Descriptive Summary

Creator: Jenkins, William Franklin, 1876-1961.
Title: William Franklin Jenkins family papers, 1868-1967
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 448
Extent: 2 linear feet (4 boxes), 3 bound volumes (BV), and 1 oversized papers box (OP)
Abstract: Family papers of Georgia justice William Franklin Jenkins including correspondence, manuscripts, poems, printed materials, notebooks, and a scrapbook.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source
Gift, 1966, with subsequent additions.

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], William Franklin Jenkins family papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Collection Description

Biographical Note
William Franklin Jenkins was born on September 7, 1876 near Friendship in Webster County, Georgia. He was the son of Judge W. Frank (William Franklin) (b. 1845) and Leila Head Jenkins and was raised in Eatonton, where he attended the public schools. He went to the University

Emory Libraries provides copies of its finding aids for use only in research and private study. Copies supplied may not be copied for others or otherwise distributed without prior consent of the holding repository.
of Virginia (1893-1894) and received his law degree from the University of Georgia in 1896.
He practiced law with his father in Eatonton until 1909, serving as mayor (1902-1903) and
as the representative from Putnam County in the Georgia General Assembly (1905-1906). A
life-long Democrat, Jenkins held several offices in the state party. In 1916, he was a Georgia
delegate to the National Democratic Convention. The same year, he was elected to a seat on the
Georgia Court of Appeals, and in 1920 he became the Presiding Justice. He held that position
without opposition until 1936. In that year, a vacancy having occurred on the bench of the
Georgia Supreme Court, his friends urged him to seek that office. He did so, and won without
opposition. On January 1, 1947, Jenkins was named Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of
Georgia. He retired from the Court in September 1948, after 32 years of distinguished public
service, to accept a teaching position in Emory University's Law School. He was a trustee of
Mercer University, president of the board of trustees of the Eatonton public school system, and
president of the Putnam County Board of Education. Jenkins was a Baptist. Jenkins was the
author of many addresses, articles, and poems. In 1955, he published a book of poems entitled
Afterthoughts. In 1899, Jenkins married Susie May Thomas. The Jenkins' had two children-
George Thomas Jenkins and Mrs. Joseph H. Owens. After his wife died, Jenkins went live with
his daughter in Roanoke, Alabama. He died in December, 1961, in Roanoke and was buried in
Eatonton.

Scope and Content Note
The collection consists of the papers of William Franklin Jenkins and his family from
1868-1967. The papers include correspondence, manuscripts, notes, poems, printed materials,
notebooks, and a scrapbook. The correspondence concerns law, Eatonton, Georgia, Jenkins’
poetry, and the public response to Afterthoughts. Manuscripts are of articles and addresses; notes
are for speeches; printed materials include articles by and about Jenkins; the scrapbook was
compiled by Jenkins as a boy; poems are by Jenkins; photographs are of the Jenkins family,
Jenkins's swearing-in ceremony with Governor Eugene Talmadge, and his Eatonton home.
The family papers include correspondence, ledger books, notebooks, photographs, and printed
material. The correspondence is primarily addressed to W. Frank Jenkins, Sr. and relates to his
work as a lawyer and judge in Putnam County. Also included is personal correspondence to and
from his wife and children. The ledger books belonged to W. Frank Jenkins, Sr. and record his
finances for the years 1877-1883. The collection also includes some printed material, including
a history of the Eatonton Kiwanis Club (1967), diplomas, and a photograph of an unidentified
military band.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by record type.
## Container List

### William Franklin Jenkins, Jr.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Correspondence: 1895-1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Correspondence: 1944-1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Correspondence: 1952-1959 and undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Correspondence re: Afterthoughts: 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Correspondence re: Afterthoughts: 1955-1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Correspondence re: Poetry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Correspondence re: Poetry: Poem Titles A-L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Correspondence re: Poetry: Poem Titles M-Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Emory Law School: Class Roll for Legal Ethics, 1957-1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Emory Law School: Lectures, 1951, 1952 [2 volumes]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Newspaper Clippings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Notebook, Latin exercises, University of Virginia, 1893-1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Notes on Talks: 1908-1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Notes on Talks: 1930-1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Notes on Talks: 1939-1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Notes on Talks: 1945-1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Notes on Talks: undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Photographs (oversized)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Scrapbook, 1884-1894</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Writings about WFJ

| 3   | 1      | Biography of William Franklin Jenkins [his father] |
| 3   | 2      | Portrait Presentation, Georgia Bar Association, n.d. |
| 3   | 3      | Printed Materials, 1924-1954 |
| OP1 | 2      | Writings about WFJ: Printed Materials, 1957 |
| 3   | 4      | Testimonial Dinner in Honor of Chief Justice Emeritus William Franklin Jenkins, Georgia Bar Association, Atlanta, 1949 |
| 3   | 5      | "William Franklin Jenkins—Scholar and Gentleman," Sigma Nu event, 1948 or 1949 |

### Writings by WFJ

| 3   | 6      | Addresses: "Nicholas Breton and the Shakespeare Sonnets," Ten Club, Atlanta, 1956; correspondence, 1928 and 1940 |
| 3   | 7      | Addresses: "City Beautiful," Mayors' Convention, Atlanta, 1940 |
Addresses: "Confederate Memorial Day," Madison, Ga., 1911 or 1915
Addresses: "Sonnets of Shakespeare," Ten Club, Atlanta, 1927
Addresses: "Speculations," [about atomic energy], date unclear
Addresses: "Tribute to Chief Justice Chas. R. Reid," n.d.
Addresses: "Turkey," Ten Club, Atlanta, 1954
Addresses: "Unselfish Service," commencement address, Eatonton, 1926
Poetry: Afterthoughts, 1955
Poetry: Notes on Poetry and on Book Plans
Poetry: Poems
Poetry: Poems (oversized)
Published Articles and Addresses
The Smoky Letters, 1936

Family papers
Certificate, Frank Jenkins, Common School of Georgia, 1923
Correspondence, undated
Correspondence, 1868-1921
Diploma, Franklin Robert Jenkins, University of Texas, 1933
Ledger, W. Frank Jenkins, Sr., undated
Ledger, W. Frank Jenkins, Sr., 1877-1883
Ledger, W. Frank Jenkins, Sr., 1880-1883
Photograph, unidentified military band, undated
Printed Material
Printed Material, Eatonton Kiwanis Club History, 1967