

EMBREEVILLE AND BUMPASS COVE COLLECTION

Accession Number 10
c. 1890s-2005 and undated
.25 linear foot (2 boxes)
28 photographic print images
8 negatives
74 35mm negatives

Provenance: The collection was donated by Martha Whaley, Elizabethton, Tenn., on April 4, 2019. The material had been given to her earlier by Martha Tubbs, granddaughter of Dr. A. J. Willis.

Access Note: The collection is available for research use.

Historical Note: These adjoining Washington County communities contained some of the richest mineral deposits for iron and zinc in East Tennessee. Bullets from the mines there supposedly were fired by the Overmountain Men at the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780. In the early 1800s, the Embree family acquired lands here and developed an iron forge, which became widely known for its iron products. During the Civil War, Duff Green operated the mines here to supply the Confederate army. British investors expanded operations in the 1890s, and the Southern Railway built a spur line to connect to Johnson City. The company reorganized in 1913 as the Embree Iron Company, with Thomas N. Wyman as general manager until his death in 1936. By the 1900s, zinc and manganese became the principal mining done at Embreeville. By 1960, the last mining ended.

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of newspaper clippings, journal articles, correspondence, and photographs related to the history of the Embreeville and Bumpass Cove areas of Washington County, Tenn. Arranged as one series, materials are organized in alphabetical order by subject type. Photographs are arranged by image size, then by date, with unidentified or undated images filed after identified and dated images.

Note: Two maps donated with the collection were transferred to the department's Map Collections: "Map of Johnson City and Washington County, Tennessee," prepared by the Upper East Tennessee Section, Local Planning Assistance Office, January, 1985, revised April 1986 and "Mountain Heritage Travel Map," printed by the Upper East Tennessee Tourism Council, Jonesborough, Tennessee, 1987.

Important subjects include:

Bumpass Cove (Tenn.)
Embreeville (Tenn.)

Industries—Tennessee—History
Iron industry and trade—Tennessee—Washington County
Railroads—Tennessee—Washington County
Southern Railway (U.S.)
Washington County (Tenn.)—Economic conditions
Washington County (Tenn.)—History

Box/Folder/Item List

Box 1

Folder 1: Articles, 1944 and 1993

- a. Paul Fink, "The Bumpass Cove Mines and Embreeville," East Tennessee Historical Society *Publications* 16 (1944): pages 48-64 (photocopy).
- b. Thomas S. Wyman, "Southern Railway's Long-Abandoned Embreeville Branch," *Southern Railway Historical Association Magazine* (May-June 1993).

Folder 2: Clippings, 1919-2005 and undated

- a. "Contract Let for Embreeville Bridge," Jonesborough *Herald and Tribune*, 1919. (photocopy)
- b. "Embreeville Mines, After Turbulent History Resume War-Time Zinc Production," *Johnson City Press*, 1942 (photocopy).
- c. "Time stands suspended at Eureka Roller Mills," *Johnson City Press*, November 13, 1985 (photocopy).
- d. "Reunion set for miners, residents of Bumpass Cove," *Johnson City Press*, May 30, 1993.
- e. "New book details lengthy history of county," *Johnson City Press*, January 28, 2001.
- f. "Mining Memories," *Johnson City Press*, February 14, 2005.
- g. "Dance at Embreeville Friday Night," Jonesborough *Herald & Tribune*, undated. (copy)
- h. "First Methodist Church takes long look backward at first 100 years." *Johnson City Press-Chronicle*, undated.

Folder 3: Correspondence: Thomas Wyman, 1988-2004 and undated

Includes personal correspondence; notes of an interview with Joe Rogers (June 6, 1993), and copies of two maps of the Southern Railway Company's Embreeville Junction to Embreeville line.

Folder 4: Miscellaneous, 1981 and undated

- a. Embreeville United Methodist Church Bulletin, May 31, 1981. (Gives a brief history of the church.)
- b. Embree Iron Company employee tags (3).

Folder 5: Photographs: Negatives, undated (8 items)

Folder 6: Photographs: Prints, c. 1890s-c. 1916 and undated (23 items/28 images)

3 ½" x 5"

1. Commissary, Embree Iron Company, undated.
2. 1 "Green Gables" from across the river, undated.
3. Hydraulic Mining at Embree Iron Company, undated.
4. Lockner's Island (partial view, taken from the top of the furnace), undated (3 copies).
5. Railroad station and residence, undated.
6. Rattlesnake Bluff taken from the ferry, undated.
7. Residences, Zinc operation at Embree Iron Company, undated.
8. View of furnace from across the river, undated.
9. View from the village showing several locations, undated.
Includes Mrs. Edward's house; Embreeville Station; Embreeville Post Office; one end of the Embree Iron Company office; Archer's house; partial view of the iron yard and Shinbone Mountain.
10. Unidentified men, undated.

5" x 7"

11. Embree Iron Company's Club House and flag pole, undated.
12. H. B. Hackett, undated.
13. Nolichucky River looking towards Embreeville, undated.
14. Railroad bridge wash-out, undated
15. Railroad bridge wash-out remains, undated.
16. Railroad trestle, undated.

8 ½" x 11 ½"

17. Embree Iron Company, c. early 1890s and c. 1914. (2 scenes on 1 sheet)
18. "Old Betsy" narrow gauge gasoline train engine, c. 1916. (2 scenes on 1 sheet)
19. Embree Iron blast furnace, undated.
20. Embreeville Branch line, undated. (3 scenes on 1 sheet)
21. Embreeville's "Main Street" and Embreeville School, undated. (2 scenes on 1 sheet) [Includes in one image a young Martha Willis and Freddie Berry.]

35mm negatives (stored in Photographic Negatives (35mm) box)

Folder 1: Photographs: Negatives, undated. (Contains 74 images.)