



ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Title: Gilley-Puryear Papers

Dates: 1867-1926

Creator: Gilley and Puryear Families

Summary/Abstract: These papers pertain to the life of a Rutherford County family made up of farmers, workers, teachers, and businesspeople living near Rucker, Halls Hill, and Kittrell. The papers mention 19th century farming practices, specifically discussing livestock and crops such as chickens, pigs, turkeys, ducks, oat and wheat. In addition, they address the dual loneliness and communal aspects of rural life, including connection to family and community happenings. These papers are clearly valuable for study of family history and rural life, but other potential research topics of interest include the automobile industry, Rutherford County census data collection, and Nashville's Housing and Loan Administration.

Quantity/Physical Description: Less than one linear foot.

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), Gilley-Puryear Papers, Albert Gore Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Acquisition: Accession undetermined.

Processed By: Original processor undetermined.

Arrangement: These papers are arranged into folders by type. These types are correspondence, receipts, and newspaper clippings. Because this collection is so small, there are no defined series or subseries.

Biographical Note: Very little is known about the Gilley and Puryear families, except what is revealed in these documents. The family lived in several parts of Rutherford County, including Rucker, near Christiana; Halls Hill; Kittrell; and Murfreesboro. They were farmers, mill operators and teachers, among other professions. E.E. Puryear was the principal of Rucker Seminary in Rucker, TN. P.M. Puryear was a Census Enumerator for Rutherford County during the 1880 census, and James M. Gilley worked for the Housing & Loan Administration in Nashville, retiring February 27, 1953. The connection between the two families is unknown.

Scope and Content: Most correspondence is from the Puryear family. This collection of papers, besides containing correspondence, receipts and clippings, includes 57 family photographs, most of which are unidentified.

Related Collections: None

Subject Terms

Persons

James M. Gilley
Mary Nell Gilley
Uncle Dave Macon
E.E. Puryear
P.M. Puryear
J.P. Gilley

Places

Rucker, Tennessee
Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Halls Hill, Tennessee
Kittrell, Tennessee
Nashville, Tennessee

Subjects (General)

Farming
Livestock
Rural life
Family history
Automobile industry
Rutherford County education

Material Types

Correspondence
Receipts

Newspaper Clippings

Photographs

Papers

Inventory:

Box	Folder	Description of Contents
1	1	Correspondence; Includes some letters from 19th and early 20th century and envelopes; also includes typewritten lyrics to a popular Dave Macon song, top and bottom portions of an 1880 U.S. Census document making P.M. Puryear an official census Enumerator for Rutherford County; also included is a letter on A.G. White Company stationery, with illustrations of the plant and Ford cars, which the plant produced and sold
1	2	Receipts; mostly given to J.P. Gilley; Murfreesboro; 1900 - 1920
1	3	Clippings; various and seemingly unrelated clippings from various newspapers; one clipping about a large family, all in perfect health, has a handwritten note – “if you and Mr. Gilley had a family like this you wouldn’t have to work;” also includes a program from the Mooney School, class of 1903. The Mooney School was a Murfreesboro school for boys from various parts of Tennessee and some other states.