



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**ADAMS, ADAM GILLESPIE, 1887-1976**

**PAPERS, 1856-1957**

*Processed by:*

Elbert L. Watson and Harriet C. Owsley  
Archives & Manuscripts Unit  
Technical Services Section

Date Completed: January 18, 1967  
Accession Numbers: 250, 755, 1063, 1884, 67-14, 67-45,  
67-99, 70-18, 73-153  
Location: III-E-I

## INTRODUCTION

The papers of Adam Gillespie Adams, World War I Veteran, businessman, and real estate broker of Nashville, Tennessee, and Coral Gables, Florida, were the gift of Adam Gillespie Adams, Coral Gables, Florida.

The collection occupies 1.68 linear feet of shelf space, and numbers approximately 1,200 items and 12 volumes. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in these papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers of Adam Gillespie Adams III consist of approximately 1,200 items for the years 1856-1957, and are composed primarily of correspondence and a few personal items. The letters of the donor written to his mother touch on many subjects of personal and family interest. His correspondence during World War I and shortly thereafter is concerned with activities around Washington, D.C., where Mr. Adams was stationed while in service. There are approximately 300 letters for the years 1913-1935 written by his mother, Susan (Howell) Adams, which cover a variety of subjects ranging from Vanderbilt's football team to the presidential campaign of 1928. Twenty-two letters were written by Mr. Adams' father during the period 1879-1914, four of which were written from Ireland in 1882. There are other letters written by his brothers, Alfred, David, Elliott, Howell, Marion, and Morton. Seventy letters were written by the grandfather of Adam G. Adams, Morton Boyte Crawford Howell, during the years 1857-1879. Morton B. Howell was a Nashville attorney who served as Mayor in 1874. One letter in the collection was written by Rev. R. B. C. Howell and there are letters from great aunts Fannie and Anna, Aunt Pattie, and Uncle Alfred Howell. These letters contain numerous references to Nashville and Beersheba Springs, Tennessee, summer home of the Howell's and the Adams'. Many of the letters contain references to national events of the period.

Some miscellaneous items make up the remainder of the collection. They include several programs; a few clippings; account books of the Eakin and Adams families; a deed; School reports of Sue at Richmond Institute and Morton at Vanderbilt Law School; registration card of Adam G. Adams, 1917; a military memorandum to A.G. Adams; and a few items of memorabilia.

An addition to this collection consists of six notebooks of Adam Gillespie Adams, Sr. and Jr. They contain accounts of family expenses and various personal notes. One little notebook kept in 1839 contains lists of articles in Adam G. Adams' trunk when he came to America from Ireland, some music, carefully and beautifully copied, recipes for gunpowder, black ink, and nitric acid. Two other notebooks cover the years 1846-1863. These were kept by Adam G. Adams, Sr. One of these books is a personal journal and the other an account book. The last three notebooks were kept by Adam G. Adams, Jr., who married Sue Howell. These are for the years 1887-1931 and contain personal accounts. There are several family photographs, some genealogical data for the Adams, Eakin, and Ramage families. About twelve family letters are part of the addition, some of which were written in 1887 at the time of the birth of Adam G. Adams III by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Adam G. Adams, Sr. One letter was written by Sue Howell Adams' Great Uncle George Elliott to Sue's mother, Belle Howell, while she was on a trip to the Holy Land in 1859. Another interesting letter in this addition was written by Joe

Pritchard, a missionary in the Congo in 1911. Several family items include the Tarbox Tattler, Thanksgiving Issue, 1901, edited by Adam G. Adams, III, some family memorials, and programs.

The last item added to this collection is a typewritten volume entitled "Notes of Nashville, 1895-1915"-- the memoirs of Adam G. Adams III. These Memoirs contain many interesting items about the growth and development of Nashville, physically, culturally, and socially during this period. School life at Tarbox, Wallace's School, and Vanderbilt University is described with comments about activities, teachers, and friends in these schools. There are descriptions of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, the street cars, many Nashville homes and buildings which have disappeared, performances which took place in Nashville, Beersheba Springs, and numerous other interesting details.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

### **Adam Gillespie Adams, III**

- 1887 Born July 24 in Nashville, Tennessee, son of Adam Gillespie and Sue (Howell) Adams, grandson of Morton Boyte and Isabella (Elliott) Howell, great grandson of Reverend Robert Boyte Crawford and Mary Ann Morton (Toy) Howell.
- 1893-1906 Educated in Nashville Public Schools and Vanderbilt University.
- 1911-1912 Worked for the American Cyanamid Company in Baltimore, Maryland, and New York and traveled a great deal over the East. Transferred to Atlanta headquarters in December 1912.
- 1913 Assistant sales manager and traveled over southeastern part of the United States for the American Cyanamid Company.
- 1914 Changed to International Agricultural Corporation and had his own office in Atlanta as Manufacturer's Agent.
- 1916-1917 November- December, worked with Adams- Stone Motor Company, Princeton, Kentucky.
- 1918 Enlisted in U.S. Army; stationed in Washington in Nitrate Division, Army Ordnance.
- 1919 Discharged June 30.
- 1919-1920 April- June, citizen employee of Army Ordnance.
- 1920-1923 Accepted position with Ashcraft- Wilkinson Company, Atlanta, Georgia, in April.
- 1924 August 15, married Mary Faith Dorsey Yow.
- 1923-1924 Vice President of Porter Fertilizer Company, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 1925-1967 Real estate broker, Miami and Coral Gables, Florida; Chairman, Florida Library and Historical Commission.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

1. Account book-- Eakin, William- Estate--1850-1866.
2. Account book-- Eakin family-- 1849-1859.
3. Account book-- Various members of the Adams family-- 1857-1866.
4. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--1898-1911.
5. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--January-July, 1912.
6. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--August-December, 1912.
7. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--1913.
8. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--1914.
9. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--1917.
10. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--1918.
11. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--1919.

### **Box 2**

1. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--1920.
2. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--1921.
3. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--1922.
4. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--1923-1924.
5. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--1926-1933.
6. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III-- 1952-1953.
7. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--1954.
8. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--1955.
9. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., III--1956-1958.
10. Correspondence-- Family-Miscellaneous
11. Correspondence-- Dallas, Alexander James--1894.

### **Box 3**

1. Correspondence-- Adams, Adam G., Jr.--1879-1914.
2. Correspondence-- Adams, Alfred T.--1908-1935.
3. Correspondence-- Adams, David--1914-1935.
4. Correspondence-- Adams, Elliott--1912-1935.
5. Correspondence-- Adams, Howell--1914-1935.
6. Correspondence-- Adams, Marion--1912-1913.
7. Correspondence-- Adams, Marion--1914.
8. Correspondence-- Adams, Marion--1917-1935.
9. Correspondence-- Adams, Marion--1914-1936.
10. Correspondence-- Adams, Susan Howell--1913.
11. Correspondence-- Adams, Susan Howell--1914.
12. Correspondence-- Adams, Susan Howell--1919-1926.
13. Correspondence-- Adams, Susan Howell--1927.
14. Correspondence-- Adams, Susan Howell--1928.
15. Correspondence-- Adams, Susan Howell--1929.

**Box 3, continued:**

16. Correspondence-- Adams, Susan Howell--1932.
17. Correspondence-- Adams, Susan Howell--1933.
18. Correspondence-- Adams, Susan Howell--1934.
19. Correspondence-- Adams, Susan Howell--1935.

**Box 4**

1. Correspondence-- Elliott, George (great uncle), 1859; Elliott, George (uncle), 1879- 1881.
2. Correspondence-- Howell, Alfred--1878-1880.
3. Correspondence-- Howell, Morton B.--1857-1877.
4. Correspondence-- Howell, Morton B.--1878.
5. Correspondence-- Howell, Morton B.--1879.
- 5a. Diaries-- Strickler, Mary, 1847; Strickler, Christina, 1851.
6. Genealogical data-- Adams, Eakin, Ramage families.
7. Memoir-- "Notes of Nashville, 1895-1915," by Adam G. Adams, III; biographical data.
8. Memorabilia-- memorials, Tarbox Tattler, etc.
9. Memorabilia-- programs, articles, etc.
10. Memorabilia-- school records, -- Howell, Sue, 1878; Adams, Morton.
11. Notebooks-- Adams, Adam G., and Adams, Adam G., Jr.--1839-1931.(6 vols.)
12. Photographs-- Adams, Adam G. (2 items); and Nathan Adams.