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Hope, Bess Leona, 1896-1991 (MSS 126)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
Department of Library Special Collections
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 126 HOPE, Bess Leona, 1896-1991

½ box. 5 folders. 130 items. 1913-1980. Originals, photographs.

1999.227.6

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Bess Leona Hope was born on 27 September 1896 to John J. Hope (1867-1959) and Louvernia (Bowman) Hope (1873-1949). Louvernia became an invalid after surgery and spent her last 40 years in a wheelchair and later was bed ridden. John practiced veterinary medicine in Monroe County.

Bess attended the Monroe County public schools and graduated from Tompkinsville High School. She matriculated and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Kentucky University. Afterwards we taught for four years in rural schools. After two more years of teaching at the Tompkinsville Elementary School, Bess spent ten years teaching at Tompkinsville High School.

On 1 July 1937 Bess was sworn in as a clerk at the Tompkinsville Post Office. In November 1946, she became postmaster at that post office. She retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1964. Bess was a long-time member of the Tompkinsville Baptist Church. She died on 10 August 1911 and is buried in the Summer Shade Cemetery in Metcalfe County, Kentucky.

COLLECTION NOTE

This small collection contains material about two members of the Hope family of Monroe County, Kentucky. Most of the collection documents the U.S. Postal Service career of Bess Leona Hope, including employment documents, news clippings, and a few photos. Includes a group photo of Bess's 1913 8th grade class and a photo of school children at the Boyd School in Monroe County.

A smaller assemblage of items document the veterinary career of John J. Hope, Bess's father. This chiefly includes receipts for "Renewal of Non-Graduate Veterinary License" from 1919 to 1940. The collection also includes a "Certificate of Meritorious Service" for Hope's "valuable service rendered to the Democratic Party" in the 1948 general election.

The collection includes a folder of greeting cards, news clippings, and correspondence from/about fellow Monroe Countian and U.S. Congressman Tim Lee Carter. Most of the Christmas cards in this folder, feature Carter with his wife Kathleen and his son William Starr "Billy."

SHELF LIST

Box 1	Bess Leona Hope	1913-1980	130 items
Folder 1	Inventory and data		2 items
Folder 2	Hope, John Jay – Certificates and papers (see also oversized C1-D2a, #1)	1918-1948; 1949	25 items
Folder 3	Hope, Bess Leona – Papers and photographs concerning her jobs	1913-1920; 1937-1965	66 items; 6 photos
Folder 4	Letters, cards, and newspaper clippings – Tim Lee Carter family	1964-Post Dec. 1, 1980	21 items
Folder 5	Newspaper clippings and photographs – photocopies	1947-1964	10 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS HOPE, Bess Leona, 1913-1980
126 1896-1991
C1-D2a,
#1 Certificates – veterinary license renewal,
1918-1940 (22) and Democratic Party, 1948 -- of John
J. Hope, Tompkinsville, Ky., and papers chiefly about
Bess Hope's Tompkinsville postal service, 1937-64;
and correspondence with Tim Lee Carter. Also, photos
and newspaper clippings.
½ box. 5 folders. 130 items. Originals,
photographs.
1999.227.6

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Barkley, Alben William, 1877-1956 F2,3
Carter, Tim Lee, 1910-1987 – Correspondence, 1964-1980 F4
Christmas cards, 1964-1977 F4
Democratic Party, 1948 F2
Hope, Bess Leona, 1896-1991 – Photographs F3
Hope family, 1918-1980
Hope, John Jay, 1867-1959 F2
Licenses – Veterinarians, 1918-1940 F2

Postal service - Tompkinsville, 1937-1965 F3
Schools - Monroe County - Photographs, 1913, 1920 F3
Tompkinsville, 1918-1980
Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972 – Autographs, 1948 F2
Veterinarians – Licenses, 1918-1940 F2

Jeffrey 06/03/2013