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**R.E. GISH AND COMPANY PAPERS (1884-1906)**

The collection includes purchase orders, receipts, and correspondence for the company, Gish and Neal. Many letters and purchase orders are from E.P. Sholl, perhaps a salesman for the company, as he toured the southern states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas.

- FOLDER 1** 10 Dec 1884, Jan – Dec 1885
- FOLDER 2** Jan – Mar 1886
- FOLDER 3** Apr – Dec 1886
- FOLDER 4** Jan – Dec 1887
- FOLDER 5** Jan – Dec 1888, 25 No 1906
- FOLDER 6** Undated and partial documents

**R.E. GISH AND COMPANY**

By 1875, R.E. Gish and Company was established in Lynchburg, Virginia. B.J. Candler became a partner with Gish around 1877 and W.B. Taylor was a partner around 1883. T.P. Neal joined the new firm of Gish and Neal in 1885 with the production of tobacco products. By 1901, R.E. Gish and Company dealt in hay, grain, and flour. The company ended around 1905 with the retirement of R.E. Gish.

**ROBERT ELLIS GISH (1849-1920)**

Robert Ellis Gish was born 24 December 1849, in Bedford County, Virginia, the son of William Gish and Sarah Ann Bush. He worked in Petersburg, Virginia, before coming to Lynchburg around 1867 at age 18. He was a merchant and tobacco manufacturer in Lynchburg.

Gish retired in 1905 and died 16 October 1920. He was and buried in Spring Hill Cemetery in Lynchburg.