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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 349 COOMBS Family Collection

25 boxes. 236 folders. 5,985 items. 1777-1976. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

1986.9.327; SC2017.80.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Samuel Williams Coombs, Sr., the son of Adin Coombs (1771-1834) and Parmelia Williams (d. 1859), was born in Hardin County, Kentucky in 1799 or 1800. Samuel graduated from Transylvania Medical College in 1825, then practiced medicine in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. In 1829, he married Elvira Slaughter (Morehead) Piper (1806-1885), the widow of Joseph F. Piper. Samuel Williams Coombs, Sr. died in 1830, the victim of a cholera epidemic in Elizabethtown. His widow Elvira married Hezekiah Kemble Thomas in 1834.

Samuel Williams Coombs, Jr. (1830-1882), the son of Samuel Williams Coombs, Sr. and Elvira (Morehead) Coombs, was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky, after his father's death. He graduated from the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1853 and began the practice of medicine in Bowling Green. When the Confederates occupied Bowling Green during the Civil War, Dr. Coombs, commissioned as a captain in the medical service of the Confederate Army, organized and operated a division hospital in the city. In 1871, he became involved in steamboating with the Green and Barren River Navigation Company and served as the company's president. In 1853, Samuel Williams Coombs, Jr. married Martha Caroline Hampton (1836-1912), the daughter of Phineas Dewalt Hampton (1806-1874) and Caroline Hines (1815-1846). Their children included Lillie Coombs (1854-1923), who married Elvis Hines Porter; Carrie Hines Coombs (b. 1858), who married Isaac B. Cooke; Samuel Williams Coombs (1861-1914), who married Pearl P. Potter; Sarah D. "Dee" Coombs, who married William B. Groseclose; Edwin Coombs, (b. 1869), who married Kate Meyler; and Edwin's twin, Phineas Hampton Coombs (1869-1919).

Phineas Hampton "Hamp" Coombs, the son of Samuel Williams Coombs, Jr. and Martha (Hampton) Coombs, was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky on 7 September 1869. He graduated from Ogden College in 1888. His career as a freight and passenger agent for the Cotton Belt Route of the St. Louis Southwestern Railway Company took him to postings in Houston, Tyler, and Fort Worth, Texas (1890-1897), Atlanta, Georgia (1897-1899), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1899-1901), and New York City (1901-1918). He assumed duties in St. Louis, Missouri in connection with federal control of the railroads after the United States entered World War I, but fell ill with pulmonary tuberculosis and died in Bowling Green on 23 May 1919 at the age of 49.

On 20 April 1892, Phineas Hampton Coombs married Lattie Robertson (1870-1958), the daughter of Jane Elizabeth (Potter) Robertson (1835-1906) and Ryan Monroe Robertson (1827-1883). Ryan Monroe Robertson, the son of John Marion Robertson (1787-1848) and his third wife, Elizabeth (Ryan) Eubank, was a general merchant and dealer in horses and mules who carried on business in Woodburn, Simpson County, and Bowling Green, Kentucky. Lattie Robertson attended school at Cedar Bluff Female College in Woodburn and the Nashville College for Young Ladies. In addition to Lattie, the children of Ryan Monroe Robertson and Jane Elizabeth (Potter) Robertson included Bettie Robertson (1867-1926), who married Henry T. Hagerman; Blanch Genevieve Robertson (1879-1974), who married Robert W. Johns; and John Marion Robertson (1862-1942). Among the civic posts held by John Marion Robertson were state legislator, Bowling Green city tax collector, deputy sheriff, and Warren County treasurer (succeeding his brother-in-law, Henry Hagerman); he also worked as manager of Bowling Green's Potter Opera House. John Marion Robertson married Margaret Whitehead in 1898, but they divorced in 1910. Their children were Charlotte Whitehead Robertson (1900-1982), whose first husband was Philip Kingston and her second Martin Sherwood; John Ryan Robertson (1899-1985); and William Marion Robertson (1902-1922).

Lattie (Robertson) Coombs and Phineas Hampton Coombs had one child, Elizabeth Robertson Coombs. Born on 21 August 1893, Elizabeth was educated at the preparatory department of Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia, The Misses Rayson's School for Girls and the Walworth Secretarial School, both in New York City, and at Columbia University, where she took extension courses. After her father's death in 1919, Elizabeth and her mother returned to Bowling Green, Kentucky. From 1930-1932, she studied library science as a special student at Western Kentucky State Teachers College (now WKU). In 1932, she was appointed as a cataloger and reference librarian in WKU's Kentucky Library. She succeeded Mary Leiper Moore as Kentucky Librarian in 1956, and remained in that position until her retirement on 7 August 1964. She authored several works of local history and was a member of the Bowling Green Civil War Centennial Committee. Elizabeth Robertson Coombs died on 26 December 1988 and is buried in Bowling Green's Fairview Cemetery.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of correspondence, personal and business papers, and photographs of members of the Coombs, Robertson and associated families, primarily of Kentucky (Simpson and Warren counties) but also Alabama, Texas and Tennessee. The collection is interesting for its ephemera—invitations, programs, dance cards, tickets, membership cards, postcards, greeting and calling cards—relating not only to Kentucky but Texas and New York. The personal and professional correspondence of Elizabeth Robertson Coombs includes research material relating to her duties and interests as reference librarian at WKU's Kentucky Library, and genealogical research on various branches of her family. Her local history research focused on Bowling Green history and biography, including soldiers from Warren County who served in wars from the Revolution through the Korean War, church histories, and the Shaker colony at South Union, Kentucky. Coombs' service on the Bowling Green Civil War Centennial Committee prompted her to gather considerable data on the war's effects on Bowling Green, and about soldiers who served on both sides of the conflict and who lived or died in the area. Much of her genealogical research was gathered from standard

sources (census, land, estate and marriage records, published genealogies and histories) but some genealogical correspondence is included.

A collection inventory is in Box 1, Folder 1. Included in Folder 1 are genealogical notes on the Coombs, Robertson and associated families, but this data is intended to show relationships among the individuals featured most prominently in this collection and should not be construed as complete.

Box 1 contains genealogy and family history relating to the Coombs family (Folders 2-6, 8, 11-12), miscellaneous programs and printed matter collected by Coombs family members (Folder 7), and a notebook that Elizabeth Coombs' great-grandfather, Samuel Williams Coombs, Sr., kept while a student at Transylvania Medical College. (Folder 9). Of interest in the family history notes (Folder 2) is a reference to the indictment of Elizabeth Coombs' great-grandfather, Phineas Dewalt Hampton, and both grandfathers, Samuel Williams Coombs, Jr. and Ryan Monroe Robertson, for unlawfully aiding the Confederacy during the occupation of Bowling Green in 1861-1862. For further information, see MSS 412 WARREN County Court Records (finding aid at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid/2206).

Box 2 contains mostly correspondence and personal papers of Elizabeth Coombs' father, Phineas Hampton "Hamp" Coombs. Among his correspondence (Folders 2-3) are courtship letters exchanged with Elizabeth's mother Lattie; writing to him in Texas from Bowling Green, she discusses her social activities and their future plans, and he asks Lattie's mother for consent to their marriage (Folder 2). Other correspondence relates to Hamp Coombs' work with the St. Louis Southwestern Railway Company; the marital problems of his brother-in-law, John Marion Robertson; the settlement of an estate, probably his mother's (Folder 3); and the activities of another brother-in-law, William B. Groseclose, also a railroad employee (Folders 2, 3). Two undated letters from Coombs to his daughter Elizabeth are included (Folder 3). Coombs' personal papers include pocket diaries (Folder 4); accounts and receipts for personal items; a court clerk's certification, issued in 1890, of his fulfillment of all requirements necessary to procure a marriage license for himself and Lattie; admission tickets and membership cards for various clubs and lodges; an 1897 certification that he had not been exposed to the yellow fever epidemic on the Gulf Coast; circulars and appointment notices of the St. Louis Southwestern Railway Company; and notices in railroad publications of Coombs' death (Folder 5). Materials in this box relating to both Phineas Hampton Coombs and Lattie (Robertson) Coombs include invitations and accounts relating to their 20th anniversary party in New York City (Folder 6); Christmas greetings (Folder 7); and a scrapbook belonging to Lattie containing mostly illustrations and a few clippings (Folder 9).

Box 3 contains correspondence and other personal papers of Lattie (Robertson) Coombs dating from her youth, when she was a popular member of Bowling Green's social set, to shortly before her death. Included are diaries from 1889 and 1890 (Folders 1, 2) and materials relating to Lattie's studies at the Nashville College for Young Ladies (Folders 3, 4). While the entries in Lattie's diaries are often brief, they provide a charming glimpse into the entertainments, friendships and leisure (which she calls "bumming") of a young woman at the turn of the twentieth century. Also of interest is an account for Lattie's wedding dress and trousseau receipted by Mrs. Carrie Burnam Taylor, a well-known Bowling Green *modiste*, and Elizabeth Coombs' notes about Mrs. Taylor (Folder 5). Lattie's correspondence includes letters from male admirers, including Hamp Coombs (Folder 6); family letters discussing her brother John Marion Robertson's marital problems, and expressions of sympathy on the death of Hamp Coombs (Folder 7). Other correspondence of interest includes family letters relating to the death and

estate of John Marion Robertson; a letter from a friend of Lattie's niece Charlotte (Robertson) Sherwood describing the atmosphere in wartime London in 1941, and several long, detailed letters from Charlotte herself, who writes of her life after she, her husband and two young children moved from England to Buenos Aires, Argentina and then to a plantation in central Argentina (Folder 8). Charlotte also writes another colorful letter, probably dating from the 1920s, while en route to England on board the *S. S. Olympic*. (Folder 9).

Box 4 contains personal papers of Lattie (Robertson) Coombs and her husband Phineas Hampton Coombs. Included are telegrams sent to Lattie on Hamp's death (Folder 1); railroad passes; a Prohibition-era prescription for medicinal liquor; World War II ration books; notes, perhaps for a speech, in praise of clubwomen (Folder 2); a keepsake book of Tennyson's poems, inscribed to Lattie (Folder 3); an autograph album of "Carrie," who appears to be a contemporary of Lattie (Folder 4); and menus, programs, yearbooks and miscellany relating to Lattie's membership in the Society of Kentucky Women of New York (Folder 5) and to Hamp's membership in The Kentuckians, another New York social club (Folder 6).

Box 5 contains correspondence and papers relating to the Robertson family of Simpson and Warren counties in Kentucky. Included are genealogical data, obituaries and clippings on various family members collected by Elizabeth Robertson Coombs (Folder 1). Papers of her great-grandfather, John Marion Robertson, include a biographical sketch (Folder 2), land documents, materials relating to his militia service in the War of 1812, and correspondence (Folder 3). Of interest is a letter written by his brother-in-law in Alabama, William Malone, asking Robertson to investigate the reputation of a Springfield, Kentucky man who might cure his son's stuttering, and letters written from Louisiana and Mexico by Robertson's son Ewing with news of the Mexican War; also of interest are two deeds of Robertson giving slaves to his sons, inventories of his estate after his death (Folder 3), and an account rendered to his wife Elizabeth (Ryan) Eubank Robertson for marble gravestones (Folder 4). The rest of Box 5 contains miscellaneous household or business accounts and correspondence of other Robertson family members: John Marion Robertson's sons Winfield Robertson (Folder 5) and Ewing Robertson (Folder 7) of Woodburn, Kentucky; Fielding Robertson (Folder 6); and H. T. Robertson of Rich Pond, Kentucky, who appears to be Winfield's son (Folders 8, 9). Most of this material documents their dealings with wholesale and retail merchants in a variety of goods. Of interest is a call for payment on an early (1853) subscription for stock in the Louisville & Nashville Railroad (Folder 5), and a muster notice for militia service (Folder 7).

Box 6 contains correspondence of Ryan Monroe Robertson (the son of John Marion Robertson and father of Lattie Robertson). Most of the letters to him are from members of his father's family, including the Malone and McWilliams families in Alabama and the Robertson families in Tennessee and Alabama. Letters also come from Robertson's brothers, Ewing and Winfield Robertson, and sister Ellen (Robertson) Skaggs, who lived with her husband in Louisiana and Texas. The letters contain mostly family, farm and business news; several correspondents discuss their hopes for marriage and are eager to help "Mon" find a wife. Also of interest is an 1847 letter from a female cousin contrasting the market for slaves in Virginia and Tennessee (Folder 1); letters from a brother-in-law, Ewing Skaggs, and from Berry Whitesides (whose family were neighbors of the Robertsons in Simpson County, Kentucky), in which both comment on the gold rush fever of 1851-1852 (Folder 2); discussions of the market for horses and mules (Folder 2); letters praising Texas in the 1850s (Folders 3, 6); a lengthy letter from Allen County, Kentucky recommending treatment for a gynecological illness of Robertson's mother (Folder 4); letters from the well-traveled Berry Whitesides describing the

business and social scenes, with a particular eye to female companionship, in New York City; Cape May, New Jersey; New Haven, Connecticut; Houston, Texas (Folder 3) and Savannah, Georgia (Folder 4); letters from Whitesides and others, mostly New Orleans merchants, relating to Robertson's tobacco trading (Folders 4, 5); and correspondence with Robertson's wife and children, written in 1882 while he was in Colorado for health reasons (Folder 5).

Box 7 contains mostly business papers of Ryan Monroe Robertson. His activities as a merchant, farmer and tobacco dealer are documented in notes, receipts, accounts, licenses, leases and bills of lading (Folders 1-8); also included are certifications of his election as constable of Simpson County (Folders 2, 3), and receipts for various notes that he endeavored to collect in that capacity. Of interest is an order to Robertson to supply a negro man to help U. S. forces construct fortifications in Bowling Green during the Civil War (Folder 9); and a phrenological chart for Robertson reporting, among other characteristics, that he was "very fond of the Ladies" (Folder 11). Also in this box are papers of Robertson's wife, Jane Elizabeth (Potter) Robertson, including deeds, household accounts, and estate records (Folder 13); and materials relating to the Whitesides family of Simpson County, Kentucky, including an agreement with Ryan Monroe Robertson regarding land; a partnership agreement between Robertson and Berry Whitesides for dealing in tobacco; slave transactions; and clippings regarding Cedar Bluff College, a school for young ladies operated by Berry's brother William F. Whitesides and attended by Lattie Robertson (Folder 14).

Box 8 contains miscellaneous business account books and papers of the Robertson family, primarily Ryan Monroe Robertson (Folders 1, 2); notes, and unidentified or partially identified correspondence (Folder 3); "The Picayune," a journal-literary magazine created by two members of the Robertson and Eubank families; and correspondence of John Marion Robertson and his daughter Charlotte (Robertson) Kingston Sherwood. John Marion Robertson's correspondence relates mainly to details of his 1910 divorce, and to Charlotte, who, with her mother, took up residence in England and was living there with her husband and two young children at the outbreak of World War II (Folder 5). His personal papers include notes, receipts, and a few scattered items relating to his public offices (Folder 6); box office statements from his management of the Potter Opera House (Folder 7); and a copy of his will and materials relating to his funeral and estate (Folder 8). The correspondence of Charlotte (Robertson) Sherwood (Folders 9-11) covers the period of her residence in England and Argentina, with occasional travels to Europe and the United States. Her letters, mostly to her father, are lengthy and expressive, relating news and activities in detail. She writes in the 1920s of her mother's declining health; her brother John's struggles after his World War I service; her brother William's suicide in 1922, while working as a clerk with the American Consular Service in Poland; her work teaching in Switzerland and England; and her marriage to Philip Kingston (Folder 9). From the 1920s through the onset of World War II, she writes from England, France and Switzerland of Kingston's early death from tuberculosis; her travels and living conditions; her marriage to Martin Sherwood, a well-to-do eye and ear therapist; and her two children (Folder 10). She gives vivid descriptions of civil defense preparations in 1938 London and of conditions in England early in the war (Folder 10). In 1940, Charlotte and her family moved to Argentina, where her husband had a flat in Buenos Aires and a plantation in central Argentina. Her letters from that country continue to be highly descriptive of her activities and living conditions, as well as the effects of the war; she also tells her father about her husband's secret treatment of the President of Argentina for an eye disorder (Folder 10). Also included are a few letters from her son Patrick to his grandfather (Folders 10, 11).

Box 9 contains personal correspondence and other papers of Elizabeth Robertson Coombs dating from her childhood through 1928. Included is biographical data (Folder 1), as well as printed matter, a scrapbook and other material relating to her education (Folders 2-6); and letters from school and family friends, some of whom are identified by first name only (Folders 7-9). Letters written to Coombs in New York and St. Louis include those from friends and relatives serving in the military during World War I. One correspondent, Rupert Taylor, writes in detail of the rigors of his training in Arkansas, his assignment at the American Embassy in Rome, Italy, and his postwar life at Auburn University in Alabama (Folders 9, 10); also of interest is a chain letter headed "The Red Cross chain," urging the recipient to copy a short prayer for victory and forward it to nine friends (Folder 9).

Box 10 contains general (personal and professional) correspondence of Elizabeth Robertson Coombs dating from her youth to 1976 (Folders 1-7), and professional correspondence dating from 1930-1952 (Folders 8-9). Included is some genealogical correspondence (Folders 1, 2, 4); letters from Charlotte (Robertson) Sherwood in Argentina (Folders 2, 4, 5), one describing her daughter Jenny's wedding; a letter from an "Aunty" written during a trip through France, where she experiences her first airplane ride and sees the Mona Lisa just before its theft in 1911; a letter, probably written the same year, from a school friend in Vienna, Austria, remarking on that city's food riots (Folder 3); and other letters from friends as they travel or attend school in Europe (Folder 5). Her professional correspondence covers matters such as Coombs' 1936 survey of special collections libraries in Kentucky (Folder 8); her various publications; her involvement with the Kentucky Library Association; reference assistance to researchers and other librarians (Folders 8, 9); and genealogical correspondence (Folder 9).

Box 11 contains professional correspondence of Elizabeth Robertson Coombs dating from 1953-1975, and miscellaneous papers, particularly from the World War II years. The correspondence is largely with genealogists (Folders 1-3) and donors of manuscripts, books and artifacts to the Kentucky Library and Kentucky Museum (Folders 1-4); also included is correspondence regarding Coombs' appointment to the Bowling Green Civil War Centennial Committee and the plans of the statewide commission (Folder 3). Two undated memos reveal Coombs' frustration as she responds to criticism of her library's services (Folder 5). The rest of this box contains notes, publications and other material related to civil defense during World War II (Folders 6, 7) and to Coombs' participation in the Red Cross Motor Corps (Folder 9), as well as her ration books (Folder 8) and an application and membership card for the Daughters of the American Revolution (Folder 10).

Box 12 contains miscellaneous materials of Elizabeth Robertson Coombs, including pocket diaries (Folders, 1, 2); a scrapbook containing mostly clippings (Folder 3); certificates of librarianship (Folder 4); and programs for Kentucky Library Association events held in Bowling Green (Folder 5).

Box 13 contains postcards, sent mostly to Elizabeth Robertson Coombs.

Box 14 contains research materials collected by Elizabeth Robertson Coombs. Most are typescripted and include biographical data on soldiers of the Revolutionary War (Folders 1-3), the War of 1812 (Folders 4-5) and the Mexican War (Folder 6) who had a connection to Warren County, Kentucky, as well as Coombs' research and narratives on the history of Bowling Green during the Civil War (Folders 7-10).

Box 15 contains research materials collected by Elizabeth Robertson Coombs on the Civil War, relating particularly to Bowling Green and Warren County, Kentucky. Included are

typescripted excerpts from the *Official Records* (Folder 1); biographical data on Civil War soldiers, typescripted mostly from secondary sources (Folders 2-4); and Coombs' lists of Union and Confederate soldiers with connections to Warren County, compiled for the Civil War Centennial observances (Folders 5, 6).

Box 16 contains research materials collected by Elizabeth Robertson Coombs on the Civil War in Kentucky (Folders 1-4). Also included are her compilations, with associated correspondence and clippings, of names of Western Kentucky University students who lost their lives in 20th century wars (primarily World War II), together with a short history (1944) of an Army Air Force training unit based on campus (Folder 5); most of this information was collected in connection with the establishment of a Memorial Room in WKU's Garrett Student Center to honor the University's war dead.

Box 17 contains cards prepared by Elizabeth Robertson Coombs with brief data on soldiers who served in the Civil War, Mexican War and Spanish-American War and who had a connection with Warren County, Kentucky.

Box 18 contains collected historical and biographical information, and narratives written by Elizabeth Robertson Coombs on various local topics. Most of the research was typescripted from newspapers, books and other secondary sources.

Box 19 contains collected historical and biographical information, and narratives written by Elizabeth Robertson Coombs on various local topics. Of interest are materials, including Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory forms prepared to assist the Kentucky Heritage Commission in a statewide survey of historic sites (Folder 2); notes and scripts for Coombs' radio programs on local history (Folder 5); and research notes on Warren County churches and pastors (Folders 6-8).

Box 20 contains ephemera—wedding, dance and other invitations, birth and funeral announcements, calling cards, tickets and greeting cards—sent or received by members of the Coombs and Robertson families. Many of the dance invitations (Folders 5, 6) are for events in Bowling Green. Also of interest is an elaborate two-part, fold-out invitation to an 1891 "Deep Water Jubilee" in Galveston, Texas (Folder 6).

Boxes 21-23 contain miscellaneous papers and clippings, as well as genealogical data collected by Elizabeth Robertson Coombs, on ancestors and associated families. Of interest are Coombs' notes and floor plans for the Warren County home of her great-grandfather, Phineas D. Hampton (Folder 17).

Box 24 contains photographs of the Coombs, Robertson and related families, as well as unidentified photographs of individuals and groups. Originals have been transferred to the Kentucky Library.

Box 25 contains a 2017 accretion to the collection consisting mostly of genealogical research on the Coombs and related families.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Coombs family; Samuel W. Coombs	1824-1973	164 items
Folder 1	Inventory and genealogical notes		2 items

Folder 2	Coombs family – Genealogy and history – General	1935-1952, n.d.	30 items
Folder 3	Coombs family – Genealogy and history – General	1885-1947, n.d.	31 items
Folder 4	Coombs family – Genealogy and history – Virginia	1946-1956, n.d.	20 items
Folder 5	Coombs family – Genealogy and history – Maryland	n.d.	9 items
Folder 6	Coombs family – Genealogy and history – Individuals	1885-1973, n.d.	32 items
Folder 7	Coombs family – Miscellaneous printed matter	1895-1921	17 items
Folder 8	Samuel W. Coombs, 1800-1830 – Biographical data	1830-1943, n.d.	5 items
Folder 9	Samuel W. Coombs, 1800-1830 – Notebook from Transylvania Medical College	1824-1825	1 item
Folder 10	Samuel W. Coombs, 1800-1830 – Typescript of pp. 1-3 of Transylvania Medical College notebook	1824, 1942	2 items
Folder 11	Samuel W. Coombs, 1830-1882 – Biographical data	1880-1963, n.d.	9 items
Folder 12	Samuel W. Coombs, 1861-1914 – Biographical data	1886-1925	6 items
BOX 2	Phineas Hampton Coombs and Lattie (Robertson) Coombs	1880-1972	202 items
Folder 1	Phineas Hampton Coombs and Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Biographical data	1892-1972, n.d.	9 items
Folder 2	Phineas Hampton Coombs – Correspondence	1884-1894	37 items
Folder 3	Phineas Hampton Coombs – Correspondence	1895-1919	36 items
Folder 4	Phineas Hampton Coombs – Pocket diaries	1889, 1920	2 items

Folder 5	Phineas Hampton Coombs – Miscellaneous papers	1885-1919, n.d.	57 items
Folder 6	Phineas Hampton Coombs and Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – 20 th anniversary	1912	52 items
Folder 7	Phineas Hampton Coombs and Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Christmas greetings	n.d.	5 items
Folder 8	Phineas Hampton Coombs and Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Printers plates for calling cards	n.d.	3 items
Folder 9	Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Scrapbook	1880-1883	1 item
BOX 3	Lattie (Robertson) Coombs	1882-1956	119 items
Folder 1	Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Diary and typescript	1889	2 items
Folder 2	Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Diary and typescript	1890	2 items
Folder 3	Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Nashville College for Young Ladies – Notebook and library pass	1887, n.d.	2 items
Folder 4	Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Watercolor study book; exhibit invitations	1888, n.d.	4 items
Folder 5	Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Account for wedding dress and trousseau; notes on Mrs. A. H. Taylor, dressmaker	1892, n.d.	3 items
Folder 6	Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Correspondence	1882-1900	32 items
Folder 7	Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Correspondence	1903-1919	17 items
Folder 8	Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Correspondence	1922-1956	47 items
Folder 9	Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Correspondence	n.d.	10 items
BOX 4	Lattie (Robertson) Coombs and Phineas Hampton Coombs	1882-1945	128 items
Folder 1	Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Telegrams received on death of Phineas Hampton Coombs	1919	32 items

Folder 2	Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Miscellaneous papers	1887-1945	63 items
Folder 3	Lattie (Robertson) Coombs – Tennyson poetry book, inscribed	1883	1 item
Folder 4	Autograph album of “Carrie,” Bowling Green, Kentucky	1882-1901	1 item
Folder 5	Society of Kentucky Women of New York – Constitution, programs, menus, etc.	1909-1913	18 items
Folder 6	The Kentuckians of New York Society – Programs, invitations, yearbooks, etc.	1904-1917, n.d.	13 items
BOX 5	Robertson family	1787-1946	231 items
Folder 1	Robertson family – Genealogy and history	1866-1946,	25 items
Folder 2	John Marion Robertson, 1787-1848 – Biographical data	1814-1822, n.d.	3 items
Folder 3	John Marion Robertson, 1787-1848 – Correspondence, miscellaneous papers	1797-1851, n.d.	23 items
Folder 4	Elizabeth (Ryan) Robertson – Miscellaneous accounts	1850-1857, n.d.	13 items
Folder 5	Winfield M. Robertson – Miscellaneous accounts	1848-1860	78 items
Folder 6	Fielding Robertson – Miscellaneous accounts	1849-1854	3 items
Folder 7	Ewing M. Robertson – Miscellaneous accounts; muster notice	1849-1872, n.d.	9 items
Folder 8	H. T. Robertson & Company – Business papers	1871	49 items
Folder 9	H. T. Robertson & Company – Business papers	1872	28 items
BOX 6	Ryan Monroe Robertson	1841-1882	196 items
Folder 1	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Correspondence	1841-1850	27 items
Folder 2	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Correspondence	1851-1852	39 items

Folder 3	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Correspondence	1853-1856	32 items
Folder 4	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Correspondence	1857-1858	65 items
Folder 5	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Correspondence	1859-1882	26 items
Folder 6	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Correspondence	n.d.	7 items
BOX 7	Ryan Monroe Robertson; Jane Elizabeth Robertson; Whitesides family	1828-1945	459 items
Folder 1	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Business papers	1842-1850	17 items
Folder 2	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Business papers	1851-1854	93 items
Folder 3	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Business papers	1855-1856	86 items
Folder 4	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Business papers	1857-1858	62 items
Folder 5	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Business papers	1859-1870	58 items
Folder 6	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Business papers	1871-1876	53 items
Folder 7	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Business papers	1877-1882	42 items
Folder 8	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Business papers	n.d.	10 items
Folder 9	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Order to furnish slave to work on fortifications in Bowling Green, Kentucky	1863	1 item
Folder 10	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Militia notice; military pass	1848, 1863	2 items
Folder 11	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Phrenological chart	1846?	1 item
Folder 12	Ryan Monroe Robertson – Miscellaneous	n.d.	4 items
Folder 13	Jane Elizabeth Robertson – Miscellaneous papers; estate	1879-1945	11 items
Folder 14	William F. Whitesides and family; Cedar Bluff College, Woodburn, Kentucky	1828-1937	19 items

BOX 8	Robertson family; John Marion Robertson; Charlotte Robertson	1812-1947	259 items
Folder 1	Robertson family – Business account books	1845-1901	8 items
Folder 2	Robertson family – Miscellaneous business papers	1812-1889	33 items
Folder 3	Robertson family – Miscellaneous and unidentified correspondence and notes	1854-1924, n.d.	13 items
Folder 4	“The Picayune,” Fifth Edition, L. J. H. Robertson and H. H. M. Eubank, editors	1880	1 item
Folder 5	John Marion Robertson, 1862-1842 – Correspondence	1901-1940, n.d.	18 items
Folder 6	John Marion Robertson, 1862-1942 – Personal papers and clippings	1885-1947, n.d.	36 items
Folder 7	John Marion Robertson, 1862-1942 – Potter Opera House box office statements	1900-1902	46 items
Folder 8	John Marion Robertson, 1862-1942 – Death and estate	1941-1942, n.d.	8 items
Folder 9	Charlotte (Robertson) Sherwood – Correspondence	1920-1925	27 items
Folder 10	Charlotte (Robertson) Sherwood – Correspondence	1926-1942	45 items
Folder 11	Charlotte (Robertson) Sherwood – Correspondence	n.d.	24 items
BOX 9	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Personal papers and correspondence	1896-1964	131 items
Folder 1	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Biographical data	1931-1964	11 items
Folder 2	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – School programs	1898, 1917	3 items
Folder 3	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – “School Girl Days” memory book from the Misses Rayson’s School for Girls, New York City	1911	1 item
Folder 4	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Loose items from “School Girl Days” memory book	1911	3 items

Folder 5	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – The Misses Rayson’s School for Girls – Publications, programs, etc.	1911-1917, n.d.	6 items
Folder 6	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Mary Baldwin Seminary – Correspondence, programs, report cards	1910-1943	5 items
Folder 7	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Correspondence – Personal	1896-1913	21 items
Folder 8	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Correspondence – Personal	1914-1915	21 items
Folder 9	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Correspondence – Personal	1916-1918	37 items
Folder 10	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Correspondence – Personal	1919-1928	23 items
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Folder 2	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Correspondence – Personal	1951-1959	53 items
Folder 3	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Correspondence – Personal	n.d. [1958 or earlier]	19 items
Folder 4	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Correspondence – Personal	1960-1976	41 items
Folder 5	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Correspondence – Personal	n.d.	29 items
Folder 6	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Sympathy cards received on death of Lattie (Robertson) Coombs	1958	29 items
Folder 7	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Sympathy cards received on death of Lattie (Robertson) Coombs	1958	34 items
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Folder 9	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Correspondence – Professional	1942-1952	56 items
BOX 11	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Personal papers; Professional correspondence	1942-1975	384 items
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Folder 2	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Correspondence – Professional	1957-1958	82 items
Folder 3	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Correspondence – Professional	1959-1960	90 items
Folder 4	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Correspondence – Professional	1961-1975	88 items
Folder 5	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Correspondence – Professional	n.d.	4 items
Folder 6	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – World War II – Civil defense instructional materials	1942-1943, n.d.	10 items
Folder 7	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – World War II – Civil defense publications	1941-1942	6 items
Folder 8	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – World War II – Ration books and related material	1943-1945, n.d.	15 items
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Folder 1	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Pocket diaries	1906-1909	2 items
Folder 2	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Pocket diaries; address book	1914-1930, n.d.	3 items

Folder 3	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Scrapbook	1888-1940	1 item
Folder 4	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Librarian certification	1940-1948	4 items
Folder 5	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Kentucky Library Association – Programs	1941	3 items
Folder 6	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs and John Marion Robertson – Printer’s plates for calling cards	n.d.	5 items
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BOX 14	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Wars – Research materials	1860-1962	322 items
Folder 1	Revolutionary War veterans – South central Kentucky (A-G)	n.d.	42 items
Folder 2	Revolutionary War veterans – South central Kentucky (H-Y)	n.d.	39 items
Folder 3	Revolutionary War soldiers in Warren County, Kentucky and elsewhere in Kentucky – Notes and data	n.d.	19 items
Folder 4	War of 1812 – Kentucky soldiers – Data cards	n.d.	62 items
Folder 5	War of 1812 – Soldiers lists, research material	n.d.	31 items
Folder 6	Mexican War – Soldiers data	n.d.	3 items
Folder 7	Articles, drafts and narratives by Elizabeth Coombs on Bowling Green and Warren County, Kentucky during the Civil War	1955, 1962, n.d.	13 items
Folder 8	Civil War – Bowling Green, Kentucky – General information	1860-1862	40 items

Folder 9	Civil War – Bowling Green, Kentucky – General information	1863-1962, n.d.	53 items
Folder 10	Bowling Green, Kentucky – Acts of the General Assembly	1861-1866	20 items
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Folder 1	Civil War – Typescripts from <i>Official Records</i> relating primarily to Bowling Green, Kentucky	1861-1863	1 item
Folder 2	Civil War soldiers (A-G) – Biographical information	1885-1963	42 items
Folder 3	Civil War soldiers (H-P) – Biographical information	1884-1937	55 items
Folder 4	Civil War soldiers (R-Z) – Biographical information	1895-1939	40 items
Folder 5	Elizabeth Coombs – “List of Union soldiers born in Warren County, Kentucky or Who Lived or Died There”; John E. Younglove’s list of Federal soldiers buried at Bowling Green, Kentucky	1950-1961, n.d.	11 items
Folder 6	Elizabeth Coombs – “List of Confederate soldiers born in Warren County, Kentucky or Who Lived or Died There”	1960	11 items
Folder 7	Death roll of Confederate soldiers in Warren County, Kentucky compiled by James D. Hines	1911	3 items
Folder 8	Confederate monument – Fairview Cemetery, Bowling Green, Kentucky	1875-1962, n.d.	7 items
Folder 9	Typescripted excerpts from <i>Confederate Veteran</i> concerning John Cox Underwood libel suit	1899-1902	22 items
Folder 10	Thomas Henry Hines – Biographical data	1885-1960	16 items
Folder 11	Buckner Guides – Research material	1872, n.d.	6 items

BOX 16	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Wars – Research materials	1860-1962	67 items
Folder 1	Civil War – Veterans reunions – Clippings	1892-1930	3 items
Folder 2	Civil War – Veterans reunions – Ribbons and decorations	1886-1895	2 items
Folder 3	Civil War – John Hunt Morgan data	1863-1883	5 items
Folder 4	Civil War – Kentucky and miscellaneous data	1860-1962	34 items
Folder 5	Western Kentucky University students serving in war – Lists, data and correspondence	1918-1958	23 items
BOX 17	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Research materials	1963	772 items
Folder 1	Warren County, Kentucky residents serving in Civil War, Mexican War, Spanish American War – Data cards	1963	772 items
BOX 18	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – General research	1882-1969	275 items
Folder 1	“The McGregor Plan” by Elizabeth Coombs; pamphlet	1937, n.d.	2 items
Folder 2	“Brief History of the Shaker Colony at South Union, Kentucky,” by Elizabeth Coombs, related materials	1940, n.d.	6 items
Folder 3	Shaker colony, South Union, Kentucky – Clippings and notes	1922-1941, n.d.	12 items
Folder 4	“History of Bowling Green Woolen Mills,” by Elizabeth Robertson Coombs; clippings	1885-1955	4 items
Folder 5	Woodburn, Kentucky – History and notes	1937-1949	15 items
Folder 6	“The Beauchamp-Sharp Tragedy,” by Elizabeth Coombs	1937	1 item
Folder 7	Kentucky Building – Information and clippings	1955-1969	36 items

Folder 8	“Modern Kentucky Writers and Their Books,” compiled by Elizabeth Coombs	1964	1 item
Folder 9	Bowling Green and Warren County, Kentucky authors (A-L) – Biographical data	1895-1948, n.d.	34 items
Folder 10	Bowling Green and Warren County, Kentucky authors (M-W) – Biographical data	1928-1941, n.d.	20 items
Folder 11	Kentucky authors – Data cards	n.d.	77 items
Folder 12	Bowling Green and Warren County, Kentucky – History	1882-1959, n.d.	18 items
Folder 13	Obituaries – Warren County, Kentucky natives or residents	1892-1959, n.d.	49 items
BOX 19	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – General research	1933-1973	105 items
Folder 1	Bowling Green, Kentucky – Data compiled from city directories	1956-1964	7 items
Folder 2	Kentucky Heritage Commission – Survey of historic sites – Warren County, Kentucky	1969-1973	36 items
Folder 3	Notes on Joseph Rogers Underwood and Elizabeth Cox Underwood	n.d.	6 items
Folder 4	Kentucky silversmiths – Biographical data	n.d.	10 items
Folder 5	Elizabeth Coombs – Scripts and notes for radio programs on Warren County, Kentucky history	1948-1954	8 items
Folder 6	Warren County, Kentucky churches and pastors – Notes and data	n.d.	21 items
Folder 7	“A Brief History of Christ Episcopal Church, Bowling Green, Kentucky” by Elizabeth Coombs	1944-1956	3 items
Folder 8	Presbyterian Church, Bowling Green, Kentucky – History Committee	1933-1960, n.d.	14 items

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Folder 2	Wedding invitations and announcements	1916-1964	18 items
Folder 3	Invitations and “at home” cards	1854-1916	12 items
Folder 4	Invitations	n.d.	12 items
Folder 5	Dance invitations and cards	1886-1889	15 items
Folder 6	Dance invitations and cards	1890-1918	11 items
Folder 7	Birth announcements	1917-1918	2 items
Folder 8	Calling cards	n.d.	39 items
Folder 9	Funeral notices and sympathy acknowledgments	1873-1963	19 items
Folder 10	Tickets and membership cards	1917-1918	3 items
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Folder 2	Cook/Cooke family – Genealogy and history	n.d.	2 items
Folder 3	Dewalt family – Genealogy and history	1948-1949	15 items
Folder 4	Drew family data	1923-1954	14 items
Folder 5	Edmonds/Edmunds family – Genealogy and history	1825-1846	18 items
Folder 6	Eubank family – Genealogy and history	1812-1939	10 items
Folder 7	Eubank family documents	1812-1822	4 items
Folder 8	Gilmore family – Genealogy and history	n.d.	4 items
Folder 9	“Records – Gray Family Connections and Traditions”	n.d.	1 item

Folder 10	Hagerman family – Genealogy and history	1846-1955	28 items
Folder 11	Hagerman family – Correspondence	1893-1941	12 items
Folder 12	Henry T. Hagerman; Bettie (Robertson) Hagerman	1896-1935, n.d.	15 items
Folder 13	Hagerman family – Deeds and surveys	1847-1897	18 items
Folder 14	Hagerman family – Miscellaneous papers	1846-1913	18 items
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Folder 16	Hampton family – Genealogy and history – Kentucky	1797-1948, n.d.	33 items
Folder 17	Phineas Dewalt Hampton home – Warren County, Kentucky	1947-1964	3 items
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Folder 2	Kirby/Kerby family – Genealogy and history	1811-1949	22 items
Folder 3	Kirby-Potter Club	1938-1941	9 items
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Folder 5	Morehead family – Genealogy and history	1908-1960	26 items
Folder 6	Pendleton and Procter families – Genealogy and history	1898-1902, n.d.	4 items
Folder 7	Porter family – Letter; obituary	1919, 1961	2 items

Folder 8	Potter family – Genealogy and history – General	1898-1948	26 items
Folder 9	Potter family – Genealogy and history – Individuals	1921-1952	52 items
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Folder 11	Blanche (Potter) Sharpe – Biographical data	1939-1943	9 items
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Folder 4	Tully and Choice families – Genealogy and history	1777-1945	11 items
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	b. Pages from the <i>Daily Graphic</i> , New York, 5 January and 9 March 1874		
	c. Appointment of P. H. Coombs as 2 nd lieutenant, Bowie Guard, Texas, 1891		
	d. Elizabeth Coombs, Membership certificate, Kentucky Historical Society, 1968		

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Folder 2	Phineas D. Hampton home	1964	2 items
Folder 3	Phineas Hampton Coombs; Lattie (Robertson) Coombs	1909-1919, n.d.	38 items
Folder 4	Edwin H. Coombs	n.d.	2 items
Folder 5	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs	1893-1951	52 items
Folder 6	Elizabeth Robertson Coombs – Mary Baldwin Seminary	[1909-1910]	6 items
Folder 7	Margaret Christian (friend of Elizabeth Robertson Coombs) and family	n.d.	11 items
Folder 8	Charlotte (Robertson) Sherwood and family	1934-1946	72 items
Folder 9	Hagerman family	1884, n.d.	3 items
Folder 10	Hines family	n.d.	3 items
Folder 11	Potter family	1873, n.d.	3 items
Folder 12	Robertson family	1890-1901	10 items
Folder 13	Kentucky Library	n.d.	14 items
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Folder 16	Individuals – Identified	1873-1901	15 items
Folder 17	Individuals – Unidentified males	1909-1936	53 items
Folder 18	Individuals – Unidentified females	1920, n.d.	51 items
Folder 19	Individuals – Unidentified females	1921, n.d.	18 items
Folder 20	Groups – Identified	1890-1909,	8 items
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Folder 3	Goodrich, Lightfoot, Chew families – Genealogy	n.d.	24 items
Folder 4	Hampton family – Genealogy	n.d.	10 items
Folder 5	Slaughter family – Genealogy	n.d.	10 items
Folder 6	Turner family – Genealogy	n.d.	1 item
Folder 7	Jeannie Daviess Blackburn – Biography and memorial	1929	2 items
Folder 8	Bettie Robertson autograph book	1881-1882	1 item
Folder 9	Coombs family recipes	n.d.	36 items

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MSS COOMBS Family Collection 1777-1976
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Correspondence, photographs, business records, genealogy and miscellaneous papers of the Coombs, Robertson and related families of Warren and Simpson counties in Kentucky and of Alabama, Texas and Tennessee. Includes correspondence, personal papers and research of Elizabeth Robertson Coombs, librarian at the Kentucky Library, Western Kentucky University.

25 boxes. 236 folders. 5,985 items. Originals, photocopies, photographs.
1986.9.327; SC2017.80.1

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SEE or SEE ALSO

Combs family

See also:

Coombs family

Cook family

See also:

Cooke family

Edmunds family

See also:

Edmonds family

Kerby family

See also:

Kirby family

Mundy, Sue, 1844-1865

See:

Clarke, Marcellus Jerome

Potter, Blanche Genevieve (Jamison), 1860-1942

See:

Sharpe, Blanche Genevieve (Jamison) Potter

Ragsdale family

See also:

Ransdell family

Rasdall family

See also:

Ransdell family

Robertson, Elizabeth Jane (Potter), 1835-1906

See:

Robertson, Jane Elizabeth (Potter)

Sherwood, Annette, 1934-2008

See:

Sherwood, Anne Margaret

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