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White, Vernon, 1915-2008 (MSS 255)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 255 WHITE, Vernon, 1915-2008

6 boxes. 85 folders. 567 items. 1809-2008

2008.239.4

BIOGRAPHY

Vernon White was born on 2 October 1915 to William Grant White and Martha Ellen (Reed) White near White Mills, Hardin County, Kentucky. The family farm was located on the Nolin River and White Mills was approximately four miles away. The Whites had lived in this area since the early decades of the nineteenth century. Vernon, and his seven siblings, assisted his parents with operating the farm. The children were educated at the one-room Lee School in Hardin County and attended secondary school at Lynnvale High School. The family was literate, subscribing to the county newspaper and several popular magazines of the day; they also played word games and held academic competitions in the home. They attended the White Mills Baptist Church.

Vernon graduated from Lynnvale High School in 1935 and continued to help his family at the farm. In 1941 he participated in classes in woodworking offered by the National Defense Training program, and in 1943 he was inducted into the U.S. Army Air Corps attending through the Aircraft Armament School. While in the military, he enjoyed several parts of the country which he had never visited including Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado. He was injured while in service and received his honorable discharge in 1944. His military service opened his eyes to the grandeur and size of the United States and allowed him to attend college on the GI Bill. He enrolled in the University of Louisville in 1947 and received his Bachelor of Science degree in sociology with a minor in psychology in 1951. He then enrolled at the University of Tennessee and received his Masters degree in Sociology in 1953. He immediately accepted a teaching position at Lincoln Memorial University and acted as head of the Sociology Department. The following year he taught social studies at Rogersville High School in Rogersville, Tennessee. Over the next decade he held several teaching and administrative positions at several colleges: University of Tennessee at Martin (1955-1958), Furman University (1958-1960), and Piedmont College (1961-1966). During these years he completed over seventy additional hours of graduate work at the University of Georgia. In 1966 he accepted a faculty position at Western Kentucky University, where he remained until his retirement in 1980. During his career, he was a long time member of both the American Sociological Association and the Southern Sociological Association. In the

later part of his career, he was an active member of the Kentucky Archaeological Association, serving as Treasurer from 1971 to 1977 and being elected to the Board of Directors for a three year term in 1978.

White's research interests varied widely. From 1972 to 1977 researched "hominy holes" in Kentucky. A great deal of this research consisted of field work in which he located and then documented these sites in the south central Kentucky area. This research resulted in the publication of a report titled "An Archaeological Survey and Study of Hominy Holes in Kentucky," which was published by the Kentucky Archaeological Association (*Bulletin* 14 & 15, April 1980). After his retirement, he continued in his research of Kentucky's covered bridges. This resulted in perhaps his best known publication, *Covered Bridges: Focus on Kentucky* (Kentucky Imprints, 1985). White was interested both in the physical and aesthetic attributes of covered bridges. His last major publication was Grave Covers: *Our Cultural Heritage* (Kentucky Imprints, 2005) and it examines the various types of grave covers found in Kentucky and other nearby states.

White married Dorothy Bell Moore in 1953 and they had two children Carolyn Marie (White) Bell and Charles Vernon White.

COLLECTION NOTES

The Vernon White Collection consists chiefly of materials related to White's research interests including: covered bridges, hominy holes, and grave covers. Most of this research is limited to Kentucky sites and includes published secondary material, field notes, illustrative material, and drafts of White's books. In addition there is limited information about the White family and about the history of White Mills, Hardin County, Kentucky. The collection also includes a few sociological papers written by White in his early career as well as syllabi for some of the early sociology classes that he taught. A collection of approximately 1800 slides documenting older structures in Kentucky, as well as covered bridges, grave covers, and items related to folk life in the Commonwealth and the Upper South is included in the collection. Poetry, some philosophical notes, and two World War II diaries written by White can also be found in the collection. The Word War II diaries are complemented by a scrapbook of photographs documenting White's military service.

In processing, staples, paper clips, metal spiral binders, and metal notebook posts were removed. All materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes. Pages were also removed from tablets and all notebook and tablet covers as well as news clippings were photocopied on acid-free paper. The slides were placed in acid-free boxes in numerical order according to a classification system that White developed. The slides have not been included in the cumulative item number total for the collection.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	**Personal information and publications**	**1935-2008; n.d.**	**45 items**
Folder 1a	Inventory and separation sheets	n.d.	3 items
Folder 1	Biographical information	1915-2008	8 items
Folder 2	Journal	1988-1989	1 item
Folder 3	Notes by White including "A Philosophy of Life," "Disciplines Toward Maturity," "Duties of B.S.U. Officers" and poems		
Folder 4	Photocopies of poems written by White	1935-1948	15 items
Folder 5	Paper entitled "A Study of Divorce in Louisville, KY"	1950	1 item
Folder 6	A Thesis by Vernon White; "Family Life Education on the Elementary Level"	1953	1 item
Folder 7	"A Study of Divorce" published in Furman University Bulletin	1951	1 item
Folder 8	"Teaching the Introductory course in	1964	1 item
Folder 9	"Teaching the Introductory Course in Sociology"; Paper given at the Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, Georgia, 8-10 April 1965.	1965	1 item
Folder 10	Syllabus for Introductory Sociology		1 item
Folder 11	"Great Social Thought": Syllabus for Social Sciences 461-462 at the University of Louisville	1950	1 item
Folder 12	Paper written by White for an education course titled "The Philosophy of Auguste Comte"	1964	1 item
Folder 13	Lynnvale High School (Hardin County) - Research notes	1959	1 item

Folder 14	Code book for pictures, negatives and write-ups	n.d.	1 item
Folder 15	Code book 3 for some of the pictures and slides	n.d.	1 item
Folder 16	Write-up on pictures	n.d.	1 item
Folder 17	General notes, book 1, notes on variety of things	1980-1992	2 items
Folder 18	White's funeral eulogy, CD of the same, funeral program, etc.	2008	2 items
Folder 19	Reminiscence by White's sister, Gertie White, titled "Growing up on a farm during the early 1900s"	1996	1 item
Folder 20	Lynnvale High School (Hardin County) - Research notes	1959	1 item
BOX 2	**Petroglyphs**	**1809-1991**	**97 items**
Folder 1	Photographs of petroglyphs (site reports)	1970-1985	24 items
Folder 2	Negatives of photographs of petroglyphs	1970-1985	21 items
Folder 3	Photographs and negatives of pictographs and grooved circles	1970-1973	12 items
Folder 4	Photos by Vernon White	n.d.	7 items
Folder 5	Photos by Fred Coy of hominy holes and petroglyphs	n.d.	16 items
Folder 6	Petroglyph and Pictograph Sites (March 30, 1971)	1970-1974	5 items
Folder 7	Articles about archaeology & anthropology in Kentucky	1809-1991	11 items

1) Brown, Samuel, "A Description of a Cave on Crooked Creek, With Observations on Nitre and Gun-Powder," *Transactions of [the] American Philosophical Society*, vol. 6 (1809): 235-247.

2) Battle, Herbert B., "The Domestic Use of Oil Among Southern Aborigines," *American Anthropologist*, vol. 24 (1922): 171-182.
3) Webb, W.S. & W.D. Funkhouser, "The So-Called 'Hominy-Holes' of Kentucky," *American Anthropologist* (1929): 701-709.
4) Blake, S.F., "A New Variety of Iva Ciliata From Indian Rock Shelters in the South-Central United States," *Rhodora, Journal of the New England Botanical Club*, vol. 41, no. 483 (March 1939): 81-87.
5) Coy, Fred E., Jr. & Thomas C. Fuller, "The Asphalt Pictograph, Edmonson County, Kentucky," *Tennessee Archaeologist*, vol. 25, no. 2, p. 37-46.
6) Fuller, Tom C., "Ancient Picture-Writing in Kentucky," *Kentucky Happy Hunting Ground*, vol. 25, no. 5 (September 1969): 15-18.
7) White, Vernon, "Unanswered Questions From Historic or Prehistoric Kentucky," *Kentucky Archaeological Association Bulletin*, 14&15 (1979): 55-62.
8) Swauger, James L., "Petroglyphs, Tar Burner Rocks, and Lye Leaching Stones," *Pennsylvania Archaeologist*, vol. 51, no. 1-2 (April 1981): 1-7.
9) Lady, C. Lynn & Robert F. Maslowski, "Historic Rock Carvings in the Ohio Valley," *West Virginia History*, vol. 42, no. 1-2 (1981): 88-93.
10) Hockensmith, Charles D., "Euro-American Petrolglyphs Associated With Pine Tar Kilns and Lye Leaching Devices in Kentucky," *Tennessee Archaeologist*, vol. 11, no. 2 (Fall 1986): 100- 131.

Folder 8	"Vernon White in Search of Hominy Holes" from *In Kentucky* (July/August 1980)	1980	1 item

BOX 3	**Bridges**	**1980-2002; n.d.**	**107 items**
Folder 1	Covered bridges – Correspondence	1984-2002	28 items
Folder 2	Information about covered bridge expert Stockton Bower, chiefly obituaries	1993-1995	6 items
Folder 3	Covered Bridges – White's "write-ups" on covered bridges outside Kentucky	1984-1995	1 item
Folder 4	Covered Bridges – White's "write-ups" on covered bridges		1 item
Folder 5	Hand written copy of *Covered Bridges Focus on Kentucky*	n.d.	1 item

Folder 6	*Covered Bridges*, Rough draft of Chapters 1 & 2	n.d.	1 item
Folder 7	*Covered Bridges*, Work copies (Ch. 1, 2, & 3)	n.d.	1 item
Folder 8	*Covered Bridges*, outlined through Ch. 3	n.d.	1 item
Folder 9	*Covered Bridges*, outlined Ch. 4 (Bridge descriptions)	n.d.	1 item
Folder 10	*Covered Bridges*, Ch. 5 (Appendix, Glossary, Bibliography)	n.d.	1 item
Folder 11	*Covered Bridges*, (rewrites on rough field notes)	n.d.	1 item
Folder 12	"Observations on the Burr Family of Trusses": Typescript, published article & letter	1994-1995	2 items
Folder 13	Covered bridges – Kentucky	1980-2001	34 items
Folder 14	Bridges (not covered) – Kentucky	1992-2002	8 items
Folder 15	Covered bridges – Outside Kentucky	1982-2002	10 items
BOX 4	**Hominy Holes**	**1970-1979; n.d.**	**264 items**
Folder 1	Archaeological survey and study of hominy holes in Kentucky - Edmonson County	1970-1974	51 items
Folder 2	Archaeological survey and study of hominy holes in Kentucky – Hardin County	1971-1975	47 items
Folder 3	Archaeological survey and study of hominy holes in Kentucky – Warren County	1970-1972	25 items
Folder 4	Archaeological survey and study of hominy holes in Kentucky – Breckinridge County	1971-1974	25 items
Folder 5	Archaeological survey and study of hominy holes in Kentucky – Butler, Hart, Logan, Todd Counties	1970-1979	28 items

Folder 6	Archaeological survey and study of hominy holes in Kentucky – Grayson County	1971-1977	60 items
Folder 7	Notes on hominy holes (Listed by county)	n.d.	3 items
Folder 8	Pictures for hominy hole study (by Ron Morrison)	n.d.	7 items
BOX 5	**Grave Covers and Cemeteries**	**1943-2003; n.d.**	**50 items**
Folder 1	*Grave Covers*: Typescript	2000	2 items
Folder 2	*Grave Covers* – Miscellaneous items related to: photocopies of news clippings about cemeteries, cemetery brochures	1989-2002	16 items
Folder 3	"A Study of Child Gravestones with Lambs, Doves, Angels, etc. on Top of the Stones": Handwritten draft and typescript	1997	3 items
Folder 4	White cemetery, Hardin County, Kentucky	1973	2 items
Folder 5	Photocopies of published articles related to tombstones 1) West, Klaus, "Folk Art in Stone: Southwest Virginia," *Shenandoah History*, (1970): 1-28. 2) Cooper, Patricia Irvin, "Some Strange North Georgia Tombstones," *Pioneer American Society Transaction,* vol. 5 (1982): 27-36.	1970-1982	2 items
Folder 6	Photocopies of published articles about cemeteries 1) Denis, J.W., "The Nashville City Cemetery," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, vol. 2 (March 1943): 30-42. 2) Hannon, Thomas J. Jr., "Nineteenth Century Cemeteries in Central West Pennsylvania," *Pioneer America Society*, vol. 2 (1973): 22-38. 3) French, Stanley, "The Cemetery as Cultural Institution: The Establishment of Mount Auburn and the 'Rural Cemetery' Movement," *Death in America*, (1975): 69-91. 4) Jordan, Terry G., "'The Roses So Red and The Lilies So Fair': Southern Folk Cemeteries in Texas," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly,* vol. 83 (1979-1980): 227-258.	1943-1982	5 items

5) Jordan, Terry G., "Texas Graveyards: A Cultural Legacy," *The Southern Folk Cemetery in Texas,* (1982): 26, 34-38, 124, 135-141.

Folder 7	Photocopies of published articles about grave covers, particularly grave houses 1) Walton, James, "Hogback Tombstones and the Anglo-Danish House," *Antiquity* vol. 27, 110 (1954): 68-77. 2) Ball, Donald B., "Observations on the Form and Function of Middle Tennessee Gravehouses," *Tennessee Anthropologist,* vol. 2, 1 (Spring 1977): 29-62. 3) Cantrell, Brent, "Traditional Grave Structures on the Eastern Highland Rim," *Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin,* vol. 67, 3 (October 1981): 93-104. 4) Sexton, Rocky, "Don't Let the Rain Fall on My Face: French Louisiana Gravehouses in an Anthropo-Geographical Context," *Material Culture*, vol. 23, 3 (Fall 1991): 31-46. 5) Ball, Donald B., "Types of Early Grave Decoration in Middle Tennessee," *Tennessee Folklore Society Bulletin,* vol. 58 (1977): 117-127. 6) Smoot, Frederick, "The Middle Tennessee Grave House," *Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy & History,* vol. 11, 3 (Winter 1997-98): 99-100. 7) Ball, Donald B., "An Old Idea in Modern Clothes: Notes on a Poured Concrete Gravehouse in Middle Tennessee," *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* Louisville, Ky. : 1-6.	1954-1998	7 items
Folder 8	"A Stroll Through Americana": Manuscript	1999?	4 items
Folder 9	"Notes on This and That" – Related to White's "A Stroll Through Americana" concept	n.d.	1 item
Folder 10	Photographs of grave covers given to White, includes correspondence	1997-2003	5 items
Folder 11	Correspondence and photos regarding cast iron grave covers in Denton County, Texas	2002-2003	2 items
Folder 12	"Good Fences Make Good Neighbors" - Manuscript	1981	1 item

BOX 6	**White in World War II**	**1942-1944**	**4 items**
Folder 1	World War II Diary Nov. 3, 1942 – Sept. 10, 1943	1942-1943	1 item
Folder 2	World War II Diary Sept. 11, 1943 - July 12, 1944	1943-1944	1 item
Folder 3	Honorable discharge certificate	1944	1 item
Folder 4	World War II photograph album	1942-1944	1 item

BOX 7 **Slides** **1981-2003**

Note: Many numbers within the slides are actually for a series of slides, i.e. Br 1 (Bridges 1) has four views of the Bennetts Mill Bridge in Greenup County, Kentucky. A number of the slides were missing when the collection was donated, so the numbers below are inclusive numbers but do not always reflect the exact number of slides within a subject area. The slides have not been included in the cumulative number of items.

Box 1	Bridges 1-124
Box 2	Bridges 125-285
Box 3	Buildings 1-240
Box 4	Buildings 242-261; Banks 11-19; Barns 3-42; Chimneys 3-18; Fences 1-63; Furnaces 3-9; Flowers 1-18
Box 5	Churches 3-185
Box 6	Household 1-15; Indians 8-9; North Carolina 11-14; Mills 1- 25; 325-391; Tools 4-48; Power driven tools 4-22; Wood items 1-7

BOX 7 **Slides** **1981-2003**

Box 1	Grave covers 2-163
Box 2	Grave covers 164-289
Box 3	Grave covers 290-366

CATALOG CARD

MSS WHITE, Vernon, 1809-2008
255 1915-2008

Correspondence, research notes, slides, and photographs related to White's interests: covered bridges, hominy holes, archaeology, and grave covers, chiefly in Kentucky. Also includes drafts of his books and information about the White family of White Mills, Hardin County, Kentucky as well as information about White's participation in World War II.
8 boxes. 85 folders. 567 items.
2008.239.4 K/84

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Account books, 1884-1888 – General stores – Barren County B1,F13
Archaeology – Breckinridge County B4,F4
Archaeology – Butler County B4, F5
Archaeology – Edmonson County B4,F1
Archaeology – Grayson County B4, F6
Archaeology – Hardin County B4,F2
Archaeology – Hart County B4, F5
Archaeology – Logan County B4, F5
Archaeology – Photos B4, F8
Archaeology – Todd County B4, F5
Archaeology – Warren County B4,F3
Barren County – General stores, 1884-1888 B1,F13
Bower, Stockton, 1905-1995 B3,F2
Breckinridge County – Archaeology B4,F4
Bridges – Kentucky B3
Bridges, Covered – Kentucky B3
Butler County – Archaeology B4, F5
Cemeteries – Relating to B5,F2,6
Cemeteries – Hardin County B5,F4
Certificates – Discharge papers – World War II, 1944 B6,F3
Comte, Auguste, 1798-1857 – Relating to B1,F12
Conwill, Joseph D. – Correspondence B3,F1
Covered Bridges: Focus on Kentucky B3
Coy, Fred E., Jr.– Photos by B2,F5
Death, 2008 B1,F18
Diaries, 1942-1944 – White, Vernon, 1915-2008 B6,F1-2

Diaries, 1988-1989 – White, Vernon, 1915-2008 B1,F2
Divorce – Louisville – Relating to, 1950 B1,F5&7
Edmonson County – Archaeology B4,F1
Eulogies – White, Vernon, 1915-2008 B1,F18
Family – Relating to B1,F6
Farms and farming – Hardin County B1,F19
Fences B4,F12
Folklore B5,F8-9
General stores – Barren County, 1884-1888 B1,F13
Grave Covers: Our Cultural Heritage, 2000 B5,F1-2
Grayson County – Archaeology B4, F6
Hardin County – Archaeology B4,F2
Hardin County – Cemeteries B5,F4
Hardin County – Farms and farming B1,F19
Hardin County – Education B1,F19-20
Hardin County – Social life and customs, 1900-1925 B1,F19
Hardin County – Travel and description B1,F19
Hardin County – Soldiers from - World War II, 1939-1945
Hart County – Archaeology B4, F5
Logan County – Archaeology B4, F5
Louisville – Divorce – Relating to, 1950 B1,F5&7
Lynnvale High School – Hardin County B1,F19-20
Morrison, Ron – Photos by B4,F8
Petroglyphs – Photos B2
Photographers – Coy, Frederick B2,F5
Photographers – Morrison, Ron B4,F8
Photos – Archaeology B4,F8
Photos – Petroglyphs B2
Photos – Pictographs B2
Photos – World War II B6,F4
Pictographs – Photos B2
Poetry B1,F3-4
Sepulchral monuments – Relating to B5,F1-3,5-6,10-11
Sepulchral monuments – Photos B5,F10-11
Social life and customs – Hardin County, 1900-1925 B1,F19
Sociology – Teachers and teaching B1,F8-11
Teachers and teaching – Sociology B1,F8-11
Todd County – Archaeology B4,F5
U.S. – Army – Air Corps – Relating to, 1942-1944 B6,F1-4
Warren County – Archaeology B4,F3
White Cemetery – Hardin County B5,F4
White family B1,F19
White, Gertie , 1912-2006 B1,F19
White Mills – Hardin County – Travel and description B1,F19
White, Vernon, 1915-2008 – Diaries, 1942-1944 B6,F1-2
White, Vernon, 1915-2008 – Diaries, 1988-1989 B1,F2

Wood, Miriam – Correspondence B3,F1
World War II, 1939-1945 – Soldiers from – Hardin County
World War II, 1939-1945 – Military life B6,F1-4
World War II, 1939-1945 – Photos B6,F4

CHRONLOGICAL CARDS

1809
1915-1925
1926-1950
1951-1975
1976-2000
2001-2008

me -1; sl - 1; sa - 76; chrono - 6

Jeffrey 04/22/2009