Frank S. Cheatham, Jr., family papers

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Georgia Historical Society
Creator: Cheatham, Margaret Caldwell
Title: Frank S. Cheatham, Jr., family papers
Dates: 1899-2008, undated
Extent: 10.0 cubic feet (13 boxes, 7 oversize folders, 8 scrapbooks, 1 sketchbook, 1 record book)
Identification: MS 1699

Biographical/Historical Note

Judge Frank Sellars Cheatham, Jr. was born on January 11, 1924 to the late Frank and Margaret Cheatham. He contracted polio in October of 1925 and began treatment in Warm Springs, Georgia every summer from 1933 to 1938. While there he met President Franklin D. Roosevelt and drew strength from the "Roosevelt spirit", going on to graduate from Savannah High School in 1942 and Armstrong Junior College in 1944. He attended the University of Georgia from 1944 to 1948, gaining a BA in 1946 and was awarded membership in several organizations, including the Gridiron Society, the Blue Key National Honor Society, Omicron Delta National Honor Society, and the Sphinx Club. In 1948 Cheatham graduated with a law degree and returned to Savannah to practice, forming the Cheatham and Exley Law Firm in 1949. In 1953, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives and remained there through 1960. While serving, he was Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee in 1958 and 1959. In 1972, Governor Jimmy Carter appointed Cheatham to the Eastern Judicial Circuit as a Superior Court Judge, a post that he held for 21 years, retiring in 1993. Frank Cheatham Jr. died in 2008.

Judge Cheatham was active in many civic and professional organizations. He chaired several fundraisers for the March of Dimes, was president of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of Savannah in 1964 (in which the Habersham branch was built), and was an active member of Wesley Monumental Methodist Church. He was the past president of the Savannah Bar Association, the Judicial Council of Georgia, and the Savannah Kiwanis Club. He married former Rebecca McCrary and had one daughter, Margaret Cheatham, and a stepdaughter, Lara Brotherton.

Frank S. Cheatham Jr. is the only son of Frank Sellars Cheatham, Sr., (1898-1977) and Margaret Caldwell Cheatham (1901-1997) who married in 1921. Frank Sellars Cheatham, Sr., worked as a draftsman for the Central of Georgia Railroad until the mid-1940s when he left to work for Prudential Insurance. After retiring in 1963, he turned his attention to his art career, writing, and genealogical research on the Cheatham family. Margaret Caldwell Cheatham was a homemaker and active in church and civic activities.

Scope and Content Note

The Frank S. Cheatham, Jr., family papers consist of materials of Frank S. Cheatham Jr., and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., and cover the life of Frank S. Cheatham, Jr., from childhood to his retirement as a Superior Court Judge and death in 2008. The papers include articles, clippings, correspondence, condolence letters, campaign fliers, genealogical materials, funeral guest books, scrapbooks, photographs, slides, artwork by Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., and Alec Stern, and audiovisual materials. Many of the letters to Frank S. Cheatham Jr., from his father are accompanied by illustrated envelopes.

The papers are arranged into seven series: 1. Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., papers; 2. Frank S. Cheatham, Jr., papers; 3. Cheatham family genealogy materials; 4. Scrapbooks; 5. Photographic materials; 6. Artwork; and 7. Audiovisual materials. Arrangement of the collection was imposed by the processor due to lack of original order.
Index Terms

Armstrong Atlantic State University.
Cheatham family.
Cheatham, Frank Sellars, 1898-1977.
Cheatham, Frank Sellars, 1924-2008.
Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence.
Georgia. General Assembly. House of Representatives.
Judges--Georgia--Savannah.
Photographs.
Poliomyelitis.
Postage stamps.
Roosevelt, Franklin D., (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.
Scrapbooks.
Sheet music.
Slides (photographs)
Sound recordings.
Stamp albums.
University of Georgia.
Video recordings.
Warm Springs (Ga.)

Physical and Technical Access Restrictions

The Georgia Historical Society does not own playback equipment required for use of audio recordings and video recordings.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Material was acquired from the creator.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], Frank S. Cheatham, Jr., family papers, MS 1699, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information


Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Two items in box 6, folder 3 are restricted until 09/20/2018. Redacted copies reside in place of the originals.

Publication Rights

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Separated Material

Artifacts were separated and cataloged with the Georgia Historical Society Artifacts Collection. View digital images of artifacts at the end of this collection inventory or search the Digital Image Catalog for further information.

Sponsorship

Encoding funded by a 2012 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Container List

SERIES 1:: Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., papers, 1921-1979, undated

This series contains art resources, clippings, correspondence of Margaret Caldwell Cheatham and Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., Mr. Cheatham's files on the Friction Spring Gear, writings by Mr. Cheatham, and a Solomon's Lodge file that includes artwork by Mr. Cheatham. Correspondence from Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., may be found in other series as it relates to his son's activities.

Artist literature, annotated

Box Fldr

10  1-2  1972, 1975, 1977, undated

Box Fldr

1  1  Certificate and marriage license, 1921, 1949

Clippings

Box Fldr

1  2  Art articles and notes, 1964-1975, undated
3  Miscellaneous, 1946-1966, undated
4  Scrapbook clippings, 1963

Correspondence

Box Fldr

1  5  Margaret Caldwell Cheatham (Mrs. Frank S. Cheatham, Sr.), 1926, 1931, 1934, 1936, 1945-1947, 1977, undated

Frank S. Cheatham, Sr.

6  Regarding loans borrowed/paid, 1933-1935, 1939
With V.W. Pierce, regarding rental space, 1942

Regarding Prudential Insurance employment; employment contract, 1945-1946

Ephemera, including patch, whistle, mirror, printing plates, button, ribbon, undated

Friction Spring Center Draft Gear

Box Fldr

1 10 "F-S-C Draft Gear" by Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., undated

11 Patent to Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., 1932

14 Index Card File of the condolences sent upon the death of Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., 1977

15- Memory book of Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., 2 letters from Lara, Tom Coffey article, 1977

16 Papers regarding construction of house, 1957

12 Solomon’s Lodge By-Laws, letterhead, Masonic Messenger (cover art by Frank S. Cheatham, Sr.), 1977-1979

13 Savannah Association of Life Underwriters roster, Frank S. Cheatham as president, 1957

Writings by Frank S. Cheatham, Sr.

Sheet music

Box Fldr

2 1 "I Will Be Waiting For You", undated

2 "This Old Town Is Proud of You, Bill", undated

3 Stories and essays, circa 1965

4 Stories, essays, and theological writing, circa 1965

SERIES 2:: Frank S. Cheatham, Jr., papers, 1928-2004, undated

The series consists of two subseries: 2.1, Boyhood and College Materials; and 2.2, Career Materials.

SUBSERIES 2.1:: Boyhood and college materials, 1928-1976, undated

This subseries contains items belonging to Frank S. Cheatham, Jr., from his boyhood through his college career. Included is correspondence with his parents during his time at Warm Springs, Georgia, his stamp collection, and newspaper clippings of his accomplishments at Armstrong
Junior College and the University of Georgia.

Box Fldr

2 5  Bible of Frank S. Cheatham, Jr., 1933
6  Clippings, 1938-1947

Correspondence
7  Outgoing to Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., 1938, 1940, 1945, 1976, undated

Incoming
8  From Margaret Caldwell Cheatham, 1933, 1936
9  From Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., 1933, 1938, undated
10 From Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., 1929, 1933, 1936
11 From Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., 1936.
12 1940, 1945-1948, undated
13- Miscellaneous incoming, 1936, 1945-1947

Box Fldr

3 1  Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., to Emory University, regarding Frank S. Cheatham, Jr. course selection, 1942
2  Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., to the University of Georgia, regarding Frank S. Cheatham, Jr., 1945
3  Stories, schoolwork, drawings, treasure map, 1944-1948
4  University of Georgia material including graduation programs, graduation invitation, Sigma Alpha Epsilon membership list, Sigma Alpha Epsilon invitation to formal, schedule, nomination card, and receipt, 1944-1948

Stamp collection materials
5  The Modern Postal Stamp Album, Scott Stamp and Coin Co., New York, 1928
6  The International Postage Stamp Album, Scott Stamp and Coin Co., New York, 1935

Box Fldr

4 1  Loose items from Frank S. Cheatham, Jr., stamp collection
    Envelope 1: Africa
    Envelope 2: Asia and the Middle East
    Envelope 3: Australia and the Pacific
    Envelope 4: Central and South America, Caribbean islands
    Envelope 5: Europe
    Envelope 6: France
Subseries 2.2 consists of items concerning the career of Frank S. Cheatham, Jr. Included in this subseries are clippings from 1948 until his retirement in 1993, campaign fliers, and articles. Also included are speeches, notes, and correspondence authored by Frank S. Cheatham, Jr. and materials related to his death.

Clippings

2  1948-1952
3  1953-1971

Field

3  Commissions of Judgeship, 1972, 1982

Correspondence

6  Outgoing, 1972, 1992

Incoming

8  Birthday cards sent to Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., and Frank S. Cheatham, Jr., undated
9  From S. Ernest Vandiver, includes portrait copy, 1979
10  Regarding newspaper article, 1985

Death materials, 2008

Box  Fldr

11-1  Condolence letters
12;
13

Box  Fldr
Funeral books
Memorials and resolutions
Junior Chamber of Commerce certificate, Citizens Committee Candidates, 1951, undated
Kiwanis International Golden Service Award, 1965
Reports for Griffenhagen and Associates and Dr. Thomas S. Reed, 1937, 1947, 1950, 1953
Sigma Alpha Epsilon 50 year membership certificate and letter, 1995
Warm Springs Advisory Committee, 2001

SERIES 3:: Cheatham family genealogy materials, 1952-1976, undated

This series consists of Cheatham family genealogy information researched by Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., Margaret Caldwell Cheatham, and Frank S. Cheatham, Jr.

Coat of arms, undated
Ancestral Record Book of Frank S. Cheatham, Jr., undated

Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., files

Miscellaneous genealogy, 1950s-1970s
Genealogy and writing, circa 1965
German Heritage Society Certificate, correspondence of Frank S. Cheatham, Jr. regarding Sons of American Revolution application, Sons of American Revolution application, undated
Research files

Box Fldr

5 6  Caldwell family genealogy information, 1969-1970, undated

Cheatham family

7  Savannah Public Library notes, undated
8  Virginia research, 1963, undated
9  Cheatham, Bryan families, 1955, undated
10  Cheatham, Hancock, Bryan families, 1960, undated
11  Pedigree charts and family group sheets of Cheatham and Caldwell families, undated

SERIES 4:: Scrapbooks, 1924-1997, undated

This series consists of scrapbooks belonging to Judge Frank S. Cheatham, Jr. Material in the books includes correspondence, photographs, clippings, certificates, forms, ribbons, and buttons. Books 5, 7, 8, and 9 were photocopied for preservation purposes and original material removed from the scrapbooks is notated with original page numbers. Loose material found in the books is housed in separate folders. This series also includes an index file of the major events in the life of Frank Cheatham, Jr., with references to the scrapbooks.

Box Fldr

5 12-  Index file of the major events in the life of Frank S. Cheatham, Jr., 1943-1976
13

Book no. 1, 1924 to April 13, 1951

Box Fldr

5 14  Loose material, 1942-1947, undated

Original scrapbook

Book no 2, April 13, 1951 to October 22, 1953

Box Fldr

5 15  Loose material, 1953, 1976, undated

Original scrapbook

Book no. 3, October 22, 1953 to September 3, 1956

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<td>Material removed from pages 29-103, 1972-1976</td>
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SERIES 5: Photographic materials, 1899-1989, undated

This series consists of photographs and slides taken throughout the lives of Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., Margaret Caldwell Cheatham, and Frank S. Cheatham, Jr. There are also materials of identified and unidentified family friends, Savannah locations, Warm Springs locations, Caldwell Family genealogy sites, and artwork. This series is organized into two subseries: 5.1, Photographs; and 5.2, Slides.
SUBSERIES 5.1:: Photographs, 1899-1989, undated

This subseries contains photographs of the Cheatham family and their acquaintances including the boyhood of Frank S. Cheatham, Sr.; the courtship and marriage of Frank S. Cheatham, Sr. and Margaret Caldwell Cheatham; infancy, youth, education, and career of Frank S. Cheatham, Jr.; and various identified and unidentified family friends. Also included are images of artwork, buildings, locations, hurricane damage, gravestones, monuments, and furniture. Many of the photographs have corresponding negatives. Where negatives exist, negative numbers have been written on the backs of photographs.

Box Fldr

7 1 Artwork, 1973, undated

2 Buildings, undated

Geographical places

3 Fairfield County, South Carolina: Caldwell family history trip, 1969

4 Warm Springs, 1942, undated

5 Hurricane, Savannah, Georgia, 1940

6 Interior scenes, 1960, 1961, undated

Outdoor scenes

7 1934, 1960, 1973, undated

Box Fldr

10 17 Oversize, undated

People

8 Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., 1899, 1917, undated

Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., and Margaret Caldwell Cheatham

9 1917-1921, undated


Frank S. Cheatham, Jr.

11 1924-1930, 1932, undated

12 1935, 1938-1940, 1946-1948, undated


16 1948, undated
Other people

Wesley Monumental Methodist Church, Delta Alpha, circa 1928 or 1929
Earl Stradtman, 1929
John "Jack" E. O'Neal, Jr., circa 1943
Stephen Clark Dearing, 1967
A. Kennon Dearing III, 1968
Ralph A Lee, Sr., 1969
Phillip Lee, 1969
Chloe Lee, 1969
Peter Austin Lee, 1969
John Morris, undated
John Arnold, undated
Col. Roger L. Lawson, undated

Unidentified


SUBSERIES 5.2:: Slides, 1959-1963, undated

This subseries contains slides on various subjects including buildings, people, the home of Frank, Sr., and Margaret Cheatham, Savannah, and the Georgia legislature.

Box Fldr

8 1 Basketball, undated
 2 Georgia legislature, undated
 3 House of Frank, Sr., and Margaret Cheatham, 1959-1960, undated
 4 Savannah Buildings, 1963, undated
 5 Harbor, undated
 6 Locations, undated
 7 People, 1959-1962, undated
SERIES 6:: Artwork, 1967-1976, undated

This series consists of prints of artwork by Alec Stern and Frank Cheatham, Sr. The Frank Cheatham prints feature scenes of Savannah and public safety ads for the Central of Georgia Railway. The Alec Stern prints feature buildings and items important in American Independence. The collection also includes printings of Frank Cheatham, Sr.'s work for church programs, personal Christmas cards, his sketchbook, and loose sketches.

Box Fldr
10 18 Artwork by Alec Stern, undated

Artwork by Frank Cheatham

Box Fldr
8 8 1967, undated

Box Fldr

Fldr
7 "Shrimp Boats" print, 1973

Frank Cheatham, Sr., sketchbook, undated

Box Fldr
10 14 Loose pages from sketchbook, undated

Fldr
5 Landscape painting by Frank S. Cheatham, Sr., 1969

Fldr
1-2 Public safety posters, undated

SERIES 7:: Audiovisual materials, 1953-1989, undated

This series consists of VHS tapes and audio recordings on ¼" magnetic recording tape reels. Please note: The Georgia Historical Society does not own playback equipment required to use this material.

Sound recordings

Box
City Committee: 'That I Solemnly Promise', 10/20/1953

City Committee Talk: Last Words, Election Next Wednesday, 10/17/1953

Savannah Gas Company off-air-recording" and "Broadcast of 'Savannah Speaks: State Port', May 18, 1953

Savannah Speaks, Part 1, 5/10/1953

WSAV, 9/29/1953

Untitled, undated. Two reels

Video recordings

Box

9

50 th ASC Birthday/Anniversary Television Program on WTOC plus Cheatham out-takes, undated

F. Cheatham Jaycee Forum 1989

Interview on JFK Anniversary 11/83 and Savannah Symphony Auction, Sunday, 10/30/1983

Untitled, undated. Two cassettes

Artifacts

A-1699-001 Souvenir scarf printed with images of Savannah and "Dedication Savannah State Docks, Nov. 11, 1952 - 41st Convention American Association Port Authorities" View online.

A-1699-002 Judge Cheatham’s lapel pin from the YMCA View online.

A-1699-003 Yellow tassel View online.

A-1699-004 Child’s microscope science kit View online.

A-1699-005 Scripto mechanical pencil leads View online.

A-1699-006 Rite-Rite mechanical pencil View online.

A-1699-007 Pair of men’s dress shoes with the left shoe attached to a leg brace View online.

A-1699-008 Long shoehorn made of shaped and polished antler View online.

A-1699-009 Two sets of metal tongs used by Frank Cheatham to aid in dressing View online.

A-1699-010 Pair of metal crutches View online.

A-1699-011 Handmade wooden plane made by Frank Cheatham, Sr. for Frank Cheatham, Jr. View online.