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## Campbell Collection (MSS 683)

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

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 683 CAMPBELL Collection**

1½ boxes. 24 folders. 247 items. 1913-1958. Originals, carbon copies.

SC2019.87.3

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Elvis Richard Campbell was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky on 23 February 1898. His father, John R. Campbell (1860-1930) was a farmer who also operated a livery business in Bowling Green and served on the City Council. In 1897, John married Maggie A. Brown (1865-1958), a native of Mt. Olivet in Warren County, Kentucky.

Elvis Campbell was educated at Bowling Green's Ogden College and at the Bowling Green Business University. His first public office was as city clerk of South Fulton, Tennessee, where he worked for the Illinois Central Railroad. In 1931, he returned to Bowling Green from his residence in Fulton, Kentucky to work as manager of the W. Y. McGinnis Garage (succeeded by the Campbell-Jenkins Garage), and for an automobile dealership. Campbell served on Bowling Green's City Council from 1941-1945 and on the Board of Public Works from 1945-1949, the latter position marked by the expansion of the city's water works program. He also represented the city on the Electric Plant Board.

Campbell served as mayor of Bowling Green from 1949 to 1953. During his time in office, he was president of the Kentucky Municipal League (1952) and led a major annexation program that doubled the city's area.

In 1954, Campbell was named personnel director for the new Detrex Corporation plant under construction in Bowling Green. In 1957, he became executive secretary of the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce, but resigned in 1959 to return to Detrex Corporation, once more as personnel director. In 1963, he ran again for mayor but was not successful. After retiring from Detrex in 1964, Campbell was active in Bowling Green's Rotary Club, serving as its president in 1958. Elvis R. Campbell died in Bowling Green on 3 February 1978 and was interred at Fairview Cemetery. His wife, Lula M. (Johnson) Campbell, who he married in 1921, died in 1993. They were the parents of two daughters, Mary Louise (Campbell) Tinchler (1928-2018) and Dorothy "Dottie" (Campbell) Mock (1923-2010).

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection consists of personal papers of Elvis R. Campbell, his mother, Maggie (Brown) Campbell, and his father John R. Campbell. Much of the collection consists of

correspondence, reports and records relating to Elvis R. Campbell's public service positions with the City of Bowling Green, Kentucky and his position as personnel director for Detrex Corporation, a manufacturer of industrial cleaning equipment. An inventory is in Box 1, Folder 1, which also includes biographical and obituary clippings about Elvis R. Campbell and his parents.

Box 1, Folder 2 contains correspondence of Maggie (Brown) Campbell, including two letters from former tenants regarding monies owed, a city council resolution memorializing her late husband and other correspondence regarding his estate, and grandchildren's letters. Box 1, Folder 3 contains insurance policies for her properties in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Box 1, Folder 4 contains both family and business correspondence and papers of Elvis Campbell. Included are a letter to his mother from Fulton, Kentucky and letters to him in connection with his work at Bowling Green Motors, Inc. Correspondence relating to Bowling Green's public works includes two letters discussing maintenance of the waterworks, a letter inquiring about the establishment of a playground for African-American youth, and another discussing financing for additional firefighting equipment. Also included is a transcript of testimony regarding a 1953 police killing; a memo on 1955 improvements to the Bowling Green-Warren County Hospital; a request for assistance in procuring a local tobacco manufacturer's brand for indigenous enthusiasts in New Guinea; and Campbell's 1956 reply with information for a manufacturer interested in locating a plant in Bowling Green and addressing topics such as electric rates and labor relations.

Box 1, Folder 5 contains materials relating to Elvis R. Campbell's administration of the estate of John M. Hoar of Fulton, Kentucky. Included is correspondence with Hoar's widow (with whom Elvis and his wife were personal friends) and other family; inventory and appraisal lists; and records regarding payment of debts (including a strongly disputed account from Hoar's physician) and location and distribution of assets. Also included is some correspondence relating to the estate of Hoar's mother, who died a few months before him.

Box 1, Folder 6 contains various items relating to the Pet Milk Company and its business with dairymen in Bowling Green: statements of daily deliveries; infant formula instruction blanks for use with Pet Milk; and instructions for cooling and straining raw milk.

Box 1, Folders 7 through 15 contain various records relating to the finances and public works of Bowling Green, Kentucky in the late 1940s: auditor's reports (Folders 7, 8, 13, 14); budgets and statements of receipts and disbursements (Folders 9, 15); surveys and reports on the city's waterworks (Folders 10, 11); and instructions relating to the operation of the sewage disposal plant (Folder 12).

Box 1, Folders 16 and 17 contain policy manuals for employees of Detrex Corporation, Bowling Green.

Box 1, Folders 17 and 18 contain business papers of Elvis's father John R. Campbell, including his city licenses to do business as a liveryman and feed store operator; rental contracts; and automobile certificates.

Box 2 contains additional personal papers of John R. Campbell and Maggie (Brown) Campbell, principally tax receipts (Folder 1) and farm records of Maggie (Brown) Campbell, including allotment notices and account books (Folders 2-5).

**SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Campbell Collection</b>	<b>1913-1958</b>	<b>207 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory; biographical data		13 items
Folder 2	Maggie (Brown) Campbell – Correspondence	1930-1957	16 items
Folder 3	Maggie (Brown) Campbell – Insurance policies	1935-1944	11 items
Folder 4	Elvis R. Campbell – Correspondence and papers	1931-1958	28 items
Folder 5	Elvis R. Campbell – Administration of John M. Hoar estate	1928-1933	79 items
Folder 6	Pet Milk Company – Delivery records, formula blanks, letter regarding testing	1932-1948	12 items
Folder 7	City of Bowling Green – Auditor’s report at 31 May 1940	1940	1 item
Folder 8	City of Bowling Green – Auditor’s report for year ended 30 November 1947	1947	1 item
Folder 9	City of Bowling Green – Treasurer’s report; budget	1946-1948	3 items
Folder 10	City of Bowling Green – Engineering Survey and Report on Adequacy of Existing Water Works System	1947	1 item
Folder 11	City of Bowling Green – Report on Extensions to Water Distribution System in Proposed Areas of Annexation	1949	1 item
Folder 12	City of Bowling Green – Directions for Operating Sewage Disposal Plant	1948	1 item
Folder 13	City of Bowling Green – Auditor’s Report for year ended 30 November 1948	1948	1 item
Folder 14	City of Bowling Green – Audit of Electric Plant Board for year ended 30 June 1948; rate schedule	1948-1956	2 items
Folder 15	City of Bowling Green – Statements of receipts and disbursements	Dec. 1947- Mar. 1949	7 items

Folder 16	Detrex Corporation – Bowling Green Plant – Salaried Employees’ Personnel Administration Policy Manual and health insurance plan manual	1955	3 items
Folder 17	Detrex Corporation – Bowling Green Plant – Hourly Employees’ Personnel Administration Policy Manual; Employment application	1955	2 items
Folder 18	John R. Campbell – Business licenses	1924-1930	16 items
Folder 19	John R. Campbell – Miscellaneous papers	1913-1931	9 items
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Campbell Collection</b>	<b>1920-1958</b>	<b>40 items</b>
Folder 1	John R. Campbell and Maggie (Brown) Campbell – Tax receipts	1920-1935	27 items
Folder 2	Maggie (Brown) Campbell – Miscellaneous papers	1940-1958	7 items
Folder 3	Maggie (Brown) Campbell – Account books	1932-1933	2 items
Folder 4	Maggie (Brown) Campbell – Account books	1936-1938	2 items
Folder 5	Maggie (Brown) Campbell – Account books	1939-1941	2 items

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS CAMPBELL Collection 1913-1958  
683

Correspondence and papers primarily relating to the service of Elvis R. Campbell, Bowling Green, Kentucky, in the public works department of city government and at Detrex Corporation. Also includes account books/farm journals and business papers of his parents, John R. and Maggie (Brown) Campbell.

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### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

African Americans – Bowling Green, 1949, 1953 – Relating to B1,F4  
Automobiles – Bills of sale, 1925 B1,F19  
Automobiles – Prices, 1948-1949 B1,F4

Bowling Green Motors, Inc. – Bowling Green – Relating to B1,F4  
 Bowling Green-Warren County Hospital – Relating to B1,F4  
 Campbell, Elvis Richard, 1899-1978 – Correspondence B1,F4,5  
 Campbell, Elvis Richard, 1899-1978 – Relating to B1,F1  
 Campbell, John R., 1860-1930 – Relating to B1,F1,2,18,19; B2,F1  
 Campbell, Maggie A. (Brown), 1865-1958 – Correspondence B1,F2,4  
 Campbell, Maggie A. (Brown), 1865-1958 – Relating to B1,F1; B2  
 Certificates – Automobile, 1930-1931 B1,F19  
 Dairying – Warren County B1,F6  
 Deeds – Right of way – Warren County, 1913 B1,F19  
 Detrex Corporation – Bowling Green – Employees – Relating to B1,F16,17  
 Elections and election campaigns – Bowling Green, 1955 B1,F4  
 Estates – Hoar, Ella M., 1855?-1928 B1,F5  
 Estates – Hoar, John Mitchell, 1876-1928 B1,F5  
 Farms and farming – Warren County, 1932-1958 B2,F2-5  
 Fire departments – Bowling Green – Relating to B1,F4  
 Helm, Thomas Oliver, Jr., 1897-1980 B1,F4  
 Hibbett, Clarence Steen, 1929-1953 – Relating to B1,F4  
 Hoar, John Mitchell, 1876-1928 – Relating to B1,F5  
 Hotels – Bowling Green – Helm Hotel – Relating to B1,F4  
 Insurance policies B1,F3  
 Labor unions – Bowling Green – Comments about, 1956 B1,F4  
 Lampkin, Clifton Wallace, 1884-1959 – Relating to B1,F4  
 Leases – Bowling Green, 1923 B1,F19  
 Licenses – Bowling Green, 1924-1958 B1,F4,18  
 Local government – Bowling Green  
 Mock, Dorothy “Dottie” (Campbell), 1923-2010 B1,F2,4  
 Mock, Sandra “Sandy” B1,F4  
 Mock, Steven B1,F2  
 Municipal government – Bowling Green  
 Pet Milk Company – Bowling Green B1,F6  
 Police – Bowling Green, 1953 – Relating to B1,F4  
 Public utilities – Bowling Green B1,F4,10-12,14  
 Scott Tobacco Company – Bowling Green – Relating to B1,F4  
 Sewerage – Bowling Green B1,F12  
 Tax receipts – Warren County, 1920-1935 B2,F1  
 Tincher, Mary Louise (Campbell), 1928-2018 – Letter to B1,F4  
 Tobacco – Growing – Warren County B1,F4  
 Waterworks – Bowling Green B1,F4,10,11

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 01/21/2020