

Finding Aid for the Donald Paine Collection Regarding the White Caps of Sevierville, Tennessee, MS.2513

Repository

University of Tennessee Libraries, Special Collections

Creator

Paine, Donald F.

Title

Donald Paine Collection Regarding the White Caps of Sevierville, Tennessee

Collection ID

MS.2513

Dates

1892-2000

Extent

1.0 linear foot

Abstract

This collection houses notes, correspondence, legal transcripts, supporting legal cases, newspaper clippings, and books documenting the White Cap organization and membership.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], Donald Paine Collection Regarding the White Caps of Sevierville, Tennessee, MS.2513. University of Tennessee Libraries, Knoxville, Special Collections.

Biographical/Historical Note

The White Caps of Sevier County, Tennessee, were a vigilante group formed in approximately 1892 by citizens who wished to rid Sevier County of individuals (mostly women) whom they deemed lewd or adulterous. Their modus operandi was to leave the offending party a note signed White Caps, occasionally accompanied by hickory withes, warning them to leave town. If this tactic proved ineffective, the group escalated to whippings. The White Caps were extremely popular between 1892 and 1896 and thus extremely hard to control legally. Local law enforcement turned a blind eye to their doings and even when arrested White Caps would frequently tamper with juries to ensure their acquittal. In this atmosphere of tolerance, the beatings gradually increased in severity until Laura and William Whaley were brutally murdered in front of their infant child in December of 1896. Because the Whaleys were generally considered poor but honest citizens of Sevier County, this event turned public opinion against the White Caps, and the group rapidly declined.

Donald Franklin Paine was born in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1939. He earned his B.A. (1961), M.A. (1963), and LL.B. (1963) from the University of Tennessee. Immediately after graduation, Paine served in the Army as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. He was discharged in 1966 and returned to Tennessee, where he authored the Tennessee Law of Evidence (1974). Currently, Paine practices law with Paine, Tarwater, and Bickers in addition to researching Tennessee's legal history. He is a Reporter to the Supreme Court Advisory Commission on Rules of Practice and Procedure, writes a monthly column for the Tennessee Bar Journal, and lectures for the Tennessee Law Institute, the University of Tennessee College of Law, and the Tennessee Judicial Conference. Paine has also served as President of the Knoxville Bar Association (1983) and of the Tennessee Bar Association (1986-1987).

Scope and Contents Note

This collection contains a variety of primary source information. This information can be found in Series I-V: Correspondence, Photographs, Notes, Newspaper Articles, and Court Records. Series III: Newspaper Clippings, has articles that provide the reader with valuable insight into the general public's view of the White Cap organization and the eventual punishment of convicted White Cap operatives. Series V: Court Records houses records relating to trials of White Caps operatives, specifically Bob Catlett, Pleas Wynn, and Catlett Tipton. These documents include chronologies, transcripts, opinions issued, and relevant legislation.

This collection also contains secondary source material regarding the White Caps. Chief among these sources are the books and articles contained in Series VI: Publications, which provide considerable background information about the White Cap organization.

Arrangement

This collection consists of three boxes divided into six series:

1. Series I: Correspondence
 2. Series II: Photographs
 3. Series III: Notes and Papers
 4. Series IV: Newspaper Articles
 5. Series V: Court Records
 6. Series VI: Other Publications
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Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Manuscript and University Archives collections are stored offsite, and a minimum of 24 hours is needed to retrieve these items for use. Researchers interested in consulting any of the collections are advised to contact Special Collections at special@utk.edu.

Conditions Governing Use

The copyright interests in this collection remain with the creator. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library.

Acquisition Note

Donald Paine donated this collection to Special Collections.

Collection Inventory

I Correspondence, 1994-1999

Correspondence, 1994-1996	1	1
Correspondence, 1997-1999	1	2

II Photographs, undated

	Box	Folder
Photographs, undated	1	3

III Notes and Papers, 1994-1998, undated

	Box	Folder
Notes from TN Supreme Court Archives, 1997-1998	1	4
Notes from Nashville Archives, 1998	1	5
Notes on Legislation, undated	1	6
Lecture Notes, undated	1	7
Other Notes, 1994-1996	1	8
Reference Documents, undated	1	9
Robe Contract, 1996 September 14, undated	1	10

III Newspaper Articles, 1892-2000

	Box	Folder
Dandridge Killing of Jenkins, <i>Knoxville Journal</i> , 1892 April 24	2	1
Battle of Henderson Springs, <i>Knoxville Journal</i> , 1894 October 25	2	2
Murder of Dr. Henderson: <i>Knoxville Journal</i> Article, 1894 November 29	2	3
Murder of Laura and William Whaley, <i>Knoxville Journal</i> , 1896 December 28	2	4
"Houk White Cap Law", <i>The Sevierville Star</i> , 1897 May 7	2	5
The Gass Trial: Articles from the <i>Knoxville Sentinel</i> and <i>The Vindicator</i> , 1897 July 16-1897 August 4	2	6
Wynn and Tipton, Trial I, <i>The Vindicator</i> , 1897 August 4	2	7
Wynn and Tipton, Trial II, <i>The Vindicator</i> , 1898 April 1-1898 April 8	2	8
Wynn and Tipton case, <i>Knoxville Sentinel</i> , 1899 February 6-1899 February 11	2	9
Catlett Trial II in Hamblen: <i>Knoxville Sentinel</i> , 1899 April 27-May 5	2	10
Nolle prosequi re. Catlett in Hamblen: <i>Montgomery's Vindicator</i> , 1899 May 17-23	2	11
Hanging of Wynn and Tipton: from several newspapers, 1899 July 4-12, 1995 February 26	2	12
Catlett Trial III in Loudon: source unknown, 1903 February 11-1903 February 13	2	13
Catlett Trail IV in Loudon: <i>Knoxville Journal and Tribune</i> , 1903 June 10-14	2	14
Supreme Court Reverses Catlett Conviction: <i>The Daily Journal and Tribune</i> (Knoxville, Tenn.), 1903 October 14-November 4	2	15
Catlett Trial V in Loudon: <i>Knoxville Sentinel</i> and other newspapers, 1904 April 6-13	2	16
"White Cap saga still stirs mixed emotions", <i>The Mountain Press Progress Edition</i> , 1995 February 26	2	17
"Injustice for All", <i>Metro Pulse</i> , 2000 June 29-July 5	2	18

IV Court Records, 1831-1903

	Box	Folder
Lewdness Trials, 1831 August, 1841 July	2	19
Wynn v. State I: Copy of transcript from Pleas Wynn v. State, Trial I. Important Dates (1 page), Index (4 pages), Trial I (96 pages), 1897 November 15-26	2	20
Wynn v. State II: Copy of transcript from Pleas Wynn and Catlett Tipton v. State, Trial II. Index (6 pages), Transcript (173 pages), Court Costs (1 page), and Appeal Argument (11 pages), 1898 March 28-April 8	2	21
State v. Catlett: Copy of transcript from State v. W. R. Catlett. Index (1 page), "Opinion" (17 pages), Transcript (236 pages), and Court Costs (1 page), 1903 October 31	2	22-23

V Other Publications,

	Box	Folder
"Community and the Nature of Change", Joe Cummings, 1986	2	24
"The White Caps of Sevier County: Economic and Cultural Perspectives", Joseph C. Lewelling, 1986	2	25
"Rough Music", E. P. Thompson 1991	2	26