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Dawson, Ella Mai (Randolph), 1892-1991 (MSS 397)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
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Department of Library Special Collections
Western Kentucky University
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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 397 DAWSON, Ella Mai (Randolph), 1892-1991

½ box. 14 folders. 149 items. 1938-1991. Originals.

SC2012.3.60

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ella Mai (Randolph) Dawson was born 26 May 1892 to Sam Randolph and Ella Barbee. She spent most of her youth in Logan County, Kentucky, before marrying Preston Dawson (b. 1864) of Cadiz, Kentucky, and moving with him to Clarksville, Tennessee, where he worked on the L&N Railroad. They lived in the Gallows Hollow area of Clarksville, where Ella Mai worked as a domestic and was a longtime member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Clarksville, Tennessee. Ella Mai died on 20 March 1991 and is buried in Logan County, Kentucky.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of personal papers of Ella Mai (Randolph) Dawson. Included are correspondence from numerous family members, including sisters Fannie (Randolph) Neeley and Bertha (Randolph) Smith in Springfield, Tennessee (Folder 2); cousins Airlean Barbee and Vera Sanders in Louisville, Kentucky (Folder 3); sister-in-law Eliza J. Randolph of Adairville, Kentucky (Folder 4); and nephew Fred Stovall of Flint, Michigan (Folder 5). Holiday letters from Meggs and Son Funeral Home of Adams, Tennessee (Folder 6) reflect on the changes in the Hopkinsville-Russellville, Kentucky and Clarksville-Springfield, Tennessee area during the twentieth century. Other personal correspondence includes greeting cards from Jody Cates of Clarksville (Folder 7), letters and cards from Cecil Crawford and Irene Holder of Clarksville, Tennessee and Florida (Folder 8), and miscellaneous letters from family and friends (Folder 9), which typically convey family news and express affection and deep religious faith.

The collection also contains letters and cards to Fannie Neeley from First Missionary Baptist Church, Springfield, Tennessee (Folder 10); Fannie Neeley's death certificate and various funeral programs, including Ella Mai's (Folder 11); and two flyers relating to voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives for African Americans in Clarksville, Tennessee in 1968 and 1970 (Folder 12). Miscellaneous items include Preston Dawson's L&N Railroad retirement application and a notice to residents of the Gallows Hollow area of Clarksville, Tennessee regarding the acquisition of their homes for an urban renewal project (Folder 13); and items relating to Ella Mai's membership in Mt. Olive Baptist Church, including programs, bulletins and

newsletters, a certificate of appreciation, and a program commemorating the church's 94th anniversary (Folder 14).

Some greeting cards, as well as the photographs in this collection, were transferred to the Kentucky Library in 1991-1992.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	**Dawson, Ella Mai (Randolph)**	**1938-1991**	**149 items**
Folder 1	Inventory		
Folder 2	Letters from sisters, Fannie (Randolph) Neeley and Bertha (Randolph) Smith, and niece Deanna Groves	1958-1977; n.d.	25 items
Folder 3	Letters from cousin Airlean Barbee and Airlean's sister, Vera Sanders	1966-1970; n.d.	9 items
Folder 4	Letters from sister-in-law Eliza J. Randolph (Mrs. Dan Randolph) of Adairville, Kentucky	1968-1970; n.d.	6 items
Folder 5	Letters from nephew Fred Stovall and his wife, Gertrude, of Flint, Michigan	1969-1987; n.d.	9 items
Folder 6	Letters and cards from Meggs & Son Funeral Home, Adams, Tennessee	1970,1976,1980, n.d.	4 items
Folder 7	Greeting cards from "adopted grandson" Jody Cates	n.d.	5 items
Folder 8	Letters from Cecil Crawford and her daughter Irene Holder	1974-1984; n.d.	7 items
Folder 9	Letters from family and friends	1967-1987; n.d.	29 items
Folder 10	Correspondence between Fannie Neeley and the pastors and members of First Missionary Baptist Church, Springfield, Tennessee	1979-1985; n.d.	19 items
Folder 11	Funeral items; death certificate	1968,1987-1991	7 items
Folder 12	Voters Registration Drive pamphlet and Montgomery County Voter's Council flyer	1968, 1970	2 items

Folder 13	Preston Dawson's L&N Railroad retirement papers, Clarksville Housing Authority notice; greeting cards	1938, n.d.	4 items
Folder 14	Mt. Olive Baptist Church programs and related items; certificate of appreciation	1968-1983; n.d.	23 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS 397 DAWSON, Ella Mai (Randolph), 1892-1991 1938-1991

Family correspondence, church materials, greeting cards and other personal papers of Ella Mai (Randolph) Dawson, a native of Logan County, Kentucky and resident of Clarksville, Tennessee. Includes voter registration and urban renewal materials relating to African Americans.

14 folders. 149 items. Originals.
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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

African Americans
Baptists – African-American – Relating to F14
Baptists – Tennessee – Relating to F14
Barbee, Airlean F3
Birthday cards, 1970s F2
Caroland, Mary Frances Howser F9
Cates, Jody F7
Christmas cards, 1971-1987 F2,4-6,8-10,13
Clarksville, Tennessee – Travel and description, 1929, 1936 F6
Crawford, Cecil F8
Dawson, Preston, b. 1864 – Relating to F13
Finch, Willie Lee, 1910-1989 F11
First Missionary Baptist Church – Springfield, Tennessee – Relating to, 1979-1985 F10
Groves, Deanna F2
Holder, Irene F8
Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company – Employees, 1938 F13
Meggs, Emerson F6
Mt. Olive Baptist Church – Clarksville, Tennessee – Relating to, 1969-1980 F14
Neeley, Fannie (Randolph), 1914-1987 – Correspondence F2,5,10
Neeley, Fannie (Randolph), 1914-1987 – Relating to F11
Oates, Myrtle F9

Postcards, 1963-1975 F2,9
Randolph, Daniel, 1894-1979 – Relating to F11
Randolph, Eliza J. F4
Sanders, Vera F3
Sebree, Arthur Warren, d. 1980 – Relating to F14
Smith, Bertha (Randolph) F2
Springfield High School – Springfield, Tennessee, 1985 – Relating to F9
Stovall, Fred F5
Stovall, Gertrude F5
Thomas, Ruby F9
Urban renewal – Clarksville, Tennessee – Relating to F13
Valentines, 1970s(?) F5
Voting – African Americans – Montgomery County, Tennessee, 1968, 1970 F12

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 06/05/2012