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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 261 WITTEN, Tempie Jane (Bell), 1901-1985

6 boxes. 62 folders. 1,518 items. 1794-1987. Originals, photocopies.

2009.21.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Tempie Jane (Bell) Witten was born 15 October 1901 in Grayson County, Kentucky. Her parents were Charles William Bell and Leora (Salsman) Bell. She studied at a one-room school in Grayson County before attending Clarkson Normal School from 1917 to 1918. She passed her teacher's examinations in 1920 and after teaching for a number of years she entered Western Kentucky State Teachers College and obtained a life teaching certificate. She taught elementary and high school for 40 years, more than 20 of those in the county's one room schools, before retiring in 1965. A highlight of her teaching career came in 1926 when one of her students, her sister Pauline, won not only the county and state spelling bees, but the national spelling competition in Washington D.C. After her retirement she devoted much of her time to genealogical research.

She married Ernest T. Witten in Springfield, Tennessee 14 June 1941. She died 3 May 1985 and is buried next to her husband in the Little Flock Cemetery, Grayson County.

COLLECTION NOTE

The Tempie Jane (Bell) Witten Collection has two major focuses: the genealogy of Mrs. Witten's family, the Bells of Grayson County, as well as collateral families in that area, and Grayson County history, particularly that of the county's Baptist churches and schools. Most of the older items in the collection are actually photocopies, not original documents. Box 1 contains correspondence chiefly with family members or to those who shared Witten's interest in genealogy. Of particular interest are four letters from Joyce Ann Hutchins describing Japan in 1947-1948. Researchers will also find in this box a lengthy genealogical related and friendly correspondence between Witten and John H. & Cora B. McCrady of Piggott, Arkansas. This couple was related to Mrs. Witten through her paternal grandmother, Malinda Jane McCrady.

Boxes 3 and 4 contain the genealogical research collected by Witten. The chief families include: Bell, McCrady, Skaggs, Salsman and Witten. Any family with more than five pieces

of information was assigned an individual folder. Other family group sheets were placed in Folders 1 and 2 of Box 3 and arranged alphabetically by the surname.

Box 5 consists chiefly of grade books, attendance registers and other miscellaneous materials related to Witten's teaching career. This box also contains news clippings that have been divided into the following subjects: Grayson County schools, biographies and obituaries of Grayson County residents, Grayson County history and places, and the Grayson County Historical Society.

Box 6 consists of information about Grayson County churches, particularly Clarkson Baptist Church, and data about Grayson County schools. The folders in this box include some drafts of articles and/or reminiscences by Witten about Grayson County schools and churches. Folder 9 in this box contains an interesting sermon by LaVerne Butler of Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville on the topic of the desegregation and busing of students in the schools of that city and Jefferson County.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Correspondence	1901-1985	324 items
Folder 1	Finding aid and biographical data	1901-1966	12 items
Folder 2	Correspondence	1935-1959	62 items
Folder 3	Correspondence	1960-1969	32 items
Folder 4	Correspondence	1970-1979	91 items
Folder 5	Correspondence	1980-1985	71 items
Folder 6	Correspondence	n.d.	27 items
Folder 7	Writings	1944; 1969; 1977-1980; 1983; n.d.	11 items
Folder 8	Ernest Witten – Estate	1931-1984	18 items
BOX 2	Miscellaneous items	1926-1983; n.d.	141 items
Folder 1	Autograph book	1929	1 item
Folder 2	Photographs	n.d.	45 items
Folder 3	Household account book	1969-1983	1 item

Folder 4	Ranie Bell Brooks – Condolences received upon her death and photographs	1966-1967	26 items
Folder 5	Brooks, James Maurice	1943-1973	4 items
Folder 6	Pauline Bell Dunn – Correspondence, newsclippings, etc.	1926-1982	20 items
Folder 7	Ruby Cull Whayne Nevinger – Letters from and news clippings	1974-1979	33 items
Folder 8	Poetry by others	n.d.	11 items
BOX 3	Genealogical material	1794-1985	223 items
Folder 1	Family Genealogies, A-M	1966-1984	35 items
Folder 2	Family Genealogies, N-W	1977-1983	31 items
Folder 3	Bell family	1897-1985	84 items
Folder 4	Bell family	1794-1982	21 items
Folder 5	<i>Millerstown and Its People</i> – Skaggs, Watkins, Cleaver, Bell, Kirby, and Henderson families	1977	1 item
Folder 6	Bruner family	1863-1953	2 items
Folder 7	Carby (Kirby) family	1800-1980	27 items
Folder 8	Downs family	1915-1980	7 items
Folder 9	Fulkerson family	1979-1984	15 items
BOX 4	Genealogical material	1796-1984; n.d.	382 items
Folder 1	Henderson family	1957-1984	39 items
Folder 2	Horne family	1976-1982; n.d.	8 items
Folder 3	Layman family	1796-1981	22 items

Folder 4	Line family	1976-1983	11 items
Folder 5	McCrary family	1879-1984	68 items
Folder 6	Paris family	1979-1984	19 items
Folder 7	Richardson family	1984	7 items
Folder 8	Salsman family	1909-1983	41 items
Folder 9	Skaggs family	1848-1984	58 items
Folder 10	Skaggs, James D.	1975-1976	5 items
Folder 11	Watkins family	n.d.	11 items
Folder 12	Witten family	1862-1983	93 items
BOX 5	School related items and news clippings	1920-1987; n.d.	187 items
Folder 1	Teacher's register of attendance for Kentucky Schools – Clarkson	1944-1945; 1955-1956	2 items
Folder 2	Grade books – Clarkson, 8 th grade	1945-1946	1 item
Folder 3	Grade books – Clarkson, 8 th grade; one includes questions for a civics class	1960-1962	2 items
Folder 4	Grade book – Clarkson, 5 th grade	1963-1965	2 items
Folder 5	Grade book – Rock Creek; includes lists of books read by children	n.d.	1 item
Folder 6	Record books of Grayson County schools where Witten had taught	1920-1945	2 items
Folder 7	Notes for an elementary geography class	n.d.	1 item
Folder 8	Civil War – Unit of Study for 8 th grade social studies	1961	1 item (30 p.)
Folder 9	Miscellaneous items from teaching experience	1947-1964	13 items

Folder 10	News clipping – Grayson County schools	1975-1983	31 items
Folder 11	News clippings – People from Grayson County (arranged alphabetically)	1953-1987	76 items
Folder 12	News clippings – Grayson County history and places	1944-1983	36 items
Folder 13	News clippings – Grayson County Historical Society	1976-1986	19 items
BOX 6	Grayson County schools and churches	1917-1985; n.d.	261 items
Folder 1	Grayson County – Businesses	1982-1985	3 items
Folder 2	Contract for purchases of a player piano from Rudolph Wurlitzer Co.	1921	1 item
Folder 3	Grayson County churches	1972, 1980, n.d.	118 items
Folder 4	Clarkson Baptist Church	1925-1984	77 items
Folder 5	Clarkson Baptist Church – Attendance record book	1954-1956	2 items
Folder 6	Grayson County – Churches – Goshen Association	1917-1929	3 items
Folder 7	Grayson County – Churches – Little Flock	1966-1978	4 items
Folder 8	Grayson County – Churches – Rock Creek	1844-1846; 1976-1978	21 items
Folder 9	Sermon about desegregation & busing in Louisville entitled "Desegregation – Right; Forced Busing Wrong" given at Ninth & O Baptist Church by LaVerne Butler	1975	1 item
Folder 10	Grayson County Schools – Rock Creek, Oak Grove, Crow Hollow, Clarkson	1934-1981	26 items

Folder 11	Spelling bee information	1935-1980	5 items
Folder 12	Grayson Manor – News clippings	1975-1979	77 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS WITTEN, Tempie Jane (Bell), 1794-1987
261 1901-1985

Correspondence, chiefly genealogical; family files; research materials about Grayson County, Kentucky schools, churches, businesses, history, and personalities. Also includes items related to Witten's long career as a teacher in Grayson County schools.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

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Breathitt, Edward Thompson, 1924-2003 B1,F3
Brooks, James Maurice, 1943-1973 – Relating to B2,F5
Brooks, Ranie Lee (Bell), 1904-1966 – Relating to B2,F4
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Clarkson – Relating to
Clarkson Baptist Church – Relating to B6,F4-5
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Cooper, John Sherman, 1901-1991 B1,F2
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Dunn, Pauline Wilson (Bell), 1912-2010 – Relating to B2,F6

Ford, Gerald Rudolph, Jr., 1913-2006 – Letter to Fowler, Edna N. B1,F4
 Fulbright, James William, 1905-1995 B1,F6
 Fulkerson family – Genealogy B3,F9
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 Grayson County – Teachers and teaching B5,F1-10
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 Japan – Travel and description, 1947 B1,F2
 Jefferson County – School integration – Relating to, 1975 B6,F9
 Kentucky Building – Relating to B1,F2
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 Leyerle, Melanie Renee, b. 1964 – Relating to B1,F5,7
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 Natcher, William Huston, 1909-1994 B1,F4-5
 Nevinger, Ruby Cull (Whayne), 1896-1984 B1,F5-6
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 Williams, Mabel B1,F4
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SEE AND SEE ALSO

Carby family
 See:
 Kirby family

Jeffrey 07/16/2009