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## Neal, Mary Julia, 1905-1995 (MSS 4)

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

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 4 NEAL, Mary Julia, 1905-1995**

10 boxes. 115 folders. 1,546 items. 1806-1995. Originals, photocopies.

1995.49.1

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Mary Julia Neal was born on 15 August 1905 in Auburn, Logan County, Kentucky, the daughter of Presley Taylor Neal and Nettie Pace Neal. Auburn is located near the former Shaker colony of South Union, and Neal grew up visiting the brethren and sisters and becoming familiar with her Shaker neighbors. However, it was not until she was in college that she began to research and write about the group that would become her life's work.

Neal received an AA degree from Bethel Women's College, Hopkinsville, Kentucky in 1925. She began taking classes at Western Kentucky State Teacher's College (now WKU), Bowling Green, Kentucky later that year, graduating with a Bachelor's in English in 1931. While working on the school's newspaper, the *College Heights Herald*, Neal was assigned to write a feature article about the Shakers by her instructor Dr. Gordon Wilson. "Shakertown of Long, Long Ago" appeared in the January 1926 issue, the first of her many writings that would deal with this unique religious group.

Neal received her Master's degree from WKU in 1933 and taught there as an instructor in the English Department for ten years. During this time the Kentucky Library was built on campus. Among the many items donated to its collections were documents from South Union which Neal utilized for her research. She also investigated collections of materials at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, and the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland. Neal visited the Canterbury, New Hampshire and Sabbathday Lake, Maine communities where she established friendships with the last twentieth century Shakers.

In the early 1940s Neal left WKU to do post-graduate work at the University of Michigan. While there she completed the manuscript for *By Their Fruits: The Story of Shakerism in South Union, Kentucky*. This book, the result of her research into diaries, manuscripts, ledgers, and other primary sources, was published in 1947 by the University of North Carolina Press. Reviewer Adele Brandeis wrote "it is written with the honesty and dignity and at the same time with the quiet joy and occasional humor of that people...."

In 1946 Neal joined the faculty of Florence State College, Florence, Alabama as associate professor of English and taught there until 1964 when she returned to WKU to become Director of the Kentucky Library & Museum. At the Kentucky Building, she oversaw the creation of a Manuscripts Division and spoke out about the need for an addition to the building. In addition to her work on campus, Neal was actively involved in the attempt to preserve Shaker artifacts by the creation of a South Union museum. She was also part of a group that sought to purchase and restore the remaining buildings at South Union. Julia Neal retired from the Kentucky Library in 1972, but she

continued researching, writing, traveling, and volunteering at the South Union Shaker Museum.

When Julia Neal died on 22 July 1995, she was regarded as one of the country's leading Shaker historians. Her writings had helped preserve America's and Kentucky's Shaker history. In addition to *By Their Fruits*, she edited *The Journal of Eldress Nancy, Kept at the South Union, Kentucky, Shaker Colony, August 15, 1861-September 4, 1864* (Parthenon Press, 1963). She authored the text for *The Shaker Image* (New York Graphic Society, 1974) and wrote *The Kentucky Shakers* for the Bicentennial Bookshelf series (University Press of Kentucky, 1977). Her articles appeared in journals such as *Shaker Quarterly*, *Filson Club History Quarterly*, and *Kentucky Folklore Record*.

## **COLLECTION NOTES**

The collection consists of the correspondence, speeches, and writings of Shaker scholar and English professor, Mary Julia Neal. Boxes 1-3 consist of Neal's correspondence, from childhood letters to her later professional correspondence. The later correspondence is chiefly with personal friends, Shaker scholars, and those interested in communal or utopian studies. Of particular interest is some correspondence with Kentucky author Jesse Stuart, and correspondence with twentieth-century Shakers.

Boxes 4-5 contain drafts and galley proofs of Neal's books about the Shakers. Box 6 contains other writings by Neal, chiefly speeches and articles about Shakers or Kentucky culture. Box 7 consists of research pursued by Neal and other Shaker scholars, again chiefly related to the Shakers. Box 8 contains personal information about Neal including newspaper clippings, programs listing Neal as a speaker, notes about awards received by Neal, and information about her time at Bethel College (Hopkinsville), as well as vertical file material about Shaker villages.

Box 9 contains photographs of the Neal family as well as nineteenth- and twentieth-century photos of Shakers and their villages. The majority of the Shaker photographs are from South Union, Kentucky. The box also contains a number of photographs of the Shakers who lived in the latter part of the twentieth century at Canterbury, New Hampshire and Sabbathday Lake, Maine. The box also includes some snapshots of the Red River Union Meeting House.

Box 10 contains information about Neal's professional associations and interests: newspaper clippings about the history of Auburn, Kentucky; her nephew, Stanley Carter Pace, St. Mark's Priory at South Union, the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society, and the Historic Communal Societies Association and its annual conference.

## **SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Mary Julia Neal</b>	<b>1915-1979</b>	<b>427 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Letters written by Neal as a child to her parents while visiting relatives in Cumberland County	1915	17 items
Folder 3	Correspondence	1921-1959	64 items

Folder 4	Correspondence	1960-1969	103 items
Folder 5	Correspondence	1972	64 items
Folder 6	Correspondence	1973-1974	68 items
Folder 7	Letters to Neal	1975-1977	70 items
Folder 8	Letters to Neal	1978-1979	40 items

<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Mary Julia Neal</b>	<b>1967-1995</b>	<b>398 items</b>
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Folder 1	Letters to Neal	1980-1982	56 items
Folder 2	Correspondence	1983-1984	54 items
Folder 3	Letters to Neal	1985-1986	54 items
Folder 4	Letters to Neal	1987-1989	43 items
Folder 5	Correspondence	1990	29 items
Folder 6	Correspondence	1991-1995	28 items
Folder 7	Correspondence	n.d.	79 items
Folder 8	Correspondence with Jesse Stuart	1967-1974	42 items
Folder 9	Kentucky Quilt Project – Correspondence, exhibit invitation, etc.	1982-1986	13 items

<b>BOX 3</b>	<b>Mary Julia Neal</b>	<b>1877-1990</b>	<b>192 items</b>
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Folder 1	Correspondence with Shakers	1954-1982, n.d.	73 items
Folder 2	Christmas and other holiday cards sent to Neal by various Shakers	1974-1990, n.d.	54 items
Folder 3	Letters by Shakers or Shaker scholars addressed to someone other than Neal	1930-1985	14 items
Folder 4	Letters sent by Shakers to Deedy Hall (Mrs. Curry Hall)	1961-1964	16 items

Folder 5	Letter, postcards, and articles from James E. Pace regarding a trip to the Middle East; also a death notice for Pace	1912; 1917	13 items
Folder 6	Receipts and promissory note related to John C. Darby and Mary E. Darby of Auburn, KY	1877-1910	11 items
Folder 7	Letters to Neal's parents, P.T. & Nellie (Pace) Neal	1902; 1920-1924	8 items
Folder 8	Letters written by Aaron Fuqua to family and a genealogy of the Fuqua family	1894-1898	3 items
<b>BOX 4</b>	<b>Mary Julia Neal</b>	<b>[1945]-1964</b>	<b>43 items</b>
Folder 1	Draft for <i>By Their Fruits</i> (349 p.)	[1945]	1 item
Folder 2	<i>By Their Fruits</i> – Dust jackets	1947	2 items
Folder 3	Hopwood Award – Correspondence and news clippings	1945-1964	40 items
<b>BOX 5</b>	<b>Mary Julia Neal</b>	<b>1947-1995</b>	<b>69 items</b>
Folder 1	Draft of <i>The Journal of Eldress Nancy</i>	1962?	1 item;
Folder 2	Galley proof for <i>The Journal of Eldress Nancy</i>	1963	1 item;
Folder 3	Draft, Rough – <i>Kentucky Shakers</i>	[1976]	1 item
Folder 4	Draft, 2 <sup>nd</sup> – <i>Kentucky Shakers</i>	[1976]	1 item
Folder 5	Galley, proof & notes – <i>Kentucky Shakers</i>	1977	2 items
Folder 6	Draft, Rough and notes – <i>Shaker Image</i>	n.d.	3 items
Folder 7	University Press of Kentucky – Promotional material	1977; n.d.	5 items
Folder 8	Book reviews of Neal's books	1947-1995	55 items

<b>BOX 6</b>	<b>Mary Julia Neal</b>	<b>1940-1989</b>	<b>46 items</b>
Folder 1	"The Allan Trout Collection"	n.d.	1 item
Folder 2	"American Shakers" – Article that appeared in <i>Communities</i> (Winter 1985)	1985	2 items
Folder 3	"Bearing a Sound, Good Cross" – Paper read at Hancock Studies Conference	1968	1 item
Folder 4	"The Cumberland Trace" – Paper	1970	1 item
Folder 5	[Eldress Nancy Moore's Diary of Civil War Events at South Union] – Article, <i>Filson Club History Quarterly</i>	1965	1 item
Folder 6	How I became interested in the Shakers – Presentation	n.d.	5 items
Folder 7	"Kentucky Shakers Go to Market" – Presentation at the Pleasant Hill Friends Forum	1974	3 items
Folder 8	"Language of the South Union Shaker Manuscripts" – Article, <i>Filson Club History Quarterly</i>	1974	2 items
Folder 9	"The Rise and Fall of the South Union" – Presentation at KY-TN American Studies Association meeting	n.d.	1 item
Folder 10	"Shaker Children" – Presentation at the South Union Shaker Seminar	1989	2 items
Folder 11	"Shaker Festival" – Article in the <i>Kentucky Folklore Record</i>	1962	2 items
Folder 12	[Shaker Furniture] – Article, <i>Antiques</i>	1970	1 item
Folder 13	"Shaker Industries in Kentucky" – Article, <i>Antiques</i>	n.d.	1 item
Folder 14	"Shaker industries in the West" – Paper	n.d.	1 item
Folder 15	"Shakerism as Revealed in the Western Publications" – Presentation at the Historic American Communal Societies Association at Pleasant Hill	1976	1 item

Folder 16	“Shakerism in the United States” – Seminar paper at University of Michigan	1940	1 item
Folder 17	“Shakers of West Union” – Paper	n.d.	1 item
Folder 18	“South Union Shakers” – Presentation at the Louisville Arts Club	1973	1 item
Folder 19	“Value of experience in education” – Article in <i>Peabody Journal of Education</i>	1967	2 items
Folder 20	“Woman’s Missionary Union, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, KY” – Manuscript	1879-1985	1 item
Folder 21	Book reviews by Neal	1973-1985	8 items
Folder 22	Short articles or published letters by Neal	1977-1985	7 items
<b>BOX 7</b>	<b>Mary Julia Neal</b>	<b>1806-1991</b>	<b>98 items</b>
Folder 1	“Investigator’s Application” used by the North Union, Ohio Shakers, signatures of North Union village leaders	1871	2 items
Folder 2	Research material related to Sally Boler	1809-1970	18 items
Folder 3	Shaker journal entries about construction of buildings and flower, shrubs, trees, etc., planted at South Union	1990	15 items
Folder 4	Shaker letter (copies) from the South Union letter book, miscellaneous	1806-1920	15 items
Folder 5	Shaker documents – Journal of Isaac Youngs during visit to the West, South Union	1834	1 item;
Folder 6	“Spirit and Intellect”: Farewell sermon of the South Union Shakers	1892	1 item
Folder 7	Title abstract for land in Auburn, KY, that James A. Pearce sold to the Shakers in 1813	1895	1 item

Folder 8	Research material related to Shaker children	1812-1825; 1977	4 items
Folder 9	Research materials related to Shaker deaths	1883-1924; n.d.	16 items
Folder 10	Research material related to the Moore family	1816-1983	9 items
Folder 11	Article entitled "Communal History in America" by Robert S. Fogerty ( <i>American Studies &amp; Choice</i> )	1963	2 items
Folder 12	Article entitled "The Shakers" from from <i>Harper's New Monthly Magazine</i>	1857	1 item
Folder 13	Article entitled "The Shakers of New England" by Edward Deming Andrews	1960	1 item
Folder 14	Article entitled "A Small Family of Seven" by Berton Roueche	1947	1 item
Folder 15	Article entitled "Suffer Dearly" by Henry A. Lachane ( <i>Yankee</i> )	1974	1 item
Folder 16	Articles from Icarian Society publications related to the Shakers (In French)	1856-1880	1 item
Folder 17	Chapter entitled "The Shakers, 1805" from <i>The Story of a Country Church</i>	1902	1 item
Folder 18	Fictional story entitled "Shaker John"	1872	1 item
Folder 19	Fictional story about Shakers entitled "Out of the World" from <i>Scribners</i> , v. 18	1879	1 item
Folder 20	Paper by Charles O. Lee entitled "The Shakers as Pioneers in the American Herb and Drug Industry"	1959	1 item
Folder 21	Paper by Donald E. Janzen "Shakerism in the Old South: A Story of the Alabama Shakers"	1982	1 item
Folder 22	Paper by Julie Allyn Nicolette entitled "Structures for Communal Life: Shaker Dwelling Houses at Mount Lebanon, New York"	1991	1 item



Folder 23	Paper by Mary Lou Conlin entitled "North Union and Cleveland: Two Worlds on a Collision Course"	n.d.	1 item
Folder 24	Paper by R. Peter Wilcox entitled "Shakertown: Sun-light and sun-order in Kentucky Communitarian Architecture"	n.d.	1 item
Folder 25	Paper by Rose Mary Lawson entitled "A Tree Potpourri"	n.d.	1 item
<b>BOX 8</b>	<b>Mary Julia Neal</b>	<b>1814-1995</b>	<b>429 items</b>
Folder 1	Miscellaneous items related to Neal	1923-1985	8 items
Folder 2	News clippings about Neal	1926-1995	96 items
Folder 3	Programs indicating Neal as a speaker	1948-1988	16 items
Folder 4	Bethel College items	1925-1952	10 items
Folder 5	Awards of Neal	1931-1986	19 items
Folder 6	Shaker Bicentennial National Convention – Miscellaneous material	1974	6 items
Folder 7	News clippings – Shaker cookery	1960-1977	11 items
Folder 8	Shaker magazine articles and newspaper clippings	1945-1986	48 items
Folder 9	General information about Shakers, Shaker conferences, Shaker exhibits	1947-1986	45 items
Folder 10	Shaker village information – Busro, Indiana (West Union)	1884-1974	5 items
Folder 11	Shaker village information – Canterbury, New Hampshire	1947-1988	18 items
Folder 12	Shaker village information – Hancock, Massachusetts	1947-1974	23 items
Folder 13	Shaker village information – Lebanon, Ohio	1947	4 items

Folder 14	Shaker village information – Mt. Lebanon, NY (Watervliet) & Old Chatham	1905-1977	12 items
Folder 15	Shaker village information – North Union, Ohio	1960-1962	4 items
Folder 16	Shaker village information – Pleasant Hill, Kentucky	1814-1985	27 items
Folder 17	Shaker village information – Sabbathday Lake, Maine	1961-1986	15 items
Folder 18	Shaker village information – South Union, Kentucky	1818-1983	36 items
Folder 19	Shaker village information – South Union, Kentucky – Shaker Festival	1963-1989	26 items
<b>BOX 9</b>	<b>Mary Julia Neal</b>	<b>1885-1995</b>	<b>152 items</b>
Folder 1	Photos of Neal and family	1906-1977	30 items
Folder 2	Photos taken at luncheon honoring Neal	Aug. 1977	1 item
Folder 3	Photos of Shakers and Shaker sites with emphasis on South Union	1885-1974	60 items
Folder 4	Photos of Shakers and Shaker sites with emphasis on South Union	n.d.	46 items
Folder 5	Shaker photos and Red River Union Meeting House	1963-1995	15 items
<b>BOX 10</b>	<b>Mary Julia Neal</b>	<b>1940-1990</b>	<b>90 items</b>
Folder 1	U.S. Bicentennial – Programs, invitation, etc.	1973-1974	4 items
Folder 2	Historic Communal Societies Conference – Programs	1974-1983	6 items
Folder 3	Newspaper clippings – Auburn, KY	1959-1965	21 items
Folder 4	St. Mark's Priory – Information	1952-1980	11 items
Folder 5	Kentucky Baptist Historical Society	1981-1988	16 items

Folder 6	Speech and newspaper clippings of Stanley C. Pace	1984-1990	19 items
Folder 7	Press conference and McNeil-Lehrer interview of Stanley C. Pace	1986	3 items
Folder 8	Programs from the School Masters Club and from missions events at First Baptist Church, Bowling Green	1940-1942	10 items

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

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 #14 Correspondence, speeches, and writings of Shaker scholar and English professor, Mary Julia Neal, a native of Auburn, Kentucky. Neal served as director of the Kentucky Building at Western Kentucky University from 1964 to 1972. Includes photos and correspondence with twentieth-century eastern Shakers.  
 10 boxes. 115 folders. 1,546 items. Originals, photocopies.  
 1995.49.1

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Jeffrey 07/09/2008