

**Dr. John W. Wickham Papers Collection,
1883 – 2002**

Processed by:
Jenna Stout
Montgomery County
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INTRODUCTION

The Dr. John Wickham Papers Collection was donated by Vennie Evans in 2018. The collection contains approximately 150 items arranged into 1 box and 29 photograph sleeve enclosures. Access to this collection may be permitted for the purposes of personal and scholarly research. The Montgomery County Archives requires that the following credit line be used in all publications to identify that the image or document used is from its holdings: *Courtesy of the Montgomery County Archives*. Specific citation of where the image or document is located (collection, box, folder, etc.) should be made in an acknowledgements section, footnote, or bibliography.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

In 2018, Vennie Evans donated this collection to the Montgomery County Archives. Vennie Evans is the granddaughter of E.T. Wickham and the grandniece of Dr. John W. Wickham. Her mother Mary Evans (1918-2013) was the daughter of E.T. and Lena Annie Wickham. This collection includes letters to Dr. John W. Wickham and Fannie Wickham, holiday cards, physician notebooks, and photographs of E.T. Wickham and his sculptures.

John William Wickham (1860-1915) grew up on a farm in Palmyra, Tennessee before attending Vanderbilt Medical University in Nashville. He used tobacco crop profits to fund his medical education. Dr. John W. Wickham returned home to Palmyra to practice medicine. A physician's visiting list from 1894 and ledger of medical payment in the collection document his daily work. Wickham married his adoptive cousin Fannie Cunningham. The couple were parents to a daughter Pearl. In addition to his medical career, Wickham served as a state representative for Montgomery County from 1901 to 1903. The collection features Wickham's announcement of his candidacy for the Democratic nomination to represent Montgomery County in the General Assembly of Tennessee.

On December 27, 1903, Pearl Wickham died after an illness. Dr. John and Fannie Wickham received several condolence letters that are housed in the collection. In addition to letters and other papers, there are holiday cards addressed mainly to Fannie Wickham spanning from 1925 to 1936. Fannie Wickham passed the items to her niece Betty. At the time of Betty's death, an estate sale was held. Anthony Wickham bought the collection of old letters and other items belonging to Dr. John W. Wickham. Copies were made for a couple of interested relatives. Vennie Evans eventually acquired the letters and donated them to the Montgomery County Archives to ensure the long-term preservation and access to the collection.

This collection also includes photographs of Enoch Tanner (E.T.) Wickham (1883-1970) and his sculptures. E.T. Wickham was the brother of Dr. John W. Wickham. The youngest child of Robert and Betty Wickham, E.T. married Lena Annie Yarbrough in 1906. A photograph of the pair with another Wickham couple shows E.T. as a young man. Although E.T. and Lena settled on a farm with their brood of nine children in Robertson County, they moved back to Palmyra during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

During World War II, Ernest Wickham perished in France fighting. E.T. crafted a stone grave marker for his son in the Wickham Cemetery. A few years later, he created a sculpture of the Blessed Virgin Mary with Snake, his first large scale project. E.T. constructed a cabin near the family homeplace that he moved in with wife Lena in 1952. E.T. then set about creating an outdoor sculpture park filled with concrete imagery of frontiersmen, prominent Tennesseans (such as Andrew Jackson, Alvin C. York, Austin Peay, and Sam Davis), and religious figures. Dr. John W. Wickham was commemorated with a statue of a traveling physician on horseback. Another family member, son Ernest, appears as on top of concrete podium in a World War II memorial dedicated to the fallen soldiers of Montgomery County.

Photographs from the 1960s show E.T. Wickham posing with visitors at his sculpture park. Unfortunately, due to preservation issues and vandalism, many of Wickham's sculptures are no longer extant. Some pieces were removed to Austin Peay State University while others are housed behind a fence in Palmyra. Photographs taken in the mid-1990s to early 2000s reveal the deterioration of extant sculptures on the family's property.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. History of the letters, written discussion of Dr. John W. Wickham and Wickham letters, 1998-2002
2. Dr. John W. Wickham letters, transcribed and photocopied
3. Dr. John W. Wickham letters, transcribed and photocopied
4. Wickham research photocopies
5. Medical notes, Dr. John W. Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., ca. 1880s
6. Note, Dr. John W. Wickham, and receipt from Stirlen Rose, 1892-1895
7. Dr. John W. Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., letterhead
8. Dr. John W. Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., notebook
9. Physician's Visiting List 1894, Dr. John W. Wickham (booklet)
10. Ledger, belonging to Dr. John W. Wickham, 1894 (booklet)
11. Act for the protection of the public health, and to repeal a part of sub sec. 7, sec. 5, chapter 45, page 179 of the Acts 1897
12. Rules of Order, House of Representatives, State of Tennessee, Session of 1899 (booklet)
13. Dr. John W. Wickham's announcement of candidacy for Democratic nomination to represent Montgomery County in General Assembly of Tenn., ca. 1901
14. Envelope, University of Tennessee Knoxville, Office of the President, to Dr. J.W. Wickham, Rep. Montgomery Co., Palmyra, Tenn., ca. 1901
15. Certificate of county representative in Farmers' Institute, Springfield, Tenn., Dec. 4-6, 1901, John W. Wickham
16. Letter, Ada and Bettie Wickham to John W. Wickham, envelopes addressed to residence at Vanderbilt Medical University, and L&N Railroad bill, 1883-1884
17. Letters to Dr. John W. Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., 1883-1884
18. Letters to Dr. John W. Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., 1883-1884
19. Letters to Dr. John W. Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., 1883-1885
20. Letters to Dr. John W. Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., 1884
21. Letters to Dr. John W. Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., 1885-1888
22. Letters to Dr. John W. Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., 1889-1901
23. Love letter to Fannie Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., January 19, 1885
24. Letters, Fannie Wickham to Dr. John W. Wickham, May 12-16, 1893
25. Letters to Dr. John W. Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., 1902-1903

26. Letters, Dr. John W. Wickham to Fannie and Pearl Wickham, 1903
27. Letters to Dr. John W. and Fannie Wickham, regarding death of daughter Pearl, 1903-1904
28. Letters to Fannie Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., 1932-1935
29. Receipts of Fannie Wickham, ca. 1915-1918
30. Holiday card to Mrs. Fannie Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., 1925
31. Holiday card to Mrs. Fannie Wickham (Mrs. Fanny Wickell), Palmyra, Tenn., 1934
32. Holiday cards to Mrs. Fannie Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., 1935
33. Holiday card to Mrs. Fannie Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., ca. 1930s
34. Easter card to Mrs. Fannie (Fanny) Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., 1935
35. Get-well cards to Mrs. Fannie Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., January 11, 1936
36. Envelopes addressed to Mrs. Fannie Wickham, Palmyra, Tenn., ca. 1930-1935

Photographs

All photographs are stored in the Archives Photograph Collection.

E.T. Wickham Photographs

1. Photograph--Studio portrait, left to right: Lena Annie Yarbrough Wickham, Enoch Tanner Wickham, Minnie Yarbrough Wickham, Charles Wickham, ca. 1906 (copy)
2. Photograph--Studio portrait of E.T. Wickham, ca. 1910 (photograph in enclosure)
3. Photograph-- "Dad, Ernest, Esque," E.T. Wickham, and his two youngest children, Ernest Wickham and Anthony Wickham, at Wickham Homeplace, ca. 1930s
4. Photograph--E.T. Wickham portrait
5. Photograph--E.T. Wickham standing next to cabin
6. Photograph--E.T. Wickham and others gather on stage
7. Photograph--Enoch Tanner (E.T.) Wickham at his cabin, October 1969
8. Photograph--World War II Memorial, E.T. Wickham sculpture
9. Photograph--Sergeant Alvin C. York, WWII Memorial, E.T. Wickham sculptures, April 1963
10. Photograph--Wickham statues, Bill Evans and his mother in front of them, August 1968
11. Photograph--Children sitting on Team of Oxen and Covered Wagon, E.T. Wickham sculpture, September 1968
12. Photograph--E.T. Wickham sculptures, September 1968
13. Photograph--Blessed Virgin Mary with Snake, E.T. Wickham sculpture, September 1968

14. Photograph--E.T. Wickham standing next to Blessed Virgin Mary with Snake, September 1968
15. Photograph--E.T. Wickham standing next to Blessed Virgin Mary with Snake, September 1968
16. Photograph--Team of Oxen and Covered Wagon (created in mid-1960s), E.T. Wickham sculpture, August 1969
17. Photograph--E.T. Wickham with a family posing with Team of Oxen and Covered Wagon Sculpture
18. Photograph--John W. Wickham on Horseback and Plaque with Bull's Head, E.T. Wickham sculptures, April 1972
19. Photograph--World War II Memorial, E.T. Wickham sculpture, April 1972
20. Photograph--Austin Peay (dedicated in 1962 by Halbert Harvill), E.T. Wickham sculpture, April 1972
21. Photograph--Andrew Jackson (dedicated in 1961), Old Hickory, E.T. Wickham sculpture, April 1972
22. Photograph--Rider and Bull (ca. 1961) sculpture, self-portrait of E.T. Wickham, April 1972
23. Photograph--Joseph and Christ Child (ca. 1952), E.T. Wickham sculpture, April 1972
24. Photograph--John W. Wickham on Horseback, E.T. Wickham sculpture, August 1972
25. Photograph--Wickham cabin, Palmyra, Tenn., 1996
26. Photograph--Virgin of Fatima, E.T. Wickham sculpture, Palmyra, Tenn., 1996
27. Photograph--Wickham Cemetery, Palmyra, Tenn., ca. 2000s
28. Photograph--John W. Wickham on Horseback (damaged), E.T. Wickham sculpture, Palmyra, Tenn., ca. 2000s
29. Photograph--Sam Davis and Bill Marsh monument (dedicated in 1966 by Frank Runyon), E.T. Wickham sculpture, Palmyra, Tenn., ca. 2000s