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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 375 DAVIS, Virginia Wood, 1919-1990

15 boxes. 154 folders. 4,059 items. 1846-1990. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

2011.138.1; SC2023.7.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Virginia Wood Davis was born in Smiths Grove, Kentucky on 7 December 1919, the only child of Virginia "Jennie" Wood Cox (1880-1950) and her husband (and distant cousin) Elmore Wood Davis (1875-1925). At the time of Jennie and Elmore's marriage in 1918 or early 1919, Elmore was a widower and the father of three children, Edwin, Edna and Robert Davis, but Virginia would have little contact with her half-siblings. Elmore and Jennie settled in the house that Elmore, a depot agent with the L&N Railroad, occupied on North Main Street in Smiths Grove.

Virginia's father died in 1925, when she was only five years old. Using funds inherited from her family, her mother earned income by investing in land and lending to local farmers. Virginia attended public school and graduated from Smiths Grove High School in 1938. Taking a teacher's suggestion that she pursue newspaper work, she studied English and art at Western Kentucky State Teachers College (now WKU) in Bowling Green and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1943. While in college, she worked as a staff writer and society editor for the campus newspaper, the *College Heights Herald*.

After a brief stint from September-December 1943 at the *Henderson (KY) Gleaner*, Virginia returned to Bowling Green and worked for two years as a clerk and bookkeeper. She resumed her journalism career at the *Greer (SC) Citizen* (September 1945-March 1946) and the (Pulaski, VA) *Southwest Times* (April-June 1946) before joining the *Kingsport (TN) Times* (and its morning edition, the *Kingsport News*) as a state news editor. She remained at the *Times-News* until November 1955. During this time, Virginia's mother, who had moved with her to Kingsport, died on 17 December 1950.

Virginia's interest in horses led to a three-month position (November 1955-February 1956) with the *Augusta (GA) Herald* as a bureau reporter. Based in Aiken, South Carolina, she covered equestrian activities at the Aiken Winter Colony. She then worked as a reporter for the *Savannah (GA) Evening Press* (April-December 1956); as assistant state editor for the *Montgomery (AL) Advertiser* (December 1956-July 1957); as a reporter for the Hollywood, Florida *Sun-Tattler* (August 1957-May 1958); and as a reporter for the (Rock Hill, SC) *Evening Herald* (September 1958-January 1960). While in Rock Hill, Virginia won the South Carolina Press Association's J. Rion McKissick Award for a feature series on tuberculosis in the county.

In September 1960, Virginia joined the *Tampa (FL) Times*, where she reported both political and cultural news, including stories on the city's Hispanic community. From July 1969-September 1970, she worked at the (Jacksonville) *Florida Times-Union* as the first woman deskman on its main copy desk, then as its Brunswick, Georgia bureau chief. In October 1970, she became Dade City bureau chief for the *St. Petersburg (FL) Times*, and in February 1973 moved to Dade City's *Pasco News*, where she worked as an editor and reporter.

In August 1977, Virginia became managing editor of the *McCreary County Record*, a weekly paper based in Whitley City, Kentucky. During her tenure, which included reporting, photography and general business operations as well as contributions to the *Record's* parent newspaper, the (Somerset, KY) *Commonwealth Journal*, the paper received numerous awards from the Kentucky Press Association. Major local news stories included a 1976-1979 miners' strike at the Blue Diamond Coal Company's Justus Mine at Stearns, Kentucky; the development of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area; a destructive 1980 tornado; and the 1981 crash of a small plane involved in drug smuggling.

After 42 years as a journalist, Virginia retired in 1985 and moved back to Tampa, where she had maintained a home. She became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in May 1986. Early in 1987, Virginia was diagnosed with colon cancer. After undergoing surgery, she moved back to Whitley City in May 1988 to live with a friend. During her recuperation, she began work on a family history and autobiography that she called "Out of Virginia's Woods." Because of the difficulty in traveling to Lexington, Kentucky for medical treatment, she returned to Tampa in October 1988. Despite a second surgery and chemotherapy, early in 1989 her cancer was diagnosed as terminal. Virginia Wood Davis died on 1 February 1990 in Tampa, Florida. In accordance with her instructions to her cousin William J. Chambliss III, who was her closest family contact in the years preceding her death, her cremated remains were buried in the Rogers family cemetery in Goodnight (Barren County), Kentucky.

Throughout her life, Virginia had been uninterested in luxuries and notably unfashionable in looks and dress. Earthy and profane, she described her clothing as "rags" and declared that she was a "hillbilly to hillbillies." She was also frugal to such an extreme that her lifestyle, some said, "bordered on the primitive." With Virginia's tacit encouragement, friends mistook this frugality for poverty, buying things for her and doing other financial favors because they assumed she could not afford to do so herself. Following her death, however, those who knew Virginia were shocked at the size of her estate. After speculation that she had at one time been worth more than \$2 million, her assets at death were valued at \$400,000. In her will, Virginia bequeathed 80% of her estate to the Department of Journalism at her *alma mater*, Western Kentucky University. The department used the bequest, the largest ever given to the university up to that time, to replace its computers and to set up a scholarship fund in Virginia's name.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists primarily of materials documenting the life and journalism career of Virginia Wood Davis. Included are personal and professional correspondence, school and financial records, personal keepsakes, genealogical research, autobiographical writing, and newspaper articles written over her 42-year career as a reporter and editor (Boxes 1-12). Also included are family records and correspondence, mostly of Virginia's mother, Virginia "Jennie"

Wood (Cox) Davis (Boxes 13-14). Photographs in this collection include family photos, professional news photos made by Virginia and others, and photos of Virginia made throughout her life (Box 15). Some photos, particularly family photos, and a few postcards were transferred to the Kentucky Library.

Throughout her career, Virginia saved much of her professional work in the form of original newspaper clippings and unclipped newspaper pages. Some clippings were loose, others pasted into scrapbooks, and a small portion were undated. In order to arrange and preserve them, all such clippings and articles bearing Virginia's byline have been photocopied on acid-free paper and the originals discarded. Clippings or portions of newspapers that Virginia saved for personal reference or that did not bear evidence of her authorship have not been retained.

Box 1 of the collection contains biographical information (Folders 1-3), including a lengthy letter from Virginia's cousin, William J. Chambliss III, written to the head of WKU's journalism department after the disclosure of her bequest to the University (Folder 3). Also in Box 1 are materials relating to Virginia's academic records and school work (Folders 4-11). Of interest are three issues of Smiths Grove High School's *Campus Chatter*, to which Virginia contributed as an editor (Folder 5).

Box 2 primarily contains Virginia's correspondence with family members (Folders 3-6, 8). Included is correspondence with her mother, written in mid-1942 when Virginia was employed in wartime factory work in Owensboro and uncertain about returning to college (Folder 1). Also included is correspondence regarding an early (1943) offer of employment at the *Kingsport Times* (Folder 2) and recommendation letters (Folder 7). Virginia's correspondence with her cousin William J. Chambliss III (Folder 3) begins when Chambliss was stationed in Japan at the end of World War II, but dates mostly from the 1980s; Virginia shares career news and genealogical information, consults him on her memoir, and writes of her cancer treatments and the settlement of her affairs in expectation of her death.

Box 3 contains Virginia's personal and professional correspondence with family, friends and colleagues, readers' responses to her newspaper articles, and letters written to her as editor of the *McCreary County Record*. Of interest is 1951 correspondence regarding her article about the last Confederate veteran in Virginia, John Salling; a worshipful 1956 letter written by a Hendersonville, North Carolina man (Folder 1); and some gossipy correspondence between Virginia and former co-workers (Folders 1, 2). Also of interest is correspondence relating to Virginia's employment after her 1969 dismissal from the *Tampa Times*, which reveals details of salaries, benefits, and working conditions of women journalists in Florida in the late 1960s and early 1970s (Folder 2); and Virginia's correspondence with a congressman and the Social Security Administration regarding what she viewed as the retirement system's discriminatory treatment of single working women (Folders 3, 6).

Box 4 contains mostly Virginia's personal documents and keepsakes as well as documentation relating to her illness and death. Clippings, obituaries and miscellaneous printed matter relate mostly to family and friends in Smiths Grove (Folders 1, 2). Personal documents include Virginia's passport, baptismal certificate, Kentucky Colonel cards and press passes (Folder 3); travel documents, keepsakes, photos and news stories relating to her 1952 trip to Cuba (Folder 4) and her 1981-1982 Caribbean travel (Folder 6); and various awards and certificates presented to her while in Florida and at the *McCreary County Record* (Folders 5, 7). Virginia's will, death certificate and funeral instructions, together with her letters to Medicare and memoranda of her cousin William J. Chambliss III, provide stark documentation of her suffering

and death from colon cancer (Folder 8). Other personal items in this box include Virginia's Bible (Folder 9), miscellaneous pamphlets and printed matter (Folder 10), and photograph negatives (Folder 11).

Box 5 contains Virginia's personal writings. Included are a diary she kept from 1934-1937 (Folder 1); notes made during her 1942 wartime factory work in Owensboro; notes of her mother's illness in 1950; and notes kept during a close personal relationship with an unidentified man in the early 1980s (Folder 2). Also included are her poems (Folder 3) and short stories (Folder 4). Of particular interest are manuscript pages, drafts and other autobiographical writing and reminiscences (Folders 5, 6) that formed the basis of her memoir, "Out of Virginia's Woods." (Note: a finished copy of "Out of Virginia's Woods" is held in the Kentucky Library).

Box 6 contains materials relating to the often-intertwined legal and financial affairs of Virginia, her mother Virginia (Cox) Davis, and her mother's invalid sister Mary (Cox) Smith (1874-1946). Among the matters complicating the settlement of Mary (Cox) Smith's estate (Folder 1) was the necessity of having her son, Robin Meredith Smith, who had disappeared in 1921, declared legally dead. Virginia (Cox) Davis's affairs include a 1940s civil lawsuit filed against her (Folder 2a) and various bank-related correspondence (Folder 2b). Virginia's own business and financial affairs include correspondence and other documentation relating to her bank, real estate and mortgage investments in Smiths Grove and in Barren County, Kentucky. Virginia transacted much of her business through a Glasgow attorney and developer, Philip H. Wilson, and their correspondence includes personal and local news from the 1950s through the mid-1970s (Folder 2c). Virginia's careful notes on her salary and deductions cover her entire working life (Folder 3). Other financial documents include bank, asset and expense records (Folder 4) and correspondence relating to the financial and legal affairs of a Smiths Grove farmer who was heavily indebted to Virginia and her mother (Folder 5).

Box 7 contains correspondence, genealogical research and miscellaneous materials relating to Virginia's ancestors in the Anderson, Bagby, Cox, Davis, Rogers and Wood families. Included are an 1846 doctor's letter (Folder 1); an 1880 letter to Meredith and Sarah Cox, Virginia (Cox) Davis's grandparents, which refers to her birth (Folder 2); genealogy research (Folders 3, 5, 6); "What's Your Name?," Virginia's history of the Wood family (Folder 4); Virginia's correspondence with her cousin, Landon Baird Chambliss, which includes family history and genealogy (Folder 7); and clippings and notes on Virginia's nephew, the actor and businessman Roger Davis (Folder 8).

Box 8 contains extensive samples of Virginia's journalism, associated notes and news copy, from 1943-1965. Included is writing published in the *L&N Magazine* and WKU's *College Heights Herald* (Folder 1); the *Greer (SC) Citizen* (Folder 2); the *Kingsport (TN) Times-News* (Folders 3-7); the *Augusta (GA) Herald* (Folder 8); the *Savannah (GA) Evening Press* (Folders 9-10); the *Montgomery (AL) Advertiser* (Folders 11-12); the (Hollywood, FL) *Sun-Tattler* (Folders 13-14); the (Rock Hill, SC) *Evening Herald* (Folders 15-19); and the *Tampa (FL) Times* (Folders 20-22). Of interest is a typescript of a 1953 diary kept by a Kingsport, TN prostitute (Folder 5); Virginia's coverage of the 1953 return of an American soldier who had defected to North Korea (Folder 6); and Virginia's 1958-1960 articles on the tribal assets and marriage status of the Catawba Indians of York County, South Carolina (Folder 18).

Box 9 contains extensive samples of Virginia's journalism, associated notes and news copy, from 1965-1969, when she was a reporter for the *Tampa (FL) Times* (Folders 1-6). Included is material Virginia collected for a 1965 profile of local entertainer Amparo Garrido

(Folder 1); and miscellaneous printed matter, including a ticket and program for an appearance by President John F. Kennedy in Tampa on 18 November 1963 (Folder 7).

Box 10 contains extensive samples of Virginia's journalism, associated notes and news copy, from 1969-1977. Included is writing published in the (Jacksonville) *Florida Times-Union* (Folders 1-2), the *St. Petersburg (FL) Times* (Folders 3-4), and the (Dade City, FL) *Pasco News* and *Pasco East* (Folders 5-10). Also included is a 1973 "folk documentary" script about Dade City with a character that may have been based on Virginia (Folder 11), and a small amount of printed matter relating to the Equal Rights Amendment (Folder 12).

Box 11 contains primarily samples of Virginia's journalism as well as notes, news copy, research materials and other materials associated with her work as managing editor of the *McCreary County Record* (1977-1985). Included are correspondence and clippings relating to McCreary County history (Folders 1-4); materials relating to the history and awards of the *McCreary County Record* (Folder 5, 13); and writing, news copy and associated material produced for the *McCreary County Record* or the (Somerset, KY) *Commonwealth Journal* (Folders 6-12). Miscellaneous articles published elsewhere or that are unidentified (Folder 14), and miscellaneous journalist's notes (Folder 15) are also included. Of interest are Virginia's coverage of efforts to have a section of highway renamed in honor of a McCreary County Medal of Honor winner (Folder 7); photos and her notes of a 1981 small plane crash in the county that was connected to drug smuggling (Folder 10); and her participation in a survey of the "Alpine village" at Helen, Georgia, as a model for attracting tourists to McCreary County (Folder 11).

Box 12 contains various plaques presented to Virginia in recognition of her work in Florida and McCreary County (Folders 1-6). Virginia's Kentucky Colonel certificates are also included in this box (Folder 7).

Box 13 relates to Virginia's parents, Virginia "Jennie" (Cox) Davis and Elmore Wood Davis. Correspondence and personal papers of Elmore Wood Davis (Folder 1) include his draft registration card, letters from Virginia's mother written while he was hospitalized in Louisville prior to his death, some canceled checks for his hospital expenses, and a copy of his will. Virginia (Cox) Davis's correspondence includes family letters (Folders 2-6); letters from teachers and students at Nazareth Academy, where she attended school from 1898-1899 (Folders 2, 5); courtship letters from Claude Blakeman, together with reactions to his untimely death (Folder 3); World War I-era correspondence from her nephew, Robin Meredith Smith (Folder 4); correspondence with her husband (Folders 2, 4, 5); and undated correspondence (Folder 6).

Box 14 contains further correspondence and other materials relating to Virginia's mother, Virginia "Jennie" (Cox) Davis. Postcard correspondence (Folders 1-3) includes a few exchanged between third parties. Some of these postcards commemorate holidays, are courtship-themed, or show stereotypical images of African Americans. Keepsakes from Nazareth Academy consist of a school catalogue and two of her notebooks (Folder 4), and an account statement, autograph book, department cards, sketches and written tributes (Folder 5). Other materials in this box include calling cards (Folder 6), bank documents (Folder 7), miscellaneous keepsakes and writings (Folder 8), and a small amount of material relating to the Blakeman family (Folder 10). Also included is material relating to Virginia (Cox) Davis's death, including obituary and funeral records, and Virginia Wood Davis's account of her mother's last days (Folder 9).

Box 15 contains photographs, including snapshots and professional news photographs, but only a few photographs are identified as having been taken by Virginia. Included are photos of Virginia Wood Davis in various personal and professional settings (Folders 1-5), photos of

colleagues, and news photos produced by various newspapers for which she worked. Of interest are photos of horse shows from the *Kingsport* (TN) *Times-News* (Folders 6-8) and the *Augusta* (GA) *Herald's* coverage of the the Aiken Winter Colony (Folder 9), as well as miscellaneous horse shows and equestrians (Folder 10). A few photos are included which relate to news coverage by the *Savannah* (GA) *Evening Press* (Folder 11); the *Montgomery* (AL) *Advertiser* (Folder 12); the (Hollywood, FL) *Sun-Tattler* (Folder 13); the (Rock Hill, SC) *Evening Herald* (Folder 14); and the *Tampa* (FL) *Times* (Folder 15). News photos produced by the *McCreary County Record* cover the Stearns miners strike (Folder 16) and various other local stories (Folder 17). A few photos of family and friends, and miscellaneous photos (Folder 18-19) are also included.

Note that Manuscripts & Folklife Archives holds a related family collection, the [Bond Family Papers](#) (MSS 378). Mary Virginia (Baird) Bond (1891-1874) was the daughter of Margaret "Maggie" Yancey (Wood) Baird (1870-1957), the half-sister of Virginia's maternal grandmother, Mary "Molly" Crutcher Wood (1851-1881).

SHELF LIST

| BOX 1 | Virginia Wood Davis – Biography and Education | 1926-1990 | 172 items |
|--------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Folder 1 | Inventory and biographical data | | 11 items |
| Folder 2 | Biographical clippings and articles | 1940-1990 | 41 items |
| Folder 3 | William J. Chambliss III memoranda and correspondence with WKU journalism department | 1989-1990, n.d. | 3 items |
| Folder 4 | Public school records and diploma | 1926-1934 | 9 items |
| Folder 5 | High school records, diploma and clippings | 1934-1940 | 18 items |
| Folder 6 | School compositions | 1935-1943, n.d. | 24 items |
| Folder 7 | School compositions | n.d. | 39 items |
| Folder 8 | Western Kentucky State Teachers College records and diploma | 1942-1943 | 8 items |
| Folder 9 | Education and teaching certification – Tennessee and Florida | 1952, 1967 | 4 items |
| Folder 10 | Drawing instruction books and notes | [ca. 1942, n.d.] | 5 items |

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| Folder 11 | Drawings and sketches | n.d. | 10 items |
| Box 2 | Virginia Wood Davis – Family & General Correspondence | 1942-1989 | 81 items |
| Folder 1 | Correspondence with Virginia (Cox) Davis | 1942, n.d. | 21 items |
| Folder 2 | Correspondence with (Kingsport, TN) <i>Times-News</i> | 1943-1944 | 4 items |
| Folder 3 | Letters to William J. Chambliss III | 1946-1989, n.d. | 24 items |
| Folder 4 | Correspondence with Nell Cox | 1949-1950, n.d. | 8 items |
| Folder 5 | Letters from Margaret “Maggie” (Wood) Baird | 1951-1957, n.d. | 5 items |
| Folder 6 | Letters from Joe Davis | 1953-1954 | 4 items |
| Folder 7 | Recommendation letters | 1954-1977 | 8 items |
| Folder 8 | Letters from Emma (Baird) Chambliss | 1957-1965 | 7 items |
| Box 3 | Virginia Wood Davis – General Correspondence | 1922-1989 | 281 items |
| Folder 1 | Correspondence | 1922-1963 | 100 items |
| Folder 2 | Correspondence | 1964-1977 | 56 items |
| Folder 3 | Correspondence | 1978-1981 | 46 items |
| Folder 4 | Correspondence | 1982-1989 | 43 items |
| Folder 5 | Correspondence | n.d. | 30 items |
| Folder 6 | Handwritten drafts of letters | 1989, n.d. | 6 items |
| Box 4 | Virginia Wood Davis – General | 1895-1990 | 215 items |
| Folder 1 | Miscellaneous programs and clippings re: Smiths Grove, Kentucky | 1895-1987 | 9 items |

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|--------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| Folder 2 | Obituaries, clippings relating to family and friends | 1943-1984, n.d. | 35 items |
| Folder 3 | Miscellaneous personal documents (passport, press cards, baptismal certificate, etc.) | 1949-1986 | 16 items |
| Folder 4 | Travel to Cuba | 1952 | 20 items |
| Folder 5 | Awards and certificates | 1961-1983 | 13 items |
| Folder 6 | Caribbean travel – information and articles filed with <i>McCreary County Record</i> | 1981-1982 | 31 items |
| Folder 7 | McCreary Central High School – Virginia Wood Davis Award | 1988 | 5 items |
| Folder 8 | Illness and death – Correspondence, memoranda, will, death certificate | 1989-1990 | 10 items |
| Folder 9 | Bible, bookmarks and card from Carolyn Anderson | 1983, n.d. | 4 items |
| Folder 10 | Miscellaneous keepsakes | 1964-1966, n.d. | 6 items |
| Folder 11 | Negatives (family and professional photos) | 1981, n.d. | 66 items |
| Box 5 | Virginia Wood Davis – Personal Writing | 1934-1989 | 124 items |
| Folder 1 | Diary | 1934-1937 | 2 items |
| Folder 2 | Journals and personal memoranda | 1942-1988, n.d. | 6 items |
| Folder 3 | Poems by and about Virginia Davis | 1970-1990, n.d. | 16 items |
| Folder 4 | Prose and stories | 1989, n.d. | 6 items |
| Folder 5 | Handwritten drafts for “Out of Virginia’s Woods” | n.d. [ca. 1989] | 69 items |
| Folder 6 | Manuscript pages for “Out of Virginia’s Woods”; autobiographical writing | n.d. [ca. 1989] | 25 items |

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| Box 6 | Virginia Wood Davis – Personal & Family Legal and Financial Affairs | 1921-1989 | 296 items |
| Folder 1 | Mary (Cox) Smith & family – Correspondence, estate matters; Robin Smith | 1921-1948 | 91 items |
| Folder 2 | Virginia (Cox) Davis, Mary (Cox) Smith and Virginia Wood Davis – Business and legal affairs | 1941-1974, n.d. | 133 items |
| | 2a Marguerite O’Dell vs. Virginia (Cox) Davis (10 items) | 1941-1947 | |
| | 2b Virginia (Cox) Davis and Virginia Wood Davis – Banking and legal affairs (11 items) | 1947-1950 | |
| | 2c Virginia Wood Davis – Business and financial affairs (112 items) | 1956-1974, n.d. | |
| Folder 3 | Virginia Wood Davis – Salary data | 1943-1985 | 8 items |
| Folder 4 | Virginia Wood Davis – Bank and financial records | 1947-1989 | 19 items |
| Folder 5 | Virginia Wood Davis – Correspondence regarding Borders farm, Smiths Grove, Ky. | 1948-1962 | 45 items |
| Box 7 | Virginia Wood Davis – Genealogy | 1846-1989 | 148 items |
| Folder 1 | Letter to Dr. William Anderson, Rutherfordton, North Carolina | 1846 | 1 item |
| Folder 2 | Miscellaneous Cox family papers | 1876-1930 | 9 items |
| Folder 3 | Wood family genealogy research | 1908-1988, n.d. | 15 items |
| Folder 4 | “What’s Your Name?” – Wood family history | n.d. | 3 items |
| Folder 5 | Genealogy research | 1928-1951, n.d. | 53 items |
| Folder 6 | Genealogy research | n.d. | 53 items |
| Folder 7 | Correspondence with Landon Baird Chambliss re: genealogy | 1951-1989 | 11 items |

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|--------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Folder 8 | Roger Davis (b. 1939) | 1978-1984, n.d. | 3 items |
| Box 8 | Virginia Wood Davis – Journalism | 1938-1965 | 828 items |
| Folder 1 | Articles – <i>L&N Magazine, College Heights Herald</i> | 1938-1943 | 4 items |
| Folder 2 | Articles – <i>Greer Citizen</i> (Greer, SC) | 1945-1946 | 12 items |
| Folder 3 | Articles – <i>Kingsport Times-News</i> (Kingsport, TN) | 1947-1951 | 76 items |
| Folder 4 | Articles – <i>Kingsport Times-News</i> (Kingsport, TN) | 1952-1955, n.d. | 62 items |
| Folder 5 | Typescript of Doris Perry diary and photo (Kingsport, TN) | 1953 | 2 items |
| Folder 6 | Ed Dickenson (<i>Kingsport Times-News</i>) | 1953 | 34 items |
| Folder 7 | News copy – <i>Kingsport Times-News</i> (Kingsport, TN) | [1948-1952] | 6 items |
| Folder 8 | Articles – <i>Augusta Herald</i> (Augusta, GA) | 1955-1956 | 15 items |
| Folder 9 | Articles – <i>Savannah Evening Press</i> (Savannah, GA) | 1956 | 26 items |
| Folder 10 | News copy – <i>Savannah Evening Press</i> (Savannah, GA) | Aug. 10, n.y. | 1 item |
| Folder 11 | Articles – <i>Montgomery Advertiser</i> (Montgomery, AL) | 1956-1957 | 16 items |
| Folder 12 | News copy & photos – <i>Montgomery Advertiser</i> (Montgomery, AL) | 1956-1957 | 15 items |
| Folder 13 | Articles – <i>Sun-Tattler</i> (Hollywood, FL) | 1957-1958 | 6 items |
| Folder 14 | News copy – <i>Sun-Tattler</i> (Hollywood, FL) | 1957-1958 | 1 item |
| Folder 15 | Articles – <i>Evening Herald</i> (Rock Hill, SC) | 1958-June 1959 | 88 items |
| Folder 16 | Articles – <i>Evening Herald</i> (Rock Hill, SC) | July – Dec. 1959 | 92 items |

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|---------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Folder 17 | Articles – <i>Evening Herald</i> (Rock Hill, SC) | 1960, n.d. | 52 items |
| Folder 18 | Catawba Indians (<i>Evening Herald</i>) | 1958-1960 | 39 items |
| Folder 19 | News copy – <i>Evening Herald</i> (Rock Hill, SC) | 1958-1960 | 7 items |
| Folder 20 | Articles – <i>Tampa Times</i> (Tampa, FL) | 1960-1962 | 73 items |
| Folder 21 | Articles – <i>Tampa Times</i> (Tampa, FL) | 1963-1964 | 62 items |
| Folder 22 | Articles – <i>Tampa Times</i> (Tampa, FL) | 1965 | 139 items |
| Box 9 | Virginia Wood Davis – Journalism | 1962-1969 | 310 items |
| Folder 1 | Amparo Garrido (<i>Tampa Times</i>) | 1965 | 23 items |
| Folder 2 | Articles – <i>Tampa Times</i> (Tampa, FL) | 1966 | 89 items |
| Folder 3 | Articles – <i>Tampa Times</i> (Tampa, FL) | 1967 | 69 items |
| Folder 4 | Articles – <i>Tampa Times</i> (Tampa, FL) | 1968 | 70 items |
| Folder 5 | Articles – <i>Tampa Times</i> (Tampa, FL) | 1969, n.d. | 31 items |
| Folder 6 | News copy and memos – <i>Tampa Times</i> (Tampa, FL) | 1962, 1969, n.d. | 25 items |
| Folder 7 | <i>Tampa Times</i> (Tampa, FL) – Miscellaneous material | 1960-1963 | 3 items |
| Box 10 | Virginia Wood Davis – Journalism | 1969-1977 | 578 items |
| Folder 1 | Articles – <i>Florida Times-Union</i> (Jacksonville, FL) | 1969-1970 | 104 items |
| Folder 2 | News copy - <i>Florida Times-Union</i> (Jacksonville, FL) | [1969-1970] | 13 items |
| Folder 3 | Articles – <i>St. Petersburg Times</i> (St. Petersburg, FL) | 1970-1973 | 82 items |
| Folder 4 | News copy – <i>St. Petersburg Times</i> (St. Petersburg, FL) | 1970-1973 | 4 items |

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|---------------|---|------------------------|------------------|
| Folder 5 | Articles – <i>Pasco News</i> and <i>Pasco East</i> (Dade City, FL) | 1973 | 139 items |
| Folder 6 | Articles – <i>Pasco News</i> (Dade City, FL) | 1974 | 126 items |
| Folder 7 | Articles – <i>Pasco News</i> (Dade City, FL) | 1975 | 63 items |
| Folder 8 | Articles – <i>Pasco News</i> (Dade City, FL) | 1976 | 31 items |
| Folder 9 | Articles – <i>Pasco News</i> (Dade City, FL) | 1977, n.d. | 3 items |
| Folder 10 | News copy – <i>Pasco News</i> (Dade City, FL) | 1976, n.d. | 8 items |
| Folder 11 | “Cracker: An American Folk Documentary,” by Theodore Magnuson | 1973 | 1 item |
| Folder 12 | Miscellaneous materials re: women and Equal Rights Amendment | 1958, [1976] | 4 items |
| Box 11 | Virginia Wood Davis – Journalism and Related Material | 1951-1989, n.d. | 228 items |
| Folder 1 | Materials on McCreary County history | 1978-1988, n.d. | 10 items |
| Folder 2 | Materials on McCreary County history | 1978-1981, n.d. | 6 items |
| Folder 3 | Materials on McCreary County history | 1979-1985, n.d. | 13 items |
| Folder 4 | McCreary County history – Princess Cornblossom | 1958-1979, n.d. | 7 items |
| Folder 5 | <i>McCreary County Record</i> (Whitley City, KY) – History and awards | 1977-1985, n.d. | 43 items |
| Folder 6 | Articles – <i>McCreary County Record</i> (Whitley City, KY) and <i>Commonwealth Record</i> (Somerset, KY) | 1977-1985 | 36 items |
| Folder 7 | <i>McCreary County Record</i> – Wilburn K. Ross | 1963-1978 | 16 items |
| Folder 8 | <i>McCreary County Record</i> – Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area | 1974-1989 | 15 items |

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| Folder 9 | <i>McCreary County Record</i> – Justus mine strike, Stearns, Ky. | 1978-1980 | 6 items |
| Folder 10 | <i>McCreary County Record</i> – Plane crash | 1981 | 18 items |
| Folder 11 | <i>McCreary County Record</i> – Alpine Helen, GA | 1982 | 24 items |
| Folder 12 | News copy - <i>McCreary County Record</i> (Whitley City, KY) | 1977, n.d. | 10 items |
| Folder 13 | <i>McCreary County Record</i> – Miscellaneous | 1978-1982, n.d. | 4 items |
| Folder 14 | Miscellaneous published articles and articles in undated/unidentified newspapers | 1951-1953, n.d. | 7 items |
| Folder 15 | Miscellaneous journalist's notes | 1980, n.d. | 13 items |
| Box 12 | Virginia Wood Davis – Plaques & Awards | 1953-1985 | 12 items |
| Folder 1 | North Tampa Chamber of Commerce Award | 1962 | 1 item |
| Folder 2 | McCreary Fest – Appreciation Award | 1981 | 1 item |
| Folder 3 | McCreary County Gifted Program – First Honorary Member | 1984-1984 | 1 item |
| Folder 4 | McCreary County Chamber of Commerce Award | 1984 | 1 item |
| Folder 5 | Florida School Bell Award (presented to <i>Dade City Banner</i>) | 1971 | 1 item |
| Folder 6 | Big South Fork Development Association – Honorary Lifetime Membership | 1985 | 1 item |
| Folder 7 | Kentucky Colonel Certificates (3) and associated information | 1953, 1978, 1984 | 5 items |
| Folder 8 | Kiwanis Club – Certificate of appreciation awarded to <i>Kingsport Times-News</i> | n.d. | 1 item |

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| Box 13 | Virginia “Jennie” Wood (Cox) Davis & Elmore Wood Davis | 1894-1950, n.d. | 188 items |
| Folder 1 | Elmore Wood Davis – Correspondence and miscellaneous papers | 1904-1925 | 44 items |
| Folder 2 | Virginia Wood (Cox) Davis – Correspondence | 1894-1908 | 35 items |
| Folder 3 | Virginia Wood (Cox) Davis – Correspondence | 1909-1913 | 31 items |
| Folder 4 | Virginia Wood (Cox) Davis – Correspondence | 1914-1920 | 25 items |
| Folder 5 | Virginia Wood (Cox) Davis – Correspondence | 1921-1950 | 27 items |
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| Box 14 | Virginia “Jennie” Wood (Cox) Davis & Family | 1898-1950, n.d. | 356 items |
| Folder 1 | Virginia Wood (Cox) Davis – Correspondence (postcards) | 1900-1933, n.d. | 178 items |
| Folder 2 | Virginia Wood (Cox) Davis – Postcards (blank) | n.d. | 42 items |
| Folder 3 | Virginia Wood (Cox) Davis – Correspondence between third parties (postcards) | 1909-1929, n.d. | 7 items |
| Folder 4 | Virginia Wood (Cox) Davis – Nazareth Academy – Catalog and notebooks | 1898 | 3 items |
| Folder 5 | Virginia Wood (Cox) Davis – Nazareth Academy – Miscellaneous keepsakes | 1898-1899 | 13 items |
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| Folder 7 | Virginia Wood (Cox) Davis and Mary (Cox) Smith – Bank documents, tax receipts | 1911-1945 | 23 items |
| Folder 8 | Virginia Wood (Cox) Davis – Miscellaneous keepsakes | 1903-1950, n.d. | 41 items |
| Folder 9 | Virginia Wood (Cox) Davis – Death | 1950 | 13 items |
| Folder 10 | Blakeman family correspondence | 1908-1909 | 4 items |

| Box 15 | Photographs | 1935-1988, n.d. | 242 items |
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| Folder 2 | Virginia Wood Davis | 1969-1974 | 6 items |
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| Folder 4 | Virginia Wood Davis | 1985-1988 | 7 items |
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| Folder 6 | <i>Kingsport (TN) Times-News</i> staff | n.d. [1940s-1950s] | 11 items |
| Folder 7 | <i>Kingsport (TN) Times-News</i> – News photos | 1950-1952, n.d. | 15 items |
| Folder 8 | <i>Kingsport (TN) Times-News</i> – News photos of horse shows and equestrians | 1950-1955 | 34 items |
| Folder 9 | <i>Augusta (GA) Herald</i> – News photos | 1955-1956 | 10 items |
| Folder 10 | Horse shows and equestrians | n.d. | 22 items |
| Folder 11 | <i>Savannah (GA) Evening Press</i> – News photos | n.d. [1956] | 2 items |
| Folder 12 | <i>Montgomery (AL) Advertiser</i> – News photos | 1957 | 6 items |
| Folder 13 | (Hollywood, FL) <i>Sun-Tattler</i> – News photos | 1957-1958 | 3 items |
| Folder 14 | (Rock Hill, SC) <i>Evening Herald</i> – News photos | n.d. [1958-1960] | 10 items |
| Folder 15 | <i>Tampa (FL) Times</i> and other Florida newspapers – News photos | 1960, 1976, n.d. | 18 items |
| Folder 16 | <i>McCreary County Record</i> – News photos – Stearns miners strike | 1978 | 11 items |
| Folder 17 | <i>McCreary County Record</i> – News photos | 1978-1984, n.d. | 26 items |
| Folder 18 | Miscellaneous family photos | 1935-1977, n.d. | 6 items |
| Folder 19 | Miscellaneous photos | 1952-1987, n.d. | 6 items |

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS DAVIS, Virginia Wood, 1846-1990
375 1919-1990

Correspondence, photographs, diaries, and personal and professional writing of Virginia Wood Davis, a Smiths Grove, Kentucky native and a reporter and editor, 1943-1985, for newspapers in Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida and McCreary County, Kentucky. Includes genealogical data as well as correspondence and miscellaneous papers of her family, especially her mother, Virginia Wood (Cox) Davis.

15 boxes. 154 folders. 4,059 items. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

2011.138.1; SC2023.7.1

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