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James K. Vardaman Collection CPRC.JKV.286

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Mississippi State University Libraries

P.O. Box 5408

Mississippi State 39762

sp_coll@library.msstate.edu

URL: <http://library.msstate.edu/specialcollections>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Mississippi State University Libraries
Title:	James K. Vardaman Collection
ID:	CPRC.JKV.286
Date [inclusive]:	1904-1944
Date [bulk]:	bulk
Physical Description:	1.4 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Historical Note

James Kimble Vardaman was born in 1861 in Texas. He later moved and studied law in Carrollton, Mississippi. At twenty two years old, Vardaman served in the House of Representatives from 1890 to 1896. He unsuccessfully campaigned for governorship in 1895 and 1899. He won the governorship in 1904, and served as a United States senator from 1913 to 1919. He was one of the few senators that voted against entering the First World War. Vardman published his own newspaper titled Vardaman's Weekly,

which encompassed topics on Mississippi politics. He retired in 1922 and died in 1930. Vardman entered Southern politics at the turn of the century and ended before the onset of the Great Depression.

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Scope and Content

A sixteen inch box with thirteen folders holds the James K. Vardaman Collection, which contains broadsides, publications, two scrapbooks, and newspaper clippings ranging from 1918 to 1937. The newspaper clippings that range from 1918 to 1937 reference or quote Vardaman. The newspaper clippings that range from 1920 to 1930 involve Mississippi politics but do not necessarily reference Vardaman. The collection follows a chronological order that begins with Vardaman's inaugural address and ends with the last years of his life. There are thirteen folders, but the largest scrapbook rests outside of the folders. This scrapbook is restricted due to its brittleness and fragility. Many of the newspaper clippings have been photocopied and placed in a separate folder in order to preserve the clippings. An original folder contained newspaper clippings labeled as "miscellaneous," but those have been labeled as newspaper clippings about Mississippi politics. Both original and photocopied newspaper clippings have been sorted in a chronological order as well. The organization and preservation of the collection took one history graduate student approximately two weeks to complete.

Mrs. Milton E. Bacon of Scobey, MS, niece of James K. Vardaman, donated the James K. Vardaman collection in 1969. According to her correspondences with the library, the materials mainly contain newspaper clippings because Vardaman did not keep a diary or write many letters. An initial inventory was taken of the collection. A new inventory was taken of the collection in 2015. Included was a photocopied version of "A Great Man has Fallen" from the Magnolia Gazette June 3, 1930 that was not noted in the initial inventory. Additionally, included was a photocopied version of Vardaman's Weekly volume 14 number 48 September 7, 1922 that was not noted in the initial inventory.

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
<p>Folder 1</p> <p>Inaugural Address 1904</p> <p>This folder contains a printed, leather bound version of James K. Vardaman's inaugural address.</p>	
<p>Folder 2</p>	

Proclamation 1907

Governor James K. Vardaman issued a proclamation in 1907 that stated November 28 should be set aside as a day that recognizes "thanksgiving and prayer" throughout the state. The proclamation contains an official seal as well as the signatures of Vardaman and the Mississippi Secretary of State.

Folder 3

Statement Vardaman's Weekly 1922

This folder contains a photocopied version of Vardaman's Weekly volume 14 number 48 from September 7, 1922. The statement notified Mississippians that Vardaman decided travel for leisure with his brother, John Vardaman. The newspaper contains the following articles: "Why We have Lost," "The Scalawag in Evidence," "Corporal Louis Moore," "The Absent Voters Law Must be Modified," "The Patriots Against the Bonus," "Then Let the Board Decide It," "Let Vardaman's Enemies Now Pass the Bonus," and "The Vardaman Faction is Not Dead." The statement also depicts local advertisements of the time.

Folder 4

Original Newspaper Clippings 1918-1923

This folder contains newspaper articles related to Mississippi politics, as well as Vardaman. This folder contains the following articles: "Dorroh Challenges Kearney Statement," (April 27) "Sen. Vardaman Discusses the Overman Bill," (May 24, 1918) "Eight Counties to Aid," (July 8) "Mrs. Henderson for Stephens for Senate," (September 1) "Vardaman is Ready to Support Stephens," (September 8) "Vardaman Rally May Mould State Issues," (September 18) "Former Kearney Leader Tells Why He is for Vardaman," (August 21, 1922) "Senator Jas. K. Vardaman Indicates Who His Friends are in the Race for Governor in a Telegram Sent May 11th, 1923, to His Friends in Pontotoc County," (July 26, 1923) "Hon. Walter Sillers Answers Congressman Humphreys," (No Date) "Vardaman Answers Percy," (No Date)

Folder 5

Photocopied Newspaper Clippings 1918-1923

This folder contains newspaper articles related to Mississippi politics, as well as Vardaman. This folder contains the following articles: "Dorroh Challenges Kearney Statement," (April 27) "Sen. Vardaman Discusses the Overman Bill," (May 24, 1918) "Eight Counties to Aid," (July 8) "Mrs. Henderson for Stephens for Senate," (September 1) "Vardaman is Ready to Support Stephens," (September 8) "Vardaman Rally May Mould State Issues," (September 18) "Former Kearney Leader Tells Why He is for

Vardaman," (August 21, 1922) "Senator Jas. K. Vardaman Indicates Who His Friends are in the Race for Governor in a Telegram Sent May 11th, 1923, to His Friends in Pontotoc County," (July 26, 1923) "Hon. Walter Sillers Answers Congressman Humphreys," (No Date) "Vardaman Answers Percy," (No Date)

Folder 6

Original Newspaper Clippings 1920-1937

This folder contains newspaper clippings about Mississippi politics. It contains the following articles: "White Folks 'Riz Up;' Ames Met Downfall," (November 21, 1920) "Governor John Marshall Stone," (July 15, 1923) "Sergeant Smith Prentiss," (1923) "War Debt Days Proposed As Holidays," (September 1, 1937) "The Bloody Clinton Riot of September 5, 1875," (No Date) "What is a Demagogue?" (No Date)

Folder 7

Photocopied Newspaper Clippings 1920-1937

This folder contains newspaper clippings about Mississippi politics. It contains the following articles: "White Folks 'Riz Up;' Ames Met Downfall," (November 21, 1920) "Governor John Marshall Stone," (July 15, 1923) "Sergeant Smith Prentiss," (1923) "War Debt Days Proposed As Holidays," (September 1, 1937) "The Bloody Clinton Riot of September 5, 1875," (No Date) "What is a Demagogue?" (No Date)

Folder 8

Original Newspaper Clipping 1936

This folder contains a newspaper clipping from 1936. The newspaper clipping was photocopied in several sections and separated into a front and a back part: "Vardaman Enters State Hall of Fame, Wins Plaudits of Watkins."

Folder 9

Photocopied Newspaper Clipping 1936

This folder contains a newspaper clipping from 1936. The newspaper clipping was photocopied in several sections and separated into a front and a back part: "Vardaman Enters State Hall of Fame, Wins Plaudits of Watkins."

Folder 10

Vardaman's Final Years 1930

This folder contains various publications related to Vardaman's later years, as well as his funeral. The folder also contains a scrapbook in which a relative or friend placed

various newspaper clippings relating to his career. It has been left in its original order. It is titled, "The Final Chapter of the Life of Senator Jas. K. Vardaman." It appears to have been addressed to his brother, John Vardaman. It is advised that these newspaper clippings receive delicate care. Additionally, the folder contains both original and photocopied publications: "A Great Man Has Fallen," (July 3, 1930) "God Give Us Varda-Men," (October 28, 1937) "Vardaman," (No Date) The folder also contains a pamphlet about and relating to Vardaman: "Jas. K. Vardaman: Our Martyrd Friend," (July 10, 1936)

Folder 11

"The Race Question" The White Chief by Archibald Coody IV 1944

This folder contains a typed copy manuscript and the original book, "Chapter Number Six The Race Question from The White Chief: A Story of the Life an Times of James K. Vardaman." The book was published in 1944 by Mississippi Printing Company in Vicksburg, Mississippi. The book deals with the topic of race and politics as viewed from Vardaman's perspective. It is one hundred and five pages long.

Folder 12

Original Broadside (No Date)

This folder contains a broadside titled, "To the Friends of James K. Vardaman." Swep J. Taylor authored the broadside. The broadside does not have a date, but it appears to have been published after Vardaman's death.

Folder 13

Photocopied Broadside (No Date)

This folder contains a broadside titled, "To the Friends of James K. Vardaman." Swep J. Taylor authored the broadside. The broadside does not have a date, but it appears to have been published after Vardaman's death.

Scrapbook

Scrapbook 1918-1930

Due to the scrapbook's fragility, patrons should handle this item minimally. It should not be photocopied with a regular scanner. The scrapbook contains original newspaper clippings that include Vardaman's original poetry, Mississippi politics, Vardaman's political career, as well as clippings that relate to Civil War history.

Framed photograph of James K. Vardaman

Photograph Information

Photograph of James K. Vardaman, posing with hand in jacket. The Daniel Studio of Jackson, Mississippi.

Photograph of Funeral flowers.

Photograph Information

Funeral floral arrangements, possibly of James K. Vardaman's funeral.