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## **Sam Wilhite papers MSS.137**

- Dates:** 1871-1976 (Bulk dates: 1940-1976)  
**Extent:** 6 cubic feet  
**Preferred Citation:** Sam Wilhite papers, Special Collections Department, Mississippi State University Libraries.  
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**Donor:** Sam Wilhite, 1975-1976

### **Scope and Contents**

The collection documents the activities of Sam Wilhite (1919-1998), who served as executive assistant to Mississippi Governor Hugh White in his second term (1952-1956) and was deeply involved in Democratic political work on the state, regional, and national levels during the late 1940s and 1950s. Among the candidates for whom he campaigned were Adlai Stevenson, John C. Stennis, and Hugh White. Wilhite also worked with the chambers of commerce in Florence, Alabama, and in West Point and Aberdeen, Mississippi. He has always maintained close relations with his alma mater, Mississippi State University.

The collection dates from 1871 to 1976 with the main body of the files dating from 1940 to 1975. Included are correspondence, speeches, press releases, political broadsides, an architectural drawing, clippings, a scrapbook, photographs, and publications.

The collection is arranged in the following series: correspondence, subject files,

miscellany, clippings and scrapbook, publications, and Robert C. Stovall. With the exception of the last series, the documents pertain to Wilhite and his activities. The Stovall series, composed of correspondence, speeches, campaign literature, and clippings, concern the efforts of Robert Stovall, a Mississippi Democrat, to campaign for Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower in the 1952 presidential election.

### **Biographical Data**

- 1919 Born in West Point, Mississippi, the son of Sam and Mae Wilhite, April 20, 1919
- 1937 Graduated from West Point High School
- 1941 Graduated from Mississippi State College with a B.S. degree
- 1941-1947 Served in the U. S. Navy
- 1948-1950 Secretary, Clay County Chamber of Commerce West Point, Mississippi
- 1950 Secretary, Mississippi Public Service Commission
- 1951 Campaigned for Hugh White for governor of Mississippi
- 1952-1955 Executive assistant to Governor Hugh White
- 1952 Campaigned in Mississippi for Adlai Stevenson for president
- 1955 Candidate for Mississippi Public Service Commissioner
- 1955-1963 Director, Aberdeen, Mississippi, Chamber of Commerce
- 1956-1957 Campaigned in Florida and Mississippi for Adlai Stevenson for president
- 1957-1959 Regional representative (Southern region) for the Democratic National Committee
- 1963-1969 Executive director, Florence-Lauderdale Industrial Expansion Committee, Florence, Alabama
- 1969 Became general manager of Mark Farms and P. L. Blake Real Estate Company, Greenwood, Mississippi
- 1975 Became member of the board of directors, Columbus and Greenville Railroad
- 1998 Died, August 6th, 1998

## Series List

### I. Correspondence

The correspondence primarily concerns Wilhite's work with Democratic political campaigns, such as those for U.S. Senator John C. Stennis (1947), Mississippi Governor Hugh White (1951), and presidential aspirant Adlai Stevenson (1952, 1956), and Wilhite's own campaign for Public Service Commissioner of Mississippi (1955). Wilhite's service as executive assistant to Governor White (1952-1955) is also documented. Among items of particular interest are Senator John C. Stennis' 1953 letters about Lyndon B. Johnson and Wilhite's perceptive letters concerning trends in Mississippi politics, dated August 27, 1959, November 16, 1960, and January 9, 1961.

Also included are letters exchanged with presidents of Mississippi State College (now University), Wilhite's alma mater, documents concerning the drive to design and construct the Alumni Building at Mississippi State College, and correspondence concerning Wilhite's varied careers. One folder (1871-1914) concerns Wilhite's grandparents, Samuel Yates and Ollie Brown Wilhite.

For additional information, see the "Selective Personal Name Index" and biographical data sheet.

### II. Subject Files

The subject files consist of reports, press releases, speeches, and other documents concerning many of the topics mentioned in the correspondence, especially state and national Democratic Party activities in the 1950's. One item of particular interest is former governor J.P. Coleman's recommendations (1975) to gubernatorial candidate Gil Carmichael concerning revision of the Mississippi Constitution.

### III. Miscellany

Included in this category are political broadsides, photographs, a drawing of the Mississippi State College Alumni Buildings, a mimeographed volume concerning Okinawa during World War II, a map of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, calendars, and other items.

### IV. Clippings and Scrapbook

The newspaper clippings concern Wilhite's career, the Democratic Party, and the political campaigns with which Wilhite was associated. The scrapbook is composed of photocopied clippings.

### V. Publications

Publications concerning Wilhite, the Democratic Party, Aberdeen, Mississippi, and the Florence, Alabama, area comprise this series.

## VI. Robert C. Stovall

The Stovall series (1951-1953) concerns the efforts of Robert C. Stovall, chairman of the Mississippi Mental Health Board and president of the Columbus and Greenville Railway Company to campaign for the election of Dwight D. Eisenhower to the presidency in 1952. Although supporting a Republican candidate, Stovall remained a Democrat, as did many other Mississippians who favored Eisenhower. In campaigning for Eisenhower, Stovall worked in opposition to Wilhite, who campaigned for Adlai Stevenson for the presidency. The series consists of correspondence, speeches, campaign literature, and clippings. Included are a speech by Hugh White to the Mississippi Democratic Party (1952) and a brochure issued by the Hugh White gubernatorial campaign (1951).

## Container List

| <u>Container</u>      | <u>Contents</u>   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1                     | Correspondence (1871 - May 1953)  |
| 2                     | Correspondence (June 1953 - May 1956)   |
| 3                     | Correspondence (June 1956 - 1975, n.d.);<br>Subject files (Aberdeen - Democratic presidential campaign in<br>Mississippi (1952): Press releases)        |
| 4                     | Subject files (Democratic presidential campaign in<br>Mississippi (1952): Speeches - Wilhite (Sam) Personal);<br>Publications                           |
| 5                     | Miscellany; Clippings; Stovall  |
| Oversized<br>Folder 1 | Miscellany; Architectural drawing and broadsides;<br>Publications ( <u>Aberdeen Examiner</u> , <u>Democrat</u> , <u>Gulfport<br/>Pictorial Review</u> ) |
| Oversized<br>Folder 2 | Miscellany: Broadsides and map of Tennessee-Tombigbee<br>Waterway   |
| Unboxed               | Scrapbooks (2), including 1 empty volume  |

## Subject Tracings

Names:

Abernethy, Thomas G.  
Barkley, Alben W.  
Bilbo, Theodore G.  
Brady, Tom P.  
Carmichael, Gil  
Coleman, J.P.  
Collins, Ross A.  
Colmer, William M.  
Colvard, D.W.  
Eastland, James O.  
Eisenhower, Dwight D.  
Fair, Charles D.  
Gartin, Carroll  
Griffin, Charles  
Hilbun, Ben  
Johnson, Lyndon B.  
Johnson, Paul B., Jr.  
Kennedy, John F.  
Mitchell, Fred T.  
Mitchell, Stephen A.  
Montgomery, G.V.  
Murphree, Dennis  
Overstreet, Dennis  
Phillips, Rubel L.  
Rankin, John E.  
Smith, Frank  
Sorensen, Theodore C.  
Stennis, John C.  
Stevenson, Adlai  
Stovall, Robert C.

Sullens, Frederick  
White, Hugh  
Whitten, Jamie  
Whittington, Will M.  
Wilhite, Ollie Brown  
Wilhite, Sam  
Wilhite, Sam Yates  
Williams, John Bell  
Winstead, Arthur  
Winter, William  
Wright, Fielding

Subjects:

Aberdeen (Miss.)  
Architecture  
Broadsides  
Constitution  
Democratic National Committee  
Democratic Party  
Elections  
Florence (Ala.)  
Florida  
Mississippi State University  
Okinawa  
Politics  
Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway  
U.S.S. Concord  
West Point (Miss.)  
World War I



## Selective Personal Name Index

The index refers to the following series: CORR (Correspondence), SUBJ (Subject Files), MISC (Miscellany), and STOVALL (Stovall Series). The series containing clippings and publications have not been indexed. The index to the correspondence series indicates in which years correspondence written by the person is filed.

| <u>Name</u>        | <u>Series</u>   |
|--------------------|---|
| Abernethy, Thomas  | CORR: 1952, 1953, 1954,<br>1955, 1956, 1958,<br>1959, 1960, 1961, 1962,<br>1963, 1966, 1967 |
| Barkley, Alben W.  | CORR: 1954; SUBJ  |
| Bilbo, Theodore G. | CORR: 1940, 1941  |
| Brady, Tom P.      | CORR: 1952  |
| Carmichael, Gil    | SUBJ  |
| Coleman, J. P.     | CORR: 1950, 1951, 1952,<br>1955, 1961, 1962, 1963,<br>1964, 1969, n.d.; SUBJ;<br>MISC       |
| Collins, Ross A.   | CORR: 1941  |
| Colmer, William    | CORR: 1952, 1953, 1954,<br>1955   |
| Colvard, D. W.     | CORR: 1960  |
| Eastland, James O. | CORR: 1949, 1950, 1954,   |

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
|                       | 1955, 1960, 1966   |
| Eisenhower, Dwight D. | STOVALL  |
| Fair, Charles D.      | CORR: 1951, 1952, 1953,<br>1955, 1960                                  |
| Gartin, Carroll       | CORR: 1956, 1958, 1959;<br>MISC  |
| Griffin, Charles      | CORR: 1954   |
| Hilbun, Ben           | CORR: 1953, 1954   |
| Humphrey, G. D.       | CORR: 1940, 1941, 1942,<br>1943, 1944, 1948,<br>1949, 1951, 1959, 1960 |
| Johnson, Lyndon B.    | CORR: 1953, 1954   |
| Johnson, Paul B., Jr. | CORR: 1941, 1959   |
| Kennedy, John F.      | CORR: 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960   |
| Mitchell, Fred T.     | CORR: 1952   |
| Mitchell, Stephen A.  | CORR: 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955,<br>1958, 1959, 1961,<br>1963, 1964, 1966 |
| Montgomery, G. V.     | CORR: 1956   |

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Murphree, Dennis      | CORR: 1941  |
| Overstreet, N. W.     | MISC  |
| Phillips, Rubel L.    | CORR: 1955  |
| Rankin, John E.       | CORR: 1940  |
| Smith, Frank E.       | CORR: 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954,<br>1955, 1958, 1962, 1967, 1968   |
| Sorensen, Theodore C. | CORR: 1958, 1961, 1963  |
| Stennis, John C.      | CORR: 1941, 1949, 1950, 1951,<br>1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957,<br>1958, 1960, 1962, 1968, 1970; SUBJ;<br>MISC |
| Stevenson, Adlai      | CORR: 1958, 1963, 1964, 1965;<br>SUBJ; MISC;<br>STOVALL   |
| Stovall, Robert C.    | STOVALL   |
| Sullens, Frederick    | CORR: 1941  |
| White, Hugh           | CORR: 1949, 1951, 1952, 1953,<br>1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1960,<br>1961, 1962, 1963; SUBJ; MISC;<br>STOVALL    |

|                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Whitten, Jamie       | CORR: 1952, 1953, 1955       |
| Whittington, Will M. | CORR: 1952, 1953, 1954, 1958 |
| Williams, John Bell  | CORR: 1952, 1953, 1955       |
| Winstead, Arthur     | CORR: 1952, 1953, 1955       |
| Winter, William F.   | CORR: 1953, 1958, 1965       |
| Wright, Fielding L.  | CORR: 1949                   |

## Inventory

### Correspondence

No folder list available.

### Subject Files

| <u>Folders</u>   | <u>Dates</u> |
|--|--------------|
| Aberdeen, Mississippi  | 1959, n.d.   |
| Amory, Mississippi   | n.d.         |
| Barkley, Alben   | n.d.         |
| Columbus and Greenville Railway Company                                | n.d.         |
| Democratic Party: National: Finance Committee                          | 1952-1954    |
| Democratic Party: National: General                                    | 1952-1959    |
| Democratic Party: National: Wilhite (Sam) Reports                      | 1958         |
| Democratic Presidential Campaign in Mississippi (1952): General        | 1949-1952    |
| Democratic Presidential Campaign in Mississippi (1952): Press Releases | 1952         |
| Democratic Presidential Campaign in Mississippi (1952): Speeches       | 1952         |
| Democratic Presidential Campaign (1956): Florida                       | 1954-1956    |
| Democratic Presidential Campaign (1956): General                       | 1956         |
| Florence, Alabama, Chamber of Commerce                                 | 1966         |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Foster, Cedric   | 1966       |
| Mark Farms and P. L. Blake Real Estate   | n.d.       |
| Miscellaneous  | 1976       |
| Miscellaneous Notes and Lists  | 1952-1969  |
| Mississippi Constitution: Coleman (J. P.) Recommendations on Carmichael (Gil) Position on the Constitution | 1975       |
| Mississippi Constitution: Proposed Amendments Concerning Literacy as a Requirement for Voting              | 1952       |
| Mississippi County Democratic Executive Committee Officers   | 1952       |
| Mississippi Democratic Dinner (1953)   | 1953       |
| Mississippi Democratic Dinner (1955)   | 1954-1955  |
| Mississippi Democratic "Dollars for Democrats" Fund Raising Drive  | 1958       |
| Mississippi Democratic Party: General  | 1954-1958  |
| Mississippi State University: Agricultural Extension Service   | 1954, n.d. |
| Mississippi State University: General  | 1939-1966  |
| Regulation of Public Utilities   | n.d.       |
| Stennis (John C.) Campaign for U. S. Senate  | 1947       |
| Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway   | 1957-1975  |
| <u>U. S. S. Concord</u> : Reunions(World War II service)   | 1951-1955  |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| West Point article by Kenneth Toler   | 1952      |
| White, Hugh   | 1951-1955 |
| Wilhite (Sam) Campaign for Public Service Commissioner  | 1955      |
| Wilhite (Sam) Personal  | 1955-1968 |
| Wilhite (Samuel Yates and Ollie Brown) Papers<br>(Sam Wilhite's grandparents) [Stored in Box 5] | 1874-1903 |

## **Miscellany**

### Folders

Architectural drawing of the Mississippi State College Alumni Building by N. W. Overstreet, ca. 1953. Originally filed with Correspondence (March 1953). [Oversized]

Broadsides for political campaigns, 1952 - ca. 1959. One broadside opposes the gubernatorial campaign of Carroll Gartin, ca. 1959; the remaining broadsides concern the presidential campaign of Adlai Stevenson and John Sparkman in 1952. Among the items are advertisements for a pro-Stevenson speech by Attorney General J. P. Coleman. [Oversized]

Calendars, November 1963 - January 1969.

Ledger containing checks and check stubs, October - November 1958. Probably concerns a political campaign.

\*Map of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway "to be constructed," n. d.

"Okinawa Gunto ... CINCPAC-CINCPOA Bulletin No. 53-45, 25 February 1945." Mimeographed volume containing maps and information about the Japanese-

held island of Okinawa. During World War II, Sam Wilhite served in the U. S. Navy on the U. S. S. Concord.

Photographs, ca. 1952 - 1969. Among the subjects are the Democratic National Convention of 1952 and the Mississippi State College Alumni Building Committee, ca. 1953 - 1954. Also included is a photograph of Hugh White, Sam Wilhite, and Adlai Stevenson, ca. 1952.

Stationery (blank).

### **Clippings and Scrapbook**

No information available.

### **Publications**

#### Folders

The Aberdeen Examiner, May 10, 1962. "Bon Accord Edition" (125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Aberdeen) [Oversized]

Chemical Process Industrial Sites at Florence, Alabama (4 copies)

The Democrat, October 25, 1952 [Oversized]

Democratic Digest, January-February 1961

The Economy of Florence and the Muscle Shoals Region (2 copies) Florence, Alabama: A Guide to Profitable Industrial Expansion

Gulfport Pictorial Review, September 4, 1952 (3 copies). Headline: "Tom Wallace to Head Eisenhower Campaign in Harrison County" [Oversized]

Industrial Resources of the Muscle Shoals Area at Florence, Alabama (2 copies)



Jet, February 27, 1958. Article on p. 16 mentions Wilhite.

Plan for the Future Development of the Florence Urban Area (2 copies)

River Oriented Heavy Industrial Sites at Florence, Alabama

Time, June 11, 1956 (2 copies). Article on p. 28 mentions Sam Wilhite.

### **Robert C. Stovall Series**

| <u>Folders</u>   | <u>Dates</u> |
|--|--------------|
| Campaign literature for Eisenhower-Stevenson Presidential campaign                                       | 1952         |
| Clippings (5 folders)  | 1952         |
| Correspondence (2 folders)   | 1952-1953    |
| Miscellany (Hugh White gubernatorial campaign brochure;<br>Eisenhower presidential inauguration article) | 1951-1953    |
| Speech notes and drafts: Stovall, Robert C.  | [1952]       |
| Speeches: Stovall, Robert C. (2 folders)   | 1952         |
| Speeches: White, Hugh (Mississippi Democratic Convention)  | 1952         |

## **Separation Sheet**

### Oversized Newspapers

The following items have been routed to the above unit for appropriate disposition:

Gulfport, Mississippi: Gulfport Pictorial Review, September 4, 1952.

Aberdeen, Mississippi: The Aberdeen Examiner, May 10, 1962.