

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

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 251    CAMP Joy – Brownsville, Kentucky**

2 boxes. 17 folders. 531 items. 1951-1991. Originals, photocopies, and digital images.

1991.89.1

**ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY**

In 1940 the Southern Region Woman's Missionary Union of the Kentucky Baptist Convention voted to sponsor a camp for young people at a state park in Elkton, Kentucky. From 1940 to 1949 the Southern Region Young People's Camp met at Elkton, Logansport, Sulphur Well, and Morgantown while a permanent home for the camp was sought. In 1950 Brownsville Missionary Baptist Church purchased a site in Brownsville, Edmonson County, and gave it to the Southern Region WMU. In 1952 the first camp was held there. Subsequently, the name was changed to Camp Joy, reflecting the motto – **J**esus first, **O**thers second and **Y**our self last. The Southern Region WMU continued to oversee the camp until 1973 when the Baptist churches of Allen, Bethel, Edmonson, Freedom, Gasper River, Grayson, Liberty, Logan, Lynn, Monroe, Simpson, and Warren Associations assumed sponsorship.

The first dormitory was completed in 1953 and the open air Wells Chapel was built in 1955. In 1973 the Minnie Berry Lodge was dedicated to Baptist home missionary Berry of Franklin, Kentucky. Today Camp Joy's grounds include two dormitories, three lodges, a residence for the camp manager, a swimming pool, and other recreational facilities. It remains a place set apart for Bible study, reflection, and worship.

**COLLECTION**

This collection consists of documents related to the history of Camp Joy, a Baptist assembly located in Brownsville, Edmonson County, Kentucky, from 1951 to 1991. The materials include minutes of the camp trustees, executive committee, advisory board, and the Southern Region Woman's Missionary Union. The collection also includes By-laws, camp policies and regulations, financial reports, worship service and retreat programs, camper and parent information sheets, schedules of events, lists of campers, attendance reports, and miscellaneous correspondence. One folder contains the correspondence of Mrs. W.F. Ware (Martha) a long-time camp supporter and Southern Region WMU officer. Also, one folder contains two cash books for the years 1953 to 1957 maintained by Mrs. Mont Breedlove (Ila Elizabeth), Camp Joy treasurer. Of interest are two color postcards from the 1960s showing views of the camp at that time.

**SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>		<b>1951-1991</b>	<b>307 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory		2 items
Folder 2	History and minutes	Feb. 20, 1951- Nov. 29, 1956	84 items
Folder 3	History and minutes	1957-1974	70 items
Folder 4	Board members and minutes	Jan. 1975- Oct. 1978	35 items
Folder 5	Board members and minutes	1980-1988	35 items
Folder 6	Minutes from Southern Region WMU meetings	1991	70 items
Folder 7	Cashbooks (from Mabel Reed) and letter from Mrs. Breedlove	1953-1957	3 items
Folder 8	Notes on history; policies and regulations	1973, 1991	6 items
Folder 9	Compilation of Camp Joy's history from 1941 to 1991, and program	1991	2 items
<b>BOX 2</b>		<b>1952-1990</b>	<b>224 items</b>
Folder 1	Newsletter; form letters and list of campers	[1950s?], 1975	7 items
Folder 2	Correspondence and reports (miscellaneous)	Aug. 7 1952- 1979	34 items
Folder 3	Postcards and outlines for vesper services	1964	16 items
Folder 4	Retreat and camp programs	Aug. 1967- 1985	49 items
Folder 5	Attendance reports	1964-1990	19 items

Folder 6	Mrs. W.F. Ware's correspondence, notes on by-laws and related organizations	Dec. 1971-July 28, 1979	62 items
Folder 7	Financial reports	1972-1975	35 items
Folder 8	Camp Joy consultation for the Warren Association of Baptists & letter	1989	2 items

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS 251 CAMP Joy – Brownsville, Kentucky 1951-1991

Correspondence, minutes, financial reports, worship programs, by-laws, and policies related to the history of Camp Joy, a Baptist encampment in Brownsville, Edmonson County, Kentucky.

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### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Baptists – Church camps  
Berry, Minnie, 1888-1971 – Relating to B1 F9, B2 F1  
Breedlove, Ila Elizabeth – Relating to B1 F7  
Camp Joy – Photos B2 F3  
Church camps – Baptists  
Church camps – Edmonson County  
Edmonson County – Church camps  
Southern Region Baptist Woman's Missionary Union of Kentucky  
Southern Region Young People's Camp B1 F2, B2 F2  
Ware, Martha – Correspondence B2 F6  
Woman's Missionary Union – Southern Region

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