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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 4 NEAL, Mary Julia, 1905-1995

10 boxes. 115 folders. 1,546 items. 1806-1995. Originals, photocopies.

1995.49.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mary Julia Neal was born on 15 August 1905 in Auburn, Logan County, Kentucky, the daughter of Presley Taylor Neal and Nettie Pace Neal. Auburn is located near the former Shaker colony of South Union, and Neal grew up visiting the brethren and sisters and becoming familiar with her Shaker neighbors. However, it was not until she was in college that she began to research and write about the group that would become her life's work.

Neal received an AA degree from Bethel Women's College, Hopkinsville, Kentucky in 1925. She began taking classes at Western Kentucky State Teacher's College (now WKU), Bowling Green, Kentucky later that year, graduating with a Bachelor's in English in 1931. While working on the school's newspaper, the *College Heights Herald*, Neal was assigned to write a feature article about the Shakers by her instructor Dr. Gordon Wilson. "Shakertown of Long, Long Ago" appeared in the January 1926 issue, the first of her many writings that would deal with this unique religious group.

Neal received her Master's degree from WKU in 1933 and taught there as an instructor in the English Department for ten years. During this time the Kentucky Library was built on campus. Among the many items donated to its collections were documents from South Union which Neal utilized for her research. She also investigated collections of materials at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, and the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland. Neal visited the Canterbury, New Hampshire and Sabbathday Lake, Maine communities where she established friendships with the last twentieth century Shakers.

In the early 1940s Neal left WKU to do post-graduate work at the University of Michigan. While there she completed the manuscript for *By Their Fruits: The Story of Shakerism in South Union, Kentucky*. This book, the result of her research into diaries, manuscripts, ledgers, and other primary sources, was published in 1947 by the University of North Carolina Press. Reviewer Adele Brandeis wrote "it is written with the honesty and dignity and at the same time with the quiet joy and occasional humor of that people...."

In 1946 Neal joined the faculty of Florence State College, Florence, Alabama as associate professor of English and taught there until 1964 when she returned to WKU to become Director of the Kentucky Library & Museum. At the Kentucky Building, she oversaw the creation of a Manuscripts Division and spoke out about the need for an addition to the building. In addition to her work on campus, Neal was actively involved in the attempt to preserve Shaker artifacts by the creation of a South Union museum. She was also part of a group that sought to purchase and restore the remaining buildings at South Union. Julia Neal retired from the Kentucky Library in 1972, but she

continued researching, writing, traveling, and volunteering at the South Union Shaker Museum.

When Julia Neal died on 22 July 1995, she was regarded as one of the country's leading Shaker historians. Her writings had helped preserve America's and Kentucky's Shaker history. In addition to *By Their Fruits*, she edited *The Journal of Eldress Nancy, Kept at the South Union, Kentucky, Shaker Colony, August 15, 1861-September 4, 1864* (Parthenon Press, 1963). She authored the text for *The Shaker Image* (New York Graphic Society, 1974) and wrote *The Kentucky Shakers* for the Bicentennial Bookshelf series (University Press of Kentucky, 1977). Her articles appeared in journals such as *Shaker Quarterly*, *Filson Club History Quarterly*, and *Kentucky Folklore Record*.

COLLECTION NOTES

The collection consists of the correspondence, speeches, and writings of Shaker scholar and English professor, Mary Julia Neal. Boxes 1-3 consist of Neal's correspondence, from childhood letters to her later professional correspondence. The later correspondence is chiefly with personal friends, Shaker scholars, and those interested in communal or utopian studies. Of particular interest is some correspondence with Kentucky author Jesse Stuart, and correspondence with twentieth-century Shakers.

Boxes 4-5 contain drafts and galley proofs of Neal's books about the Shakers. Box 6 contains other writings by Neal, chiefly speeches and articles about Shakers or Kentucky culture. Box 7 consists of research pursued by Neal and other Shaker scholars, again chiefly related to the Shakers. Box 8 contains personal information about Neal including newspaper clippings, programs listing Neal as a speaker, notes about awards received by Neal, and information about her time at Bethel College (Hopkinsville), as well as vertical file material about Shaker villages.

Box 9 contains photographs of the Neal family as well as nineteenth- and twentieth-century photos of Shakers and their villages. The majority of the Shaker photographs are from South Union, Kentucky. The box also contains a number of photographs of the Shakers who lived in the latter part of the twentieth century at Canterbury, New Hampshire and Sabbathday Lake, Maine. The box also includes some snapshots of the Red River Union Meeting House.

Box 10 contains information about Neal's professional associations and interests: newspaper clippings about the history of Auburn, Kentucky; her nephew, Stanley Carter Pace, St. Mark's Priory at South Union, the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society, and the Historic Communal Societies Association and its annual conference.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Mary Julia Neal	1915-1979	427 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Letters written by Neal as a child to her parents while visiting relatives in Cumberland County	1915	17 items
Folder 3	Correspondence	1921-1959	64 items

Folder 4	Correspondence	1960-1969	103 items
Folder 5	Correspondence	1972	64 items
Folder 6	Correspondence	1973-1974	68 items
Folder 7	Letters to Neal	1975-1977	70 items
Folder 8	Letters to Neal	1978-1979	40 items
BOX 2	Mary Julia Neal	1967-1995	398 items
Folder 1	Letters to Neal	1980-1982	56 items
Folder 2	Correspondence	1983-1984	54 items
Folder 3	Letters to Neal	1985-1986	54 items
Folder 4	Letters to Neal	1987-1989	43 items
Folder 5	Correspondence	1990	29 items
Folder 6	Correspondence	1991-1995	28 items
Folder 7	Correspondence	n.d.	79 items
Folder 8	Correspondence with Jesse Stuart	1967-1974	42 items
Folder 9	Kentucky Quilt Project – Correspondence, exhibit invitation, etc.	1982-1986	13 items
BOX 3	Mary Julia Neal	1877-1990	192 items
Folder 1	Correspondence with Shakers	1954-1982, n.d.	73 items
Folder 2	Christmas and other holiday cards sent to Neal by various Shakers	1974-1990, n.d.	54 items
Folder 3	Letters by Shakers or Shaker scholars addressed to someone other than Neal	1930-1985	14 items
Folder 4	Letters sent by Shakers to Deedy Hall (Mrs. Curry Hall)	1961-1964	16 items

Folder 5	Letter, postcards, and articles from James E. Pace regarding a trip to the Middle East; also a death notice for Pace	1912; 1917	13 items
Folder 6	Receipts and promissory note related to John C. Darby and Mary E. Darby of Auburn, KY	1877-1910	11 items
Folder 7	Letters to Neal's parents, P.T. & Nellie (Pace) Neal	1902; 1920-1924	8 items
Folder 8	Letters written by Aaron Fuqua to family and a genealogy of the Fuqua family	1894-1898	3 items
BOX 4	Mary Julia Neal	[1945]-1964	43 items
Folder 1	Draft for <i>By Their Fruits</i> (349 p.)	[1945]	1 item
Folder 2	<i>By Their Fruits</i> – Dust jackets	1947	2 items
Folder 3	Hopwood Award – Correspondence and news clippings	1945-1964	40 items
BOX 5	Mary Julia Neal	1947-1995	69 items
Folder 1	Draft of <i>The Journal of Eldress Nancy</i>	1962?	1 item;
Folder 2	Galley proof for <i>The Journal of Eldress Nancy</i>	1963	1 item;
Folder 3	Draft, Rough – <i>Kentucky Shakers</i>	[1976]	1 item
Folder 4	Draft, 2 nd – <i>Kentucky Shakers</i>	[1976]	1 item
Folder 5	Galley, proof & notes – <i>Kentucky Shakers</i>	1977	2 items
Folder 6	Draft, Rough and notes – <i>Shaker Image</i>	n.d.	3 items
Folder 7	University Press of Kentucky – Promotional material	1977; n.d.	5 items
Folder 8	Book reviews of Neal's books	1947-1995	55 items

BOX 6	Mary Julia Neal	1940-1989	46 items
Folder 1	"The Allan Trout Collection"	n.d.	1 item
Folder 2	"American Shakers" – Article that appeared in <i>Communities</i> (Winter 1985)	1985	2 items
Folder 3	"Bearing a Sound, Good Cross" – Paper read at Hancock Studies Conference	1968	1 item
Folder 4	"The Cumberland Trace" – Paper	1970	1 item
Folder 5	[Eldress Nancy Moore's Diary of Civil War Events at South Union] – Article, <i>Filson Club History Quarterly</i>	1965	1 item
Folder 6	How I became interested in the Shakers – Presentation	n.d.	5 items
Folder 7	"Kentucky Shakers Go to Market" – Presentation at the Pleasant Hill Friends Forum	1974	3 items
Folder 8	"Language of the South Union Shaker Manuscripts" – Article, <i>Filson Club History Quarterly</i>	1974	2 items
Folder 9	"The Rise and Fall of the South Union" – Presentation at KY-TN American Studies Association meeting	n.d.	1 item
Folder 10	"Shaker Children" – Presentation at the South Union Shaker Seminar	1989	2 items
Folder 11	"Shaker Festival" – Article in the <i>Kentucky Folklore Record</i>	1962	2 items
Folder 12	[Shaker Furniture] – Article, <i>Antiques</i>	1970	1 item
Folder 13	"Shaker Industries in Kentucky" – Article, <i>Antiques</i>	n.d.	1 item
Folder 14	"Shaker industries in the West" – Paper	n.d.	1 item
Folder 15	"Shakerism as Revealed in the Western Publications" – Presentation at the Historic American Communal Societies Association at Pleasant Hill	1976	1 item

Folder 16	“Shakerism in the United States” – Seminar paper at University of Michigan	1940	1 item
Folder 17	“Shakers of West Union” – Paper	n.d.	1 item
Folder 18	“South Union Shakers” – Presentation at the Louisville Arts Club	1973	1 item
Folder 19	“Value of experience in education” – Article in <i>Peabody Journal of Education</i>	1967	2 items
Folder 20	“Woman’s Missionary Union, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, KY” – Manuscript	1879-1985	1 item
Folder 21	Book reviews by Neal	1973-1985	8 items
Folder 22	Short articles or published letters by Neal	1977-1985	7 items
BOX 7	Mary Julia Neal	1806-1991	98 items
Folder 1	“Investigator’s Application” used by the North Union, Ohio Shakers, signatures of North Union village leaders	1871	2 items
Folder 2	Research material related to Sally Boler	1809-1970	18 items
Folder 3	Shaker journal entries about construction of buildings and flower, shrubs, trees, etc., planted at South Union	1990	15 items
Folder 4	Shaker letter (copies) from the South Union letter book, miscellaneous	1806-1920	15 items
Folder 5	Shaker documents – Journal of Isaac Youngs during visit to the West, South Union	1834	1 item;
Folder 6	“Spirit and Intellect”: Farewell sermon of the South Union Shakers	1892	1 item
Folder 7	Title abstract for land in Auburn, KY, that James A. Pearce sold to the Shakers in 1813	1895	1 item

Folder 8	Research material related to Shaker children	1812-1825; 1977	4 items
Folder 9	Research materials related to Shaker deaths	1883-1924; n.d.	16 items
Folder 10	Research material related to the Moore family	1816-1983	9 items
Folder 11	Article entitled "Communal History in America" by Robert S. Fogerty (<i>American Studies & Choice</i>)	1963	2 items
Folder 12	Article entitled "The Shakers" from from <i>Harper's New Monthly Magazine</i>	1857	1 item
Folder 13	Article entitled "The Shakers of New England" by Edward Deming Andrews	1960	1 item
Folder 14	Article entitled "A Small Family of Seven" by Berton Roueche	1947	1 item
Folder 15	Article entitled "Suffer Dearly" by Henry A. Lachane (<i>Yankee</i>)	1974	1 item
Folder 16	Articles from Icarian Society publications related to the Shakers (In French)	1856-1880	1 item
Folder 17	Chapter entitled "The Shakers, 1805" from <i>The Story of a Country Church</i>	1902	1 item
Folder 18	Fictional story entitled "Shaker John"	1872	1 item
Folder 19	Fictional story about Shakers entitled "Out of the World" from <i>Scribners</i> , v. 18	1879	1 item
Folder 20	Paper by Charles O. Lee entitled "The Shakers as Pioneers in the American Herb and Drug Industry"	1959	1 item
Folder 21	Paper by Donald E. Janzen "Shakerism in the Old South: A Story of the Alabama Shakers"	1982	1 item
Folder 22	Paper by Julie Allyn Nicolette entitled "Structures for Communal Life: Shaker Dwelling Houses at Mount Lebanon, New York"	1991	1 item

Folder 23	Paper by Mary Lou Conlin entitled "North Union and Cleveland: Two Worlds on a Collision Course"	n.d.	1 item
Folder 24	Paper by R. Peter Wilcox entitled "Shakertown: Sun-light and sun-order in Kentucky Communitarian Architecture"	n.d.	1 item
Folder 25	Paper by Rose Mary Lawson entitled "A Tree Potpourri"	n.d.	1 item
BOX 8	Mary Julia Neal	1814-1995	429 items
Folder 1	Miscellaneous items related to Neal	1923-1985	8 items
Folder 2	News clippings about Neal	1926-1995	96 items
Folder 3	Programs indicating Neal as a speaker	1948-1988	16 items
Folder 4	Bethel College items	1925-1952	10 items
Folder 5	Awards of Neal	1931-1986	19 items
Folder 6	Shaker Bicentennial National Convention – Miscellaneous material	1974	6 items
Folder 7	News clippings – Shaker cookery	1960-1977	11 items
Folder 8	Shaker magazine articles and newspaper clippings	1945-1986	48 items
Folder 9	General information about Shakers, Shaker conferences, Shaker exhibits	1947-1986	45 items
Folder 10	Shaker village information – Busro, Indiana (West Union)	1884-1974	5 items
Folder 11	Shaker village information – Canterbury, New Hampshire	1947-1988	18 items
Folder 12	Shaker village information – Hancock, Massachusetts	1947-1974	23 items
Folder 13	Shaker village information – Lebanon, Ohio	1947	4 items

Folder 14	Shaker village information – Mt. Lebanon, NY (Watervliet) & Old Chatham	1905-1977	12 items
Folder 15	Shaker village information – North Union, Ohio	1960-1962	4 items
Folder 16	Shaker village information – Pleasant Hill, Kentucky	1814-1985	27 items
Folder 17	Shaker village information – Sabbathday Lake, Maine	1961-1986	15 items
Folder 18	Shaker village information – South Union, Kentucky	1818-1983	36 items
Folder 19	Shaker village information – South Union, Kentucky – Shaker Festival	1963-1989	26 items
BOX 9	Mary Julia Neal	1885-1995	152 items
Folder 1	Photos of Neal and family	1906-1977	30 items
Folder 2	Photos taken at luncheon honoring Neal	Aug. 1977	1 item
Folder 3	Photos of Shakers and Shaker sites with emphasis on South Union	1885-1974	60 items
Folder 4	Photos of Shakers and Shaker sites with emphasis on South Union	n.d.	46 items
Folder 5	Shaker photos and Red River Union Meeting House	1963-1995	15 items
BOX 10	Mary Julia Neal	1940-1990	90 items
Folder 1	U.S. Bicentennial – Programs, invitation, etc.	1973-1974	4 items
Folder 2	Historic Communal Societies Conference – Programs	1974-1983	6 items
Folder 3	Newspaper clippings – Auburn, KY	1959-1965	21 items
Folder 4	St. Mark's Priory – Information	1952-1980	11 items
Folder 5	Kentucky Baptist Historical Society	1981-1988	16 items

Folder 6	Speech and newspaper clippings of Stanley C. Pace	1984-1990	19 items
Folder 7	Press conference and McNeil-Lehrer interview of Stanley C. Pace	1986	3 items
Folder 8	Programs from the School Masters Club and from missions events at First Baptist Church, Bowling Green	1940-1942	10 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS NEAL, Mary Julia, 1806-1995
 4 1905-1995
 C1-D2b,
 #14 Correspondence, speeches, and writings of Shaker scholar and English professor, Mary Julia Neal, a native of Auburn, Kentucky. Neal served as director of the Kentucky Building at Western Kentucky University from 1964 to 1972. Includes photos and correspondence with twentieth-century eastern Shakers.
 10 boxes. 115 folders. 1,546 items. Originals, photocopies.
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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Alabama – Shakers – Relating to B7,F21
 Allen, Joseph – Relating to, 1973 B1,F6
 Andrews, Faith B1,F4
 Auburn – Shaker Museum – Relating to, 1963 B1,F4
 Baptists – Bowling Green – Relating to B6,F20
 Barker, R. Mildred, 1897-1990 B1,F4,6; F3,F1-2,4
 Barker, R. Mildred, 1897-1990 – Photos B9,F3
 Baskets – Shakers – Photo B9,F5
 Bates, William – Photo B9,F4
 Belden, Ricardo, 1870-1958 – Photos B9,F3,5
 Bentley, James R. B1,F6
 Bethel College – Hopkinsville – Relating to, 1921-1925 B1,F3; B3,F7; B8,F4
 Birmingham, Alabama – Travel and description, 1927 B1,F3
 Bixby, Donald E. B2,F3
 Boler, Daniel, 1804-1894 – Relating to B7,F2
 Boler, Sally W. (Felts), b. 1785 B7,F2
 Boler, William B7,F2

Bone, Heather M. B1,F6; B2,F7
 Boone, Joy (Field) Bale, 1912-2002 B1,F5
 Boulton, J. W. B1,F5
 Bowling Green – Baptists – First Baptist Church B6,F20
 Brooker, Lucilla – Photo, 1885 B9,F3
 Brown, Jane B2,F1
 Bruner, William T. B1,F6
 Buchanan, Eliza Ann (Broadbent), b. 1837 – Relating to B2,F1
 Buchanan, James – Relating to B2,F1
 Buckberry, Ray B., Jr., b. 1934 B2,F5
 Butler, Linda B2,F2-3
By Their Fruits – Relating to B1,F3,6; B4,F1-3,8
 Carr, Frances, b. 1927 – Photos B9,F3
 Carr, Mary Elizabeth “Mollie” (Pace) – Letter to, 1912 B3,F5
 Carroll, Julian Morton, b. 1931 B1,F8
 Carson, William Barnett – Relating to, 1947 B1,F3
 Carter, Mary Lynn B1,F3
 Cayce, Edgar, 1877-1945 – Mentioned, 1962 B3,F4
 Cayce, Hugh Lynn, 1907-1982 – Comments about, 1962 B3,F4
 Certificates, 1931-1986 B8,F5
 Cherry, Kenneth B1,F8
 Children correspondence, 1915 B1,F2
 Christmas cards, 1974-1990 B3,F2
 Civil rights – Relating to, 1963 B1,F4
 Clarke, Edith P. B3,F1
 Clarke, Mary Louise (Washington), 1913-1999 B1,F8
 Cogar, James L., 1906-1987 B1,F4
 Cogar, James L., 1906-1987 – Relating to, 1973 B1,F6
 Coke, Catherine W. B2,F6
 Coleman, John Winston, Jr., 1898-1983 B1,F5
 Colket, Meredith B., Jr., 1912-1985 B1,F6; B3,F3
 Combs, Bertram Thomas “Bert,” 1911-1991 – Correspondence B1,F4
Concise Statement of the Principles of the Only True Church, 1785 B1,F5; B3,F3
 Congdon, William H. C. B2,F1
 Conlin, Mary Lou B1,F6
 Cook, Paul B. B1,F5
 Coombs, Elizabeth Robertson, 1893-1988 B1,F3-4
 Covington, Dale W. B2,F2,4-6
 Covington, Joseph C., 1921-1981 – Photo B9,F2
 Cowan, Jane, 1829?-1909 B7,F4
 Cowan, Jane, 1829?-1909 – Photo, 1885 B9,F3
 Cowden, Robert William, 1883-1961 B4,F3
 Cowden, Robert William, 1883-1961 – Relating to B4,F3
 Crabb, Alfred Leland, 1884-1979 B1,F6,8
 Cravens, Raymond L. B1,F5
 Cress, Mary Jane “Kit” (Firth), 1920-2010 B2,F5-6
 Crismon, Leo Taylor, 1908-1986 B2,F1

Crouch, William Jerome B2,F2-3
 Cumberland Trace, The – Relating to B6,F4
 Darby, John C. – Relating to, 1887-1892
 Day, Elizabeth B2,F1
 Day, Elizabeth – Letter to B2,F7
 DeLacey, John – Relating to, 1949-1950 B1,F3
 Delaney, Barbara S. B1,F5
 Diaries, 1863-1864 – Moore, Nancy Elam, 1807-1889 – Relating to B1,F3-4; B5,F1-2,8; B6,F5; B7,F10
 Diaries – Young, Isaac, 1834 B7,F5
 Diddle, Edgar Allan, 1895-1970 – Relating to, 1947 B1,F3
 Diplomas – Western Kentucky University, 1931, 1939 B8,F5
 Dogs – Photos B9,F3
 Dolan, Thelma B1,F6
 Downing, Dero Goodman, 1921-2011 B1,F5; B2,F3,5
 Downing, Dero Goodman, 1921-2011 – Photos B9,F2
 Drakes Creek – Photo B9,F4
 Duffey, Gwen B1,F3-4; B2,F7; B3,F1
 Dunlavy, John – Relating to, 1973 B1,F6
 Eades, Harvey Lauderdale, 1807-1892 B7,F6
 Eades, Harvey Lauderdale, 1807-1892 – Photos B9,F3&4
 Eades, Harvey Lauderdale – Relating to, 1974 B1,F6
 Elam, Adam – Photos B9,F3
 Emerich, A. Donald B1,F4
 Emery, Marjorie B3,F1
 Emlen, Robert P. B2,F1
 Ensor, Charles Donald, 1927-1998 – Photo B9,F1
 Evans, Aileen C. B1,F4
 Evans, Alice D. B1,F6
 Farmer, Annie B3,F3
 Farmer, Annie – Relating to B1,F8
 Felts, Archibald, 1758-1825 – Relating to B7,F2,4
 Felts family – Genealogy B7,F2
 Felts Log House – Relating to B7,F2
 Fernandez, Kathleen M. B1,F8
 Field, Floyd – Photo, 1885 B9,F3
 Finke, Mary J. B2,F2
 First Baptist Church – Bowling Green B6,F20
 Ford, Wendell Hampton, 1924-2015 B2,F2
 Frost, Marguerite B3,F1,3
 Fujikami, Peter B1,F8
 Fuqua, Aaron, Jr., 1819-1895 B3,F8
 Fuqua family B3,F8
 Furkin, Mary Julia (Pace) B2,F1-4,7
 Gaines, Edith B1,F5
 Gaines, J. W. B3,F7
 Garrett, Wendell B1,F6

Genealogy – Felts family B7,F2
 Genealogy – Fuqua family B3,F8
 Gilmore, Neal Barrett B2,F1-3; B2,F7
 Glenn, J. J. – Relating to B1,F5
 Goodman, Julian Byrn, 1922-2012 B1,F5
 Goodrich, Molly, 1779-1835 B7,F4
 Gordon, James Fleming, 1918-1990 B1,F5
 Hall, Emily Barker B1,F3
 Hall, Emma Bell “Deedy” (Price), 1904-1992 – Letters to B3,F4
 Hamilton, William J. B1,F3
 Handy, Nora Dragon B2,F7
 Handy, Riley Dean, 1941-2010 – Photos B9,F1-2
 Harris, Eula Lee B2,F1,3; B2,F7
 Harrison, Lowell Hayes, 1922-2011 B1,F5
 Harrison, Lowell Hayes, 1922-2011 – Photos B9,F2
 Hatcher, Ken B2,F1,6-7
 Helm, John Blakey, 1899-1979 B1,F3
 Helm, Margie May, 1894-1991 B1,F3-4
 Henry, Stuart C.
 Hess, Wendell B2,F2-5
 Hines, Tommy B2,F4,6
 Hodges, Patricia Ann (Morgan), b. 1931 B1,F5
 Hollingsworth, Teresa – Correspondence B2,F4-6
 Holt, Hattie E. B1,F3
 Hopkinsville – Schools – Bethel College – Relating to, 1921-1925 B1,F3; B3,F7; B8,F4
 Hopwood Awards – Relating to B4,F3
 Huddleston, Walter Darlington “Dee,” 1926-2018 B2,F2
 Icarian Society – Relating to B7,F16
 Jackson, Harry Lucellus, 1907-1985 – Photos B9,F2
 Johns, A. Logan – Relating to B7,F4
 Johnson, Ann Roosevelt – Photo B9,F2
 Johnson, Theodore E., d. 1986 B1,F4-6
 Johnson, Theodore E., d. 1986 – Relating to B1,F6,8; B2,F2
Journal of Eldress Nancy – Relating to, 1961 B1,F3-4; B5,F1-2,8
 Keig, Susan B1,F5
 Kennedy, John Fitzgerald, 1917-1963 B1,F4
 Kent State University – Tragedy – Relating to, 1970 B1,F5
Kentucky: A Pictorial History – Relating to B1,F5
 The Kentucky Quilt Project, 1800-1900 – Relating to, 1982-1986 B2,F9
Kentucky Shakers – Relating to B5,F3-5,8
 Kephart, Bill B2,F3
 King, Emma B. B3,F1,3
 Kleber, John B2,F4
 Land – Transactions (Sales, Purchase, Transfers, Etc.) – Logan County, 1895 B7,F7
 Lassiter, William L. B1,F3
 Lawless, Nellie Maud – Relating to, 1970 B1,F5
 Lawrence, Mary B1,F6

Lawson, Rose Mary B2,F1,6; B2,F7
 Lee, Esther B1,F4
 Lilly, Paige S. B2,F2
 Lindsay, Bertha, 1897-1990 B1,F4; B3,F1-2,4
 Lindsay, Bertha, 1897-1990 – Photos B9,F3&4
 Locket, John L., d. 1877 – Relating to B3,F6
 Logan County – Churches – Red River Cumberland Presbyterian Church – Photos B9,F5
 Logan County – Land – Transactions (Sales, Purchase, Transfers, Etc.), 1895 B7,F7
 Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company – Relating to, 1860 B7,F4
 Lyne, Mary Nelle – Relating to B2,F1
 Lyne, Thomas J. B1,F5
 McCausland, Elizabeth – Paper by B1,F3
 McComb, Jesse – Relating to, 1986 B2,F3
 McCool, Ethel – Photo B9,F3
 McCormick, Edgar L. B1,F3,5
 McDowell, Robert E. B1,F6
 McLean, Mattie M., 1882-1954 B2,F7
 Meader, Robert F. W. B1,F4-6; B2,F4-6
 Meredith, Thomas C., b. 1941 – Letters to, 1990 B2,F5
 Metzger, Annie B2,F5
 Miles, Frank B1,F3
 Miller, Amy Bess B2,F5
 Mills Point, Warren County – Photo B9,F4
 Missionary societies – Baptist – Bowling Green B6,F20
 Moore, Eleanor B2,F2-3; B3,F1-2
 Moore family B7,F10
 Moore, Mary (Taylor) Leiper, 1885-1973 B1,F3
 Moore, Nancy Elam, 1807-1889 – Diary – Relating to B1,F3-4; B5,F1-2,8; B6,F5; B7,F10
 Moore, Nancy Elam, 1807-1889 – Photos B9,F3
 Moore, Nancy Elam, 1807-1889 – Relating to B9,F5
 Morse, Flo B2,F3-4; B2,F7
 Muller, Charles B2,F1-3,7
 Natcher, William Huston, 1909-1994 B1,F5; B2,F2
 Neal, Irene Lockett, 1889-1971 B1,F3
 Neal, Mary Julia, 1905-1995 – Comments about, 1921-1924 B3,F7
 Neal, Mary Julia, 1905-1995 – Photos B9,F1-2,4
 Neal, Mary Julia, 1905-1995 – Recommendation letters, 1927-1952, n.d. B1,F3; B2,F7
 Neal, Nettie L. (Pace), 1874-1930 B1,F3
 Neal, Nettie L. (Pace), 1874-1930 – Letters to, 1902, 1920-1924 B3,F7
 Neal, Nettie L. (Pace), 1874-1930 – Photos B9,F1
 Neal, Presley Taylor, 1873-1938 – Letters to, 1921-1924 B3,F7
 Neal, Presley Taylor, 1873-1938 – Photos B9,F1
 Neal, Thomas Guy, 1902-1920 – Photo B9,F4
 New York City – Travel and description, 1927 B1,F3
 Nickels, Edward E. B1,F8
 Nord, Elizabeth B. B1,F4
 Norris, A. A. B3,F7

Nunn, Louie Broady, 1924-2004 – Correspondence, 1969 B1,F4
 Olcott, Lois L. B1,F6
 Ott, John Harlow B1,F8
 Pace, James E., d. 1917 B3,F5
 Pace, Mollie – Letter to, 1912 B3,F5
 Pace, Stanley Carter, b. 1921 B1,F6
 Parker, Alice C. (Kinslow) B1,F6
 Patterson, Dan B1,F4,8; B3,F3
 Peacock, Ethel B3,F1,4
 Peacock, Ethel – Photos B9,F3
 Pearce, John Ed, 1919-2006 B2,F2
 Pearce, John Ed, 1919-2006 – Relating to B2,F2
 Pearson, Elmer – Relating to, 1986 B2,F3
 Pearson, Ray B2,F2
 Pearson, Ray – Letter to, 1978 B3,F3
 Pennington, Lee B1,F5
 Perkins, Abraham, 1807-1900 – Relating to, 1960
 Perryman, John W. B3,F3
 Perryman, John W. – Photo B3,F3
 Phelps, Lillian – Photo B9,F3
 Phillips, Hazel Spencer B1,F6
 Pitzer, Donald E. B2,F1,3
 Pitzer, Donald E. – Photo B9,F2
 Poetry – Shakers B1,F4
 Poetry – Shakers – Relating to, 1973 B1,F6
 Pope, Margaret (Coraine) B1,F8; B2,F1,3-4,7
 Postal service – South Union – Relating to B1,F4; B7,F4
 Pottinger, George W., 1851-1926 – Photo B9,F4
 Pottinger, George W., 1851-1926 – Relating to, 1920 B7,F4
 Pratt, Walter – Relating to B1,F5
 Proper, David R. B1,F4
 Psychic ability – Relating to B3,F4
 Pybus, Laura H. B1,F3
 Quilts and quilting – Relating to B2,F9
 Rankin, Frank Gilbert, 1906-1994 B1,F5
 Red River Cumberland Presbyterian Church – Logan County – Photos B9,F5
 Reynolds, Margaret K. B1,F4; B2,F1
 Rhorer, Marc A. B2,F4
 Richards, Frances, 1893-1991 B1,F3
 Richardson, James H., 1838-1900 – Photo B9,F3
 Richmond, Colin Ba,F6
 Richmond, Don B2,F3
 Richmond, Mary L. Hurt, d. 1985 B1,F5,8; B2,F7; B3,F3
 Richmond, Mary L. Hurt, d. 1985 – Relating to B2,F3
 Roberts, Vann B1,F5
 Rupe, Sarapla – Photo, 1885 B9,F3
 St. Mark's Priory – Relating to, 1955, 1963, 1988 B1,F3-4; B2,F4

Sand, Viki B2,F3
 Sandidge, May N. B1,F3
 Sarle, Helena – Photo B9,F3
 Schultz, Hattie Neil (Scates) Coraine, 1878-1966 – Photo B9,F3
 Schwarz, Gregory C. B2,F4
 Shaker baskets B9,F5
 Shaker Festival – South Union – Relating to, 1962-1963 B1,F4; B3,F3-4; B6,F11
Shaker Image, The – Relating to B1,F6; B3,F3; B5,F6,8
Shaker Literature: A Bibliography – Relating to B1,F5
 Shaker Museum – Auburn – Relating to, 1963 B1,F4
Shaker Quarterly – Relating to, 1961 B3,F1
 Shakers
 Shakers – Alabama – Relating to B7,F21
 Shakers – Baskets – Photo B9,F5
 Shakers – Bibliographies – Relating to B1,F5
 Shakers – Bicentennial Celebration – Relating to, 1973 B1,F6; B2,F7; B8,F6
 Shakers – Busro, Indiana B6,F17; B8,F10
 Shakers – Canterbury, New Hampshire – Photos B9,F3
 Shakers – Canterbury, New Hampshire – Relating to B3,F1; B8,F11
 Shakers – Children – Relating to B6,F10; B7,F8
 Shakers – Cookery – Relating to B8,F7
 Shakers – Fiction B7,F18-19
 Shakers – Furniture B6,F12
 Shakers – Furniture – Photos B9,F3
 Shakers – Hancock, Mass. B8,F12
 Shakers – Harvard, Mass. – Photos B9,F3
 Shakers – Hats – Photo B9,F4
 Shakers – Herbs – Relating to B7,F20; B8,F7
 Shakers – Hymns – Relating to, 1974 B1,F6
 Shakers – Industries B6,F13-14
 Shakers – Landscape B7,F25
 Shakers – Lebanon, Ohio – Relating to B8,F13
 Shakers – Medicine – Prescriptions and remedies B7,F20
 Shakers – Mount Lebanon, N.Y. – Buildings B7,F21
 Shakers – Mount Lebanon, N.Y. – Relating to B8,F14
 Shakers – Necrology, 1883-1924 B7,F9
 Shakers – North Union, Ohio – Relating to B7,F1,23; B8,F15
 Shakers – Pleasant Hill, KY – Buildings – Photos B9,F4
 Shakers – Pleasant Hill, KY – Relating to B8,F16
 Shakers – Poetry B1,F4
 Shakers – Publishers and publishing B6,F15
 Shakers – Sabbathday Lake, Maine – Photos B9,F3
 Shakers – Sabbathday Lake, Maine – Relating to B3,F1; B8,F17
 Shakers – Silk industry – Relating to, 1973 B1,F6
 Shakers – South Union – Buildings B7,F3,24
 Shakers – South Union – Buildings – Photos B9,F3-5
 Shakers – South Union – Civil War B6,F5

Shakers – South Union – Photos B9,F1
 Shakers – South Union – Post Office B1,F4; B7,F4
 Shakers – South Union – Shaker Festival B8,F19
 Shakers – South Union – Relating to B6,F9,18,22; B7,F5; B8,F18
 Shakers – Spiritual drawings – Photo B9,F4
 Shakers – Spiritual drawings – Relating to, 1957 B1,F3; B3,F1,3
 Shakers – Stoves – Photos B9,F3
 Shakers – Trees – Relating to B7,F25
 Shakers – Warren County – Mills Point – Photo B9,F4
Shakertown Revisited – Comments about B1,F6
 Shaw, Bettie W. B1,F3
 Shea, John E. B1,F6
 Slingerland, Joseph R. – Relating to B2,F2
 Smith, Betsy – Photos B9,F3
 Smith, Jay C. B1,F3
 Sneed, Catherine – Relating to, 1947 B1,F3
 Societies B6,F20
 Soule, Gertrude M., 1895-1988 B3,F1-3
 Soule, Gertrude M., 1895-1988 – Photos B9,F3&4
 Soule, Gertrude – Relating to, 1973 B1,F6,8
 Sprigg, June B2,F1-4; B3,F3
 Stevenson, Mary Elizabeth B1,F4
 Stewart, Anne C. B1,F3
 Stewart, J. Alexander B1,F6
 Stickney, Prudence – Photos B9,F3
 Stuart, Jesse Hilton, 1907-1984 – Correspondence B2,F8
 Stuart, Naomi Deane, 1908-1993 B1,F4-5; B2,F8
 Sullivan, Rowena Ilene, 1922- 2006 B2,F4
 Thomas, James C. B1,F6; B2F4-5
 Thomas, Samuel W., b. 1938 B1,F6
 Thompson, Edwin Kelly, 1909-1993 B1,F4
 Thompson, Edwin Kelly, 1909-1993 – Photos B9,F2
 Threlkeld, W. L. B1,F3
 Tields, Hannah – Photo, 1885 B9,F3
 Tolbert, James M. B1,F3
 Toomey, Lawrence Otto, 1903-1992 – Photo B9,F4
 Tornadoes, 1974 B1,F6
 Trout, Allan Mitchell, 1903-1973 B1,F3
 Trout, Allan Mitchell, 1903-1973 – Relating to B6,F1
 University Press of Kentucky – Relating to, 1977 B5,F7
 Upton, Helen B1,F8
 Upton, James – Relating to B3,F1
 Van Kolken, Diana B2,F1-5
 Warren County – Shakers – Mill Point – Photo B9,F4
 Watkins, Dianne (Winkler), b. 1941 B2,F4
 Weeks, Estella T. – Relating to, 1974 B1,F6
 West, Dorothy B2,F9

White, Anna B7,F4
 Whitaker, Francis J., 1916-1994 – Relating to, 1955 B1,F3-5; B2,F1,3-5,7
 Whitmore, Sobrina – Photos B9,F3
 Whittaker, James – Relating to B1,F5; B3,F3
 Williams, Mattie Lou B1,F3
 Wilson, Alexander Gordon, 1888-1970 B1,F3-4
 Wilson, Delmer, 1873-1961 – Comments about, 1961 B3,F4
 Wilson, Delmer, 1873-1961 – Photo B9,F4
 Wilson, Thomas J. B4,F3
 Wisbye, Herbert A., Jr. B2,F2
 Wolford, John Brenton, b. 1952 B2,F1
 Women – Education – Relating to, 1921-1925 B1,F3
 Young, Isaac – Diary, 1834
 Young, Mary Lawrence B1,F6
 Youngs, Benjamin Seth, 1774-1855 B7,F4
 Zegart, Shelly, b. 1941 B2,F9
 Zieget, Irene, 1885-1977 – Correspondence B1,F3-4,6; B3,F3; B2,F7
 Zieget, Irene, 1885-1977 – Comments about B3,F1
 Zieget, Irene, 1885-1977 – Relating to B6,F22

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Jeffrey 07/09/2008