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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 42 STRANGE Collection

3 boxes. 14 folders. 53 items. 1812-1925. Originals, photographs, scrapbooks.

1949.15.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Agatha Jane Rochester (1832-1896), the daughter of William Henry Rochester (1794-1934) and Georgianna Preston McDowell (1808-1839), was born at the family estate of Waveland near Bowling Green, Kentucky. Her father, a prosperous farmer, died when she was two years old, leaving a widow and four small children. Agatha had two brothers to reach adulthood: William Henry (1826-1902) and James Nathaniel (1830-1850). In 1836 her mother, Georgianna Rochester, married Robert Wenn Ogden (1796-1873), who had been her husband's proficient business manager. Their only child, Robert McDowell Ogden, was born in 1837 and died in 1838. Georgianna Rochester's demise occurred the next year. Ogden and his four stepchildren continued residing at Waveland until his death. His will designated his stepchildren as his heirs, but also gave fifty thousand dollars for the establishment of a college for Warren County white males. Ogden College, opening its doors in 1877, was the fulfillment of his generosity. In 1927 Ogden College merged with Western Kentucky State Normal School and Teachers College, with the understanding that the name would be perpetuated in the Ogden Department of Science.

During 1846 and 1847 Agatha attended the Poplar Hill School in Frankfort, Kentucky. She then enrolled in the Spring of 1848 in The Columbia [Tennessee] Female Institute, graduating in June 1849. In 1853 Agatha married Bowling Green's Robert F. Strange (1824-1891). After touring the east on their honeymoon, the newlyweds lived briefly at the Morehead House in Bowling Green, but soon made Waveland their home. Their children were: Nathaniel Rochester (1854-1925), David Birney (1855-1932), Georgianna Preston Barclay (b. 1857), Robert Covington (1860-1861), Carrie Madison (b.1826), Frank Landon (1865-1941), Robert McDowell (1868-1869), Marie Sophie (b. 1870), Lizzie Sharp (b. 1872), and Florence Conway (b. 1876).

The Stranges were Confederate sympathizers during the Civil War. Both armies camped on their farm because of its abundance of wood and Barren River frontage. The soldiers caused much damage to their property, but in spite of these hardships Agatha and Robert were able to retain their homestead. Agatha, interested in family history and local history, published a book entitled *House of Rochester in Kentucky* in 1889.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The Collection.

Perrin, W. H., Battle, J. H., and Kniffen, G. C. *Kentucky, History of a State*, 3rd ed., 1886.

Strange, Agatha Rochester. *House of Rochester in Kentucky*, 1889.

COLLECTION NOTE

Writings of Agatha (Rochester) Strange comprise about one-third of the collection and are the most interesting items in the collection. Her 1852-1883 journal relates details mainly about her eastern tours, Bowling Green news, and family information. Another manuscript of importance is "House of Madison and McDowell in Kentucky," which she copied and presented to Dr. Sylvanus Johnson in 1888. Agatha compiled two scrapbooks in the collection: one concerning 1890s happenings, while the other is possibly of an earlier era. Little correspondence is included (most of which is undated), but those letters dated are for the years 1864 to 1878. Additionally, there are slave records of the Rochester family and of Robert Strange.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	STRANGE Family Papers	1812-1895	47 items
Folder 1	Correspondence of Agatha Strange	1864-1878	8 items
Folder 2	Obituaries, etc., written by Agatha Strange	n.d.	6 items
Folder 3	MSS: "House of Madison and McDowell in Kentucky," by Agatha Strange, February 14, 1888 Also photocopy of MSS	1888	1 item; 153p.
	3a - Index to above manuscript		1 item
Folder 4	Slave record of Rochester family and Robert Strange	n.d.	2 items
Folder 5	Knitting patterns (Rochester genealogy on reverse side of one pattern)	n.d.	2 items
Folder 6	Genealogical data: Moore, McCaleb, Rochester and Strange	n.d.	5 items
Folder 7	Painting (watercolor)	n.d.	1 item

Folder 8	Prospectus of <i>History of Kentucky</i>	1885	1 item
Folder 9	Newspaper clippings	1866-1925	10 items
Folder 10	Miscellaneous items	1812	10 items
BOX 2	Scrapbook No. 2	1890s(?)	1 item; 226p.
Folder 1	Index to above scrapbook 9 1/4 x 12	1890s(?)	1 item
BOX 3 BSB	Scrapbook No. 1; Journal	1852-1883	5 items
Item A	Scrapbook No. 1 11 x 14	n.d.	1 item; 58p.
Folder 1	Index to above scrapbook		1 item
Item B	Journal of Agatha R. Strange 10 1/4 x 16	1852-1883	1 item; 214p.
Folder 1	Index to above journal		1 item
Folder 2	Typed copy of above journal		1 item; 135p.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS 42	STRANGE Collection	1812-1925	
	Correspondence, 1864-1878 (8); journal, 1852-1883; scrapbooks (2); Manuscript: "House of Madison and McDowell in Kentucky," 1888; family genealogical data; slave records; etc., of Agatha (Rochester) Strange, 1832-1896, a lifelong resident of Bowling Green, Kentucky.		
	3 boxes. 14 folders. 53 items. Originals, scrapbooks.		
	1949.15.1		

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 Allen Springs – Allen County – Merchants, 1890s B2
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SEE and SEE ALSO

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See also:

Vinegar Hill

College Hill – Bowling Green

See also:

Vinegar Hill

Lind, Jenny, 1820-1887

See:

Lind, Johanna Maria, 1820-1887

Jeffrey 05/14/2012