

10-21-2010

Wise Family Papers (MSS 341)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives

Western Kentucky University, mssfa@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid



Part of the [Military History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Wise Family Papers (MSS 341)" (2010). *MSS Finding Aids*. Paper 1539.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid/1539

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in MSS Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
 Department of Library Special Collections
 Kentucky Library & Museum
 Western Kentucky University
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 341 WISE Family Papers

½ box. 11 folders. 37 items. 1860-1865. Originals, typescripts.

2010.191.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Levi Franklin “Frank” Wise was born about 1842, the son of Levi L. Wise and Elizabeth (Hunter) Smith. On 9 March 1864, he married Frances J. “Fannie” Rowe (1842-1912), the daughter of Braxton Rowe and Ann M. Bishop. During the Civil War, Frank Wise served with Union forces in Company B, 26th Regiment, Kentucky Infantry as a private, and was subsequently made a lieutenant with a black regiment. Frank appears to have died by 1868, because that year Fannie Wise married William H. Benton, the widower of her sister Nancy.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of correspondence of the Wise family of Ohio County, Kentucky, and related families from 1860-1865. Of particular interest are 20 letters written by Levi Franklin “Frank” Wise to his wife and parents during his Civil War service in the Union army.

Folder 2 contains an 1860 letter from Frank Wise’s half-brother, Adam Wise, written to his family from Randolph County, Arkansas.

Folders 3-6 contain 17 letters from Frank Wise to his wife Fannie, written from March-September 1864. With one exception, the letters originate in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and several were written from a military hospital where Frank was confined due to illness. He writes of family matters, his health, his regiment’s possible movements, and his prospects for obtaining a lieutenant’s commission with a black regiment. He attempts to arrange for Fannie to visit him in Bowling Green, and also makes brief reference to the suffering of a fellow patient in the hospital.

Folder 7 contains three letters from Frank Wise, also written from Bowling Green in 1864, to his parents, Levi F. Wise and Elizabeth Wise. Of interest in a letter of 20 April 1864 is Frank’s claim that an act passed by Congress would require all Kentucky soldiers to vote for President Lincoln, but that he might vote for George B. McClellan.

Folder 8 contains letters to Fannie Wise written during 1864-1865, mostly by relatives. Included is a letter of 21 October 1864 from her brother-in-law William H. Benton, who would marry Fannie after her sister Nancy’s death in 1867. Benton gives her news of Frank’s

movements after his departure from Bowling Green, including his appointment as lieutenant of a black regiment at Prestonsburg, Kentucky and his hospitalization after being wounded in a skirmish in southwest Virginia. Also of interest are letters from Emma M. Cohron, the wife of another soldier who served in Bowling Green. Several of these are extremely faded and difficult to read, but in one dated 18 January 1865, Emma mourns the deaths of her husband, who was killed at Nashville, and her infant daughter.

Folder 9 contains a letter to Frank's father, Levi L. Wise, from a niece, and Folder 10 contains a letter fragment from the W. H. Taylor family to the Jake Grant family with news of farm activities. Folder 11 contains biographical notes on another relative, Nancy J. Faught.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Wise Family Papers	1860-1865	37 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Adam N. Wise – Letter to parents and siblings	1860	1 item
Folder 3	Levi Franklin “Frank” Wise – Letters to Frances “Fannie” Wise	Mar. 18, 1864- Apr. 21, 1864	4 items
Folder 4	Levi Franklin “Frank” Wise – Letters to Frances “Fannie” Wise	Apr. 23, 1864- May 19, 1864	5 items
Folder 5	Levi Franklin “Frank” Wise – Letters to Frances “Fannie” Wise	Jun. 8, 1864- Jul. 14, 1864	5 items
Folder 6	Levi Franklin “Frank” Wise – Letters to Frances “Fannie” Wise	Jul. 20, 1864- Sep. 21, 1864	3 items
Folder 7	Levi Franklin “Frank” Wise – Letters to Levi and Elizabeth Wise	1864	3 items
Folder 8	Frances “Fannie” Wise – Incoming letters	1864-1865	7 items
Folder 9	M. A. Hubble – Letter to Levi L. Wise	Aug. 26, n.y.	1 item
Folder 10	W. H. Taylor family – Letter (fragment) to J. Grant family; empty envelopes	1864, n.d.	6 items
Folder 11	Nancy J. Faught – Biographical note	n.d.	1 item

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS WISE Family Papers 1860-1865
341

Correspondence of the Wise family of Ohio County, Kentucky, and related families. Includes letters of Levi Franklin Wise, serving with Union forces in Bowling Green, 1864. A few letters have been typescripted.
½ box. 11 folders. 37 items. Originals, typescripts.
2010.191.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Benton, William H., 1838-1889 B1,F8
 Bishop, John Marion, 1844-1926 B1,F8
 Bishop, John Marion, 1844-1926 – Relating to B1,F8
 Burbridge, Stephen Gano, 1831-1894 – Comments about, 1864 B1,F3,7
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – African American soldiers – Comments about, 1864 B1,F3
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Bowling Green, 1864 B1,F3-6
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Campaigns, battles, military actions – Battle of the Wilderness, 1864 –
 Comments about, 1864 B1,F4
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Hospitals – Bowling Green, 1864 – Relating to B1,F5-6
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Military life, 1864 B1,F3-8
 Cohron, Emma M. B1,F8
 Cohron, James Howard, d. 1864 – Relating to B1,F8
 Faught, Nancy J., 1840-1910 – Relating to B1,F11
 Grant, Jake – Letter to B1,F10
 Hubble, M. A. B1,F9
 Loney, John, 1826-1910 – Relating to B1,F6
 McClellan, George Brinton, 1826-1885 – Comments about, 1864 B1,F7
 Merchants – Arkansas, 1860 – Relating to B1,F2
 Prices – Arkansas, 1860 B1,F2
 Rowe, George M., 1842-1916 B1,F8
 Taylor family – Relating to B1,F10
 U.S. General Hospital – Bowling Green – Letterhead, 1864 B1,F6
 Wise, Adam N., b. 1833 B1,F2
 Wise, Elizabeth (Hunter) Smith, 1811-1909 – Letters to B1,F2,7
 Wise, Levi Franklin “Frank,” b. 1842? B1,F3-7
 Wise, Levi Franklin “Frank,” b. 1842? – Relating to B1,F8
 Wise, Frances J. “Fannie” (Rowe), 1842-1912 – Letters to B1,F3-6,8
 Wise, Levi L., 1803-1885 – Letters to B1,F2,7
 Wise, Levi L., 1803-1885 – Relating to B1,F6
 Wise, William Baxter, 1828-1900 – Relating to B1,F6

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 10/21/2010