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Richards, Alta Beatrice (Lightfoot), 1900-1989 (MSS 381)

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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 381 RICHARDS, Alta Beatrice (Lightfoot), 1900-1989

1 box. 17 folders. 422 items. 1815-1992. Originals, photocopies, and photographs

1990.12.97

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Alta Beatrice (Lightfoot) Richards was born in Allen County, Kentucky 14 June 1900 to John Willis (1864-1945) and America Rumina (Pedigo) Lightfoot (1875-1954). Her younger brother William Sherman Lightfoot was born nine years later (1909-1959). Bea Richards taught at Mt. Victory School, Allen County, in 1920 before she received a degree from Bowling Green Business University in 1927. After graduation she was employed in a number of positions at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, where she discovered her life-long passion for weaving. She returned to Bowling Green in 1949 to care for her mother. She was subsequently employed by First Federal Savings and Loan and Jagers Construction Company, but she maintained her active involvement with weaving. In 1962 she was one of the founding members of the Kentucky Weavers of Bowling Green and served as secretary. Mrs. Richards was a member of First Baptist Church where she taught simple weaving as part of the church's crafts program. She gave many demonstrations of her textile art at craft fairs and shows. Bea Richards was married to John Frank Richards (19 July 1889 – 29 April 1974) . She died 17 April 1989 and is buried in Bowling Green's Fairview Cemetery.

COLLECTION NOTE

The materials in this collection are chiefly related to Bea Richards's love of weaving. Even though there are three folders (Folders 3-5) devoted to descriptions of her vacation trips and to Lightfoot and Pedigo genealogies, the remaining 12 folders are devoted to weaving. Most of the letters in the correspondence folder (Folder 2) are primarily related to this textile art. Folder 6 contains the minutes of the Kentucky Weavers of Bowling Green, 1962-1972. Folder 7 contains a manual of weaving instructions (85 p.) from a course offered at Berea College in the 1940s. Folder 8 offers general weaving patterns that have been arranged alphabetically. Folders 9-11 contain patterns for specific woven items, also arranged alphabetically. Information related to weaving techniques and looms can be found in Folder 12. Most of the patterns and techniques compiled by Mrs. Richards were printed in the periodical *Kentucky Weaver*, published by Lou Tate at the Little Loomhouse, Louisville, Kentucky and in Tate's *Some Historic Kentucky Coverlets*. The collection includes other material related to Lou Tate

such as correspondence in Folder 2 and clippings in Folder 14. Folder 13 contains an example of Mrs. Richards's own weaving, a small pink and blue mat, approximately 6 ½ in. by 12 in. Folders 15 and 16 hold clippings related to weaving, and miscellaneous material, respectively.

More of Mrs. Richards's materials such as scrapbooks, patterns, and another of her weaving examples can be found in the Kentucky Library collection Ephemera Q.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Name	1815-1992	422 items
Folder 1	Inventory and biographical information		4 items
Folder 2	Correspondence	1927-1986	83 items
Folder 3	Materials related to vacation trips	1939-1982	32 items
Folder 4	Family records, chiefly Pedigo and Lightfoot families	1940-1982	47 items
Folder 5	Lightfoot family deed, Allen County	1894	1 item
Folder 6	Minutes of the Kentucky Weavers of Bowling Green	1962-1972	1 item
Folder 7	"Outline for Course in Weaving" from Berea College	1948?	1 item
Folder 8	Weaving patterns	1930s-1976	49 items
Folder 9	Weaving patterns for hot plate mats	1953	4 items
Folder 10	Weaving patterns for bookmarks	1964	9 items
Folder 11	Weaving patterns for lace	1951	4 items
Folder 12	Weaving techniques	1957-1984	21 items
Folder 13	Small mat woven by Richards, app. 6 ½ x 12 in	n.d.	1 item
Folder 14	Material, chiefly clippings, related to Lou Tate and the Little Loomhouse	1944-1983	41 items
Folder 15	Little Loomhouse Newsletters	1815-1973	71 items

Folder 16	Miscellaneous	1938-1992	37 items
Folder 17	Clippings related to weaving	1935-1983	16 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS RICHARDS, Alta Beatrice (Lightfoot), 1815-1992
381 1900-1989

Materials chiefly related to Allen County-native Alta Beatrice Richards's interest in weaving, developed while working at Berea College. Includes correspondence with other weavers, weaving patterns, and weaving techniques. Also, information concerning noted Kentucky weaving authority Lou Tate of the Little Loomhouse, Louisville, Kentucky.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Bousman, Louisa Tate, 1906-1979 – Correspondence F2
 Bousman, Louisa Tate, 1906-1979 – Relating to F6,8-12,14
 Cherry, Henry Hardin, 1864-1937 F2
 Deeds – Allen County, 1894 F5
 Fireside Industries – Berea College – Berea F16
 Fitzgerald, Anne LeGrande (Walker), 1903-2005 – Correspondence F2
 Genealogy – Lightfoot family F4
 Genealogy – Pedigo family F4
 Golden Gate International Exposition – San Francisco, 1939-1940 – Relating to F3
 Kendrick, Sue – Correspondence F2
 Kentucky Weavers of Bowling Green – Bowling Green F6
 Little Loomhouse – Louisville – Relating to F6,8-12,14
 Looms – Relating to F12,16
 Schools – Allen County – Mt. Victory School – Relating to F16
 Weavers – Bowling Green
 Weavers – Kentucky F2,6-12,14-15
 Weaving F2,6-16
 Weaving – Berea College – Berea F7,16
 Weaving – Patterns F7-11
 Weaving – Technique F7,12

SEE or SEE ALSO

Tate, Lou:

See:

Bousman, Louisa Tate, 1906-1979

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