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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 42 STRANGE Collection

3 boxes. 14 folders. 53 items. 1812-1925. Originals, photographs, scrapbooks.

1949.15.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Agatha Jane Rochester (1832-1896), the daughter of William Henry Rochester (1794-1934) and Georgianna Preston McDowell (1808-1839), was born at the family estate of Waveland near Bowling Green, Kentucky. Her father, a prosperous farmer, died when she was two years old, leaving a widow and four small children. Agatha had two brothers to reach adulthood: William Henry (1826-1902) and James Nathaniel (1830-1850). In 1836 her mother, Georgianna Rochester, married Robert Wenn Ogden (1796-1873), who had been her husband's proficient business manager. Their only child, Robert McDowell Ogden, was born in 1837 and died in 1838. Georgianna Rochester's demise occurred the next year. Ogden and his four stepchildren continued residing at Waveland until his death. His will designated his stepchildren as his heirs, but also gave fifty thousand dollars for the establishment of a college for Warren County white males. Ogden College, opening its doors in 1877, was the fulfillment of his generosity. In 1927 Ogden College merged with Western Kentucky State Normal School and Teachers College, with the understanding that the name would be perpetuated in the Ogden Department of Science.

During 1846 and 1847 Agatha attended the Poplar Hill School in Frankfort, Kentucky. She then enrolled in the Spring of 1848 in The Columbia [Tennessee] Female Institute, graduating in June 1849. In 1853 Agatha married Bowling Green's Robert F. Strange (1824-1891). After touring the east on their honeymoon, the newlyweds lived briefly at the Morehead House in Bowling Green, but soon made Waveland their home. Their children were: Nathaniel Rochester (1854-1925), David Birney (1855-1932), Georgianna Preston Barclay (b. 1857), Robert Covington (1860-1861), Carrie Madison (b.1826), Frank Landon (1865-1941), Robert McDowell (1868-1869), Marie Sophie (b. 1870), Lizzie Sharp (b. 1872), and Florence Conway (b. 1876).

The Stranges were Confederate sympathizers during the Civil War. Both armies camped on their farm because of its abundance of wood and Barren River frontage. The soldiers caused much damage to their property, but in spite of these hardships Agatha and Robert were able to retain their homestead. Agatha, interested in family history and local history, published a book entitled *House of Rochester in Kentucky* in 1889.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The Collection.

Perrin, W. H., Battle, J. H., and Kniffen, G. C. *Kentucky, History of a State*, 3rd ed., 1886.

Strange, Agatha Rochester. *House of Rochester in Kentucky*, 1889.

COLLECTION NOTE

Writings of Agatha (Rochester) Strange comprise about one-third of the collection and are the most interesting items in the collection. Her 1852-1883 journal relates details mainly about her eastern tours, Bowling Green news, and family information. Another manuscript of importance is "House of Madison and McDowell in Kentucky," which she copied and presented to Dr. Sylvanus Johnson in 1888. Agatha compiled two scrapbooks in the collection: one concerning 1890s happenings, while the other is possibly of an earlier era. Little correspondence is included (most of which is undated), but those letters dated are for the years 1864 to 1878. Additionally, there are slave records of the Rochester family and of Robert Strange.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	STRANGE Family Papers	1812-1895	47 items
Folder 1	Correspondence of Agatha Strange	1864-1878	8 items
Folder 2	Obituaries, etc., written by Agatha Strange	n.d.	6 items
Folder 3	MSS: "House of Madison and McDowell in Kentucky," by Agatha Strange, February 14, 1888 Also photocopy of MSS	1888	1 item; 153p.
	3a - Index to above manuscript		1 item
Folder 4	Slave record of Rochester family and Robert Strange	n.d.	2 items
Folder 5	Knitting patterns (Rochester genealogy on reverse side of one pattern)	n.d.	2 items
Folder 6	Genealogical data: Moore, McCaleb, Rochester and Strange	n.d.	5 items
Folder 7	Painting (watercolor)	n.d.	1 item

Folder 8	Prospectus of <i>History of Kentucky</i>	1885	1 item
Folder 9	Newspaper clippings	1866-1925	10 items
Folder 10	Miscellaneous items	1812	10 items
BOX 2	Scrapbook No. 2	1890s(?)	1 item; 226p.
Folder 1	Index to above scrapbook 9 1/4 x 12	1890s(?)	1 item
BOX 3 BSB	Scrapbook No. 1; Journal	1852-1883	5 items
Item A	Scrapbook No. 1 11 x 14	n.d.	1 item; 58p.
Folder 1	Index to above scrapbook		1 item
Item B	Journal of Agatha R. Strange 10 1/4 x 16	1852-1883	1 item; 214p.
Folder 1	Index to above journal		1 item
Folder 2	Typed copy of above journal		1 item; 135p.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS 42	STRANGE Collection	1812-1925	
	Correspondence, 1864-1878 (8); journal, 1852-1883; scrapbooks (2); Manuscript: "House of Madison and McDowell in Kentucky," 1888; family genealogical data; slave records; etc., of Agatha (Rochester) Strange, 1832-1896, a lifelong resident of Bowling Green, Kentucky.		
	3 boxes. 14 folders. 53 items. Originals, scrapbooks.		
	1949.15.1		

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Advertising – Newspapers – Bowling Green, 1858 B3-A
 African Americans, 1870s B3-B
 Allen, James Lane, 1849-1925 B1,F9; B2
 Allen Springs – Allen County, 1870s B3
 Allen Springs – Allen County – Merchants, 1890s B2
 Authors – Kentucky – Strange, Agatha Jane (Rochester), 1832-1896
 Baker, Mary Eliza, b. 1884 B1,F2
 Barre, Washington Lindley, 1830-1878 B3-A
 Barren River B3-A
 Berry, Al, 1836-1908 B2
 Birney, David Bell, 1825-1864 B3-B
 Birney, James Gillespie, 1792-1857 B1,F2,3
 Birney, Ulric Hoffman, 1850-1880 B1,F3
 Birney, William, 1819-1907 B3-B
 Blackburn, Jeanie Daviess, 1847-1929 B3-B
 Bowden, John, b. 1854 B3-B
 Bowling Green – Civil War, 1861-1865 B1,F3; B2; B3-A
 Bowling Green – Clubs B2
 Bowling Green – Editors B1,F3, p.57
 Bowling Green – Education, 1840s B1,F3, p.139
 Bowling Green – History B1,F3
 Bowling Green – Social life and customs B2; B3-A
 Briggs, Harriet (Morehead), 1799-1881 B3-A
 Brown, John Calvin, 1827-1889 B3-B
 Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925 B2
 California – Gold Rush Period B1,F3, p.99,110-112
 Campbell, David B., 1823-1913 B1,F9
 Catholic Church – Education – Schools – Maryland, 1820s B3-B
 Cheairs, Nathaniel Francis, 1818-1914 B1,F1; B3-B
 Cherry, Henry Hardin, 1864-1937 B2
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Campaigns, battles, military actions B2
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Pardons and paroles B3-A
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Personal opinion B1,F1
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Poetry B3-A
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Prisoners and prisons B3-B
 Columbia Female Institute – Columbia, Tennessee, 1848-1849 B1,F3; B2; B3-B
 Coombs, Charles Morehead, 1856-1931 B1,F3
 Covington, Albert, 1807-1887 B3-B
 Covington, James M., 1812-1887 B3-A
 Crabb, Daniel Rust, 1801-1880 B1,F2
 Davis, Jefferson Finis, 1808-1889 – Capture of B2
 Dickerson, Rosa Belle (Praigg), 1843-1902 B3-A
 Donelson, Tennessee – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Battle of, 1862 B2
 Economic conditions – Warren County, 1874-1875 B3-B
 Education, 1846-1849 B1,F3, p.138-141
 Education – Columbia, Tennessee, 1848-1849 B1,F3; B2; B3-B
 Education – Frankfort, 1844-1847 B1,F3; B3-A,B

Exhibitions and fairs – Warren County, 1875 B3-B
 Ford, Sallie (Rochester), b. 1828 B1,F3; B3-B
 Frankfort – Social life and customs, 1878 B1-1
 Genealogy – Allen family B3-B
 Genealogy – Birney family B1,F3; B3-B
 Genealogy – Crabb family B3-B
 Genealogy – Johnson family B1,F3; B3-B
 Genealogy – Lewis family B3-B
 Genealogy – McCaleb family B1,F6
 Genealogy – McClanahan family B1,F3
 Genealogy – McDaniel family B3-B
 Genealogy – McDowell family B1,F3; B3-B
 Genealogy – Madison family B1,F3; B3-B
 Genealogy – Moore family B1,F3,6; B3-B
 Genealogy – Ogden family B3-B
 Genealogy – Patteson family B3-B
 Genealogy – Pillsbury family B3-B
 Genealogy – Rochester family B1,F3; B3-B
 Genealogy – Rowe family B1,F3
 Genealogy – Starling family B1,F3
 Genealogy – Sterrett family B1,F3; B3-B
 Genealogy – Strange family B1,F3,6; B3-B
 Genealogy – Sullivant family B1,F3
 Genealogy – Thompson family B1,F3; B3-B
 Genealogy – Vam Pradelle family B1,F3
 Gerard, John Claude, 1816-1899 B3-B
 Girard College – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1852 B3-B
 Girard, Stephen, 1750-1831 B3-B
 Gold Rush Period – Warren County B1,F3, p.99, 110-112
 Halsell, John Edward, 1826-1899 B3-A
 Hawkins, Anna Gabriella (Madison), 1795-1884 B1,F3; B3-B
 Hays, William Shakespeare, 1837-1907 B2; B3-A,B
 Herdman, John G., 1813-1883 B1,F2
 Hines, Nancy Spraupe, 1843-1897 B1,F1
History of Kentucky – Prospectus, 1885 B1,F8
 “House of Madison and McDowell in Kentucky” B1,F3
 Houses – Canehurst – Mercer County, 1850s B1,F3, p.78-80; B3-B
 Houses – Elmlake – Mercer County, 1850s B1,F3, p.81; B3-B
 Houses – Mount Air – Warren County B3-B
 Houses – Waveland – Warren County B1,F3
 Johnson, Samuel B., 1835-1896(?) B1,F9
 Jones, Thomas Johnson, b. 1811 B3-B
 Journals, 1862-1883 – Strange, Agatha (Rochester) B3-B
 Knitting – Patterns B1,F5
 Knott, James Proctor, 1830-1911 B3-A
 Lewis, William Terrell B3-B
 Lind, Johanna Maria, 1820-1887 - Relating to B3-B
 Lucas, Margaret, 1789-1868 B1,F3

Lucas, N. P. (Bone), 1814-1875 B3-B
 McMurtrie, Lucy (Madison), 1792-1880 B1,F3
 Madison, Susannah (Henry), d. 1831 B1,F3
 Mercer County B1,F3
 Mercer County – Shawnee Springs, 1812 B1,F10
 Mercer County – Social life and customs, 1812, 1850s B1,F10; B3-B
 Militia – 4th Brigade B2
 Mitchell, George, 1842-1898 B2
 Montana – Travel and description B3-A
 Moore, John Rochester, 1800-1885 B1,F3
 Moore, Mary Penelope (Vam Pradelle), 1814?-1886 B1,F2, B3-B
 Morgan, John Hunt, 1825-1864 B3-A
 Morgan, John Hunt, 1825-1864 – Horse of B2
 Mt. Olivet Church Cumberland Presbyterian – Warren County B3-A
 Murders – Bowling Green, 1896 B2
 New York City, New York – Travel and description, 1852 B3-B
 Ogden, Robert Wenn, 1796-1873 B1,F3; B3-A,B
 Orphans and orphan asylums – Maryland, 1820s B3-B
 Painting – Watercolor B1,F7
 Petroleum industry and trade – Oil and gas wells – Warren County, 1921 B1,F9
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – Travel and description, 1852 B3-B
 Phrenology B3-B
 Physicians – Warren County, 1880s B3-A
 Physicians – Warren County, 1890s B2
 Pillsbury, Keith, 1851-1933 B1,F3
 Poetry – Bowling Green – Fountain Square Park B3-A,p.4
 Poetry – Civil War, 1861-1865 B3-B
 Politics, 1880s B3-A
 Politics, 1890s B2
 Poplar Hill School – Frankfort, 1844-1847 B1,F3; B3-A,B
 Porter, Lemuel C., 1810-1887 B3-A
 Potter College – Bowling Green – Graduation speech, 1896 B2
 Potter family B3-A
 Price, Sarah Frances “Sadie,” 1849-1903 B2
 Quigley, Eliza, 1806-1884 B3-A
 Rhea, John Stockdale, 1855-1924 B3-A, p.16
 Rhea, John Stockdale, 1855-1924 – Speech, 1896 B2
 Rochester, James Nathaniel, 1830-1850 B3-B
 Rochester, Mary Charlotte (Moore), 1835-1913 B3-B
 Rochester, Nathaniel, 1752-1831 B1,F3
 Rochester, New York, 1850s B3-B
 Rochester, William Henry, 1794-1834 B1,F3; B2
 Rochester, William Henry, Jr., 1826-1902 B1,F3; B3-B
 Seton, Elizabeth Ann Bayley, 1774-1821 – Comments about, 1820s B3-B
 Skiles, James Rumsey, 1799-1885 B3-A,B
 Slavery – Warren County B3-B
 Slaves – Records – Rochester and Strange families B1,F4
 Slaves – Treatment of B1,F3

Smith, J. Lawrence, 1818-1883 B1,F2
 Smoot, Richmond Kelley, 1836-1905 B2; B3-B
 Speeches and addresses, 1896 B2
 Starling, Lyne, 1806-1876 B3-B
 Starling, Samuel McDowell, 1807-1890 B1,F2
 State Librarian, 1896 B2
 Steamboats – Barren River B3-A
 Stone, William J., 1848-1918 – Speech of, 1896 B2
 Strange, Agatha (Rochester), 1832-1896 B1; B2; B3
 Strange, Lizzie Sharp, b. 1872 B2
 Strange, Lizzie Sharp, b. 1872 – Photos B2
 Strange, Robert F., 1824-1891 B1,F3,4; B3-A
 Thomas, Frank Morehead, 1868-1921 B2
 Underwood, Francis Henry, 1825-1894 B3-B
 Underwood, Joseph Rogers, 1791-1876 B3-B
 Underwood, Juliette Blanche, 1835-1909 B3-B
 Underwood, Warner Lewis, 1808-1872 B3-B
 U.S. – Travel and description, 1850s B3-B
 U.S. – Travel and description – Eastern states, 1850s B1,F3; B3-B
 Vinegar Hill – Suicide, 1886 B1,F9
 War of 1812 – Public opinion B1,F10
 Warren County – Churches – Cumberland Presbyterian B3-A
 Warren County – Deaths, 1880s B3-A
 Warren County – Deaths, 1890s B2
 Warren County – History
 Warren County – Marriages, 1853 B3-B
 Warren County – Marriages, 1880s B3-A
 Warren County – Marriages, 1890s B2
 Warren County – Social life and customs
 Weather – Folklore B2
 Wylie, W. B., 1854-1894 B2
 XV Club B2

SEE and SEE ALSO

College Heights – Bowling Green

See also:

Vinegar Hill

College Hill – Bowling Green

See also:

Vinegar Hill

Lind, Jenny, 1820-1887

See:

Lind, Johanna Maria, 1820-1887

Jeffrey 05/14/2012