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Moore, Nancy Elam, 1807-1889 (MSS 405)

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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 405 MOORE, Nancy Elam, 1807-1889

½ box. 3 folders. 4 items. 1861-1866. Photocopies.

SC2012.72.1

See also: [MSS 4](#); [MSS 62](#)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Nancy Elam Moore was born on 1 September 1807 in Warren County, Kentucky, and was brought to the Shaker village at South Union in Logan County when she was four years old. When Nancy was fifteen, she moved to the Shaker colony at Black Lick Creek in Auburn, Kentucky; she returned to South Union five years later. Nancy served in numerous ministerial roles, including being appointed as an assistant to Eldress Betsy Smith in 1849. She also made several visits to colonies in Ohio, New York, and Massachusetts. Nancy was appointed an Eldress of the Church in 1864. Eldress Nancy died at South Union on 5 December 1889.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of a photocopy of the Civil War diary of Shaker eldress Nancy Elam Moore (Folder 2), which runs from 15 August 1861 to 17 January 1863. The original diary is owned by the Dayton [Ohio] Public Library. Eldress Nancy's diary describes "incidents concerning the War" and how they affected the Shakers at the South Union colony in Logan County, Kentucky. Both Union and Confederate forces took advantage of the Shakers' reputation for industry and charity to demand supplies of food, clothing, horses and shelter. Eldress Nancy's diary chronicles the difficulties the pacifist Shakers experienced under these circumstances, and includes comments on news of the war elsewhere. Also included in this collection is an account book and diary of unknown female authorship recording daily life at the South Union Shaker colony from 1 January to 27 October 1866 (Folder 3).

Note that Eldress Nancy's journal has been published as *The Journal of Eldress Nancy* (Nashville Tenn.: Parthenon Press, 1963), edited and with an introduction, glossary and index by Mary Julia Neal. See also related research materials in the Mary Julia Neal Collection (MSS 4). A second diary of Eldress Nancy, covering the period 17 January 1863 to 4 September 1864, is also held in Manuscripts & Folklife Archives (see MSS 62).

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Moore, Nancy Elam	1861-1866	4 items
Folder 1	Inventory		2 items
Folder 2	Journal of Eldress Nancy Moore	1861-1863	1 item
Folder 3	Account book and diary – South Union	1866	1 item

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS MOORE, Nancy Elam, 1861-1866
405 1807-1889

Journal of Nancy Elam Moore, an eldress of the Shaker colony at South Union, Kentucky, describing life in the community during the Civil War, 1861-1863, especially visitation and exploitation by both Union and Confederate forces. Includes a diary of unknown authorship recording daily life at the colony in 1866.

3 folders. 4 items. Photocopies.
SC2012.72.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Civil War, 1861-1865 – Bowling Green, 1861-1863 F2
Civil War, 1861-1865 – Logan County, 1861-1863 F2
Diaries, 1861-1866 – Moore, Nancy Elam, 1807-1889 F2,3
Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Civil War, 1861-1863 F2
Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Silk industry and trade, 1866 F3
Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Strawberries, 1866 F3
Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Textile industry and trade, 1866 F3

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