 4 items, Letters to Leah Weise
1	20	Correspondence	Correspondence: Western Union Telegram 1921, 1922; 2 telegrams dated 1921, 1922 & Letter
1	21	Goldstein	Bernice Goldstein-2nd Year High School Notebook; 1 notebook, undated
1	22	Goldstein	Leah Goldstein-6th Grade paper; 1 item, undated
1	23	Minstrel Shows	Denison's Minstrel Opening Choruses and Finales: Plantation; 1 musical booklet
1	24	Minstrel Shows	Denison's Minstrel Opening Choruses and Finales: Searchlight; 1 musical booklet

1	25	Minstrel Shows	Denison's Opening and Finales: Sunshine; 1 musical booklet
1	26	Minstrel Shows	"I Ain't Got Enough to Pass Around. . ." ;1 musical booklet
1	27	Minstrel Shows	"A Kiss in the Dark"; 1 musical booklet
1	28	Minstrel Shows	Souvenir Program: Home Coming Day and Elks Victory Minstrels; 1 program booklet, dated Apr. 25, 1919
2	1	Minstrel Shows	Coming! The Fun Fest of the Year: 2nd Annual Junior Minstrels; 1 poster ad, undated
2	2	Memorabilia	1 pair of aviation goggles
2	3	Memorabilia	Masons of Tennessee Certificate for Aaron L. Weise; 1 certificate, dated Dec. 28, 1917
2	4	Memorabilia	Various Items; fishing license button, salesman tag
2	5	Memorabilia	Marriage Certificate for Aaron L. Weise and Leah Goldstein; 1 certificate, dated Aug. 25, 1912
2	6	Memorabilia	Certificate for Aaron Louis Weise; 1 certificate dated Jul. 20, 1918
3		Memorabilia	Large Scrapbook; photos of planes, certificates, ribbons
3		Memorabilia	Small Scrapbook; articles & photos relating to minstrel