

Albert Gore

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



Title: Adgent Family Papers

Dates: 1893–2005 (Bulk: 1940–1983)

Creator: Adgent Family

Summary/Abstract: The Adgent Family Papers include booklets, newspaper clippings, papers and other ephemera related to life in rural Marshall County. Specifically, the papers document businesses, clubs and activities in which Sadie Harber and Sam Joe Adgent participated as county residents. These activities include clubs like 4-H, Future Homemakers of America and Home Demonstration; farming; horse breeding; local elections; religious institutions; local schools and regional tourism.

Quantity/Physical Description: Approximately three 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), Adgent Family Papers, Albert Gore Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Acquisition: Nancy Adgent

Processed By: Original Processor undetermined

Arrangement: In order to maintain the donor's original order, the collection is organized topically and arranged alphabetically in the following series: Business, Clubs, Farming, Horses, Maps, Marshall County, Miscellaneous, Political, Tourism, and World Wars.

Biographical Note: Sam Joe Adgent was born September 12, 1909, in Marshall County, Tennessee. He was the eighth of Ira Lee and Ella Wilson Adgent's ten children. His parents and grandparents were farmers in Maury and Marshall Counties. Their houses were typically small log or clapboard buildings with no indoor plumbing. He walked to local "one room" country schools, attending through the seventh grade when he had to leave to help support the family. Like other children in the community, he carried his lunch, usually a cold, baked sweet potato and corn bread. As a boy, he went with his family to hear preachers from any denomination who held services nearby, usually in "brush arbors" because few church buildings existed within walking distance. His social life consisted of religious "singings," school programs, dances, and ice cream suppers. Until he reached adulthood, a horse and wagon were the family's primary means of transportation, other than walking. Before joining the Army in 1942, Sam Joe was a farmer and carpenter. Some of his jobs involved World War II military installations: October 1941—February 1942 at the Barrage Balloon Training Center, Camp Tyson, Paris, TN; May–August 1942 on the "Camp Campbell project," Clarksville, TN; and September 1942 at Memphis Army Hospital until a material shortage halted construction. Later in 1942, he completed basic training at Camp Forrest, receiving his first active duty assignment to Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia with the 4th S.C. Military Police Detachment. He was based in the U.S. for the duration of his service at Telogia, Florida; Opelika, Alabama; Fort McDowell, Angel Island, California; Fort Lewis, Washington; and Fort Ord, Ogden, Utah, where he was honorably discharged 24 October 1945. As an MP, his tasks included escorting unruly soldiers on leave in Chattanooga back to base at Fort Oglethorpe; escorting military prisoners to and from various locales; and conducting Japanese-Americans from the Pacific Northwest to internment camps near Chicago.

After he returned to civilian life, he again worked as a carpenter in Tennessee, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Georgia, and at the Dale Hollow Dam in Celina, TN. From about mid-1946 to mid-1947, he and his brother-in-law, Jim Harber, owned the Sinclair Service Station in Chapel Hill. In October 1947 he rented a farm near Caney Springs, and attended agriculture classes under the Veterans Administration GI Bill. He married Sadie Laurene Harber on 15 April 1949. The couple had one child, Nancy. In the early 1950s, he and neighbor, Lloyd Kincaid, co-owned the Sinclair Service Station in Chapel Hill. In 1951, he purchased 118 acres in the Wilson School /Lunn's Store community of Marshall County, Tennessee, where he operated a dairy and tobacco farm until the early 1970s. He continued to work away from the farm as a carpenter through the 1960s. For many years, he attended Smyrna Baptist Church. In his retirement years, he drove a van for the Senior Citizens in Lewisburg, Tennessee, and sold vacuum cleaners, until health concerns caused him to curtail his driving in 1986. He died at home from a heart attack and stroke December 23, 1991, and is buried in Smyrna Church Cemetery, Chapel Hill, Tennessee.

Sadie Harber Adgent was born April 22, 1920 in Marshall County, Tennessee. She was the sixth of Jacob Edward and Leila Hopper Harber's nine children. She was raised in the Rich Creek, Anes Station, and Caney Spring communities of the county. Her parents were farmers, as were at least three generations of her Harber, Hopper, Dwiggins, and Green ancestors, all in Marshall and the adjoining Bedford counties. She attended elementary school in Caney Spring and high school in Chapel Hill, graduating in 1943 after missing months in different years due to illness and family needs.

Between her graduation and first teaching position, Sadie worked at a sheet metal shop in Columbia, Tennessee, one of many "Rosie the Riveter" women who performed jobs previously done by men who left to serve in World War II. She taught grades 1-8 at Wilson School near Chapel Hill for the 1943-44 school term, boarding with the Gene Hardison family who lived adjacent to the school. The Hardisons lived on the same farm Sadie and her husband bought in 1951. The following summer she worked in Lewisburg at Basham's Grocery, returning to teaching in September 1944, this time at Anes Station School near Lewisburg. With only 9 pupils enrolled, the school closed shortly and Sadie returned to work at Basham's Grocery and moved to Lewisburg. From July 1945 through February 1947, she worked at Lewisburg's J.C. Penney store as bookkeeper and sales clerk. After leaving Penney's, she worked at Florence Stove Company in Lewisburg until she left in April 1949 to get married.

On April 15, 1949, Sadie married Sam Joe Adgent in Bell Buckle, Tennessee. Rev. C.N. Barclay officiated. In 1951, they purchased 118 acres in the Wilson School / Lunn's Store community of Marshall County where they operated a dairy farm and raised tobacco, corn, sorghum, horses, hogs, chickens, apples, pears, peaches and vegetables.

Sadie taught grades 1 through 6 at Wilson School for the 1956 – 57 and 1957 – 58 terms. She was an active member of the Wilson Home Demonstration Club during the 1950s through 1970s. Her skill as a seamstress supplemented their farm income. For many years she worked at the Wilson School voting site on election days, verifying voter registration and manually tallying votes.

The family belonged to Smyrna Baptist Church near Chapel Hill, Tennessee, which was located in a white frame building (no longer standing) across from what is now Henry Horton State Park golf course. Sadie taught various Sunday School and Vacation Bible School classes. She was frequently called upon to plan entertainment for church parties, including Halloween and New Year's Eve, and she made many costumes for Christmas pageants. In 1997, she compiled the church's history for its 125th anniversary.

Scope and Content: The Adgent Family Papers contain correspondence, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, ephemera, maps, blueprints, information booklets, serials, and school lunch recipes collected by the Adgent Family from both national and Marshall County publications, such as the *Marshall Gazette* and *Lewisburg Tribune*. The collection also contains photographs of Marshall County schoolchildren and school buildings.

Related Collections: Sam Joe Adgent's collection relating to his World War II U.S. Army service is located at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Sadie Adgent's Smyrna Baptist Church collection is deposited in the Southern Baptist Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Some family heirlooms are on loan to the Marshall County Historical Museum in Lewisburg, Tennessee.

Subject Terms

Persons

Sam Joe Adgent

Sadie Adgent

Places

Marshall County, Tennessee

Lewisburg, Tennessee

Knoxville, Tennessee

Key West, Florida

Nashville, Tennessee

Chicago, Illinois

Subjects (General)

World War I

World War II

Farming

Horses

Maps

Tourism

Political

Campaigns

World fairs

Religion

Publications

Schools

Material Types

Flyers

Booklets

Pamphlets

Programs

Ephemera

Scrapbooks

Photographs

Newspaper clippings

Correspondence

Publications

Inventory:

Box	Folder	Series	Subseries	Description of Contents
1	1	Business		Artifacts and documents associated with businesses; The subject is "Duck River Electric;" no dates given
1	2	Business		Artifacts and documents associated with businesses; The subject is "Electrolux advertisements," 1985
1	3	Business		Ephemera associated with local businesses; no dates or specific businesses or subjects given
1	4	Business		Artifacts and documents associated with the subject, the "National Child Labor Committee," no dates given
1	5	Business		Artifacts and documents associated with businesses; The subject is "Sears Roebuck & Co. order," 1945

1	6	Business		Artifacts and documents associated with businesses; the subject is “Sinclair Refining Company,” no dates
1	7	Business		Artifacts and documents associated with business; the subject is “Union Agreement-Stove & Furnace,” no dates given
1	8	Business		Various artifacts and documents associated with businesses; no dates or additional information given
9	0	Ephemera		Two fans associated with local businesses can be found in the miscellaneous oversized box (box 5)
1	9	Clubs	4-H	Pamphlets and booklets on food preparation; general dates 1950-1967
1	10	Clubs	4-H	Information on the local 4-H chapter activities; general dates 1950-1967
1	11	Clubs	4-H	Pamphlets and booklets on general health; general dates 1950-1967
1	12	Clubs	4-H	Informational pamphlets and booklets on public speaking; general dates 1950-1967
1	13	Clubs	4-H	Recipe pamphlets and booklets; general dates 1950-1967

1	14	Clubs	Home Demonstration	Information on the local Home Demonstration chapter's activities; general dates 1950-1967
1	15	Clubs	Home Demonstration	Pamphlets and booklets on entertainment from the local Home Demonstration chapter; general dates 1950-1967
1	16	Clubs	Home Demonstration	Ephemera related to the local Home Demonstration chapter; general dates 1950-1967
1	17	Clubs	Home Demonstration	Pamphlets and booklets on fashion from the local Home Demonstration chapter; general dates 1950-1967
1	18	Clubs	Home Demonstration	Pamphlets and booklets on food preparation from the local Home Demonstration chapter; general dates 1950-1967
1	19	Clubs	Home Demonstration	Pamphlets and booklets on Health and Safety from the local Home Demonstration chapter; general dates 1950-1967
2	1	Clubs	Home Demonstration	Pamphlets and booklets on Home Care from the local Home Demonstration chapter; general dates 1950-1967
2	2	Clubs	Home Demonstration	Newspaper clippings related to the local Home Demonstration chapter; general dates 1950-1967

2	3	Clubs	Home Demonstration	Quilting patterns distributed by the local Home Demonstration chapter; general dates 1950-1967
2	4	Clubs	Home Demonstration	Recipe pamphlets and booklets; general dates 1950-1967
2	5	Clubs	Home Demonstration	Recipe pamphlets and booklets; general dates 1950-1967
2	6	Clubs	Home Demonstration	Recipe pamphlets and booklets; general dates 1950-1967
2	7	Clubs	Home Demonstration	Information, pamphlets, and booklets on sewing from the local Home Demonstration chapter; general dates 1950-1967
2	8	Clubs	Home Demonstration	Information on the Tennessee Home Demonstration Leader, 1950s
7	0	Clubs	4-H	A record of local 4-H club members
8	0	Clubs	Future Homemakers of America	A state homemaker's degree
9	0	Clubs	4-H	A 4-H club membership certificate (oversize)
2	9	Farming	Blueprints	United States Department of Agriculture blueprints for farm facilities; general dates 1946-1973

2	10	Farming		Booklets pertaining to the management of a farmstead, including electrification; alphabetically arranged
2	11	Farming		Correspondence and reports related to the management of a farmstead; general dates 1946-1973
2	12	Farming		<i>Tennessee Market Bulletin</i> serials; 1952
3	1	Farming		<i>Tennessee Market Bulletin</i> serials; 1953-54
3	2	Horses		Various documents related to equestrian activity, including correspondence and an application for membership in the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' Association; general dates 1961-1985
3	3	Horses		Various horse show programs; general dates 1961-1985
9	0	Horses	Programs	Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration <i>Official Program</i> ; 1985; oversize
9	0	Horses	Programs	<i>Fourth Annual Sale of Show Ring Champions Catalog</i> , 1966; oversize
9	0	Horses	Programs	<i>49th Murray Farm Sale Catalog</i> ; no date given; general dates 1961-1985; oversize
9	0	Horses	Programs	<i>The Blue Ribbon: Official Yearbook</i> program of

				horse show champions; 1978; oversize
3	4	International Heritage Development Conference		Information from the conference on the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition; 2005
3	5	International Heritage Development Conference		Pamphlets from the Conference; 2005
3	6	International Heritage Development Conference		Conference registration packets; 2005
3	7	Maps		Tennessee Maps; general dates 1940-1983; arranged alphabetically
3	8	Maps		Other United States destinations; general dates 1940-1983; arranged alphabetically
3	9	Marshall County	General	Calendars; arranged alphabetically; general dates 1935-1970
3	10	Marshall County	General	Ephemera; arranged alphabetically; general dates 1935-1970
3	11	Marshall County	General	Information about Marshall County Historical Society; general dates 1935-1970
3	12	Marshall County	General	Marshall County Newspaper Clippings; general dates 1935-1970; arranged alphabetically

3	13	Marshall County	Schools	Books from Marshall County Schools; general dates 1935-1970
4	1	Marshall County	Schools	Marshall County Schools classmate name card album; general dates 1935-1970
4	2	Marshall County	Schools	Marshall County Schools Diplomas; 1939, 1943
4	3	Marshall County	Schools	Marshall County Schools employee records and certification information; 1943
4	4	Marshall County	Schools	Forrest High Alumni, 1941-44
4	5	Marshall County	Schools	Forrest High Alumni, 1990-1991
4	6	Marshall County	Schools	Forrest High School, student work; circa 1940s
4	7	Marshall County	Schools	Forrest High graduation & baccalaureate information
4	8	Marshall County	Schools	National Education Association certificate; not dated
4	9	Marshall County	Schools	Photographs; general dates 1935-1970
4	10	Marshall County	Schools	School play program; 1966
4	11	Marshall County	Schools	Wilson School lunch fund; issues of Wilson School's "Lunchroom

				News” are arranged chronologically
4	12	Marshall County	Schools	Wilson School lunch recipes; 1947-49; issues of Wilson School’s “Lunchroom News” are arranged chronologically
4	13	Marshall County	Schools	Wilson School lunch recipes; 1953-56; issues of Wilson School’s “Lunchroom News” are arranged chronologically
4	14	Marshall County	Schools	Wilson School lunch recipes; 1957; issues of Wilson School’s “Lunchroom News” are arranged chronologically
4	15	Marshall County	Schools	Wilson School lunch recipes; 1958; issues of Wilson School’s “Lunchroom News” are arranged chronologically
6	0	Marshall County	Schools	A scrapbook of Marshall County schools and sites complied by Sadie Adgent; oversize
10	0	Marshall County	General	A scrapbook compiled by Sadie Harber of Marshall County ephemera
4	16	Miscellaneous		Information on Child Care; 1932, 1939, and undated
4	17	Miscellaneous		A children’s book

4	18	Miscellaneous		Correspondence; 1893, 1947
4	19	Miscellaneous		Comfort Home Album; 1915
4	20	Miscellaneous		Clippings of death notices & obituaries; 1921, 1954, 1977
4	21	Miscellaneous		Ephemera, from fishing licenses to a tuberculosis control receipt and sewing needles; general dates 1954-1973
4	22	Miscellaneous		Ephemera, from fishing licenses to a tuberculosis control receipt and sewing needles; general dates 1954-1973
4	23	Miscellaneous		Health Notes; general dates 1954-1973
4	24	Miscellaneous		Information and programs from various plays; undated, general dates 1954-1973
5	1	Miscellaneous		Poetry and Songs; undated, general dates 1954-1973
5	2	Miscellaneous		Self-help pamphlets; 1946 and undated
5	3	Miscellaneous		Materials on senior citizens; 1946 and undated
5	4	Miscellaneous		Information on St. Thomas School of Nursing

5	5	Miscellaneous		Issues of <i>Tennessee Magazine</i> ; 1967, 1971; arranged chronologically
5	6	Miscellaneous		Issues of <i>Tennessee Magazine</i> ; 1972; arranged chronologically
5	7	Miscellaneous		Issues of <i>Tennessee Magazine</i> ; 1973; arranged chronologically
9	0	Miscellaneous	Ephemera	Two rulers; oversize
9	0	Miscellaneous		United States Army Heritage and Education Center poster; oversize
5	8	Political		Official ballots from county elections; 1962, 2002, undated; arranged alphabetically
5	9	Political		Campaign ephemera; 1962, 2002, undated; arranged alphabetically
5	10	Political		Newspaper clippings related to local elections; 1962, 2002, undated; arranged alphabetically
9	0	Political	Campaign Ephemera	Two fans distributed as part of local campaigns; oversize
5	11	Religion		Tracts and publications, including <i>Baptist and Reflector</i> , <i>Home Life: A Christian Family Magazine</i> , and the <i>Christian Herald: A Voice for the Layman</i> ; 1938, 1952, 1958, 1967
5	12	Tourism	1982 World's Fair	Booklets about and from the 1982 World's Fair in

				Knoxville; 1982; arranged alphabetically
5	13	Tourism	1982 World's Fair	Booklets about and from the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville; 1982; arranged alphabetically
5	14	Tourism	1982 World's Fair	Newspaper clippings about the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville; 1982; arranged alphabetically
5	15	Tourism	1982 World's Fair	Pamphlets about and from the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville; 1982; arranged alphabetically
5	16	Tourism	General	Brochures to various U.S. destinations, such as Key West, Opryland, and Chicago; 1972- 1984, 1997; arranged alphabetically by title
9	0	Tourism	1982 World's Fair	Souvenir mug from the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville; 1982; oversize
9	0	Tourism	General	Ephemera – Nashville, 1997 Summer Lights pin; 1997
9	0	Tourism	General	Ephemera – three Tennessee flag stickers and one United States of America
5	17	World Wars		Ephemera related to World War I and/or World War II; 1918, 1942-43, undated

5	18	World Wars		Government publications concerning health, rehabilitation, and financing the war; 1918, 1942-4, undated
5	19	World Wars		National Youth Administration progress report; 1943
5	20	World Wars		Federal and state correspondence and notices concerning Vocational Rehabilitation; 1918, 1942-4, undated
9	0	World Wars	Books	<i>The Bluejacket's Manual</i> , a government publication; 1943; oversized
9	0	World Wars	Books	<i>Service Record, World War I and II, Marshall County, Tennessee</i> , a government publication; 1918; 1942-4; oversized