Harvey Benjamin Broome (July 15, 1902 - March 8, 1968) was born in Knoxville, Tennessee. He was a lawyer, conservationist, and a writer. Harvey was a founding member of the Wilderness Society, serving as president from 1957 to 1968, He was a great supporter of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and was an active member of numerous organizations. His widow, Anne Broome (Anna Pursel Broome), was Harvey’s biggest admirer and she wrote the following biographical sketch of Harvey, which appeared in *An Encyclopedia of East Tennessee*, edited by Jim Stokely and Jeff D. Johnson (Oak Ridge, TN: 1981.)
Harvey Broome (July 15, 1902 - March 8, 1968). From Ireland in the 1770's came John Adair and his family to East Tennessee. Adair was a public entry-taker who collected money for the sale of lands. He relied on his conscience during the American Revolution to justify turning over public monies, without authorization, to finance the battle of Kings Mountain. From England in the 1870's came George Broome and his family to East Tennessee. Broome, a wheelwright and carpenter, was a tenant who had been evicted by his landlord for doing what he thought "every Englishman had a right to do, vote according to the dictate of his own conscience."

Harvey Benjamin Broome, a fifth-generation descendant of his maternal ancestor John Adair, and a third-generation descendant of his paternal ancestor George Broome, was born in KNOXVILLE. He graduated from THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE and from Harvard Law School. In 1935, with seven other persons, he organized The Wilderness Society. From 1948 to 1968, he was a trustee for the Robert Marshall Wilderness Fund. He served as president, at various periods, of The Wilderness Society, the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, and the East Tennessee Historical Society. It has been written that the law was Harvey Broome's way of making a living, but wilderness was his way of life. The latter way was opened to him in 1917 when he accompanied three uncles on a two-week camping trip to the Great Smoky Mountains. That event began a 50-year hiking career; on his last hike, in November of 1967, he went with a friend to Charles Union in the Smokies. The 1917 camping trip also led to years of outdoor writing and to Harvey Broome's role as a leader in wilderness preservation. His first published writing was an article entitled "Great Smoky Mountain Trails," which appeared in the January 1928 issue of Mountain Magazine.

In January of 1941, Harvey conceived a project of keeping a journal in the manner of Henry David Thoreau, whose journals he read with dedication. This concept materialized when he received, in the Christmas mail, a 5" x 8" notebook from a business friend. He filled 26 such notebooks and a portion of the 27th. He did not make notes while hiking; "fact underfoot and thought overhead" had to be carried in his memory until time could be found at home to write. Sometimes this would be the day after a mountain trip; sometimes there would be a lapse of a week or more. These journals, plus a "black notebook" containing thumbnail sketches of his hikes, provided the text for two of his three posthumously published books.

Like Thoreau, Harvey constructed a box to house the journals. Thoreau's chest was handmade of pine and stained brown, with a front hinged at the bottom and a lock at the top. Harvey made his chest of walnut, from a tree on his property. It had a sliding front with thumbnail indentation and was hand-polished with wax.

As president of The Wilderness
Harvey Broome, 1952.

Society, Harvey was requested in 1964 to write a letter predicting the status of forest conservation a hundred years hence. He wrote that forests will be pressed for survival against the effects of overuse, forest disease, and air pollutants; that plastics and metals will have largely displaced the structural use of wood; and that the quantity and quality of first-growth trees will have vanished, except in such wilderness preserves as have survived. His letter is to be opened by the President of the United States on October 24, 2064.

With his heritage of conscience, his love of nature, and his power of articulation, Harvey Broome was deeply spiritual. He had an understanding of human relationships and human values. His faith, he wrote, was in life itself.

Anne Broome

Refer to: Harvey Broome, Out Under the Sky of
In his will, Harvey Broome left his papers and library to the McClung Historical Collection, a department of the Knox County Public Library System in Knoxville, Tennessee. Anne Broome donated additional papers, correspondence and writings.

The first four boxes contain Harvey Broome’s original, handwritten journals dating from 1941 to 1968. These were deemed by Harvey’s widow Anne to be so precious that they were kept in a bank safety deposit box. The following 51 boxes contain the files from the filing cabinets in the Broome home in Knoxville, and together the 55 boxes make up the core of the Harvey Broome Papers. The arrangement of the collection generally follows the order in which Harvey and Anne Broome kept the material. The subject headings they used on their folders were copied, with some small changes for clarification. If a somewhat unusual original heading was retained it was quoted directly from the original file label and indicated by quotation marks. ‘See’ and ‘see also’ references were added to assist the researcher in locating material. Most of the folder contents are in reverse chronological order, with the most recent information appearing at the beginning of the folder and the oldest material at the back, which was the way the Broomes kept their files. In addition to folders on individuals or specific subjects, the Broomes had folders labeled just “A”, “B”, “C”, etc., that contain mixed materials, usually correspondence, without enough material on each person or subject to justify having its own folder. Anne Broome was active for many years after the death of Harvey Broome in 1968 and some of the folders contain only her correspondence and material.

S.R. Polhemus
December 2018
The first 55 boxes of the Harvey Broome Papers make up the main part of the collection, containing his journals and the papers kept in filing cabinets in the Broome library at home. Additional material includes photographs, slides, publications, and additional writings and correspondence. As this material is processed it will be in Boxes 56 and higher and added to this listing.
Box 1: Harvey Broome journals, 1941-1948.

Box 2: Harvey Broome journals, 1949-1957.


Box 4: Harvey Broome journals, 1966-1968.

Boxes 5 through 55 contain material from the Broome filing cabinets.

Box 5:
Folder 1: ‘A’
Folder 2: Adrian College. Adrian, Michigan. 1930.
Folder 5: Alaska. Correspondence, articles, printed material. 1950’s-1960’s.
Folder 7: Albright, Horace and Grace.
Folder 8: Alderson, George.
Folder 11: American Forestry Association. Includes two collectors’ first day issue envelopes for Forest Conservation 1958 (one with stamp).

Box 6 (cont.):
Folder 21: Appalachian Trail Conference. 1937 program.
Folder 25: Art Guild Bindery.
Folder 26: Automobile.

Box 7:
Folder 27: ‘B’ (1 of 2). Ba-Bo.
Folder 29: Baker, Congressman Howard H.
Folder 30: Baker, Congresswoman Irene B.
Folder 31: Beckman, F. Woods.
Folder 32: Bellerby, Jack (John Rotherford Bellerby). Correspondence, 1927-1931.
Folder 33: Bellerby, Jack. Correspondence, 1932-1934.
Folder 34: Bellerby, Jack. Correspondence, 1935-1938.
Folder 35: Bellerby, Jack. Correspondence, 1939-1940.
Folder 36: Bellerby, Jack. Correspondence, 1941-1943.
Folder 45: Berlet, Walter H.

Box 8:
Folder 47: Bollinger, Franz. Also, Otto McAllister in Mexico.
Folder 48: Brandborg, G.M. (“Brandy”).
Folder 49: Bridgman, Howard. Also, Archibald Evans and Olcott Deming.
Box 8 (cont.):

Folder 51: Broome, Harvey. Articles, essays, notes. Miscellaneous, early (many undated).


Folder 53: Broome, Harvey. Articles, essays, notes. “A Week’s Trip with Dr. H.M.A. Smith.” 1925.


Box 8 (cont.):
Folder 70: Broome, Harvey. Articles, essays, notes “Buckeyes and Balsams.” Ca. 1951.

Box 9:
Folder 78: Broome, Harvey. Articles, essays, notes. The Incomparable Valley (Yosemite) by Francois E. Mathes. Reviewed by Harvey Broome in *The Living Wilderness*. Summer-Fall 1957. + Correspondence.
Box 10:
Folder 90: Harvey Broome. Bibliography, ca. 1931.
Folder 91: Harvey Broome. Bibliography, as of 1980.
Folder 92: Harvey Broome. Camping notes, maps, distances, equipment, menus. 1914, 1927, and later.
Folder 93: Harvey Broome. Camping gear, catalogs, etc. 1931, 1947.
Folder 94: Harvey Broome. Camping and hiking equipment and supplies. Orders and information.1934, 1950’s.
Folder 96: Harvey Broome. Correspondence and personal papers. 1928-1930. Includes Detroit.
Folder 97: Harvey Broome. Correspondence and personal papers. 1930.
Folder 99: Harvey Broome. Correspondence. Letter to the Editor of *The Nation*, July 11, 1934 and related material.

Box 11:
Box 11 (cont.):
Folder 109: Harvey Broome. Miscellaneous and Ancient Files of Harvey Broome. Includes poetry, letters and notes.
Folder 110: Harvey Broome. “Miscellaneous First Draft Writings.”
Box 11 (cont.):
Folder 141: Harvey Broome. “Steering.” Includes sketch “Carving His Own Destiny.”

Box 12:
Folder 144: Bruce’s Eddy—Clearwater—Hell’s Canyon.
Folder 145: Burch, Lucius E., Jr.
Folder 146: Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
Folder 147: ‘C’ *(C&O—see Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Hike)*
Folder 148: Cain, Dr. Stanley A. and Louisa.
Folder 149: California Himalayan Expedition, 1954.
Folder 150: Cantu, Rita. To Anne Broome.
Folder 151: Canyonlands National Park
Folder 152: Carolina Mountain Club, Asheville, NC.
Folder 154: “Causes”
Folder 155: Chandler, Henry P.
Folder 156: Chapman, Col. David C. Notes, 1944.
Box 12 (cont.):
Folder 157: Charities: “Which ones are worth giving to?”
Folder 158: Chase, Bob and Jean.
Folder 159: Chattahoochee National Forest, Cooper Creek
Folder 160: Cherokee National Forest

Box 13:
Folder 161: Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Canal Committee
Folder 165: Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Canal Hike and related material. 1954-1959.
Folder 169: Church, Elwood and Florence.

Box 14:
Folder 171: Clark, Irving M.
Folder 172: Clark, Nell.
Folder 173: “Clippings: Miscellaneous and Interesting.”
Folder 174: Cobbles Hollow Cabin. Deeds, snapshots, etc.
Folder 177: Congress, Members of. Letters to.
Folder 178: Conservation Council of Virginia
Folder 179: Conservation Law Society of America
Folder 181: Conway, Grant and Ione.
Box 15:
Folder 182: Cook Forest State Park (PA).
Folder 183: Cooney, Bob and Carol.
Folder 184: Cooper, Emily.
Folder 185: Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C.
Folder 186: Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area (WA).
Folder 189: Cradle of Forestry in America – cornerstone letter by Harvey Broome to be opened in 2064. October 4, 1964.
Folder 190: Craggy Mt. Scenic Area (NC). W.J. Dykeman.
Folder 191: Cumberland Falls Preservation Association
Folder 192: ‘D’
Folder 193: Davidson, Donald. 1946-1948.
Folder 194: Deane, James G. “Defenders.”
Folder 195: Defenders of Wildlife, Defenders of Furbearers
Folder 197: Dickerman, Ernest M. (1 of 3).
Folder 198: Dickerman, Ernest M. (2 of 3).
Folder 199: Dickerman, Ernest M. (3 of 3).

Box 16:
Folder 200: Double K Mountain Ranch, Goose Prairie, WA. Kay Kershaw and Isobelle Lynn.
(Douglas, Justice William O. See also Folders 405, 411-413).

Box 17:
Folder 209: Drury, Newton B. Director, National Park Service.
(Duncan, Henry R. See “Henrankin” file, Folder 277)
Folder 211: Durham, C.J.S. (“Jack”).
Box 17 (cont.):
Folder 212: ‘E’
Folder 213: Eakin, J. Ross (Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park. GSMNP).
Folder 216: Eleven Point River Program – Missouri (U.S.F.S.).
Folder 220: Equipment (directions for using); Mail Orders, etc. (See also: Warranties).

Box 18:
Folder 221: Erbacher, Jeanne. NM.
Folder 222: ‘F’
Folder 224: Fire Contracts
Folder 225: First Aid Class. 1942.
Folder 226: Fold Songs and Music
Folder 227: Forest Service. Field Offices and Field Locations.

Box 19:
Folder 233: Fountain City Casualty Unit. 1942-1943.
(Frizzell, E. Guy. See “Henrankin” file Folder 277)
Folder 238: ‘G’
Folder 240: Georgia Appalachian Trail Club. 1935.
Box 20:
Folder 243: “Grand Canyon Problems”
Folder 244: Graves, C. Edward. 1950-1975.
Folder 247: Great Smokies Ski Club. 1941. Two clippings.
Folder 248: “Great Smokies – War – 1944.”
Folder 249: “Great Smoky Mountains Bibliography. Stanley Cain’s Committee. 1945.”
Folder 250: Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association. 1932, 1933, etc. (1 of 2). “See Tennessee Park Commission folder.”
Folder 251: Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association. 1932, 1933, etc. (2 of 2). “See Tennessee Park Commission folder.”

Box 21:
Folder 257: Great Smoky Mountains National Park. 50TH Anniversary. 1984,
Folder 261: “Great Smoky Mountains – Threats and Problems.”
Folder 265: ‘H”
Folder 266: Hafer, Alvin.
Folder 267: Hale, Daniel Payne.
Folder 268: Hanes, R. Philip, Jr. Winston-Salem, NC.
Box 22:
Folder 272: Harvard Law School Fund
Folder 274: Hazel Creek. 1957-1959.
Folder 276: Hells Canyon
Folder 279: Hickman, Leon.

Box 23:
Folder 280: Hicks, Judge Xen. (1 of 2).
Folder 281: Hicks, Judge Xén. (2 of 2).
Folder 282: Hike/Bike Trail
Folder 283: Hike Write-ups
Folder 284: Hiking – Miscellaneous
Folder 285: Hilliard, E.H., Jr.
Folder 286: Huffine, Dave and Marge.
Folder 288: Hummel, Edward A. Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
Folder 289: “Hunting in National Parks, etc.”
Folder 291: Iltis, Hugh H.

Box 24:
Folder 295: Izaak Walton League of America, Inc.
Folder 296: ‘J’
Folder 298: Jennison, Dr. H.M.
Folder 299: Judge, Frances.
Folder 301: “Juristic Memorabilia”
Folder 302: ‘K’
Folder 303: Kefauver, Senator Estes.
Box 24 (cont.):
Folder 304: Kenyon, Karl W.
Folder 305: Knox County Planning Commission. 1943.
Folder 307: Knoxville-Knox County Public Library
Folder 308: Knoxville Tours
Folder 309: Kramer, Ann.
Folder 310: ‘L’

Box 25:
Folder 312: Leonard, Doris.
Folder 317: Linville Gorge
Folder 319: Lost Cove, Tennessee
Folder 320: ‘M’

Box 26:
Folder 324: MacKaye, Benton. Sickness, hospital stay in Knoxville. 1933.
Folder 325: MacKaye, Benton. Photographs. 5 pcs.
Folder 326: MacKaye, Benton. 1937. Presentation of “Two Damnedest Years” scrapbook and related materials. Includes 9 snapshots.
Folder 327: MacKaye, Benton. Correspondence with Harvey Broome. 1931-1933. (Photocopies of this folder were sent to Dartmouth College Library).
Folder 329: MacKaye, Benton. Correspondence with Harvey and Anne Broome. 1937-1941.
Folder 330: MacKaye, Benton. Correspondence with Harvey and Anne Broome. 1942-1943.
Box 27:
Folder 331: MacKaye, Benton. Correspondence with Harvey and Anne Broome. 1944-1945.
Folder 332: MacKaye, Benton. Correspondence with Harvey and Anne Broome. 1946-1948.
Folder 334: MacKaye, Benton. Correspondence with Harvey and Anne Broome. 1949-1951.
Folder 335: MacKaye, Benton. Correspondence with Harvey and Anne Broome. 1952-1954.

Box 28:
Folder 341: MacKaye, Benton. Correspondence with Harvey and Anne Broome. 1966.
Folder 345: Correspondence with Anne Broome. 1970-1975.

Box 29:
Folder 347: MacKaye, Benton. Magazine articles by and about Benton MacKaye. (1 of 3). Includes “A Project For An Appalachian Trail.” (noted by Anne Broome as ‘very important.’
Folder 350: MacKaye, Benton. Anne Broome’s correspondence with Dartmouth College Library.
Box 29 (cont.):
Includes 4 photographs.

Box 30:
Folder 361: Maryville College Environmental Education Center at Tremont.
Folder 362: Meeman, Edward J.
Folder 363: “Mexico 1936”
Folder 364: Milton, Alice W.
Folder 365: Minam River, Oregon
Folder 366: Modernage Photographic Services
Folder 367: Mooers, Rev. George A.
Folder 368: Morrell, John O.
Folder 370: Mount Everest Expedition
Folder 372: Mount Pisgah. Pisgah National Forest, NC.

Box 31:
Folder 376: Murie, Olaus. Correspondence. 1955-1956.
Folder 377: Murie, Olaus. Correspondence. 1957-1959.
Box 32:
Folder 380: ‘N’
Folder 381: Nader, Claire. 1966-1978.

Box 33:
Folder 398: ‘O’
Folder 399: Oberholtzer, Ernest C. 1947-1977. (see also Folder 246).

Box 34:
Folder 403: “Okefenoke Swamp - vacation trip. 1938.”
Box 35:
Folder 410: ‘P’
Folder 419: “Potential Wilderness Areas”

Box 36:
Folder 425: ‘Q’

Box 37:
Folder 431: ‘R’
Folder 432: Rainbow Bridge. Utah.
Folder 433: Rampart Dam. Alaska.
Box 38:
Folder 438: Roan Mountain
Folder 440: ‘S’
Folder 442: San Gorgonio Wilderness. California.
Folder 443: San Rafael Wilderness Area statement by Harvey Broome. April 11, 1967.
Folder 446: Save-the-Redwoods League. California.
Folder 448: “Selway – Bitterroot Wilderness.” Magruder Corridor Area, Bitterroot National Forest.

Box 39:
Folder 454: Skyline Road in Smokies (1934-1935), also photographs (Indian Gap 1928). Correspondence with Albert W. Atwood and George H. Larimer.
Folder 455: Smoky Mountains Hiking Club (SMHC). Harvey Broome’s notes for 1928 handbook, etc.
Folder 457: Smoky Mountains Hiking Club. 1931.
Folder 458: Smoky Mountains Hiking Club. 1932. Harvey Broome, President.
Folder 460: Smoky Mountains Hiking Club. Twentieth Anniversary. 1944.

Box 40:
Box 40 (cont.):
Folder 470: Strip Mining
Folder 473: ‘T’
Folder 474: Taxes, Property Tax.
Folder 476: Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. (Obed River, etc.).

Box 41:
Folder 477: Tennessee Conservation League
Folder 487: ‘U’
Folder 491: ‘V’

Box 42:
Folder 492: ‘W’
Box 42 (cont.):
Folder 502  “Wilderness Act – pre-history, 1940.”

Box 43:

Box 44:

Box 45:
Box 46:
Folder 524: “Wilderness Society -general correspondence.” 1941.

Box 47:
Folder 526: Wilderness Society -general correspondence. 1946.

Box 48:

Box 49:
Box 49 (cont.):

Box 50:

Box 51:
Box 51 (cont.):
Folder 571: Wilderness Society. Memorial contributions to Harvey Broome. 1968.

Box 52:

Box 53:
Folder 586: Wilderness Society.”1961 Grant to Wilderness Society (expanded).’
Folder 591: ‘Wilderness Society. Nominating Committee 1954 and Amendment to Enlarge Council.’
Box 53 (cont.):

Box 54:
Folder 600: Wright, Cedric. 1953. Includes one mounted photograph/postcard.
Folder 603: Young. ‘Art Young and Harvey Broome. 1935. Very Important: contains Young’s original drawing and letter re: Wilderness Society.

Box 55:
Folder 612: ‘Zahnisers.’ 1950’s. Includes one photograph.

S.R. Polhemus, December 2018