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## McReynolds Family Papers (MSS 56)

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

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 56 McREYNOLDS Family Papers**

½ box. 6 folders. 105 items. 1794-1965. Originals, typescripts.

1945.1.1

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Thomas Phillips (1774-1843) was born near Glasgow, Scotland, and came to Philadelphia about 1797. The next year he moved to Paris, Kentucky, and in 1803 he married a Paris widow, Susannah (Edwards) Reeder, a daughter of John Edwards, one of Kentucky's first Senators. In 1806 they moved to Todd County, settling about two miles from Elkton, and resided there the rest of their lives. Benjamin E. and Mary Jane were two of their eight children. Benjamin E. lived in Clinton, Mississippi, and Nacogdoches, Texas. He married Atala Augusta Hotchkiss of Nacogdoches in 1839, and they had a daughter named Catherine (b. 1843?). Mary Jane (1814-1860) resided in Elkton all of her life. She married David Clark Reeves (1809-1841) in 1834, and they had one daughter, Ellen. Several years after the death of her first husband, Mary Jane wed Dr. James Alexander McReynolds (1812-1869). In 1859, Ellen (1840-1916) married Dr. John Oliver McReynolds (1827-1905), and they had the following children: Mary Bell Zarecor (1860-1934), James Clark (1862-1946), Robert Phillips (1871-1952), and Ellen R. (1880-1888).

Thomas Phillips' great-grandson James Clark McReynolds received a B.S. degree from Vanderbilt University in 1882 and graduated from the University of Virginia Law Department in 1884. He practiced law for a number of years in Nashville, Tennessee; was U.S. assistant Attorney General from 1903 to 1907; practiced law in New York City; served in 1913 and 1914 as U.S. attorney-general in President Wilson's cabinet; and served as associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1914 to 1941. Although he made Washington, D.C. his home, Justice McReynolds retained close ties with his Kentucky family.

Bibliographical Notes

Ardery, Mrs. William Breckinridge, Historical Scrapbook. Bourbon County, KY, 1939.

Battle, J.H. County of Todd, Kentucky, Historical and Biographical, 1884.

The Collection.

Petrie, R.D., and Weather, G.S. Todd County One Hundred Years Ago and Now, 1935.

Vick, Mrs. J. Wells. The McReynolds and Talbot Families, 1957?

## **COLLECTION NOTE**

Letters compose the major portion of this collection, and they are chiefly the correspondence of Susannah (Mrs. Thomas) Phillips, 1837-1843 (10 items); Thomas Phillips, 1838-1840 (3), and Mary Jane (Phillips) Reeves McReynolds, 1838-1857 (16). In addition, there are letters to Ellen Reeves, 1856?-1858 (5); receipts of G.E. Phillips, 1837-1839 (6); letters to John Oliver McReynolds; and miscellaneous papers, 1829-1860 (10). The correspondence, 1945 (17), between Mary T. Moore, librarian of the Kentucky Library, and Justice McReynolds, co-donor of the collection, is included. Also, there are four manuscript booklets: recipes for food and medicines, recipes for making dyes, an autograph album of Mary Jane Reeves, 1836-1846, and one entitled, "scraps of history and the sayings of great men selected by Mary Jane Phillips in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> years of her age." Biographical and genealogical materials (holographic, typescript, and photocopy) are included.

Also of interest is a photocopy of questions answered by Kentucky Senator John Edwards before the Democratic Society of Washington, D.C., about the free navigation of the Mississippi River in 1794. The original is in The Library of Congress.

## **SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>McReynolds Family Papers</b>	<b>1794-1965</b>	<b>105 items</b>
Folder 1a	Descriptive Inventory		
Folder 1	Correspondence of Susannah Phillips (Mrs. Thomas Phillips)	1837-1843	10 items
Folder 2	Correspondence and receipts of Mary Jane (Phillips) Reeves McReynolds	1838-1843	16 items
Folder 3	Phillips, Reeves, McReynolds papers	1829-1860	24 items
	3a – Correspondence of Thomas Phillips	1838-1840	3 items
	3b – Incoming letters, etc. of Ellen Reeves	1856(?)-1858	5 items
	3c – Receipts of G. E. Phillips	1837-1839	6 items
	3d – McReynolds papers and other miscellaneous papers	1829-1860	10 items
Folder 4	Correspondence of James Clark McReynolds and Mary T. Moore	1945	17 items
Folder 5	Manuscript booklets, 1829 or 1830, and autograph album, 1836-1846	1829-1846	4 items
Folder 6	Biographical material – Clippings, etc. and photostats relating to John Edwards	1794-1965	10 items

## **BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS McREYNOLDS Family Papers 1794-1965

56

Correspondence of Susannah and Thomas Phillips, and Mary J. (Phillips) McReynolds of Elkton, Todd County, Kentucky; McReynolds papers; manuscript booklets and autograph album; correspondence of Mary T. Moore and J.C. McReynolds relating to the collection; and biographical material.

½ box. 6 folders. 105 items. Originals, typescripts.  
1945.1.1

## **SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Arkansas – Springs, 1847 F2  
Autographs – Collections – Albums and books, 1836-1846 – McReynolds, Mary Jane (Phillips) Reeves, 1814-1860 F5  
Boats and boating – Ohio River, 1840 F1  
Christian Church – Discipline, 1852 F3d  
Clinton, Mississippi, 1838-1842 F1,2  
Cookery F2,5  
Diseases, 1837-1857  
Dyes and dyeing – Recipes F5  
Edwards family  
Edwards, John, 1748(?) - 1837 – Relating to, 1794 F6  
Elkton  
Farms and farming – Texas, 1843 F1,2  
Galveston, Texas, 1838-1842 F1,3a  
Hams, 1843 F2  
Houston, Texas – Land – Prices, 1837 F3c  
Immigration and emigration – Internal migration, 1838-1843 F1,2  
Judges F4,6  
Lawyers F4,6  
Livestock – Texas, 1843 F2  
McReynolds family  
McReynolds, James Clark, 1862-1946 F4,6  
McReynolds, James Clark, 1862-1946 – Photos, 1937 F6  
McReynolds, John Oliver, 1827-1905 F3d,6  
McReynolds, Mary Jane (Phillips) Reeves, 1814-1860 F2,6  
Medical practices, 1847 F2  
Medicine – Prescriptions and remedies F3a,5  
Methodist Episcopal Churches – Mt. Zion – Trigg County, 1854 F3d  
Mexico – Foreign relations – With the United States, 1842 F1  
Mississippi – Clinton, 1838-1842 F1,2

Mississippi River – Navigation, 1794 F6  
 Moore, Mary (Taylor) Leiper, 1885-1973 F4  
 Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church – Trigg County, 1854 F3d  
 Nacogdoches, Texas, 1838-1843 F1,2  
 Navigation – Mississippi River, 1794 F6  
 Ohio River – Boats and boating, 1840 F1  
 Phillips, Benjamin E., 1811-1844 F1-3a  
 Phillips family  
 Phillips, Susannah (Edwards) Reeder, 1778-1848 F1  
 Politics – U.S. – Personal views, 1840 F3a  
 Recipes – Dyes and dyeing F5  
 Recipes – Food F5  
 Reeves family  
 Religion – Elkton F1-3  
 Slave trade, 1840 F3a  
 Social life & customs, 1838-1858 F1,3  
 Springs – Arkansas, 1847 F2  
 Steamboats – Travel, 1840 F1  
 Texas – Economic conditions, 1839-1943 F1,2  
 Texas – Farms and farming, 1843 F1,2  
 Texas – Livestock, 1843 F2  
 Texas – Mexican invasions, 1842 F1  
 Texas – Military affairs, 1842-1843 F1  
 Texas – Travel and description, 1838-1843 F1,2  
 Todd County  
 Travel and description, 1840 F1  
 Trigg County – Churches – Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal, 1854 F3d  
 Tuberculosis F3a  
 U.S. – Supreme Court – Justices – 20<sup>th</sup> century F4,6  
 Wesley, John, 1703-1791 – Relating to, 1854 F3d

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