



**THE CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, MURFREESBORO, TN**

UNCLE DAVE MACON COLLECTION

21-016

Creator:

Doubler, Michael D. (1955-)

Type of Material:

Research materials, newspaper clippings, discography information, manuscript materials, photographs, sound recordings including manuscript oral interviews, and commercial 78rpm records, and master recordings, personal artifacts of Uncle Dave Macon.

Physical Description:

10 lf manuscript materials relating Uncle Dave Macon
 Including .5 lf of photographs
 5 boxes of artifact items
5 digital manuscript audio file of oral histories by Doubler
9 78 rpm records
 5 commercial
 2 lacquer manuscript
 2 11inch test pressings
18 commercial LPs
11 commercial CDs
2 commercial DVDs

Languages:

English

Dates:

1870-2018
Bulk 1920-1975

Abstract: [written by donor/creator]

This Collection comprises the most comprehensive body of research materials ever assembled about the life and music career of David Harrison Macon, better known as Uncle Dave Macon, a country music legend and the first superstar of the Grand Ole Opry. These materials formed the basis for Dr. Doubler's research and writing of the first-ever, book length biography of Uncle Dave: Dixie Dewdrop: The Uncle Dave Macon

Story (University of Illinois Press, 2018). The strength of the collection includes original source materials from both Uncle Dave's personal life and music career. It is also the largest collection of secondary, printed materials in existence. A unique aspect of the collection is that it hosts several important singular documents signed by Uncle Dave himself, including government documents, business records, and correspondence with family members. Adding to all of this are several original 78 RPM records and two master recordings from early recording sessions. The extent of the photographic holdings, including several, never published images, is without parallel.

Preferred Citation: (Box Number, Folder Number/Name), Uncle Dave Macon Collection 21-016, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Access/Restrictions

The collection is open for research use. *All materials in this collection are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. Center staff are able to assist with copyright questions for this material.*

Provenance and Acquisition Information: [written by donor/creator]

Dr. Doubler created, collected, and acquired most of these documents during intense research conducted related to Uncle Dave's biography during the period, 2014-2018. Unique to the collection are extensive historical records on the background of the Macon family and singular anecdotal evidence related to both Uncle Dave's personal life and music career. In 2022, the living, direct descendants of Uncle Dave Macon in Middle Tennessee decided archive all of these materials within the boundaries of Uncle Dave's adult home of record, Rutherford County, Tennessee. It was also felt that housing the records at the Center for Popular Music at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro Tennessee would provide researchers, writers, and other scholars with the most ready access to the collection, rather than at other locations. In addition the Macon family has direct ties with MTSU. Uncle Dave has four descendants who are MTSU graduates: his son Esten Macon; grandson David Ramsey Macon; and two great-grandsons, Dave Macon III and Bernard J. Doubler. The Macon-Doubler family transferred the materials to the CPM during the period January – September 2022.

Subject/Index Terms:

Uncle Dave Macon
David Harrison Macon 1870-1952
Grand ole opry (Radio program)
Rutherford County, Tennessee
Country Music
Banjo

Biographical Sketch: [written by donor/creator]

Michael D. Doubler was born August 2, 1955, and was raised in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Following his youth, Mike earnestly pursued a career as a soldier, scholar,

and author, eventually serving twenty-three years on active duty as a Regular Army and full-time Army National Guard officer. A 1977 graduated of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, he holds a doctorate degree in military history from Ohio State University. After years of troop duty, he taught military history at West Point as a faculty member of the Department of History. Afterward he was assigned to the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., serving as a Pentagon staff officer and as a speechwriter for the Chief, National Guard Bureau. The author of several commercially published books and numerous special studies and articles, Mike is a nationally recognized expert on the U.S. Army's role in World War II and the history of the American citizen-soldier. He retired from military service in 2000, and currently resides in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where he continues to research and write.

Mike Doubler previously authored Closing With the Enemy: How GIs Fought the War in Europe, 1944-1945, which earned two national book awards and was included on the Chief of Staff of the Army's professional reading list. Recognized as a standard work, the book has been in print continuously for the last twenty-eight years. He is also the author of Civilian in Peace, Solder in War: The Army National Guard, 1663-2000, the official, authorized history of the Army Guard. Mike is active in the publishing field, serving as a manuscript reviewer for several publishing houses. He is a popular lecturer, having spoken at West Point, The National Archives, the National World War II Museum, the Heritage Foundation, the Army War College, the Virginia Military Institute, and many other locations. Dr. Doubler has appeared on several national radio and television news venues, including NPR, ABC News Tonight, and The History Channel. Most recently he is served as a consultant on the film *A Hellish Music*, a historical documentary on the U.S. Army's peacetime maneuvers held in Middle Tennessee starting in 1940.

Mike Doubler has a singularly unique connection to the life and career of Uncle Dave Macon: he is Uncle Dave's great-grandson. His interest in Uncle Dave has existed since his earliest years growing up in Murfreesboro where he was exposed to countless yarns and anecdotes about Uncle Dave's life and career. His grandfather, Archie Macon, was Uncle Dave's oldest son and made an effort to pass on Uncle Dave's legacy to his direct descendants by speaking frequently of his distinguished father at home and in public and by taking his grandchildren on tours of historic sites relating to Uncle Dave's life. His mother, Mary Macon Doubler, was also instrumental in preserving Uncle Dave's life story as was her brother, Dave Ramsey Macon along with his wife, Edna. Both Mary and Ramsey had extensive, personal exposure to Uncle Dave, and extensive audio interviews with them are included as part of the collection. At first a reluctant biographer, the richness of Uncle Dave's story- both personal and professional- made Mike Doubler understand the importance of a story that needed to be told, resulting in the first-ever biography of the Dixie Dewdrop.

Scope and Content:

Research materials collected by Micheal D. Doubler to use for his publication of book entitled Uncle Dave: Dixie Dewdrop: The Uncle Dave Macon Story (University of Illinois Press, 2018) and other related projects. The manuscript materials consist of photographs, newspaper clippings, and photocopies of articles from books, journals, newspapers, and magazines as well as oral histories and recordings and personal

artifacts relating to Uncle Dave Macon. The materials are organized by chapter of the book, which is roughly chronologically, and by format for preservation and storage.

Arrangement:

The original arrangement scheme for the collection was maintained during processing of the manuscript audio/visual materials and the photographs.

Collection Contents (Folder/Box List): [descriptions in brackets given by processing archivist]

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Description</u>
Box 1	Chapter 1 – Family Genealogy
Folder 1	Ch 1 Macon Genealogy
Folder 2	Ch 1 Gideon Macon of Virginia Book
Folder 3	Ch 1 Family and Military records – Civil War
Folder 4	Ch 1 Macon, Gideon, et al. Gene Macon
Folder 5	Ch 1 Macon – David Harrison / John
Folder 6	Ch 1 USS Macon Airship and Heavy Cruiser
Folder 7	Ch 1 City directory of Nashville
Folder 8	Ch 1 Uncle Dave Genealogy
Folder 9	Ch 1 Uncle Dave Siblings
Box 2	Chapter 2-4
Folder 1	Ch 2 Dave Macon Sons
Folder 2	Ch 2 Macon land holdings
Folder 3	Ch 2 Tax Records of family – Rutherford County
Folder 4	Ch 2 Granddaughter Mary Macon Doubler memories of Uncle Dave and house
Folder 5	Ch 2 Haynes Chapel history and notes
Folder 6	Ch 2 Church of Christ Doctrine/history
Folder 7	Ch 2 Methodism
Folder 8	Ch 3 Jewell Haynes Mazy Todd
Folder 9	Ch 3 Fiddlin' Sid Harkreader
Folder 10	Ch 3 The Cannon Courier reprint – Uncle Dave in Birmingham
Folder 11	Ch 3 Keep My Skillet [Doubler's handwritten chapter drafts and edits]
Folder 12	Ch 4 Sam & Kirk McGee Interviews / Wolfe Writings
Folder 13	Ch 4 Judge Hay
Folder 14	Ch 4 Judge Hay GOO Hits the Road (unpublished manuscript)
Folder 15	Ch 4 Opry [early family album & photocopies of program and clippings]
Folder 16	Ch 4 Opry - clippings
Folder 17	Ch4 DeFord Bailey [funeral programs, clippings, photographs]
Folder 18	Ch 4 Ryman Auditorium [pamphlets]
Folder 19	Ch4 Take it Away, Uncle Dave! 1925-1929 [Doubler's handwritten chapter drafts and edits]
Box 3	Chapters 5-7
Folder 1	Ch 5 Grand Ole Opry Museum WSM press releases
Folder 2	Ch 5 Delmore Brothers

- Folder 3 Ch 5 Knoxville Recording Session
- Folder 4 Ch 5 Songbook [1938 - Songs and stories of Uncle Dave Macon]
- Folder 5 Ch 5 Miss Tildy (Mary Matilda Richardson) [obituary]
- Folder 6 Ch 5 11 Cent Cotton, 40 Cent Meat [Doubler's handwritten chapter drafts and edits]
- Folder 7 Ch 6 Grand Ole Opry Movie
- Folder 8 Ch 6 Uncle Dave Death & Funeral – all obits
- Folder 9 Ch 6 Tribute by George D. Hay
- Folder 10 Ch 6 Scrapbook page by Uncle Dave's sister [obituaries]
- Folder 11 Ch 6 Poor Sinners Fare Thee Well [Doubler's handwritten chapter drafts and edits]
- Folder 12 Ch 7 Uncle Dave Macon House legacy
- Folder 13 Ch 7 Uncle Dave Macon Monuments Woodbury, McMinnville, Murfreesboro
- Folder 14 Ch 7 Personal memories (Kittrell, Readyville, Murfreesboro, Woodbury)
- Folder 15 Ch 7 Uncle Dave Macon's 100th Birthday Celebration
- Folder 16 Ch 7 Documentary "Uncle Dave Macon Program"
- Folder 17 Ch 7 Play in New York
- Folder 18 Ch 7 Walking in Sunlight Play at MTSU
- Folder 19 Ch 7 LeRoy Troy
- Folder 20 Ch 7 Macon Music Legacy [Doubler's handwritten chapter drafts and edits]

Box 4 Personal writings, discography, banjo, and other research

- Folder 1 Uncle Dave Macon Letters and Personal Writings
- Folder 2 Uncle Dave Macon Bio sketches
- Folder 3 Uncle Dave Macon Recordings
- Folder 4 Uncle Dave Macon Discography
- Folder 5 Uncle Dave Macon Discography notes [Doubler's handwritten notes]
- Folder 6 Uncle Dave Macon handbills for shows
- Folder 7 Uncle Dave Macon advertisements Prince Albert, Duck Head, wagon co
- Folder 8 Uncle Dave Macon Banjo Details
- Folder 9 Uncle Dave Macon songs [sheet music and research]
- Folder 10 Uncle Dave Macon GRAMMY nomination
- Folder 11 Esten Macon "Rambling Views"
- Folder 12 Jim Costa [letter, clippings, promotional]
- Folder 13 Billy Henson Materials Oct '14
- Folder 14 Beecher Bowen [clippings]
- Folder 15 Uncle Dave Macon Days [clippings]
- Folder 16 Uncle Dave Macon articles
- Folder 17 Uncle Dave Macon periodicals [JEMF #3, TN Folklore Society Dec 1975, TN Magazine Oct 1975, Appalachia Winter 1990, Collier's July 28, 1951]
- Folder 18 Programs [2010 George D Hay Foundation Hall of Fame Awards, UDM Heritage Driving Tour, Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame 2014, 1980 GRAMMY Awards]

Folder 19 Books [Uncle Dave Macon Photo Tribute, Country Music Hall of Fame Souvenir book 1978, Pictorial History of Country Music Vol 4 1971, Grand Ole Opry WSM History Book 1975, The Grand Opry Early Years 1975, Musical Instruments of The Southern Appalachian Mountains 1979]

Box 5 Book research sites notes

Folder 1 Interview notes [personal interviews by Doubler]
Folder 2 Hall of Fame Items [Country Music Hall of Fame]
Folder 3 Vanderbilt materials May 2015
Folder 4 Commercial research materials [books]
Folder 5 Charles Wolfe Interviews CPM/MTSU
Folder 6 Charles Wolfe's writings
Folder 7 Charles Wolfe [clippings about Wolfe]
Folder 8 Reviews on Book & final copy of Uncle Dave: Dixie Dewdrop: The Uncle Dave Macon Story (University of Illinois Press, 2018).

Box 6 Photographs

Folder 1 Uncle Dave Macon Family
Uncle Dave Macon: A Photo tribute by Micheal D. Doubler 2014
Various size copies of Captain John Macon, Lou and Annie Macon, Martha Ann Ramsey Macon (Dave's mother) and her parents.
3x5 copy negative of Uncle Dave's Mother Martha Ann and her sister Pearl posed in front of Readyville Corner house.
3 5x7 b/w photo of Uncle Dave's wife, Tildy posed seated in front of house.
c.1935-36
8x10 sepia copy of Readyville Band c. 1900 left front is Uncle Dave Macon
2.5x3.5 tintype of Uncle Dave Macon (standing) and older brother Eugene Macon (seated) 1884.
2.5x4.5 sepia original print Uncle Dave Macon as small boy c.1875 in front of original Macon Manor in boots and hat.
1.4x2.5 mounted tintype of full body Uncle Dave with hands at hips in vest with hat and pipe. (could be taken while in Birmingham for early performances)
2 4x6 b/w photo of Dorris Macon c.1930s about 25 years old at Uncle Dave's home, seated holding guitar wearing a suit and hat.
3x5 sepia print full body standing Dorris Macon, early 20s, in white shirt and tie undone with hat
3x5 postcard sepia print of Esten Macon in suit seated posed in photography studio.
3x5 b/w print Esten Macon wife Elizabeth Macon, and daughter Marilyn 1956 posed in studio.
3x5 color c.1975 of Archie Macon standing with Uncle Dave memorial stone in Woodbury, TN – photo by Michael Doubler.
3x5 color plaque on monument to Uncle Dave Macon in McMinnville.
8x10 paper photocopy of gravestones of Matilda (Tildy) and Uncle Dave Macon
8x10 b/w copy print of postcard "Birdseye view of Murfreesboro, Tenn"

8x10 b/w copy print c.1920 pf Murfreesboro, TN square facing Main Street, note the original location of the soldier monument (may be Uncle Dave at Mitchell wagon)

8x10 b/w copy print of downtown Murfreesboro looking down East Main from the courthouse, early automobiles.

Folder 2 Uncle Dave Macon Photos

2.5x3.5 sepia of Uncle Dave in chair with banjo in front of tree from lower angle

2.5x4 b/w Uncle Dave 'performing' with banjo in fun pose seated in front of porch

3x3 sepia Uncle Dave seated with banjo near tree at home in Kittrell. Mother-in-Law (Mary) and Wife (Tildy) standing behind Dave, Esten (age 10) on right Paul (age 5) on left. (2 b/w copy of same image)

2.5x4.5 b/w hazy photo Uncle Dave standing in front of house looking down at something in hands.

2.5x3.5 b/w Dave standing at corner of Macon house with arm holding suspenders [c. 1946]

4.5x2.5 b/w Uncle Dave Macon home including painted signage around door

3x3 sepia Uncle Dave seated in front of vine covered building with 6-string British market banjo. Photo taken in Oklahoma. (2 b/w of same print with 3 3x5 copies, and copy negative)

2x3 copy negative Uncle Dave playing banjo for mule

2x3 copy negative Uncle Dave advertisement for Prince Albert tobacco

2x3 copy negative Uncle Dave Gibson banjo advertisement

5x8 b/w of edited standing portrait used on headstone of Uncle Dave

3x4.5 b/w standing portrait of Uncle Dave near tree with hand up near chest (2 copies of same 3x5) edited for use on headstone.

3x4.5 sepia Uncle Dave standing in front of brick wall on sidewalk with hat and pipe (2 4x6 b/w copies, copy negative)

4x6 sepia Uncle Dave seated on stool with banjo posed for camera in photo studio

3x5 b/w of group in front of storefront maybe Arthur Smith with woman. Uncle Dave on right profile.

8x10 b/w 1977 Archie Macon standing with Uncle Dave sign at Appalachian Museum

3.5x3.5 color 1976 Uncle Dave sign with Dave, Archy Macon, Charles Wolfe.

3x4 color 1979 of historic marker for Uncle Dave Macon at cemetery

2.5x3.5 b/w Uncle Dave Macon, unidentified woman, Bill Monroe standing arm in arm. [Uncle Dave gave photo Vesta] (copy negative_

3x5 sepia Goober Buchanan, Uncle Dave Macon, Cousin Wilber Westbrook in photo studio Hattiesburg Miss 1942. Full body standing together (5x7 b/w copy)

4x5 b/w Uncle Dave plowing garden with mule spring 1946

2.5x4.5 b/w Uncle Dave with cane walking away from crowd on porch of house

7x10 sepia Uncle Dave at center with crowd of men around him at store front with automobile in lower right taken in Florida. (copy negative and copy print)

4x6 b/w copy print of "Four fans [women] from Dikeville, TN who stopped by to visit Uncle Dave Macon on Dec 3, 1950"

8x10 copy print of Uncle Dave seated with two women on lap posed. One is Howdy Forester's wife.

- 5x7 sepia postcard from Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum with portrait of Uncle Dave from side with pipe. Card is from David Morton to Dave Macon [jr] with new address.
- 5x7 b/w Uncle Dave playing banjo to mule in field
- 8x10 b/w Uncle Dave playing banjo with two more at feet. Dorris seated next to him with crowd of what looks like mill workers in the background [could be Duckhead promotional] (2 copies)
- 8x10 sepia full body of Uncle Dave standing in smoke house pretending to cut ham in full suite and hat [could be from Ed Clark Collection]
- 8x10 sepia copy photo of younger Uncle Dave standing facing another unidentified man with cigar in mouth. Both are wearing long jackets.
- 8x10 b/w of Uncle Dave on his mule drawn wagon. Wagon signs read "Banjoist & Songster Uncle Dave Macon Slowing Down but still moving" (3 copies)
- 8x10 paper print of Uncle Dave on what appears to be a bus, looking to camera with hand on suspenders and cane twirling in hand
- Folder 3 Later Uncle Dave Macon photos
- 5x7 sepia of Uncle Dave in photo studio seated looking up to left with banjo
- 8x10 colorized 1951 Uncle Dave seated looking right with banjo laughing [used on cover of Doubler's book] (b/w 5x7 copy)
- 8x10 portrait of Uncle Dave in suit, hat, pipe with hand on chair (5x5 copy print)
- 5x7 color of Uncle Dave sitting in court house by Beller Smotherman (color slide and negative)
- 5x7 b/w Entire boat "Jungle Cruise" tourist boat ride in Florida with Uncle Dave near front of boat in suit, hat and pipe.
- 8x10 b/w Uncle Dave sitting on Confederate memorial on square in Murfreesboro, TN Oct 1951
- 8x10 b/w closeup portrait Uncle Dave sitting on Confederate memorial on square in Murfreesboro, TN Oct 1951
- 8x10 b/w copy print of Uncle Dave seated at mic with banjo and signature at bottom for promotional
- 11x14 b/w portrait of Uncle Dave posed in photo studio with cane, hat and pipe at chest [1936-37]
- Folder 4 Friends of Uncle Dave
- 4x6 b/w full body four men standing in front of camper in suits. Top in pen "Big Howdy Forrester, Goober, Clyde Moddy, Cousin Wilbur. April 1, 1942 Dotham Ala."
- 4x6 b/w Tent in background with WSM Grand Ole Opry in front next to car with Bill Monroe's name painted on it. Malissa Monroe and Dixie Belle sitting in grass.
- 4x6 b/w photo of camp area "At trailers park in Dothan, Ala April 1942 Billie, Dixie, Wilbur in background near camper. African American groundskeeper at forefront with tool in hand.
- 5x7 b/w of performance tent that has "WSM Grand Ole Opry" on top. 1941
- 5.5x8.5 b/w of Bill Monroe 1941 Chevrolet airport limousine parked in front of Jamup & Honey's 1942 Grand Ole Opry Tent Show
- 4x6 sepia picture of a picture of Uncle Dave and Sam McGee posed with instruments in front of brick wall.

- 3x5 color 1982 Grandpa Jones at table with plate in front (2 copies)
- 3x5 color 1982 Crowd photo under tent most with back to camera many with instruments (2 copies)
- 3x5 color informal Earl Scruggs seated looking up at camera (2 copies)
- 3x5 color full body of Sid Harkreader seated in green chair [c 1980s]
- 3x5 color Sid Harkreader horizontal in green chair [c. 1980s]
- 3x5 color Sid Harkreader standing hear enlarged press photo of himself from the Grand Ole Opry with hand up to waive
- 3.5x5 color 1990 Christmas card photo of LeRoy Troy posed with banjo
- 5x7 sepia studio portrait of Sam McGee posed seated with banjo in hands, banjo and guitar at feet. [separated from portrait frame for preservation]
- 8x10 color "Ronald Jim Kins & Virginia Russell Lafayette, TN" band posed with instruments around camera informal. [separated from portrait frame for preservation]

Folder 5 Grand Ole Opry / WSM

- 8x10 WSM promo of Dorris and Uncle Dave seated around WMS mic in studio, back has "Reminiscences of Early Life" by Uncle Dave (6 copies, one without back)
- 8x10 b/w paper copy of Uncle Dave full body with banjo in left hand and has hat raised over in right. On stage in front of curtain
- 8x10 b/w paper copy of promo Uncle Dave seated at WSM mic in studio playing banjo with another at side in full suit and cigarette in mouth
- 8x10 b/w paper copy of promo Uncle Dave seated at WSM mic in studio playing banjo taken from angle with Dave giving closed mouth grin (2 copies)
- 8x10 sepia promo Uncle Dave seated at WSM mic in studio playing banjo taken from angle with Dave teeth smile looking to left of camera
- 8x10 b/w posed group photo backstage Curly and Ruby Fox, Uncle Dave with banjo, Lozy Jim Day standing with the Fox Hunters kneeling in front with instruments
- 8x10 b/w paper copy of Opry cast photo ad. Uncle Dave is on the front row center.
- 8x10 b/w reprint of Uncle Dave on Opry stage playing banjo "Purina Chows" ad as backdrop
- 8x10 b/w reprint of Uncle Dave performing on Grand Ole Opry with wooden backdrop with stove.
- 8x10 b/w close up of Uncle Dace on stage seated at microphone with mouth open playing banjo, foot up.
- 8x10 b/w WSM promo Arthur Smith, Dr Humphery Bates, Uncle Dave Macon, George D Hay inspect the medal awarded WSM and the Grand Ole Opry by Radio Stars magazine for distinguished service to radio. (2 copies)
- 8x10 b/w portrait of Demore Brothers with guitars in front of curtain
- 8x10 sepia full body portrait of Dr Humphery Bates two daughters who played Opry 1929-30. One is holding parlor guitar
- 8x10 color of Old Joe Clark of Renfro valley, KY playing banjo on porch
- 8x10 b/w of Uncle Dave seated with George D Hay standing leaning at fireplace [Ed Clark Collection]

11x14 b/w paper copy of Uncle Dave at home with guitar player (2 copies) Ed Clark Collection

11x14 paper copy portrait of Uncle Dave at home playing bajo with eyes closed Ed Clark Collection

11x14 paper copy portrait of Uncle Dave at home playing bajo with eyes to the left Ed Clark Collection

Folder 6 Movies

8x10 b/w portrait of Uncle Dave in overalls seated playing banjo wearing tattered hat and tung sticking out. Bottom is promotional for PBS Uncle Dave Macon documentary.

8x10 sepia still from Grand Ole Opry movie of George D Hay at WXY microphone on stage with box whistle under arm.

8x10 sepia mounted print of group scene in the Grand Ole Opry movie including Uncle Dave at left and Roy Acuff in center standing behind George D Hay.

Folder 7 John Hartford and Campbell Kemp

56 3x4 color photos of John Hartford with Crandell Kemp visiting and playing music. A few outdoor shots of the house as well as Uncle Dave Macon's house. (1 8x10 reprint)

Folder 8 First Promo Photo

8x10 b/w first promotional photo of Uncle Dave Macon seated playing banjo. Photo was use for Vocalion Records taken in Murfreesboro photo studio 1920. (1 photo, 2 paper copies and one 11x14 paper copy)

Box 7 Oversize items

13x20 framed photograph of Dave Macon with wife Matilda Macon with baby son Archie Macon about 10 months old 1902

Photocopy of Accent Daily News Journal 3/26/78 "Remembering Uncle Dave"

10.5x16 poster for the play The Dixie Dew Drop at City Hall Auditorium

Hatch Show Print reprint of Uncle Dave Macon at Temperance Hall School

17x22 framed b/w photograph of Uncle Dave playing banjo to mule in field.

Box 8 Artifacts: Shirt

one of Uncle Dave's white, cotton shirts, two gates-ajar collars, marked with Uncle Dave's initials, which helped to insure these personal items would be returned when laundered.

Box 9 Artifacts: Suspenders

a set of suspenders worn by Uncle Dave.

Box 10 Artifacts: Country Music Hall of Fame Induction Paque

Country Music Hall of Fame personal plaque: The personal plaque includes a copy of the inscription displayed on the public plaque. Note that Uncle Dave's plaque includes a medallion with imagery of the original CMA and Hall of Fame Museum building in downtown Nashville. The inscription on his Hall of Fame plaque reads:

UNCLE DAVE MACON
October 7, 1870 – March 22, 1952

“The Dixie Dewdrop,” from Smart Station, Tennessee, was a man whose delightful sense of humor and sterling character endeared him to millions. A professional performer on the Grand Ole Opry for 26 years, he was a “minstrel of the countryside” prior to that. He was a country man who loved humanity and enjoyed helping others. A proficient banjoist, he was a singer of old-time ballads and was, during his time, the most popular country music artist in America. (Elected 1966)

Box 11 Artifacts: Small items

Pitch pipe: Uncle Dave’s personal pitch pipe used while he was composing songs.

Funeral book: Actual guest sign-in book used at Uncle Dave’s funeral visitation in 1952.

Business book: Small ledger-type book Uncle Dave used to record his cash transactions on an annual basis. The book is from 1943. It is believed that he had maintained such a type of book for each year since the start of his freight hauling business in 1900. He continued this administrative practice throughout his entertainment career. This book is believed to be the only one to survive.

Wallet: The wallet in use at the time of Uncle Dave’s death. It includes luggage tags and a number of papers written in his own hand. It is believed these are notes to lyrics for songs he was hoping to complete and perhaps record.

Pipe: One of the pipes Uncle Dave used to smoke while at home.

Box 12 Artifacts: Cane

Cane used by Uncle Dave in his later years. He may have had more than one cane, but this one was certainly used by him, appearing in several photos. It was among the personal items recovered from Uncle Dave’s room at the Merchant’s Hotel in the weeks following his death in March 1952. Uncle Dave maintained a room at the Merchant’s Hotel from 1943 until his death in 1952 to make his appearances on the Saturday night Opry easier (the Merchant’s is on Broadway within easy walking distance of Ryman Auditorium) and to facilitate the road trips he still made at the time. At the top of the curved handle appears the initial “M” carved into the wood. Uncle Dave profusely labelled his belongings to make sure they were never taken by mistake or lost.

Map Drawer: Framed genealogy family tree

Location:

All manuscript materials are located in the special collections storage area filed by accession number. For list of separated materials [audio] contact archivist.

Related Materials:

The Charles K. Wolfe Audio Collection (05-023) contains interviews and recordings relating to Uncle Dave Macon and the Grand Ole Opry. The Uncle Dave Macon Days Collection (21-016), Everette Corbin Collection (09-011), and Tom Morgan Collection (09-015). The CPM also houses other items relating to the Grand Ole Opry and Uncle Dave Macon and maybe searched in the catalog.

Tennessee State Museum, Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Rutherford County Archives also contain related items donated by the Macon-Doubler Family.

Processed by Olivia M. Beaudry, CA, May-August 2023.