This collection consists of correspondence, legal papers, journals, ledger books, and ephemera of Mary E. Bugg Eversole and the Bugg, Cole, and Eversole families of Potosi, Washington County, Missouri. The bulk of the collection consists of Mary E. Bugg’s personal correspondence, 1883-1941, financial records 1912-1952, and miscellaneous ephemera, 1863-1938.

Two generations of three families are represented in this collection. The Bugg and Cole families were linked through the marriage of Richard M. Bugg and Anna Cole Bugg in June 1870.

Mary Bugg was born in Potosi, Missouri on May 3, 1871. She attended Elmwood Seminary in Farmington, in St. Francois County, Missouri. She graduated in 1890, after which she returned to her parents’ home in Potosi. Most of her personal correspondence is from family, friends, and contacts she made while at Elmwood. A particularly large portion is from Will Harlan, who zealously courted Mary from 1887 to 1894 to no avail. Dotted throughout Mary’s correspondence from 1892 to 1899, is the name “Ruth Goldsmith,” an alias Mary adopted among friends and her future husband, Edward Eversole. Earl Heagler, a family friend, wrote a series of letters from Paragould, Marion, Earle and Tyronza, Arkansas in 1916 containing many details on canal-dredging in the delta of northeastern Arkansas (F. 22).

Mary was active in the Presbyterian Church and traveled with the Young People’s Society of Christian Endeavor to many places, including Philadelphia in 1889 (F. 27) and the western United States in 1897 (F. 31-32). Other items of note in her ephemera are: a ticket for admittance to the “[Theodore] Roosevelt Tent” at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition or World’s Fair of 1904 (F. 47), a William Jennings Bryan Souvenir print on white tissue paper from the Farmington Fair, September 16, 1897 (F. 47), many booklets and announcements from Elmwood Seminary (F. 27-29), booklets from the 1893 World Columbian Exposition (F. 27), and elaborate invitations to the 1901 and 1903 Veiled Prophet festivals in St. Louis (F. 28).

Edward T. Eversole and Mary E. Bugg married in Potosi on November 15, 1898. Edward was born on March 3, 1866 in Washington County, and was educated in Caledonia and Washington University in St. Louis, receiving a law degree in 1889. An attorney with Anthony and Eversole in Potosi, Edward served as a prosecuting attorney from 1892-94, and probate judge from 1894-96. He was active in the Democratic Party, and was elected to the 41st and 42nd Missouri General Assemblies as a representative from Washington County in 1900 and 1902. Mary accompanied him to Jefferson City in January and February 1901 for events related to his election and recounted her experiences to her parents in a dozen letters (F. 35).

In addition to the papers of Mary E. Bugg, the collection also includes correspondence, financial papers, and business ledgers of her parents, Richard M. Bugg and Anna Cole Bugg, 1860-1927; her husband, Edward T. Eversole, 1823-1916; and her grandfather, George B. Cole, 1822-1937. Correspondence and financial papers of her aunts, Susan S. Cole, 1893-1914, and Ellen D. Cole (Mrs. George W.) Williams, 1891-1928, are also included.
Mary’s father, Richard M. Bugg, a native Georgian, served in the 2nd Georgia Battalion during the Civil War. Among his papers is an Oath of Allegiance to the United States dated June 1865, with a handwritten parole note on the reverse (F. 34). Bugg and his daughter, Mary, attended the Confederate Veterans reunion in New Orleans in 1903, and the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1913 as part of the Missouri delegation. There are several pins and medals from these events, along with pins of Thomas Hardeman (45th Georgia Infantry), General Benning (signifying Camp Benning, Ga.), Theodore Roosevelt, and William Jennings Bryan (all in F. 46).

The materials in the collection are arranged chronologically and fall into three general categories: personal correspondence, business and financial records, and ephemera. A complete register of the collection is available. Registers for individual folders are placed in the front of the respective folders.

Among the records are several bound volumes including the personal journals of Annie Cole Bugg (F. 65) and Mary E. Bugg Eversole (FF. 65-67), as well as one scrapbook done by Mary (F. 67). Seven volumes (FF. 53-57) derive from the business affairs of Edward T. Eversole including county tax receipts, a checkbook, a daybook, stallion records, a horse scrapbook, and two books of depositions and accounts for collection from his law firm, Anthony and Eversole. Six volumes from Richard M. Bugg and Annie Cole Bugg (FF. 58-63) include the account ledgers and daybooks of the mercantile operations of Robert M. Bugg at Potosi, including his partnerships with James Long and J. P. Bugg. An account book also exists for George B. Cole, Mary’s grandfather (F. 63). Many of the business records contain references to barite (tiff) mining, reflecting Washington County’s prominence in the extraction of that mineral.

One apparently unrelated account book (F. 64) is attributed to George S. Wallace of Old Mines in Washington County, an ancestor of the donor of the collection.

Eversole, Mary E. Bugg. Papers, 1822-1952

BOX 2

Eversole, Mary E. Bugg
F. 15  23 January 1895-26 December 1895
F. 16  05 February 1896-27 December 1896
F. 17  23 January 1897-26 December 1897
F. 18  04 January 1898-21 December 1898
F. 19  02 January 1899-13 November 1899
F. 20  17 February 1900-27 December 1910
F. 21  02 January 1911-24 November 1915
F. 22  17 May 1916-11 July 1941
F. 23  undated personal correspondence
F. 24  12 June 1912-25 May 1921
F. 25  09 August 1921-29 June 1929
F. 26  15 April 1930-29 April 1952
F. 27  16 Apr 1887-22 December 1893
F. 28  26 January 1895-25 November 1915
F. 29  22 May 1914-26 January 1938 and n.d.
F. 30  School notebooks: Ovid no. 2, 6 April 1888; Virgil’s Aeneid tablet no. 2, 8 February 1889; Prof. Wittman’s School of Music, June - August 1910 (three volumes)

BOX 3

Eversole, Edward T.
F. 31  10 October 1823-18 July 1897
F. 32  19 July 1897-17 December 1899
F. 33  09 March 1900-28 December 1916 and undated

Bugg, Richard M. and Anna Cole
F. 34  31 July 1860-25 September 1900
F. 35  15 January 1901-13 October 1909
F. 36  07 January 1910-29 October 1927

Cole, Susan S.
F. 37  15 March 1893-24 March 1902
F. 38  31 March 1902-30 October 1902
F. 39  17 November 1902-25 December 1914 and undated

Cole, George B. [includes some J. W. Cole and George J. Cole]
F. 40  30 October 1822-20 October 1877
F. 41  23 October 1877-14 January 1897
F. 42  20 January 1897-23 February 1937

Williams, Ellen D. Cole (Mrs. George W.)
F. 43  20 March 1891-18 December 1902
F. 44  30 December 1902-23 April 1928 and undated

Miscellaneous ephemera
F. 45  unidentified photographs (7), n.d.
F. 46  Pins and medals (8) [w/color slides of each]
F. 47  William Jennings Bryan souvenir print (1897), and ticket to “[Theodore] Roosevelt Tent” (1904)

BOX 4
Newspaper clippings and scrapbook pages [not chronological, many undated]
F. 48 General world and local news, births, obituaries, marriages, ca. 1888-1918
F. 49 General world and local news, births, obituaries, marriages, ca. 1888-1918
F. 50 General world and local news, births, obituaries, marriages, ca. 1888-1918

Sheet music
F. 51 Original handwritten music, “Southern Belle Grand Galop” by J. E. Deggendorf, Potosi, Mo., n.d.; reprint of “Life’s Story” by Charles Noel Douglas and Frederic W. Mills, ca. 1900; and “Old Black Joe” by Charles Gimbel, Jr., 1877
[all moved to oversized flat-file storage]

Religious publications
F. 52 Newspapers, pamphlets, booklets, lesson cards, 1890-1913

Eversole, Edward T., ledger and account books
F. 53 Washington County tax receipts, 1890-1904 (one volume);
1885-1886 depositions and 1 January 1891-1898, Anthony and Eversole, accounts for collection (one volume)
F. 54 Anthony and Eversole, accounts for collection, 1885-1902
F. 55 Stallion service book, 27 April 1905-27 March 1907 (one volume);
Checkstubs, 25 May 1911-13 August 1912 (one volume)
F. 56 Horse scrapbook, ca. 1900
F. 57 Daybook, April 1918-August 1919

Bugg, Richard M. and Anna Cole, ledger and account books
F. 58 Long and Bugg, ledger w/index, 1870-1881
[Bugg & Bugg formed, Jan. 1, 1878]

BOX 5

Bugg and Cole ledger and account books
F. 59 James Long and R. M. Bugg, daybook, 26 January 1870-21 April 1881
[Bugg & Bugg formed, January 1, 1878]
F. 60 J. P. Bugg and R. M. Bugg, ledger, 01 January 1878-16 September 1881
F. 61 J. P. Bugg and R. M. Bugg, daybook, 1878-1882
F. 62 R. M. Bugg Mercantile Company, ledger w/index 1910-1917; bills receivable and tiff receipts 1916-1917
F. 63 R. M. Bugg Mercantile Company, financial statement and inventory; 09 January 1918 (one volume)
Cole, George B., account book, 1873-1886 (one volume)

Unidentified account book [George S. Wallace?]
F. 64 Account book and inventory, 1919-1948
[moved to oversized flat-file storage]

Bugg, Anna Cole and Eversole, Mary E. Bugg journals
F. 65 December 1880-January 1905 (one volume)
December 1880-April 1885 (one volume)

Eversole, Mary E. Bugg journal
F. 66 January 1886-February 1889

Eversole, Mary E. Bugg journal and scrapbook
F. 67 March 1889-October 1889 (one volume)
Scrapbook of news clippings, 1901-1903 (one volume)
Items moved to oversized flat-file storage

- **1877** Sheet music, “Old Black Joe” by Charles Gimbel, Jr., 13 pp. w/cover sheet (F. 51)
- **1897 Jan 01** Calendar, J.C.C. Waldeck’s Provision Co., St. Louis, Mo., w/ handwritten notes (F. 28)
- **ca. 1900** Music, “Life’s Story” by lyricist Charles Noel Douglas and organist Frederic W. Mills (F. 51)
- **1919-1948** Account Book and Inventory, Unidentified (George S. Wallace?) (V. 15, Box 15)
- **n.d.** Handwritten music, “Southern Belle Grand Galop” by J. E. Deggendorf, Potosi, Mo. (F. 51)

Index Cards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder(s)</th>
<th>Index Cards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anthony and Eversole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arkansas—Description and travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avery, B. F. (SEE B. F. Avery and Sons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barite mines and mining—Missouri—Washington County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B. F. Avery and Sons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bearden, Belle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bonne Terre (Mo.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bugg, Anna C. Ellis [mother of Richard M.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bugg, Annie W. Cole, 1844-1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bugg family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bugg, Peter T. [father of Richard M.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bugg Mercantile Company (SEE R. M. Bugg Mercantile Company) [dissolved 1918]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bugg, Richard M., 1835-1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bugg and Bugg Mercantile [John P. and Richard M. Bugg]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business records—Missouri—Washington County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cahoon, Benjamin Benson, 1846-1923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carleton College (Farmington, Mo.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cayce, Milton P., Jr.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Cayce, Julian Paul [attorney]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christian Endeavor [SEE United Society of Christian Endeavor]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christian Endeavor [SEE ALSO Young People’s Society of Christian Endeavor]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Churches, Presbyterian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cole family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cole, George Brown, 1805-1886 [father of Annie W.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cole, George J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cole, John W., 1854-1933</td>
</tr>
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<td>Cole, Philip S.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cole, Mary Oates, 1815-1885 [mother of Annie W.]</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Cole, Susan Sublette, 1836-1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cole, William G., 1839-1898</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Compton, William R. (SEE William R. Compton Investment Bond Company)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confederate States of America. Army. Georgia Cavalry Battalion, 43rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conway, Virgie (Virgilia)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Deggendorf, J. E.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elmwood Seminary (Farmington, Mo.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eversole, Abraham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eversole, Edward Thompson, 1866-1916 [Judge]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eversole family</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eversole, Mary E. Bugg, 1871-1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eversole, William Goforth [father of Edward T.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eversole, Rebecca Ann Rutledge [mother of Edward T.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farmington (Mo.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forster, Jennie T. Cole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forster, Katharine P. (Kate) [married J. P. Cayce in 1903]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(R1268) Eversole, Mary E. Bugg. Papers, 1822-1952

Forster, Theodore C., 1875-1926 [son of Jennie] 22
Frenchman’s Bayou (Ark.) 22
Fulton (Mo.) 34
Georgia—History—Civil War, 1861-1865 34
Gettysburg (Pa.), Battle of [Reunion in 1913] 21, 46
Goldsmith, Ruth. (SEE Eversole, Mary E. Bugg) 46
Hardeman, Thomas 46
Harlan, Will 22, 29
Heagler, Earl Herbert 22, 29
Irondale Mining Company (Farmington, Mo.) 25
Jefferson City (Mo.) 35
Long and Bugg Mercantile [John P. Long and Richard M. Bugg] 35
Lyon, J. Adair 38
Marbury, Benjamin H. 15
Masonic Opera House (Potosi, Mo.) 8, 27, 28
McReynolds, S. A. 29
Mines and mineral resources—Missouri—Saint Francois County 34
Mines and mineral resources—Missouri—Washington County 34
Mississippi River & Bonne Terre Railway Company 8
Missouri Baryta Company 36
Missouri Council for Defense 29
Mosby’s men [SEE Confederate States of America—Georgia Cavalry Battalion, 43rd] 29
Nelson, Arthur W., 1864-1936 29
New York—Travel and description 2
Organ, John C. 27
Popular music 29, 51
Potosi (Mo.) 33
Presbyterian Church [SEE Churches, Presbyterian] 12, 20, 21, 27, 29, 31, 52
Ritz Mining Company 25
R. M. Bugg Mercantile Company 36
Roland, Don 36
Saint Francois County (Mo.) 36
Saint Joseph Lead Company 8
Saint Louis (Mo.) 8
Settle family 34
Smith, Charming M. 21
Tiff mining [SEE barite mines and mining] 34
United Confederate Veterans 21, 35, 36, 46
United Confederate Veterans. Benning Camp No. 511 (Columbus, Ga.) 35, 36, 46
United Daughters of the Confederacy 46
United Society of Christian Endeavor 36
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865 34, 46
United States—History—World War, 1914-1918—Engineer Regiment, 23rd 29
Veiled Prophet fair (St. Louis, Mo.) 28
Victoria House (Victoria, Mo.) 34
Washington County (Mo.) 34
Washington County (Mo.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865 34
Washington County Horse Fair Association 28
Westminster College (Fulton, Mo.) 33, 35, 36
White, Mary Cole, 1832-1852 35
White, Alice C., 1852-1920 [granddaughter of Capt. George B. Cole] 24-25
White-Glen Mining Company 35
William R. Compton Investment Bond Company (St. Louis, Mo.) 24-25
Williams, Ellen D. Cole, 1842-1928 35
Williams, George W. (Dr.) 24-25
Young People’s Society of Christian Endeavor 35