



## ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



**Title:** Cecil Flowers Papers

**Dates:** 1930s–1997

**Creator:** Cecil Flowers

**Summary/Abstract:** These papers pertain to the life of Cecil Flowers (1923- ), particularly his relationship with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni (NACCCA). During his time in the CCC, Flowers and other workers were instrumental in the development and maintenance of Tennessee state parks. After leaving the CCC, Flowers remained interested in the organization and became active with the NACCCA in the 1980s and 1990s. These papers reflect a lifetime of accumulated memorabilia and documents associated with this interest.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** 3 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), Cecil Flowers Papers, Albert Gore Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

**Acquisition:** Cecil Flowers, June 2000

**Processed By:** Original processor undetermined. Additional processing by Brad Miller, graduate assistant, 2013.

**Arrangement:** The Cecil Flowers Papers are arranged in three series: Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni (NACCCA), and Local History Publications. The papers also include associated materials: films, books, posters, and photographic slides. A reproduction CCC uniform included with the papers is housed in the Albert Gore Research Center museum collection.

**Biographical Note:** Cecil Flowers joined the CCC in 1940 at the age of 16. During his time in the CCC, he was involved in several park construction and soil conservation projects. Flowers joined the Army Air Forces in 1942. Beginning in the 1980s, Flowers directed efforts for the installment of historical markers at each of the Tennessee parks built with CCC labor. Flowers continued his work well into the 2000s as both a board member and vice president of the NACCCA.

### **Scope and Content:**

The Cecil Flowers Papers are arranged in three series. Additional material not incorporated in the three primary series such as books, posters, photographic slides, and a reproduction CCC uniform are described below in the associated materials and stored separately from the papers.

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) includes contemporary newspaper articles, reports, company-level information from Tennessee, company histories, and notes from Flowers's research about regional camps.

National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni (NACCCA) includes commemorative calendars, national convention programs, planning documents for reunions and monument construction initiated by Flowers throughout Tennessee, member speeches, and anniversary sheet music.

Local History Publications includes booklets, magazines, and journals pertaining to Tennessee history, folklore, and genealogy. The material primarily focuses on Pickett County, Tennessee.

### **Related Collections:**

Patsy Weiler Papers

Hobart Parrish and Johnnie Corbitt Papers

#### **Oral history interviews**

MT11, Cecil Flowers,

MT72, Perry Bullock,

MT73 Ben Hutcherson,

MT75, Johnnie Corbitt

MT76, Clifford Caplinger

MT77, Howard Agee

MT79, Woodrow Hunter

MT101, Vincent Thompson,

MT112, Hobart Parrish and Johnnie Corbitt

### **Subject Terms:**

Places

Pickett County, Tennessee

Clarksville, Tennessee

Jackson, Tennessee

Murfreesboro, Tennessee  
 Big Ridge State Park  
 Cove Lake State Park  
 Cumberland Mountain State Park  
 Montgomery Bell State Park  
 Morgan State Park  
 Norris Dam State Park  
 Pickett County State Park  
 Shiloh National Military Park  
 Corydon, Indiana

Subjects (General)

CCC  
 Great Depression  
 New Deal  
 World War II  
 National and State Parks  
 NACCCA

Material Types

Newspaper clippings  
 Published material  
 Programs  
 Slides  
 Video Tapes  
 Clothing

**Inventory:**

Box	Folder	Series	Description of Contents
1	1	CCC	"What the CCC Is and Does," photocopied typescript by Robert Fechner, Director of Emergency Conservation Works (ECW) program, ca. 1930s
1	2	CCC	Annual Report of the Director of the CCC, typescript, 1941
1	3	CCC	"Facts That Read Like Fiction," photocopied booklet regarding District "E" (Mississippi and Louisiana), ca. 1939
1	4	CCC	Newspaper articles, photocopies of

			contemporary materials, 1930s–1940s
1	5	CCC	Yearbook: District "C" Pictorial Review, 1930s
1	6	CCC	Speech, Rep. Charles Leavy, photocopies of the speech's typescript, 1937
1	7	CCC	Booklet, "CCC Company 499, Camp Pat Harrison, Jackson, Tennessee, 1933–1934"
1	8	CCC	Roe, Don. "Jackson's Company 499: A Paradigm of Life, Work, and Improvement in a CCC Camp." Graduate Research Seminar paper, University of Memphis, 1998.
1	9	CCC	"The Ace in the Hole: A Brief History of Company 818 of the CCC," booklet, 1989
1	10	CCC	Journal and magazine articles, original and photocopied, various dates, 1935–1990
1	11	CCC	"The Beginning: Civilian Conservation Corps Activities" in 50 Years of Soil and Water Conservation Symposium Proceedings, 1985
1	12	CCC	Research notes: photocopied notes about CCC camps in Tennessee, undated
1	13	NACCCA	Calendars: 1986, 1987, 1988
1	14	NACCCA	Calendars: 1989, 1990, 1991

1	15	NACCCA	Calendars: 1992, 1993, 1994
2	1	NACCCA	Calendars: 1995, 1997
2	2	NACCCA	Convention journals; 1981, 1989, 1991, 1993
2	3	NACCCA	Convention souvenir program book, 1985
2	4	NACCCA	NACCCA Journal (alumni newsletter). 1997, 1998, 2000
2	5	NACCCA	Tennessee monument projects, various dates, 1938–1998
2	6	NACCCA	Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri, postcard, program from statue dedication, 1996
2	7	NACCCA	Reunions: correspondence, programs, typed speeches
2	8	NACCCA	"Civilian Conservation Corps March," 50th anniversary band music, 1985
2	9	NACCCA	Speeches: photocopied speech text, various dates, 1988–1989
2	10	NACCCA	Prospective members in Tennessee, typed listing, undated
2	11	Local History Publications	Underwood, Thomas Bryan. Cherokee Legends and the Trail of Tears. Cherokee, NC: Cherokee Publications, 1956.
2	12	Local History Publications	Davy Crockett booklets: Hogue, Albert R. Davy Crockett and Others in Fentress County Who Have Given the County a Prominent Place,

			Jamestown, TN: Cumberland Printing Company, 1955; Sockdolager!: A Tale of Davy Crockett, distributed by Virginia Commission on Constitutional Government, 1961.
2	13	Local History Publications	Vaden, Emma Jean Pedigo. Looking Back: Cumberland Homestead's Golden Anniversary Album, n.p., 1984. ( "Sample" written on cover)
2	14	Local History Publications	Hogue, Albert R. Mark Twain's Obedstown Knobs of Tennessee: A History of Jamestown and Fentress, County Tennessee. Jamestown, TN: Cumberland Printing Company, 1950.
2	15	Local History Publications	Hendricks, John. Once Upon a Lynching: The Jeroma Boyett Story. Waynesboro, TN: Southern Tennessee Publishing Company, 1985.
2	16	Local History Publications	Pathways History and Genealogical Journal (Union County, Tennessee Historical Society) 6, no.3 (1987).
2	17	Local History Publications	"Cecil Flowers," Pickett County (TN) Press, June 15, 1972. (photocopy)
2	18	Local History Publications	Tennessee Conservationist, September/October 1997. (handwritten note on cover: "Story on Champ Ferguson")

## Photograph slides


3		Photographic slides	Slides from presentations prepared by Cecil Flowers include 327 black and white slides and 127 color slides mostly pertaining to CCC history, work sites, camps, and reunions. There is also a presentation dedicated to a Confederate Air Force air show ca. 1995. The majority of the slides are dated and denote creation approximately from July 1985 to March 1997 while the content on the slides range approximately from 1933 to 1987.
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## Books and films

The films were either created as privately recorded programs from broadcast television or privately produced video. The film description will define the content per videocassette because some of the videocassettes contain multiple recordings, and some recordings proceed onto a different videocassette.

Books	Sensing, Thurman. Champ Ferguson: Confederate Guerilla. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1942.
Books	Nixon, Edgar B., comp. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Conservation, 1911–1945, vols. I and II. Hyde Park, NY: General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Service, Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, 1957.
Books	Huddleston, Jim, comp. History of Pickett County, Tennessee. Collegedale, TN: College Press, 1973.
Books	Huddleston, Jim, comp. Jarriot Morgan Huddleston Family 1775-. Ooltewah, TN: printed by compiler, n.d.
Books	Arnold, Harriette Simpson. Seedtime on the Cumberland. New York: MacMillan Company, 1942.
Films	"Copy of CCC Dedication." Privately produced, videocassette (VHS).

Films	Sleep My Sons: The Story of the Arisan Maru. Directed by Shawnee Brittan. Westar Entertainment, 1996. Privately recorded, VHS. "Way Out There." Privately recorded, VHS.
Films	Camp Forgotten: CCC in Michigan. Produced by Bill Jamerson. Escanaba, MI: Forgotten Films and Video, 1993. Privately recorded, VHS. "Roosevelt's Tree Army." Privately recorded, VHS. "Legacy of the CCC". Privately recorded, VHS. "1990 Pigeon Forge, TN CCC Reunion." Privately Produced, VHS.
Films	A Walk Through the 20th Century with Bill Moyers. Public Broadcasting Service. September 10, 1983. Privately recorded, VHS. (continues to next VHS) "National CCC Reunion," August 29, 1990. Privately produced, VHS.
Films	A Walk Through the 20th Century with Bill Moyers. Public Broadcasting Service. September 10, 1983. Privately recorded, VHS. "CCC Reunion." Privately produced, VHS.
Films	"NACCCA Dedication and Groundbreaking at Jefferson Barracks, MO, 55th Anniversary of Signing of CCC Bill; featured speaker, Senator Jennings Randolph." March 31, 1988. Privately produced, VHS.
Films	"The Civilian Conservation Corps." Nashville, TN: WTVF, April 18, 1990. Privately recorded, Betamax (BCA). (two copies)

Photograph of Museum Object	Object Description
	dark green hat detailed with white CCC logo and "Chapter 126"





dark green reproduction CCC garrison hat with yellow and green CCC logo patch



khaki short sleeve reproduction CCC uniform shirt with yellow and green CCC logo patches on both sleeves



black reproduction CCC uniform tie



khaki reproduction CCC uniform belt with metal buckle



khaki reproduction CCC uniform pants

## Posters

## Poster Description



"On the Trail"  
12.5" by 22" illustration of enrollees removing rocks and constructing a trail; no date



"A New Deal for the Country Girls"  
12.75" by 8.5" cartoon drawing of a group of women watching the arrival of a CCC truck full of enrollees, no date

"The Enrollee"  
12.75" by 10.5" cartoon depiction of what the enrollees would rather be doing instead of their job, no date



"Homework"  
12.5" by 21.75" illustration of enrollee doing his homework in the woods; no date



"No 'Goldbricking' Here"  
13" by 8.25" illustration of enrollees eating a meal; no date



"Jeez! Trees!"  
13" by 8.5" cartoon depiction of a man with an axe chasing a tree and a poem discussing the relationships between the CCC and trees; no date



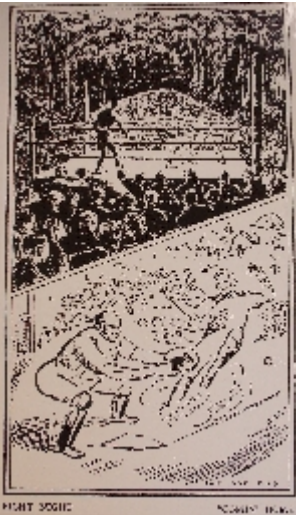
"Spuds" and "Dear Mom"  
12.5" by 21.75" comparative illustrations of an enrollee peeling potatoes and an enrollee writing a letter; no date



"The Rookie"  
12.75" by 21.25" illustration of an enrollee standing next to a bed; no date

"Darlin' Nellie Gray" and "Mountain Charm"  
12" by 21.25" comparative image of enrollees on stage singing to a crowd and enrollees and women dancing together; no date





"Fight Night" and "Comin' Home"  
12" by 21.25" comparative illustration of a boxing match and a baseball game; no date

"Where Do We Go From Here?"  
13" by 20.5" illustration depicting the life of an enrollee after the CCC; no date





The CCC: Cumberland Mountain State Park  
6.5" by 10.5" poster with brief history of the CCC's contribution to Cumberland Mountain State Park; October 1987



The CCC: Montgomery Bell State Park and Tennessee Historical Society  
14.75" by 22.5" poster with brief history of the CCC's contribution to Montgomery Bell State Park; May 2, 1982



The CCC: Company 1474th at Clarksville-Murfreesboro, Tennessee  
13" by 21.5" poster with brief history of Company 1474th of the CCC at Clarksville and Murfreesboro, Tennessee; October 17, 1987

	<p>The CCC: Morgan State Forest</p> <p>13" by 21.5" poster with brief history of the CCC's contribution to Morgan State Forest; July 1987</p>
	<p>The CCC: Shiloh National Military Park</p> <p>13" by 21.5" poster with brief history of the CCC's contribution to Shiloh National Military Park; February 1988</p>
	<p>The CCC: Pickett State Park</p> <p>9.5" by 16" poster with brief history of the CCC's contribution to Pickett State Park; no date</p>



The CCC: Norris Dam State Park, Cove Lake State Park, and Big Ridge State Park  
13" by 21.5" poster with brief history of the CCC and their contribution to Norris Dam State Park, Cove Lake State Park and Big Ridge State Park; October 1987

517th Co. CCC, CampWyandotte, S-86, Corydon, Indiana  
23" by 35" poster of an African American company with pictures of the enrollees and the inside of their barracks; no date