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Brashear, William Helm, 1855-1942 (MSS 14)

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Bowling Green, KY 42101

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 14 BRASHEAR, William Helm, 1855-1942

2 boxes, 12 folders, 217 items, 35 notebooks, 3 scrapbooks, 1880-1940

Gift of the Brashear Estate, Bowling Green, Kentucky

BIOGRAPHY

William Helm Brashear was born in 1855 and died in 1942. He was one of nine children of Walter Curran Brashear and Martha Hope Crutchfield. In 1859, the family moved to a Warren County, Kentucky, farm located in the Big Bend area of the Barren River (later known as Beech Bend). William Helm was granted a law license in 1880; however, he never practiced his profession. Following a western tour, he returned to Beech Bend and settled down to farming and market gardening. Sometime later he opened the Beech Woods or bottom as a park, which at first was used mainly for church picnics. Later, he built a platform for dancing that proved to be quite an attraction and a source of entertainment for many participants. Next, he constructed a pavilion with a dance floor on the second story and a dining room and kitchen on the ground floor. Here his two sisters, Misses Dora and Jennie, served delicious dinners to clubs and private parties. The dance floor became quite popular for the Fair Hops, which were great social affairs of the era.

Brashear, even though busy with managing the garden market and park, found time to pursue his love of writing, especially that of poetry. His book of poetry, *Varied Voices from the Muse of Beech Bend*, was published in 1905. He also had poems published in the local papers and in the *Farmer's Home Journal*, which was published in Louisville.

After the death of Brashear in 1942, at the age of 87, the remaining Brashear heirs sold Beech Bend to Charles Garvin. The Garvin family developed this area into Beech Bend Amusement Park.

Bibliographical Notes

Excerpts from a letter of Mrs. Zeleine Brashear Cottrell, (Mrs. T. C.), 1530 State Street, Bowling Green, Ky., July 22, 1969. She was a niece of Brashear.

THE COLLECTION

This collection is composed chiefly of manuscript poems, compositions, prose, and a play. The correspondence is limited to 3 incoming and 3 outgoing letters, 1921-1940. Some clippings of poems were pasted in old magazines (3) by the author; whereas, others have been pasted on rag paper and alphabetized. These magazines could be classified as scrapbooks. Lastly, there are 35 manuscript notebooks.

See also 811.5 *Varied Voices from the Muse of Beech Bend* by William Helm
B796v Brashear, 1905.

SHELF LIST

Box 1			217 items
Folder 1	Poems & biographical sketch	1907-1940	28 items
Folder 2	Poems	n.d.	37 items
Folder 3	Poems		23 items
	3a - Poem "Alf Anarch"		1 item, 7p.
	3b - Poem with prefatory note, "Not Wisely, But Too Well"		1 item, 17p.
	3c - Poems - printed but printed copy unlocated		3 items
	3d - Printed & manuscript verses which have been copied or examined, 1929	1929	8 items
	3e - Poems examined in 1929 by W. H. Brashear		10 items

Folder 4	Play - "Albean"	1884	1 item, 24 sheets
Folder 5	Prose - Eulogy of Clarence Underwood McElroy, compositions	1849-1928, 1884?-1940	22 items
Folder 6	Prose	n.d.	35 items
Folder 7	Prose - "Adventures with Wolves"		4p.
Folder 8	Letters Receipts	1921-1940 1932	6 items 1 item
Folder 9	Partial manuscript		7 items
Folder 10	Magazines with clippings of poems pasted in		3 items
Folder 11	Newspaper clippings (prose)		10 sheets
Folder 12	Clippings of printed poems		44 sheets
Box 2	35 manuscript notebooks		

CATALOG CARD

MSS BRASHEAR, William Helm, 1880-1940
14 1855-1942

Poet and writer of Bowling Green. Manuscripts of his poems, essays, play, and eulogy of C. U. McElroy--some in notebooks; others in loose-leaf paper. A few letters (6) and many clippings of his published works are included. Also scrapbooks have published poems pasted in them (3).

2 boxes. 12 folder. 35 notebooks. 3 scrapbooks. 217 items.

See inventory for details.

Gift of Brashear Estate, Bowling Green, Ky.

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Authors - Ky.

Bowling Green - Poets

Drama

Essays, 1884?-1940

McElroy, Clarence Underwood, 1849-1928 - Eulogy of

Poets - Ky.