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Dickerson, Rosa Belle (Praigg), 1843-1902 (MSS 327)

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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 327 DICKERSON, Rosa Belle (Praigg), 1843-1902

1 box. 12 folders. 67 items. 1856-1947. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

2010.27.62

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Rosa Belle Praigg was born at Perryville, in Boyle County, Kentucky, on 17 July 1843. She graduated from Perryville's Harmonia College in 1862, and in 1865 became a music teacher at Green River Female Seminary (Thomas H. Storts' school), in Bowling Green, Kentucky. On 4 July 1867, she married a Warren County physician, Dr. William Henry Dickerson (1833-1912).

Rosa Praigg Dickerson had begun her writing career by the age of 16. When *Godey's Lady's Book* accepted one of her stories in 1859, she used her earnings of fifteen dollars to buy what was said to be the first oil lamp in Perryville. Her short stories and poems appeared in periodicals and newspapers such as *Peterson's Lady's Book*, the *Kentucky Tribune*, the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, the *Louisville Times*, the *Bowling Green Democrat* and the *Bowling Green Gazette*; she also wrote song lyrics. Mrs. Dickerson published under both her own name and the pen name Violet Woods (or Violette Woods). She chose the name after reading a description of the poet Sappho, whom she admired, as "violet tressed."

Rosa Praigg Dickerson died in Warren County, Kentucky on 29 July 1902.

COLLECTION NOTE

The collection consists mostly of material relating to the literary career of Rosa Belle (Praigg) Dickerson, writing under her own name and under the pen name Violet Woods or Violette Woods. Folder 2 contains biographical information, including notes that were probably taken at the time the collection was donated, and her obituary. Folder 3 contains complimentary letters to Dickerson from George D. Prentice, editor of the *Louisville Journal*, and from the editors of the *Kentucky Military Institute Magazine*. Another letter from an admirer, who sought to answer one of her poems with a composition of his/her own, is in Folder 8.

Folder 4 contains two speeches and an exhibit program relating to Dickerson's graduation from Harmonia College in Perryville, Kentucky. Folders 5-10 contain stories, poems and song lyrics, both published and unpublished. Due to the condition of the originals, the scrapbook pages in Folder 5 and the clippings in Folder 7 have been photocopied on acid-free

paper; in addition, the poems in Folder 10 are typescripts from other sources. Folders 11 and 12 contain miscellaneous materials, namely a stock application by Dickerson's daughter and photocopies of *carte de visite* photos, mostly of Confederate officers but including a photo of George D. Prentice. The original photos have been transferred to the photograph collections of the Kentucky Library.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Name	1856-1947	67 items
Folder 1	Inventory and separation sheet		2 items
Folder 2	Biographical data, articles and notes; obituary	[1902], 1947, n.d.	10 items
Folder 3	Letters from George D. Prentice and editors of <i>Kentucky Military Institute Magazine</i>	1860	2 items
Folder 4	Valedictory speech, Harmonia College; Sapphonian Exhibition program, Harmonia College; "UnwrittenHistory" speech given at Exhibition	1862	3 items
Folder 5	Scrapbook pages with clippings of stories and poems (originals)	1863, 1883, 1884, n.d.	1 item
Folder 6	Scrapbook pages with clippings of stories and poems (photocopies)	1863, 1883, 1884, n.d.	1 item
Folder 7	Stories and poems published in <i>Bowling Green Gazette</i> and <i>Bowling Green Democrat</i> (photocopies)	1881, 1884	8 items
Folder 8	Sheet music; miscellaneous writings; letter & poem from admirer	1865, n.d.	6 items
Folder 9	<i>Godey's Lady's Book and Magazine</i> – (partial copies; includes story "Destiny")	1856, 1870	2 items
Folder 10	Poems (typescripts)	1883-1895, n.d.	8 items
Folder 11	Daisy (Dickerson) Venable – application for shares in Citizens Development Company	n.d.	1 item

Folder 12	Photographs of Confederate officers, George D. Prentice	n.d.	23 items
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BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS 327	DICKERSON, Rosa Belle (Praigg), 1843-1902	1856-1947
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Stories, poems and lyrics written by Rosa Bell (Praigg) Dickerson, a native of Boyle County, Kentucky and resident of Warren County, Kentucky for magazines and newspapers under her name and the pen name "Violet Woods" or "Violette Woods." Includes unpublished material, correspondence, photographs, biographical information, and speeches she delivered at her college graduation.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Authors – Kentucky

Bragg, Braxton, 1817-1876 – Photo B1,F12

Buckner, Simon Bolivar, 1823-1914 – Photo B1,F12

Cheatham, Benjamin Franklin, 1820-1886 – Photo B1,F12

Citizens Development Company – Bowling Green – Relating to B1,F11

Civil War, 1861-1865 – Campaigns, battles, military actions – Perryville, 1862 –
Relating to B1,F8

Davis, Jefferson Finis, 1808-1889 – Photo B1,F12

Edwards, Clement R., 1820-1898 – Relating to B1,F2

Godey's Lady's Book and Magazine B1,F9

Harmonia College – Perryville – Relating to, 1862 B1,F4

Jackson, Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall," 1824-1863 – Photo B1,F12

Johnston, Albert Sidney, 1803-1862 – Photo B1,F12

Kentucky Military Institute Magazine – Relating to, 1860 B1,F3

Lee, Robert Edward, 1807-1870 – Photo B1,F12

McGee, T. H. – Photo B1,F12

Poetry B1, F5-7,10

Poets

Polk, Leonidas, 1806-1864 – Photo B1,F12

Prentice, George Dennison, 1802-1870 B1,F3

Prentice, George Dennison, 1802-1870 – Photo B1,F12

Row, Alice – Photo B1,F12

Shanks, T. H. – Photo B1,F12
Sheet music B1,F8
Songs B1,F8
Standley, James Stirman, 1841-1904 B1,F3
Venable, Daisy (Dickerson), 1868-1956 – Relating to B1,F11
Wood, Benjamin – Photo B1,F12
Woodson, William G. – Photo B1,F12

SEE or SEE ALSO

Woods, Violet
See:
Dickerson, Rosa Belle (Praigg)

Woods, Violette
See:
Dickerson, Rosa Belle (Praigg)

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 07/15/2010