



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
ARCHIVES
AND HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

Combs (William H.) Papers UA 17.116

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

943 Conrad Road, Room 101

East Lansing , MI 48824

archives@msu.edu

URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections
Source - dnr:	Combs, William H.
Creator:	Combs, William H.
Title:	William H. Combs Papers
ID:	UA.17.116
Date [inclusive]:	1936-1979
Physical Description:	2 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: "Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

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Biographical Note

William H. Combs began his career as a teacher in the Indian Public Schools where he taught from 1914 to 1925. From 1928 to 1930, he was an associate professor at Berea College in Kentucky and then an instructor (1931-1938) at the University of Tennessee. He also served as a consultant to the Tennessee State Department of Public Welfare. In 1938, he joined the faculty at Michigan State College (now Michigan State University) in the history and political science departments. Combs served as the head of the Department of Public Administration from 1938 to 1949. In 1949, Combs became administrative assistant to the president in charge of academic affairs and Dean of the All-College Division, positions he held until 1956. From 1956 to 1967, Combs was the Dean of University Services, and from 1959 to 1967 he was the Secretary of the Faculties. In 1967, Combs was awarded dean emeritus status. He served as Assistant Dean for Continuing Education, College of Arts and Letters, and Director of the University Archives and Historical Collections. Combs was named the first University Archivist in July 1968. On February 28, 1979, Combs stepped down from the directorship of the archives to become a consultant to the archives and continuing education service. Combs died April 6, 1979.

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Scope and Contents

The papers are organized into five series: Tennessee Papers, Michigan Papers, Michigan State University Papers, Volumes, and Photographs.

Included in the Tennessee papers are his book *Tennessee: A Political Study*, published in 1940 in collaboration with William E. Cole, preliminary drafts of chapters and correspondence relating to subjects in the book. Other materials include a "Biennial Report of the University of Tennessee (1936-1938)," correspondence and reports of the Tennessee Taxpayers Association (1938-1939), annual meeting programs of the American Political Science Association (1935, 1940), and articles on county organization and the jury, judicial and criminal prosecution systems in Tennessee (1938-1939).

The papers relating to Michigan consist mainly of correspondence and staff or committee reports from the Commission on Reform and Modernization in Government (1938-1939), The Michigan Constitutional Revision Study Commission (1942), and The Michigan Joint Legislative Committee on Reorganization of State Government (1950) of which he was the project director. Also included are two articles entitled "Shaping the Political State for Tomorrow's Children" (circa 1940) and "Emerging Trends in American Politics: The Domestic Field-State Centralization."

The Michigan State University papers generally pertain to committees and campus events but also include some work with the Society of American Archivists and biographical information.

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Arrangement

Organized into five series: 1. Tennessee Papers. 2. Michigan Papers. 3. Michigan State University Papers. 4. Volumes. 5. Photographs.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall
943 Conrad Road, Room 101
East Lansing , MI 48824

archives@msu.edu

URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish material from this collection must be obtained from University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

Conditions Governing Access

Legal Status: Donor(s) have transferred any applicable copyright to Michigan State University but the collection may contain third-party materials for which copyright was not transferred. Copyright restrictions may apply. Property Rights: Michigan State University.

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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

See also Michigan Constitutional Convention papers (collection 00068).

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Controlled Access Headings

- Taxation -- Tennessee
- Michigan -- Politics and government
- Tennessee -- Politics and government
- United States -- Politics and government
- Letters (correspondence)
- Photographs
- Programs (Publications)
- Reports
- Combs, William H.
- Combs, William H.
- American Political Science Association
- Michigan. Commission on Reform and Modernization of Government
- Michigan. Constitutional Convention (Date of meeting or treaty signing: (1961-1962).)
- Michigan. Constitutional Revision Study Committee
- Michigan. Legislature. Joint Legislative Committee on Reorganization of State Government
- Michigan. State Department of Social Welfare
- Society of American Archivists
- Tennessee Taxpayers Association

Collection Inventory

Tennessee Papers

Title/Description	Instances	
<i>Tennessee, A Political Study</i> - Correspondence on Publication --, July 1939	box 2584	folder 1
"An Unamended State Constitution: The Tennessee Constitution of 1870" --, June 1938	box 2584	folder 2
Articles		
"Tennessee Experiments with the Merit System" (from Chapter 6 of Book) --, April, 1939	box 2584	folder 2a
"The Judicial System of Tennessee" (Chapter 7: The Court System and the Administration of Justice)		
1938	box 2584	folder 3
Rough Draft --, 1938	box 2584	folder 4
Notes and Correspondence --, 1938	box 2584	folder 5
"The Educational System of Tennessee" (Chapter 9) --, ca. 1938		

	box 2584	folder 6
The Jury System in Tennessee"; "Specific Recommendations on the Jury System in Tennessee --, 1938	box 2584	folder 7
"Specific Recommendations on the Jury System in Tennessee"; "A Model State Constitution" --, 1938	box 2584	folder 8
"State Supervision of Criminal Prosecution in Tennessee" --, 1938	box 2584	folder 9
"City-County Separation and Consolidation in Tennessee" --, February, 1940	box 2584	folder 9a
Clipping - "Waste in Tennessee" --, December 29, 1937	box 2584	folder 9b
University of Tennessee - Biennial Report --, 1936-1938	box 2584	folder 10
Tennessee Taxpayers Association		
Correspondence --, 1939	box 2584	folder 11
"Report on Taxes Payable by Electric Utilities to State and Local Governments in the State of Tennessee" --, February, 1939	box 2584	folder 12
Seventh Annual Report --, 1938	box 2584	folder 13
American Political Science Association		
31st Annual Meeting --, 1935	box 2584	folder 14
36th Annual Meeting --, 1940	box 2584	folder 15

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Michigan Papers

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles		
"Shaping the Political State for Tomorrow's Children" --, ca. 1940	box 2584	folder 18
"Emerging Trends in American Politics: The Domestic Field-State Centralization" --, ca. 1940	box 2584	folder 19
Article on State Centralization - Correspondence, 1940	box 2584	folder 20
Commission of Reform and Modernization of Government - Correspondence --, 1938	box 2584	folder 16
Commission on Reform and Modernization of Government - Draft of Preliminary Report --, December 20, 1938	box 2584	folder 17
Lansing Visitors		
Haile Selassie	box 2606	folder 52

Lists of Members and Committee Assignments of Michigan Constitutional Revision Study Commission --, 1942	box 2584	folder 22
Michigan Joint Legislative Committee on Reorganization of State Government		
Digest of Staff Reports		
#1-3 --, July, 1950	box 2584	folder 23
#4-6 --, September - December, 1950	box 2584	folder 24
#7-9 --, January - February, 1951	box 2584	folder 25
#10-12 --, January - March, 1951	box 2584	folder 26
#13, 14, 16 --, February - March 1951	box 2584	folder 27
#17-19 --, April, 1951	box 2584	folder 28
#22-23 --, August - September, 1951	box 2584	folder 29
#24-25 --, October, 1951, March, 1952	box 2584	folder 30
Staff Report to the Michigan Joint Legislature Committee on Reorganization of State Government - Michigan Department of Social Welfare --, October 1951	box 2584	folder 31
Draft of Report of Michigan Joint Legislature Committee on Reorganization of State Government on Department of Social Welfare --, 1951	box 2584	folder 32
"Preliminary Report of the Michigan Constitutional Revision Study Commission" --, 1942	box 2584	folder 21

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Michigan State University Papers

Title/Description	Instances	
All College Educational Research Committee, 1953-4-16	box 2606	folder 53
Biographical	box 2606	folder 54
Course and Curriculum Changes, January 1959 - October 26, 1959		
Part I	box 2584	folder 33
Part II	box 2584	folder 34
Part III	box 2584	folder 35
Part IV	box 2584	folder 36
Course and Curriculum Changes, December 17, 1969 - May 31, 1969		
Part I	box 2584	folder 37

Part II	box 2584	folder 38
Part III	box 2584	folder 39
Part IV	box 2584	folder 40
Miscellaneous Projects		
Annual Report of Director of Libraries, 1969-1970	box 2606	folder 49
Civil Service Commission, 1956-1958	box 2606	folder 39
CON-CON Reunion, 1967-1977	box 2606	folder 41
Dean Combs Misc., 1956-1979	box 2606	folder 43
Inaugurations		
Albion College, 1971	box 2606	folder 22
Calvin College, 1976	box 2606	folder 23
Central Michigan University, 1960	box 2606	folder 24
Concordia Lutheran Junior College, October 20, 1970	box 2606	folder 25
University of Detroit, 1966	box 2606	folder 26
Henry Ford Community College, May 20, 1973	box 2606	folder 27
Hillsdale College, 1971	box 2606	folder 28
Hope College, 1972	box 2606	folder 29
Kalamazoo College, 1972	box 2606	folder 30
Marygrove College, 1972	box 2606	folder 31
Mercy College, 1972	box 2606	folder 32
Montcalm Community College, 1972	box 2606	folder 33
Saginaw Valley College, 1975	box 2606	folder 34
Schoolcraft College, 1971	box 2606	folder 35
University of Michigan-Dearborn, 1972	box 2606	folder 36
Transylvania University, 1977	box 2606	folder 37
Western Michigan University, 1975	box 2606	folder 38
Michigan Constitutional Convention (CON-CON) Project, 1969-1973	box 2606	folder 40
Miscellaneous News, 1949-1960	box 2606	folder 44
North Central Association Data Supplied by Reeves, 1930-1946	box 2606	folder 42
North Central Association (N.C.A.) - M.S.C Rating--Reports, September 8, 1947 – 1970	box 2606	folder 9
Oral History Project		

Speech - Regarding John Hannah, 1970-12-1	box 2606	folder 51
Quarter Session at MSU: Study by W. H. Combs, 1962 – January 21, 1971	box 2606	folder 8
Rules for University, 1966	box 2606	folder 46
Staff 1931 - 32; 1941 - 42; 1951 - 52 etc	box 2606	folder 45
Study Committee - Course & Curriculum Changes, 1957	box 2606	folder 47
Successor of Mr. Towne, 1958	box 2606	folder 48
Teaching Research and Extension Comments by William Combs, 1971	box 2606	folder 50
Wharton Project (Part I), 1972-1973	box 2606	folder 10-13
Wharton Project (Part II), 1968-1973	box 2606	folder 14
Wharton Project (Part III), 1965-1973	box 2606	folder 15-21
Newsclippings, 1961, 1985, undated	box 2606	folder 55
SAA Meeting, September 29 and October 1, 1979		
Miscellaneous	box 2584	folder 41
"The Archives within the University: Mandate and Structure"	box 2584	folder 42
Correspondence Relating to Questionnaire and Paper	box 2584	folder 43-44
SAA Meeting, September 1970		
Structure and Functions of College and University Archives		
Private Institutions, 1970	box 2606	folder 1
Canadian Institutions, 1970	box 2606	folder 2
Land Grant Institutions (Separate), 1970	box 2606	folder 3
State Universities and State Universities and Land Grant Combined, 1970	box 2606	folder 4
Public Institutions (Other than LG and Universities), 1970	box 2606	folder 5
Committee on College and University Archives, 1970-1971	box 2606	folder 6
Miscellaneous, 1970	box 2606	folder 7

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Volumes	box 2584
Title/Description	Instances
vol. 1: <i>Tennessee: A Political Study</i> --, 1940	

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Photographs

Title/Description	Instances
People. Combs, William H.	drawer People Photos

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