

## Guide to the Guide to the Luther H. Maxwell Papers, 1913-1931

**Title:** Luther H. Maxwell Papers

**Creator:** Maxwell, Luther H.

**Extent:** 4.5 linear feet

**Inclusive Dates:** 1913-1931

**Collection Number:** MS0932

**Provenance:** Gift of Mrs. Ella Richardson Davis

**Processed by:** June 1990. Updated by Lauren Watson and Katherine Wilkins, 2005

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**Preferred Citation:** The Luther H. Maxwell Papers, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama.

**Reference Code:** USALM0932

**Language:** English

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### ABSTRACT

Personal and business papers of this Tuscaloosa, Alabama, merchant.

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### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE/ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY:

Known as "The Chewing Gum Man" Mr. Maxwell was born Luther Henderson Maxwell in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The son of Mr. Fred Maxwell, Sr. he was second born of four boys - Fred Maxwell, Jr., Luther Henderson Maxwell, Will Maxwell, and Tom Maxwell his brothers, his wife was Jessie Davis Maxwell, and he had no children.

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Mr. Maxwell was known as "The Chewing Gum Man" because as one of the owners of Maxwell Brothers Grocery he always carried gum in his pocket and gave a piece to every child he saw.

Maxwell attended the University of Alabama and studied in the scientific course area. He earned a Bachelors of Arts degree at the commencement of 1884.

He was a strong believer in the ways of God and gave greatly of his money and time to the First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa, the Presbyterian Orphans Home was one of his favorite projects, and any needy church organization in the area received his help. He often sent Bibles to foreign missionaries by the box load.

Maxwell and his wife were supporters of the prohibition movement and Mrs. Maxwell was the President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Once a Bishop who was drinking a glass of wine while being entertained at the home of Mr. Maxwell's brother was asked by Mr. Maxwell how a Bishop could partake of such wickedness, the Bishop looked at Mr. Maxwell and said "My good man, all good things were not made for the wicked". This, according to the family of Mr. Maxwell, became a family saying for future family gatherings.

He was not in very good health and was diabetic in his later years. He had very poor eyesight and was very overweight. He was concerned with his health and often had barrels of spring water sent from Stafford Springs Mississippi for his drinking water. He also had the spring water sent to friends and family.

Maxwell was a lover of fine things; he had all his clothes done by a local tailor. He loved cars and often traded for the newest model. He loved to travel, taking a cruise ship to Europe with his wife he toured the European country side. The next trip he took he toured Florida by car and at Key West took a small cruise ship to Cuba. His last trip was taken with his wife and sister-in-law; this trip was to Canada. While in Canada at Lake Louise he fell from a cliff to his death.

Upon his death he left his portion of the Maxwell Brothers Grocery to the entire congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa. This act was one of the reasons that the Maxwell Brothers Grocery was later forced to close.

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**SCOPE AND CONTENTS:**

The Luther H. Maxwell Collection consists of the personal and business papers of Mr. Maxwell and his business known as Maxwell Brothers Grocery, and spans the period of 1913 to 1931. The papers fall into two major divisions: Series 1, Personal Papers; Series 2, Business Papers.

The collection consists of a wide variety of material, including personal and business correspondence, business and financial records, legal papers, a large collection of vendor bills and receipts, and miscellaneous items relating to Mr. Maxwell and Maxwell Bros. Grocery.

The collection of Luther H. Maxwell is an excellent source of material for information on the Tuscaloosa area business community and the general life style during the period the collection spans.

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## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **SUBGROUP: PERSONAL PAPERS**

#### **SERIES: CORRESPONDENCE**

1921-1931

Divided into outgoing and incoming subseries. Outgoing correspondence is chronologically arranged in two folders. Incoming correspondence is arranged alphabetically according to person or company, then chronologically, in a total of two folders. Both the outgoing and incoming correspondence consists of letters to and from the Presbyterian Orphans Home and the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions.

#### **SERIES: ORGANIZATIONS**

1923-1930

Divided into two folders, one folder consists of the First Presbyterian Church, Treasurer's financial statements. The second folder contains records of donation to the University of Alabama's Alumni Department.

#### **SERIES: MEDICAL**

1923-1928

One folder consisting of medical records, drug store receipts, doctors bills, diabetes supplies, hospital bills, and permit to possess hypodermic instruments.

#### **SERIES: MISCELLANEOUS**

1922-1930

Divided into two folders, one contains information on mission donations and the other folder contains information on vacations to Europe, Florida, and Cuba.

#### **SERIES: PRINTED MATERIAL**

1930

Contains one folder with information on Our Orphan's Home, the sixty-sixth annual report.

**SUBGROUP: BUSINESS PAPERS**

**SERIES: CORRESPONDENCE**

1922-1930

Divided into outgoing and incoming subseries. Outgoing correspondence is chronologically arranged in one folder. Incoming correspondence is arranged alphabetically according to person or company, then chronologically, in a second folder.

**SERIES: REAL ESTATE**

1922-1931

Contains one folder with rental property information.

**SERIES: UTILITY BILLS AND RECEIPTS**

1921-1930

A total of six folders one each for Alabama Power Company, Alabama Utilities Service Company, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, City of Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa Railway and Utilities Company, and the Water Works Commission of Tuscaloosa.

**SERIES: ORGANIZATIONS**

1922-1925

Contains one folder with information about the Tuscaloosa Chamber of Commerce.

**SERIES: FINANCIAL**

1921-1930

Contains three folders with cancelled checks, general receipts, deposit slips, and bank notes from the First National Bank of Tuscaloosa.

**SERIES: VENDOR BILLS AND RECEIPTS**

1921-1930

Consists of 2 boxes, one with 28 folders and the other with 26 folders. The folders are arranged by business.

**SERIES: LEGAL PAPERS**

1913-1931

Consists of 3 folders, one for legal correspondence and contracts, a second folder for Alabama State Revenue, and a third folder with tax returns and information.

**SERIES: MISCELLANEOUS**

1921-1931

Consists of one folder with miscellaneous information.

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**CONTAINER LIST:**

**SUBGROUP: PERSONAL PAPERS**

**SERIES: CORRESPONDENCE**

**Box Folder Description**

- |      |   |   |
|------|---|---|
| 1066 | 1 | Outgoing Correspondence, Presbyterian Orphans Home, (1921 - 1931).                            |
|      | 2 | Outgoing Correspondence, Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, (1924, 1927, 1928). |
|      | 3 | Incoming Correspondence, Presbyterian Orphans Home, (1921 - 1931).                            |
|      | 4 | Incoming Correspondence, Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, (1924 - 1929).      |

**SERIES: ORGANIZATIONS**

**Box Folder Description**

- |      |   |   |
|------|---|---|
| 1066 | 5 | First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa, Statements of Account, Treasurer's Report, Financial Statements, (1924, 1930). |
|      | 6 | University of Alabama, Alumni Donations, (1923 - 1925).   |

**SERIES: MEDICAL**

**Box Folder Description**

- |      |   |  |
|------|---|--|
| 1066 | 7 | Medical Records, Drug Store Receipts, Doctors Bills, Diabetes Supplies, Hospital Bills, Permit to Possess Hypodermic Instruments, (1923 - 1928). |
|------|---|--|

**SERIES: MISCELLANEOUS**

**Box Folder Description**

- |      |   |  |
|------|---|--|
| 1066 | 8 | Miscellaneous Mission Donations, (1922 - 1930).  |
|      | 9 | Miscellaneous Vacation Information, Trip to Europe, Trip to Florida & Cuba, (1929 - 1930). |

**SERIES: PRINTED MATERIAL**

**Box Folder Description**

- |      |    |  |
|------|----|--|
| 1066 | 10 | Printed Material, Our Orphan's Home - Sixty - Sixth Annual Report, (September 1930). |
|------|----|--|

**SUBGROUP: BUSINESS PAPERS**

**SERIES: CORRESPONDENCE**

**Box Folder Description**

- |      |    |   |
|------|----|---|
| 1066 | 11 | Outgoing Correspondence, (1922 - 1931). |
|      | 12 | Incoming Correspondence, (1922 - 1931). |

**SERIES: REAL ESTATE**

**Box Folder Description**

- |      |    |   |
|------|----|---|
| 1066 | 13 | Rental Property Information, (1922 - 1931). |
|------|----|---|

**SERIES: UTILITY BILLS AND RECEIPTS**

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**Box Folder Description**

- |      |    |   |
|------|----|---|
| 1066 | 14 | Alabama Power Company, (1924 - 1925, 1928 - 1930).  |
|      | 15 | Alabama Utilities Service Company, (1929 - 1930).   |
|      | 16 | Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, (1922 - 1930).                                   |
|      | 17 | Tuscaloosa (City of) - City Clerk, Tax Assessor and Collector, Building Permits. (1921 - 1930). |
|      | 18 | Tuscaloosa Railway and Utilities Company, (1921 - 1930).  |
|      | 19 | Water Works Commission - Tuscaloosa, (1921 - 1930).   |

**SERIES: ORGANIZATIONS**

**Box Folder Description**

- |      |    |   |
|------|----|---|
| 1066 | 20 | Chamber of Commerce - Tuscaloosa, Alabama, (1922 - 1925). |
|------|----|---|

**SERIES: FINANCIAL**

**Box Folder Description**

- |      |    |   |
|------|----|---|
| 1066 | 21 | First National Bank of Tuscaloosa - General Receipts, Deposit Slips, Cancelled checks, Bank notes, (1921 - 1930). |
|      | 22 | First National Bank of Tuscaloosa - General Receipts, Deposit Slips, Cancelled checks, Bank notes, (1921 - 1930). |
|      | 23 | First National Bank of Tuscaloosa - General Receipts, Deposit Slips, Cancelled checks, Bank notes, (1921 - 1930). |

**SERIES: VENDOR BILLS AND RECEIPTS**

**Box Folder Description**

- |      |    |  |
|------|----|--|
| 1067 | 1  | Alabama Feed and Grocery Company, (1928 - 1930).               |
|      | 2  | Albert Holman Lumber Company, (1923 - 1924, 1928 - 1929).      |
|      | 3  | Allen & Jemison Company, (1922 - 1930).                        |
|      | 4  | Archie Leland Company, (1923 - 1924).                          |
|      | 5  | Automobile Information and Vendors, (1921 - 1930).             |
|      | 6  | Archie Leland Company, (1923 - 1924).                          |
|      | 7  | A. W. Reed Coal Company, Inc., (1930).                         |
|      | 8  | Baker Sand & Gravel Company, Inc., (1923 - 1925, 1928 - 1929). |
|      | 9  | Barnes & Chism Lumber, (1921 - 1923).                          |
|      | 10 | Barnes Electric Company, (1928 - 1929).                        |
|      | 11 | J. Balach & Son Outfitters, (1922 - 1924).                     |
|      | 12 | Boston Woven Hose & Rubber Company, (1923).                    |
|      | 13 | Bridgers - Tidwell Lumber Company, (1929 - 1930).              |
|      | 14 | Burchfield Brothers Wholesale Grocers, (1923).                 |
|      | 15 | Chas. Black Company Outfitters, (1923).                        |
|      | 16 | Christian & Faucett General Merchandise, (1928 - 1930).        |
|      | 17 | Cole Supply Company, Inc., (1923 - 1930).                      |
|      | 18 | Deal - Persons Planing Mill Company, (1924 - 1925).            |
|      | 19 | The Delview Dairy, (1930 - 1931).                              |
|      | 20 | Dershide Tailoring Company, (1922 - 1923, 1930).               |

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- 21 Eddins Bros. Electrical Contractors, (1922 - 1925).
- 22 Fincher & Ozment Jewelry Company, (1925 - 1928).
- 23 Hanson Drug Company, (1925 - 1928).
- 24 Harris - Hamner Company, (1922 - 1923, 1925).
- 25 H. L. Holmes Plumbing Shop, (1921 - 1922, 1924).
- 26 Insurance Information - Policies and Endorsements, (1922 - 1930).
- 27 Jackson & Lewis Grocery Company, (1925).
- 28 W. E. Johnson, Dr. - Manufacturers, (1924).

**Box Folder Description**

- 1068 1 Lindsey Grocery Company, (1922, 1924 - 1925).
- 2 Montgomery & Horton Fancy, Groceries, Meats and Produce, (1922).
- 3 Moore - Handley Hardware Company, (1923, 1930 - 1931).
- 4 N. O. Nelson Mfg. Company, (1924).
- 5 Newspaper Subscriptions, (1922 - 1930).
- 6 Northport Dairy, (1923 - 1930).
- 7 Park & Robertson Hardware Company, (1923 - 1931).
- 8 Payroll Information, (1923 - 1930).
- 9 Post Office Receipts, (1923 - 1931).
- 10 Railroad freight bills, (1922 - 1925).
- 11 Rogers & Williams Plumbing Company, (1923, 1925).
- 12 Stacy - Adams Company, (1923, 1928 - 1929).
- 13 Stafford Mineral Springs & Hotel Company, (1922 - 1925).
- 14 Swift & Company, (1928 - 1930).
- 15 Tuscaloosa Abstract Company, (1930).
- 16 Turner & Schoel Sheet Metal Works, (1923 - 1925).
- 17 Tuscaloosa Lumber Company, (1922 - 1930).
- 18 Tuscaloosa Machinery Exchange, (1924, 1931).
- 19 Tuscaloosa Steam Laundry, (1922 - 1931).
- 20 M. L. Waddell Contractor and Builder, (1922 - 1924).
- 21 Ward Drug Company, Inc., (1923 - 1924).
- 22 West End Lumber Company, (1922 - 1929).
- 23 W. S. Thompson Groceries and Fresh Meats, (1929).
- 24 Miscellaneous Tuscaloosa Vendors - only one bill or receipt from each company, (1922 - 1930).
- 25 Miscellaneous Vendors from around United States, (1921 - 1931).
- 26 Miscellaneous Vendors from Europe, (1930).

**SERIES: LEGAL PAPERS**

**Box Folder Description**

- 1068 27 Legal Correspondence and Contracts, (1913 - 1931).
- 28 State of Alabama Revenue Department, (1922 - 1925).
- 29 Tax returns and Information, (1920, 1923).

**SERIES: MISCELLANEOUS**

**Box Folder Description**

1068 30 Miscellaneous, (1921 - 1931).

**CONTINUING CONTAINER LIST WITHOUT SERIES MARKINGS**

**Box Folder Description**

1070 1 Business Correspondence, N – O1, (1921 – 1931)  
2 Business Correspondence, N – O2, (1921 – 1931)  
3 Business Correspondence, N – O3, (1921 – 1931)  
4 Business Correspondence, P1, (1921 – 1931)  
5 Business Correspondence, P2, (1921 – 1931)  
6 Business Correspondence, P3, (1921 – 1931)  
7 Business Correspondence, P4, (1921 – 1931)  
8 Business Correspondence, P5, (1921 – 1931)  
9 Business Correspondence, P6, (1921 – 1931)  
10 Business Correspondence, Q – R1, (1921 – 1931)  
11 Business Correspondence, Q – R2, (1921 – 1931)  
12 Business Correspondence, Q – R3, (1921 – 1931)  
13 Business Correspondence, Q – R4, (1921 – 1931)  
14 Business Correspondence, Q – R5, (1921 – 1931)

**Box Folder Description**

1071 1 Business Correspondence, S1, (1921 – 1931)  
2 Business Correspondence, S1, (1921 – 1931)  
3 Business Correspondence, S3, (1921 – 1931)  
4 Business Correspondence, Sa1, (1921 – 1931)  
5 Business Correspondence, Sa2, (1921 – 1931)  
6 Business Correspondence, Sa3, (1921 – 1931)  
7 Business Correspondence, Sa4, (1921 – 1931)  
8 Business Correspondence, T1, (1921 – 1931)  
9 Business Correspondence, T2, (1921 – 1931)  
10 Business Correspondence, T2, (1921 – 1931)  
11 Business Correspondence, U – V1, (1921 – 1931)  
12 Business Correspondence, U – V2, (1921 – 1931)  
13 Business Correspondence, U – V3, (1921 – 1931)  
14 Business Correspondence, W – Y1, (1921 – 1931)  
15 Business Correspondence, W – Y2, (1921 – 1931)  
16 Business Correspondence, W – Y3, (1921 – 1931)  
17 Business Correspondence, W – Y4, (1921 – 1931)

**Box Folder Description**

1072 1 A  
2 B – Bow  
3 John Ball

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4	Lizzie (Mrs. John) Ball
5	Lee Ball
6	Robert M. Ball
7	Pastor Charles M. Boyd
8	Boy – Bu
9	C – Cn
10	Co – Cz
11	D – Da
12	James B. Davis
13	Mallory (Buddie) Davis
14	Dr. George H. Denny
15	Df – E
16	F
17	G
18	H – Harris
19	Annie Harris
20	Hart – Hz
21	Maurine Heslet
22	Mrs. W. D. (Stella) Hinton
23	Annie Horton
24	J – Jz
25	George Carpenter Jones
26	Mrs. G. C. (Lida) Jones
27	Paul H. Jones
28	Roger B. Jones
29	K – McC
30	McD – McZ
31	Agnes C. McWhan
32	Mad – Mat
33	Maxwell

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1073	1	Fred R. Maxwell
	2	Jessie (Mrs. L. H.) Maxwell
	3	Jessie (Mrs. L. H.) Maxwell
	4	Joseph K. and Lucia Maxwell
	5	Thomas D. Maxwell
	6	Thomas R. Maxwell
	7	Will N. Maxwell
	8	Mi – Mzj
	9	N – Pa
	10	Lizzie Parkinson (#1)
	11	Lizzie Parkinson (#2)
	12	Pe – Pz

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- 13 Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Praig
- 14 R
- 15 S
- 16 Mary Seed
- 17 T – Z
- 18 Unknown Letters

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<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1074	1	Miscellaneous Letters
	2	“A War Time Letter” – letter of Richard Maxwell to Robert Maxwell. December 25, 1864.
	3	Records from the Old Maxwell Family Bible brought from England
	4	Programs
	5	Miscellaneous, Poetry, Prose, and Pamphlets
	6	Miscellaneous, Poetry, Prose, and Pamphlets
	7	Postcards
	8	Photographs
	9	1920 – May 1921
	10	June 1921 – August
	11	September 1921 – December 1921
	12	January – February 1922
	13	March – May 1922
	14	June – September 1922
	15	October – December 1922
	16	January – May 1923
	17	June – September 1923
	18	October – December 1923
	19	January – April 1924
	20	May – July 1924
	21	July – September 1924
	22	October – December 1924

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1075	1	January – May 1925
	2	June – September 1925
	3	October – December 1925
	4	January – April 1926
	5	May – June 1926
	6	July – September 1926
	7	October – December 1926
	8	January – February 1927
	9	March – April 1927
	10	May – June 1927
	11	July – December 1927
	12	January – March 1928
	13	April – June 1928
	14	July – August 1928
	15	September – December 1928
	16	January – April 1929
	17	May – June 1929
	18	July – September 1929

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- 19     October – December 1929
- 20     January – March 1930
- 21     April – May 1930
- 22     June – September 1930
- 23     October – November 1930
- 24     December 1930
- 25     January – February 1931
- 26     March – April 1931
- 27     No Date.