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## Shakers - South Union, Ky. (MSS 154)

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

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 154    SHAKERS – South Union, Kentucky**

1 box. 17 folders. 806 items. 1769-1893. Originals.

1977.52.1

***BIOGRAPHY***

Jesse McCombs (1750-1815), in his younger years, lived in Orange County, North Carolina. He later moved to Guilford County, North Carolina but settled in Logan County, Kentucky sometime before October of 1799. The Shakers sent ministers to Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and other states in the early nineteenth century to capitalize on the religious revivalism that was spreading in the West. McCombs was among many Kentuckians that converted to the Shaker beliefs. The Shakers utilized much of McCombs' land, with the North Family at South Union living in a brick house that had formerly belonged to McCombs. The Shakers were a religious sect that established communal societies in New York, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and other places, chiefly in the nineteenth century, with one of their main tenets being that of celibacy. They were also known for their superior craftsmanship and shrewd business acumen.

**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

The Collection.  
Shaker Record A, Volume I.  
Neal, Julia. *By Their Fruits*, 1947.

***THE COLLECTION***

This collection is comprised chiefly of Shaker business and legal papers including: documents of Jesse McCombs (50 items); items of James Johnson (40 items); documents about slavery (21); materials concerning children and the transfer of guardianship (11); legal documents (20); land transactions, plots, surveys, etc. (58); promissory notes (26); documents pertaining to mills (16); wills (28); agreements (228); receipts and expense lists (278); and miscellaneous items (21).

## ***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>SHAKERS – South Union, Ky.</b>	<b>1769-1893</b>	<b>806 items</b>
Folder 1	Descriptive Inventory		
Folder 2	Jesse McCombs - Receipts, agreements, etc.	1774-1819; n.d.	50 items
Folder 3	James Johnson - Receipts, agreements, etc.	1787-1810; n.d.	40 items
Folder 4	Slavery documents	1787-1841	21 items
Folder 5	Guardianship documents	1812-1843	11 items
Folder 6	Legal documents	1807-1835;	20 items
Folder 7	Land transactions, plots, surveys, etc.	1791-1851; n.d.	58 items
Folder 8	Promissory notes to Shakers	1809-1838; n.d.	26 items
Folder 9	Grist and fulling mill materials	1810-1893; n.d.	16 items
Folder 10	Wills	1769-1830	28 items
Folder 11	Shaker agreements	1812-1821	99 items
Folder 12	Shaker agreements	1822-1829	67 items
Folder 13	Shaker agreements	1830-1852	62 items
Folder 14	Shaker receipts, expenses, etc.	1810-1829	76 items
Folder 15	Shaker receipts, expenses, etc.	1830-1846;	202 items
Folder 16	Miscellaneous	1793-1834;	21 items
Folder 17	Deeds, survey, Shaker agreements	1797-1834	9 items

## **BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS SHAKERS – South Union, Ky. 1769-1893

154

C1-D7, Shaker materials include documents of  
#6 Jesse McCombs and James Johnson, slavery  
documents, guardianship documents, legal  
papers, land papers, grist and fulling mill  
papers, wills, agreements and receipts.  
1 box. 17 folders. 806 items. Originals.  
1977.52.1

## **SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

African Americans – Employment – Barren County, 1805 B1,F4

African Americans – Employment, 1833-1841 B1,F4

Boler, Sally W. (Felts) – Relating to, 1813 B1,F6

Certificates – Power of attorney, 1818-1829 B1,F6

Divorce, 1813 B1,F6

Fur trade – Prices, 1812 B1,F14

Guardian and ward, 1812-1843 B1,F5

Johns, Urban Ewing, 1802-1878 – Relating to B1,F15

Johnson, James – Relating to, 1787-1810 B1,F3

Land – Transactions (sales, purchases, transfers, etc.) – Christian County, 1802-  
1819 B1,F7

Land – Transactions (sales, purchases, transfers, etc.) – Knox County, Indiana,  
1810 B1,F7

Land – Transactions (sales, purchases, transfers, etc.) – Logan County, 1796-  
1851 B1,F2,7

Land – Transactions (sales, purchases, transfers, etc.) - Nelson County, Virginia,  
1792 B1,F7

Land – Transactions (sales, purchases, transfers, etc.) – Ohio County, 1803  
B1,F7

Land – Transactions (sales, purchases, transfers, etc.) – Warren County, 1804,  
1807, 1827 B1,F7

Louisville and Nashville Railroad – Bonds, 1863 B1,F15

Marshall, John, 1755-1835 – Relating to, 1824 B1,F6

Martin, William B. – Relating to B1,F14

McCombs, Jesse, 1750-1815 – Relating to, 1774-1819 B1,F2,4

McLean, Eli, 1793-1870 – Relating to B1,F14-15

Newspapers – Receipts – Louisville, 1835, 1836 B1,F15

Newspapers – Receipts – Nashville, Tennessee, 1828-1840 B1,F14-15

Price, Benjamin D., 1777-1833 – Relating to B1,F8,15

Prices, 1810-1846 B1,F2-3,7,9,14-16

Railroad stations – South Union B1,F9

Railroads – Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company – Bonds, 1863    B1,F15  
 Rankin, John, 1757-1850 – Relating to, 1807    B1,F2  
 Salt industry and trade – Barren County, 1805    B1,F4  
 Seed industry and trade – Shakers – South Union, Ky., 1842    B1,F15  
 Shakers – South Union, Ky. – African Americans - Employment, 1833-1841  
     B1,F4  
 Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Agreements, 1812-1852    B1,F11-13  
 Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Fulling mills, 1834    B1,F9  
 Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Gristmills, 1810-1893    B1,F9  
 Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Guardian and ward, 1812-1843    B1,F5  
 Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Land – Transactions (sales, purchases, transfers,  
     etc.)    B1,F2,7  
 Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Legal papers, 1807-1835    B1,F6  
 Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Promissory notes    B1,F8  
 Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Seed industry and trade, 1842    B1,F15  
 Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Slavery – Emancipation, 1817-1832    B1,F4  
 Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Tax receipts, 1832    B1,F15  
 Shakers – South Union, Ky. – Wills, 1812-1830    B1,F10  
 Slavery – Bill of sale, 1787    B1,F4  
 Slavery – Emancipation, 1817-1832    B1,F4  
 South Union – Railroad stations    B1,F9  
 Tax receipts – 1792-1810    B1, F2-3,16  
 Tax receipts – Logan County, 1832    B1,F15  
 Whyte, Samuel G., 1774-1833 – Relating to    B1,F4-7,14  
 Chester County, Pennsylvania – Wills, 1792    B1,F10  
 Wills – Chester County, Pennsylvania 1792    B1,F10  
 Wills – Chesterfield County, Virginia, 1770    B1,F10  
 Wills – Logan County    B1,F10  
 Wills – Orange County, North Carolina, 1769    B1,F10

### ***SEE and SEE ALSO***

Children, placement of

    See:

        Guardian and ward

Guardianship

    See:

        Guardian and ward

Tutelage

    See:

        Guardian and ward

Wards:

See:

Guardian and ward

Jeffrey 09/25/2013