

12-12-2007

## Hays, William Shakespeare (MSS 28)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
Western Kentucky University, [mssfa@wku.edu](mailto:mssfa@wku.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc\\_mss\\_fin\\_aid](https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid)



Part of the [Composition Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Hays, William Shakespeare (MSS 28)" (2007). *MSS Finding Aids*. Paper 283.  
[https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc\\_mss\\_fin\\_aid/283](https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid/283)

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in MSS Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact [topscholar@wku.edu](mailto:topscholar@wku.edu).

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

**MSS 28 HAYS, William Shakespeare, 1837-1907**

*Descriptive Inventory*

2 1/2 boxes. 29 folders. 1,032 items. 179?-1949. Originals.

1949.12.1

**BIOGRAPHY**

William Shakespeare Hays (19 July 1837-23 July 1907) was born in Louisville, Kentucky, and resided most of his life in that city. Hugh Hays, his father and a native Pennsylvanian, migrated to Louisville in 1832 where he married Martha Richardson. Will showed signs of musical talent at an early age and took a few violin lessons, but that seems to have been all of the musical training that he received. During 1856 and 1857, Will attended colleges in Hanover, Indiana; Clarksville, Tennessee; and Georgetown, Kentucky. While at Georgetown, he became known as the "boy poet." His first published song was "Little Ones at Home," which was written while he was at Hanover. This incident ignited a prolific writing career which resulted in Hays penning innumerable poems and newspaper columns in addition to approximately five hundred songs. He signed his manuscripts as "Will S. Hays." Some of his poetry was written to his future wife, Belle McCullough of Louisville. They were married in 1865.

Hays always had a love for the river, and his newspaper columns were based on river happenings and occurrences. During the Civil War, he commanded a river transport on the Mississippi, between Vicksburg and New Orleans. He continued to work on riverboats periodically during the sixties and the early seventies.

Hays began his newspaper work in Louisville in the late 1850s and maintained a position with the *Democrat*, and later, with the *Courier-Journal and Times* until his death. He served as marine editor for several years.

When he died in 1907, he was survived by his wife and two children, Dr. Samuel Brown Hays (1878-1933), and Mattie Belle Hays [Mrs. Fauche Warren Samuel] (1868-1947).

Bibliographical Notes

The Collection.  
*Dictionary of American Biography.*  
 Grise, George. Thesis, "Will S. Hays."

## **THE COLLECTION**

The correspondence of Hays is comprised mainly of his letters to Belle McCullough, his future wife, written during the years of 1863 to 1866. Also, there is a diary entitled "My Leisure Moments to Belle," written by Hays during this same period while residing in Nashville, Tennessee. A few letters to Mattie Belle Hays Samuel and to Samuel Brown Hays constitute the Hays family letters. Manuscript poems, songs (chiefly lyrics), and newspaper columns of Hays, with accompanying typed and manuscript copies, are included. There are royalty and copyright contracts as well as lists of Hays' works. Many newspaper clippings of Hays' various endeavors are included, too. Additionally, there is a folder of George Grise's correspondence from 1947 to 1949, which he collected while researching and writing his thesis on Hays.

For additional information about Hays' musical compositions, consult the sheet music collection in the Kentucky Library.

## **SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Hays family papers</b>	<b>179?-1949</b>	<b>259 items</b>
Folder 1	Letters to Belle McCullough	1863-1866	54 items
Folder 2	Wills (1) John McCollock, and (2) Thomas Kyle, both of Belfast, Ireland	179?-1810	2 items
Folder 3	Incoming letters to Hays, royalty and copyright contracts, and lists of compositions	1847-1913	14 items
	3a - Letter from mother	1847	1 item
	3b - Letter from W. W. Hite	1904	1 item
	3c - Royalty and copyright contracts	1867;1884;1911; 1913	4 items
	3d - List of compositions		8 items
Folder 4	Incoming letters to Mattie H. Samuel	1935; 1941	3 items
Folder 5	Letters, clippings, etc., of Samuel B. Hays	1888; 1933	7 items
Folder 6	Letters written to George Grise while he was writing his thesis	1947-1949	57 items
	6a - Letters - Steamboats	1947	4 items
	6b - Letters - "The Drummer Boy of Shiloh"	1948; 1990	4 items

Folder 7	Newspaper writings for various named columns	1863	105 items
	7a - "Driftwood" columns		14 items
	7b - "Old Ike" columns		22 items
	7c - "Our Log" columns	1870; 1883	30 items
	7d - "Syah" columns	1863-1864	5 items
	7e - Hays' newspaper writings - River column		12 items
	7f - Hays' miscellaneous news - paper writings		22 items
Folder 8	Newspapers - <i>The Inland Voyager</i> , published by the Green Line Steamers, Oct. 2-20, 1939, and related letter, Jan. 9, 1940	1939; 1940	17 items
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Poems</b>	<b>1864-1907</b>	<b>519 items</b>
Folder 1	Poems, A-G		101 items
Folder 2	Poems, H-M		90 items
	2a - Poem, "Marthy, John An' Jim" (Original in C1-D1,F3)	Jan. 1, 1888	1 item
	2b - Poems with accompanying information		1 item
	1. "The Hopewell Hymn"		
	2. "Old Shep"		
Folder 3	Poems, N-S		83 items
Folder 4	Poems, T-Y		97 items
Folder 5	Poems, copies (holographic and printed)		38 items
Folder 6	Poems, untitled		44 items
	6a - Untitled poems, originals		39 items
	6b - Untitled poems, holographic and typed copies		5 items
Folder 7	"In Memoriam" poems	1864-1906	55 items
	7a - In memoriam of Capt. Pink Varble	1892	2 items
	7b - In memoriam poems; no date,		25 items

Folder 8	alphabetized by title Poems, typed and printed		2 items
Folder 9	Poems written to and in honor of	1882; 1885	2 items
Folder 10	Poems written in 1907	1907	7 items
<b>BOX 3</b>	<b>Miscellaneous materials</b>	<b>1864-1907</b>	<b>254 items</b>
Folder 1	Manuscripts lyrics for songs		126 items
	1a - Song, "When Sherman Marched Down to the Sea," and front cover from sheet music of the same		2 items
	1b - Copies (holographic) of songs		5 items
	1c - Photostat of Hays' song "Old Ike"		1 item
	1d - Article - Authenticity of song "Goodbye Susan Jane"		1 item
Folder 2	Material concerning composer of "Dixie"		22 items
Folder 3	List of Hays' songs in Kentucky Library		6 items
Folder 4	Diary - "My Leisure Moments to Belle McCullough," (Original, photocopy, and two bound typed copies)	1864-1865	1 item
	4a - Diary (typescript)		
Folder 5	Compositions		5 items
Folder 6	Indices to collections of Hays' materials		4 items
Folder 7	Scrapbooks - Belle's book, poems of Belle and of Will	1862-1864	3 items
Folder 8	Papers - Hays' 50 <sup>th</sup> and 57 <sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations		7 items
Folder 9	Printed items	1899-1947	68 items
	9a - Steamboats - Article		1 item
	9b - Hays' newspaper	1899	10 items

	columns - Clippings		
	9c - Will S. Hays and his works - Clippings	1941	15 items
	9d - George Grise's inquiries concerning Will S. Hays - Clippings	1947	4 items
	9e - Hays' poems and songs - Clippings		24 items
	9f - Authorship of "Dixie" - Clippings and photostats		9 items
	9g - Will S. Hays - Tributes	1907	5 items
Folder 10	Photographs and pictures		9 items
Folder 11	Will S. Hays - Biographical material		3 items

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS HAYS, William Shakespeare, 1837-1907      179?-1949  
28

Correspondence, poems, lyrics, newspaper marine columns, and royalty and copyright contracts of William Shakespeare Hays of Louisville, Kentucky. Many clippings of a biographical nature and of his works.

2 1/2 boxes. 29 folders. 1,032 items.  
1949.12.1

### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Columnist and columns – Marine  
Composers – Kentucky  
Contracts – Royalties and copyrights  
Copyright – Contracts  
Diaries, 1864-1865 – Hays, William Shakespeare, 1837-1907  
Essays  
Grise, George Calvin, 1918-1961  
Hays, William Shakespeare, 1837-1907 – Photos  
Ireland – Wills, 179?, 1810  
Journalism – Columnists  
Louisville – Social life and customs, 1863-1866  
Lyrics  
McCullough, Belle, d.1935  
Musicians  
Poets – Kentucky

Poetry  
Scrapbooks – McCullough, Belle, d. 1935  
Steamboats

***SEE AND SEE ALSO CARDS***

Hays, Belle McCullough  
See:  
    McCullough, Belle

Columnists and columns  
See also:  
    Journalism

Lyrics  
See also:  
    Poetry; Songs

Jeffrey 11/10/2011