

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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 552 HELM, Margie May, 1894-1991

15 boxes. 150 folders. 3,448 items. 1740-1992.
 Originals, photocopies, photographs, cassette tape.

1991.79.60; SC2016.55.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Margie May Helm, the second child of Ellen "Nellie" (Blakey) Helm (1865-1920) and Dr. Thomas Oliver Helm (1859-1937) of Sugar Grove, Butler County, Kentucky, was born in Auburn, Logan County, Kentucky on 21 August 1894. She was descended from several Revolutionary War patriots: on her father's side, John Helm (1741-1825), Thomas Helm (1748-1781), James Owen (d. 1827), Thomas Carson (1760-1840) and John Porter (1759-1833); and on her mother's side, George Blakey (1749-1842), William Whitsitt (d. 1841) and James Allison.

Margie Helm attended Auburn Seminary from 1901 until 1910, when her father, a physician and banker, moved his medical practice to Bowling Green, Kentucky. In 1915, Dr. Helm purchased the Morehead House at the corner of State and Main streets and gave up his practice to manage the now-renamed Morehead Hotel. In 1923, he contracted for the construction of a modern building on the site, and the new Helm Hotel opened in 1924. After his death in 1937, Dr. Helm's children remained involved in the hotel's operation until the building was sold in 1969. It was razed the next year to make way for the Citizens National Bank Building.

After her family's move to Bowling Green, Margie Helm attended Bowling Green High School and in 1912 was valedictorian of its first graduating class. In 1916, she received her A.B. degree from Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia, where she majored in history and minored in English and Latin, and in 1922 was awarded a certificate in Library Science from the Pratt Institute Library School in Brooklyn, New York. In 1933, she received her M.A. degree from the University of Chicago.

Margie Helm taught high school in Virginia and in Bowling Green from 1916-1919, then worked for a few months as an assistant at the New York Public Library. In 1920, she joined the Western Kentucky State Normal School and Teachers College (now WKU) as an assistant to librarian Florence Ragland. She succeeded Miss Ragland as head librarian in 1923 and served in that position until 1956, when she was appointed Director of Library Services. During her career, she saw the library collections move from Recitation Hall to the Cedar House and Gordon Wilson Hall, and finally, when she retired in 1965, to the newly named Margie Helm Library (the former Health and Physical Education Building).

Margie Helm also served on the Board of Trustees of the Bowling Green Public Library from 1938-1963, where she participated in establishing the bookmobile program and in securing a library building. She was a member of the State Board for the Certification of Librarians from 1938-1965 and served as its chair from 1943-1954. Other professional associations included membership in the Kentucky Library Association (president from 1927-1929), the Southeastern Library Association (secretary-treasurer from 1934-1936), and the American Library Association (chairman 1936). In 1959 she was included in *Who's Who* of American Women and in 1964 was named College Librarian of the Year.

Margie Helm was an active member of the Bowling Green Presbyterian Church, where she became its first woman elder. She held several offices in the Presbyterian and Synodical Societies of the United Presbyterian Church USA, and was historian of the Kentucky Synodical Society from 1956-1958. In 1966, she was co-chair of Citizens for Better Government, an organization that supported the change to a city manager form of government for Bowling Green. She served as a director of the Mammoth Cave National Park Association and was a member of the Bowling Green Civil War Centennial Committee, Warren County Historical Society, Twentieth Century Club, XX Club, Samuel Davies Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Colonial Dames of America, Magna Charta Dames, and the Inter-Racial Commission. According to a letter of her niece Margie (Helm) Van Meter published in the (Bowling Green) Daily News on 5 October 2008 (copy in Box 1, Folder 1), Margie resigned from the DAR when the organization denied African-American singer Marian Anderson the opportunity to perform in Constitution Hall in 1939 (although she appears to have subsequently rejoined). "As a librarian," her niece continued, "she took quiet actions to help everyone have access to the books they wanted to read even before local public libraries were accessible to blacks."

Margie Helm died on 19 December 1991 at the age of 97 and was interred in Bowling Green's Fairview Cemetery.

Margie Helm had three brothers, John Blakey Helm (known as "Blakey"), a Louisville lawyer and judge, Thomas Oliver Helm, Jr., a Louisville manufacturing executive, and Harold Holmes Helm, a New York bank executive. (Correspondence and papers of Harold's in Margie's possession at her death have been cataloged separately as MSS 554 HELM, Harold Holmes). In 1961, Harold Helm and his wife Mary (Rodes) Helm endowed the Rodes-Helm Lecture Series at WKU; in 1966, Mr. and Mrs. Helm and the Helm Foundation established the Margie Helm Library Fund for collection development and special programming for the library science department and the Margie Helm Library.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of personal and professional correspondence and papers of Margie Helm, together with collected family papers and genealogical research. Also included are photographs, mostly of ancestors and family members, and an audio recording of an oral history interview Margie Helm granted in 1977. A collection inventory is in Box 1, Folder 1, together with genealogical notes, but these notes are intended to show relationships among the individuals featured most prominently in this collection and should not be construed as a comprehensive genealogy.

Box 1 contains biographical data, school records, and other personal records of Margie Helm. Included are vitae, clippings, tributes and ancestral data (Folder 2), materials relating to her membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution (Folder 3), Colonial Dames of America and Magna Charta Dames (Folder 4), and papers relating to her education and her involvement in the alumni associations of Auburn Seminary (Folders 5, 6) and Randolph-Macon Woman's College (Folder 7). Also included is a course study paper, "A Brief for a Warren County Public Library, Bowling Green, Kentucky" (1931) and her dissertation for her degree from the University of Chicago (Folder 8). Among her personal items are household records (Folder 9); certificates and awards (Folder 10; see also Box 15); remarks on librarianship and the growth of libraries at WKU (Folder 11); brief thoughts and notations on life under such headings as "My creed" and "My philosophy;" poems about growing older; a list of personal traits that she was striving to improve; and items, probably from family reunions, such as a quiz on Helm family history and notes on family games (Folder 12).

Box 2 contains passports, diaries, itineraries, postcards and keepsakes related to Margie Helm's international travel. Included are diaries for her 1926 and 1935 trips to Europe in the company of her brother Harold and others (Folder 2); diaries of her 1970 trip to Europe and Scandinavia and some undated notes on Texas and California (Folder 4); and programs, maps and other travel souvenirs (Folder 5).

Box 3 contains Margie Helm's personal correspondence from her childhood through 1990. Included are her letters home from Randolph-Macon Woman's College (Folders 1, 2) in which she writes affectionately to her parents, describing her friends and activities and teasing her brothers. She extends thanks for gifts received and delights in a graduation dress from Bowling Green modiste Carrie Taylor. Afterward, she writes of her teaching job and accommodations in Jarratt, Virginia. In a 1926 letter to the editor of Atlantic magazine (Folder 2), she disputes the claim of French hostility to Americans by relating an anecdote from her travel that same year, in which she encountered an elderly French woman who showered her party with gratitude for the kindness of American soldiers during World War I. Also of interest (Folder 3) is a letter from her brother Blakey's wife Catherine ("Kitty") vividly describing their relief work and general conditions during the 1937 Ohio River flood at Louisville; a 1942 letter denying Margie an appointment to the Women's Reserve of the U.S. Naval Reserve because of her poor vision; letters from cousin and Washington, D.C. attorney Lydia Mae Helm (known as "Mae"), who writes of attending a formal tea held by the Colonial Dames of America and of witnessing President Franklin D. Roosevelt's funeral procession; and a full report from the caretaker of Margie's dog "Jiggs," written while Margie was in Pineville, Kentucky at a vacation cottage that she frequented with her aunt Louise Blakey. Margie's interest in character reading is evidenced by a 1912 report (Folder 1) derived from features of her hand, and her 1947 letter (Folder 3) commenting on another reading. Correspondence from 1948-1955 (Folder 4) includes a 1948 letter from an editor of the Louisville Defender, an African-American newspaper, thanking Margie for courageous comments expressed in the Courier-Journal; her 1949 letter giving reasons for declining a job offer from Louisville's Filson Club; and letters from nieces Eleanor, Catherine and Margie C. Helm, written while they were students at Wellesley College. Correspondence from 1956-1959 (Folder 5) includes letters regarding family matters such as the engagement of Margie's nephew Joseph Burge Helm, and the death or retirement of colleagues; Margie's 1957 letter to author Alfred Leland Crabb commenting on his book Journey to Nashville evokes some memories of her ancestors. Correspondence from 1960-1966 (Folder 6) includes letters from friends and family members around the country, sympathy letters on the

death of her aunt Louise Blakey, and congratulatory letters on her retirement, the Rodes-Helm Lecture Series endowment, and the naming of WKU's Margie Helm Library. A 1960 letter from a Chicago doctor indicates that Margie is pursuing a regimen of relaxation techniques to combat anxiety or insomnia (difficulties to which she refers in handwritten notes in Box 1, Folder 12). A partial 1964 letter from her niece Margie (Helm) Van Meter discusses discrimination against African Americans in Green Bay, Wisconsin in the wake of George Wallace's brief presidential campaign. Correspondence from 1967-1970 (Folder 7) includes congratulatory messages on the formal dedication of the Margie Helm Library, news from family members, and Margie's letter, written from Florida, to the (Bowling Green) Daily News on the death of African-American nurse Ora Frances Porter. Correspondence from 1971-1990 (Folder 8) includes condolences on the death of Margie's brother Tom and a letter from Olive Fisher, her roommate at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, now aged 90. Undated correspondence (Folder 9) includes several letters and notes from Margie's youth, a draft letter of thanks for her 1950 award from the Business and Professional Women's Club, and another draft letter, apparently to Margie's cousin Louise (Carson) Drake, describing Margie's "grief" when her niece Catherine Helm married a Roman Catholic and alluding to a similar personal disappointment of Louise's.

Box 4 contains additional correspondence, greeting cards and keepsakes. The correspondence relates mainly to Hana (Kato) Kaku, a Japanese woman who was a classmate of Margie's at the Pratt Institute, her husband Michio Kaku, and her stepdaughter Junko "June" (Kaku) Muramoto. Hana's letters (Folders 1-2) begin in the 1920s, as she writes in fluent English of her library work in Boston and Tokyo. In Paris during the devastating Japanese earthquake of 1923, she discusses the need to reconstruct Japanese libraries, and (in contrast to Margie's experience during her 1926 trip to France) the hostility and bitterness of the French toward America. Forced to abandon her library career in the mid-1920s, Hana resumes her correspondence after World War II when she and her husband, a retired diplomat, have been driven from their comfortable life in Tokyo to subsistence farming in a small village at the foot of Mount Fuji. Their letters provide a vivid picture of postwar deprivation as they describe food shortages, inflation, lack of housing, the loss of Hana's investments in Korea, and Michio's chronic health problems. Hana and her family express deep gratitude for gifts of clothing, foodstuffs and medicine from Margie and her aunt Louise Blakey. Despite her burdens, Hana remains interested in former classmates, earns income through translation and handicraft work, and takes pride in successfully preparing her stepdaughter for a suitable marriage. She and Michio are pro-American, anti-Communist and, with Margie's encouragement, receptive to Christianity. When Hana dies suddenly in February 1951, a heartbroken Michio writes of the hardships she endured and of the "oasis" that Margie's friendship provided; Margie's letters to Hana, he tells her, have been placed in her coffin. After Hana's death, Michio and his family maintain contact with Margie and, through her, with other Americans. Michio's letters (Folders 2-3) reflect his continuing economic struggle as he thanks Margie for vitamins, food and clothing. He also writes of his conversion to Christianity and his work translating and publishing Goodspeed's Short Bible for Japanese readers. His daughter June writes of the birth of her daughter Yasuko, and her 1970 letter informs Margie of Michio's death. Also included in their correspondence are photographs and Japanese-themed Christmas cards. Other correspondence and material relating to Japan (Folder 4) includes letters from two Japanese women regarding a visit to the United States, Margie Helm's collected notes and clippings on postwar Japan, and Christmas cards. Also included in Box 4 are Christmas cards (Folder 5); valentines, birthday, get-well and other greeting cards sent to Margie Helm (Folder 6); her

childhood birthday book with autographs (Folder 7); and the guest book for her 95th birthday reception at WKU's Kentucky Building (Folder 8).

Box 5 contains papers relating to Margie Helm's profession as a librarian, and to her and her family's financial gifts to WKU. Material relating to her services as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Bowling Green Public Library (Folders 1, 2) and as a member of the Warren County Bookmobile Committee (Folder 3) includes correspondence, reports and other materials regarding federal, state and local legislation, city and county funding, staff and facilities (for a related collection, see MSS 250). Clippings include an article on the 1947 opening of a new branch library for African Americans after the destruction by fire of the public library, then housed in the Bowling Green Armory, on 31 December 1946. An interview (Folder 4) with Margie Helm about her career was recorded as part of a 1977 oral history project for the Bowling Green Public Library. Papers relating to Margie Helm's service at WKU (Folder 6) date mostly from her time as Director of Library Services and after her retirement. Correspondence, memoranda and reports reflect her responsibility for the main campus library, the library science department, the Kentucky Museum and the Kentucky Library (now the Department of Library Special Collections) and relate to organization, budgets, staffing, patron inquiries and collecting, particularly for the Kentucky Library. Included is a 1967 report by Sara Tyler, her successor as Director of Library Services, on the second anniversary of the opening of the Margie Helm Library. Also included is correspondence relating to Margie Helm's contributions to the College Heights Foundation and the various honors extended to her in recognition of her long service to WKU. Materials relating to the Rodes-Helm Lecture Fund (Folder 7) and the Margie Helm Library Fund (Folder 8) include accounts and correspondence regarding programming.

Box 6 contains material relating to Margie Helm's service (including the chairmanship for more than a decade) on Kentucky's State Board for the Certification of Librarians, a body created pursuant to legislation passed in 1938 setting standards for librarians employed in tax-supported libraries. Her correspondence (Folders 1-5) with leading professionals of the state deals mainly with meetings of the board, administration and interpretation of the law and its accompanying regulations, examinations, issuance of certificates of various grades, and the credentials of particular applicants seeking certification. Also included (Folders 7-9) are documents relating to the early organization of the Board, minutes, rules and regulations, lists of certificate holders, forms, reports and statistics.

Box 7 contains material relating to Margie Helm's involvement with the Presbyterian Church and her service in various church organizations. Included is general literature on churches and church work (Folder 1); programs, sermons and other literature of the Bowling Green Presbyterian Church (Folders 2, 3); materials documenting the work of its Woman's Association, of which Margie was historian (Folder 4); Margie Helm's correspondence with other church historians in her role as historian for the Kentucky Synodical Society of Presbyterian Churches (Folder 5); and minutes, reports and histories of the Women's Synodical Society, Synod of Kentucky (Folders 6, 7).

Box 8 contains research, correspondence and papers relating to Margie Helm's community activities and interest in local history and preservation. Included is correspondence and literature documenting her interest in Logan County's Red River Church Improvement Association (Folder 1), the Warren County Historical Society (Folder 3) and the centennial of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad in Bowling Green (Folder 7), as well as research and papers on Bowling Green's history, hotels, parks and waterworks (Folders 4-6); correspondence, reminiscences and information on topics in Auburn, Kentucky history such as churches,

telephone service, tanneries, streets and schools; and correspondence, research and clippings relating to Logan County's historic houses, collected as part of her work for the Historic Activities Committee of the Colonial Dames of America (Folder 2). Also included is correspondence, minutes, clippings and research papers regarding Mammoth Cave and the Mammoth Cave National Park Association, of which she was a member and director (Folders 8, 9); and correspondence, clippings and publications relating to the Shaker Museum, the Shaker Festival, and St. Mark's Priory in South Union, Kentucky, which reflect the 1960s initiative to preserve the former Shaker colony as a museum and tourist destination (Folder 10).

Box 9 contains mostly correspondence and papers of Margie Helm's parents, siblings and other close relatives. Her father, Dr. Thomas O. Helm (Folder 1) writes to his wife from New York, where he is pursuing additional medical study, of seeing General William T. Sherman's funeral procession and a performance by Sarah Bernhardt; during World War I, he urges his son Thomas Jr. to think carefully about leaving Princeton University to enter military service, but writes to Margie of his own work in a YMCA camp for servicemen. Other letters concern Margie's interest in genealogy, Helm Hotel business, and his trips to Florida. Also included is an inventory of Dr. Helm's estate, clippings relating to his medical career and other activities, and family tributes to his life and character. Materials related to the Helm Hotel (Folder 2) include historical narratives, clippings, minutes of its corporate management, and letterhead. Papers of Margie's mother, Ellen "Nellie" Helm (Folder 3) include her lively and affectionate letters to Margie at college containing news of family, friends and social activities. Her interest in music and reading is evident, and one letter mentions a pledge to attend the 1913 Woman Suffrage Procession in Washington, D. C. She also corresponds with her husband and sons, and with members of the Blakey family. Included is a letter from a cousin written to an unidentified recipient after Nellie's death which lovingly praises her personality and character. Nellie's autograph album (Folder 4) is from her youth and includes inscriptions of schoolmates, teachers and friends. Papers of Nellie's sister (Margie's aunt) Louise B. Blakey (Folder 5) include mostly correspondence with family such as Becker relatives in Colorado and the widow of her brother Clayton Becker Blakey in California. Papers of Margie's uncle John C. Helm (Folder 6) include receipts, deeds and cancelled checks, as well as his obituary and estate settlement. Papers of Margie's brother John Blakey Helm (Folder 7) include letters written while a student at Princeton University and the University of Michigan, and during his military service in both world wars; also included are clippings relating to his political career and his unsuccessful run for the U.S. Senate, a letter from Bowling Green judge John B. Rodes reflecting on their work for the Mammoth Cave National Park Association, and an obituary and eulogy. Papers of Margie's brother Thomas O. Helm, Jr. (Folder 8) include letters written during his studies at Princeton University and his World War I service as a naval officer aboard the troop ship U.S.S. Powhatan, clippings about his career and family, an obituary, and a description of "White Oaks," his Louisville home. Papers of Thomas O. Helm, Jr.'s wife Mary (Burge) Helm (Folder 9) consist of letters to Margie about family activities, family-related poems, and her commentary on childrearing. Letters (mostly typescripts) of Margie's niece Eleanor Blakey Helm to her family (Folder 10) describe her experiences and observations as a student in France under the "Experiment in International Living" program in summer 1949, and include a letter to her brother John from Italy in 1950. Materials relating to various Helm, Carson and Porter family reunions (Folder 11) include clippings and guest lists; proceedings of a 1974 Helm reunion include speeches and reminiscences by Margie and her brother Blakey Helm.

Box 10 contains papers of Margie's ancestors in the Helm family, and research and correspondence relating to Helm genealogy and history. Papers of Margie's paternal great-grandfather Moses Helm (Folder 1) include family letters to him and his wife Nancy (Owen) Helm, notes, accounts and receipts, and records relating to his assets and estate. Documents relating to the Little Muddy Presbyterian Church (Folder 2), which the Helm, Porter and Carson families helped establish in Butler County, Kentucky, consist of specifications for the construction of a meeting house, notes for a temperance lecture delivered at the church, and a brief historical sketch. Papers of Margie Helm's grandfather John Barnett Helm (Folder 3) relate primarily to his business, estate administration duties and landholdings, and include notes, receipts, bonds and deeds to land in Butler County; also included are his estate accounts as kept by his son and administrator, John C. Helm (Folder 4). Papers of Margie Helm's uncle David Owen Helm (Folder 5) consist of notes and receipts. Papers of David Helm's wife Amanda (Boadley) Helm (Folder 6) consist of letters from schoolmates and friends written before or shortly after her marriage. Miscellaneous Helm family papers (Folder 7) include 18th- and 19th-century documents relating to the family of Moses Helm such as genealogical data from a family Bible, documents relating to Helm Revolutionary War service, estate accounts, receipts, and the wills of Moses's sister Sarah and father John Helm; also included are Civil War enlistment forms for two slaves of Moses's son Thomas B. Helm. The remainder of Box 8 (Folders 8-13) consists of Margie Helm's collected research, clippings (news items, wedding and other announcements, obituaries, etc.), and correspondence on Helm genealogy.

Box 11 contains papers of Margie Helm's Blakey, Carson and Porter ancestors, and research and correspondence relating to the genealogy and history of these families. Papers of Margie's grandparents Churchill Haden Blakey and Mary (Becker) Blakey of Logan County, Kentucky (Folder 1) include letters, reminiscences, statements and speeches related to Churchill's involvement in local politics and service in the Kentucky General Assembly, obituaries, tributes and biographical sketches of Blakey family members. A genealogy of the Blakey family compiled in 1942 by descendant Lue (Adams) Kress (Folder 2) includes related families. Other Blakey family papers include a biography and reminiscences of Churchill's uncle George D. Blakey, a political colleague of Abraham Lincoln (Folder 3); and miscellaneous letters, poems, and announcements of Blakey family members (Folder 4), including a letter of George Thomas Blakey to his mother Lula (Beatty) Blakey, written from Florida where he is pursuing the vocation of alligator hunter. Materials on Blakey family genealogy and history (Folders 5-8) consist of general research, correspondence and clippings; included is George Blakey's Revolutionary War pension application (Folder 5), correspondence containing both genealogy and family news from B.B. and Jo Blakey of Oklahoma (Folders 6, 7), and clippings on "Rural Choice," the Blakey homestead in Logan County, Kentucky. Materials on the Carson family consist of family and business letters to Margie Helm's great-grandfather William Porter Carson of Butler County, Kentucky, together with his survey certificates, other business papers and will (Folder 9); miscellaneous Carson family papers (Folder 10) such as wills, deeds, receipts, and a letter to Margie Helm's great-great grandfather Thomas Carson in which his nephew discusses a military action led by Illinois governor Ninian Edwards during the War of 1812; genealogical research on the Carson family (Folder 11); correspondence relating to genealogical research (Folder 12); and clippings about Carson family members (Folder 13). Also included (Folder 14) is correspondence related to the efforts of Margie Helm and her cousin Louise (Carson) Drake to create memorial Carson plots in the Little Muddy Cumberland Presbyterian Church cemetery in Butler County. The remainder of Box 11 (Folders 15-18)

relates to the Porter family and consists of miscellaneous family papers and letters (Folder 15); research on Porter family genealogy and history (Folder 16); correspondence relating to Porter genealogy (Folder 17); and clippings about Porter family members (Folder 18).

Box 12 contains folders of genealogical research and correspondence on numerous families related to the Helms. Some also include family letters and papers; for example Clayton F. Becker's letters (Folder 5) from Harvard to his sister Mary (Becker) Blakey (Margie Helm's grandmother) describe his activities and comment on Abraham Lincoln's election, the prospects of secession and his hopes of obtaining a government job. From Washington in 1864, he writes of his expectation of a Union victory and attends Lincoln's second inauguration in 1865.

Box 13 also contains folders of genealogical research, correspondence and papers on various families, as well as miscellaneous material. Ancestral papers (Folder 10) include deeds, surveys, notes, land warrants, receipts and some undated and unidentified material, but items of interest include a list of expenses for an 1841 trip from Virginia to Kentucky, and an unidentified man's lengthy and eloquent letter proposing marriage.

Box 14 contains photographs of Margie Helm, her dogs, her ancestors and extended family members, ancestral gravestone photographs, and photographs of colleagues. Some of the photographs are unidentified, and some have been transferred to the Kentucky Library Research Collections.

Box 15 contains oversized items relating to Margie Helm's genealogical research, and family diplomas and certificates.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Margie Helm – Personal & Biographical	1895-1992	226 items
Folder 1	Inventory and genealogical notes		2 items
Folder 2	Biographical data and clippings	1900-1992	40 items
Folder 3	Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) – Draft membership applications	n.d.	12 items
Folder 4	Colonial Dames of America and Magna Charta Dames – Correspondence, application, printed materials	1935-1977, n.d.	19 items
Folder 5	Auburn Seminary, Bowling Green High School, and Pratt Institute – Report cards, certificates, programs	1904-1962	19 items
Folder 6	Auburn Seminary – History; Auburn Seminary Alumni Association – Minutes, correspondence	1899-1965	28 items
Folder 7	Randolph-Macon Woman's College – Report cards, correspondence, alumnae reunions	1914-1971	44 items

Folder 8	University of Chicago – Paper on Warren County, Kentucky public library; dissertation; memo concerning 1932-1942 students	1930-1959	6 items
Folder 9	Financial and household records	1928-1981	12 items
Folder 10	Certificates, memberships, awards	1916-1978	7 items
Folder 11	Speeches and remarks	1964-1968	7 items
Folder 12	Miscellaneous keepsakes and personal items	1895-1991	30 items
BOX 2	Margie Helm – Travel	1926-1970	132 items
Folder 1	Passports and vaccination certificate	1926-1970	4 items
Folder 2	Travel diaries	1926, 1935	2 items
Folder 3	Travel itineraries	1926, 1970	5 items
Folder 4	Travel diaries and notes	1970, n.d.	4 items
Folder 5	Keepsakes related to travel	1926-1970	19 items
Folder 6	Postcards – France and Holland	n.d.	25 items
Folder 7	Postcards – England and Scotland	1926, 1935	37 items
Folder 8	Postcards – Switzerland and Germany	1926, n.d.	23 items
Folder 9	Postcards – Belgium and unidentified	n.d.	13 items
BOX 3	Margie Helm – Personal Correspondence	1912-1990	275 items
Folder 1	Correspondence	1912-1914	15 items
Folder 2	Correspondence	1915-1933	26 items
Folder 3	Correspondence	1935-1947	27 items
Folder 4	Correspondence	1948-1955	30 items
Folder 5	Correspondence	1956-1959	28 items

Folder 6	Correspondence	1960-1966	47 items
Folder 7	Correspondence	1967-1970	36 items
Folder 8	Correspondence	1971-1990	31 items
Folder 9	Correspondence	n.d.	35 items
BOX 4	Margie Helm – Personal Correspondence and Papers	1881-1989	169 items
Folder 1	Letters of and relating to Hana (Kato) Kaku and family	1923-1949	42 items
Folder 2	Letters of and relating to Hana (Kato) Kaku and family	1950-1951	31 items
Folder 3	Letters of Kaku family; photographs	1952-1970, n.d.	32 items
Folder 4	Letters from Japan; notes on postwar Japan	1949-1976, n.d.	16 items
Folder 5	Christmas cards	1953-1970, n.d.	30 items
Folder 6	Miscellaneous greeting cards	1911-1956, n.d.	15 items
Folder 7	Longfellow Birthday Book with autographs	1881	1 item
Folder 8	Guest book for 95 th birthday reception	1989	2 items
BOX 5	Margie Helm – Professional Correspondence and Papers; Oral history interview	1937-1981	251 items
Folder 1	Library Extension Division – Bowling Green/ Warren County Public Library	1944-1967	38 items
Folder 2	Library Extension Division – Bowling Green/ Warren County Public Library	1968-1973, n.d.	13 items
Folder 3	Library Extension Division – Bookmobile	1952-1973	24 items

Folder 4	Interview of Margie Helm for Bowling Green Public Library oral history project	1977	2 items
Folder 5	Friends of Kentucky Libraries	1957, n.d.	5 items
Folder 6	WKU Libraries – Correspondence and papers	1933-1992	83 items
Folder 7	Rodes-Helm Lecture Fund	1969-1981	16 items
Folder 8	Margie Helm Library Fund	1966-1980	70 items
BOX 6	Margie Helm – Professional Correspondence and Papers	1933-1963	374 items
Folder 1	Board for the Certification of Librarians – Correspondence	1935-1946	63 items
Folder 2	Board for the Certification of Librarians – Correspondence	1947	92 items
Folder 3	Board for the Certification of Librarians – Correspondence	1948-1949	62 items
Folder 4	Board for the Certification of Librarians – Correspondence	1950-1959	75 items
Folder 5	Board for the Certification of Librarians – Correspondence	n.d.	9 items
Folder 6	An Introduction to Library Science, by Pierce Butler	1933	1 item
Folder 7	Board for the Certification of Librarians – Minutes, reports, legislation, etc.	1935-1947	29 items
Folder 8	Board for the Certification of Librarians – Minutes, reports, legislation, etc.	1948-1963	24 items
Folder 9	Board for the Certification of Librarians – Miscellaneous	n.d.	19 items
BOX 7	Margie Helm – Presbyterian Church	1927-1973	108 items
Folder 1	Presbyterian Church – General	1927-1968	16 items

Folder 2	Bowling Green Presbyterian Church	1950-1973	27 items
Folder 3	Bowling Green Presbyterian Church – Reverend Philip Bemhower Christmas sermons	1966-1973	7 items
Folder 4	Presbyterian Church Women’s Association	1950-1959	25 items
Folder 5	Preparation of Presbyterial histories	1951-1955	13 items
Folder 6	Women’s Synodical Society, Synod of Kentucky – Minute book	1950-1964	1 item
Folder 7	Women’s Synodical Society, Synod of Kentucky – Minutes, 1964-1967; History, 1951-1956; Reports, 1969-1970	1951-1970	19 items
BOX 8	Margie Helm – Associations & Interests	1871-1983	191 items
Folder 1	Red River Church Memorial and Cemetery/ Improvement Association, Russellville, Kentucky	1948-1957	4 items
Folder 2	Auburn and Logan County – History and historic homes	1871-1973	62 items
Folder 3	Warren County Historical Society	1962-1968	11 items
Folder 4	Bowling Green & Warren County history	1966-1970	9 items
Folder 5	“History of Bowling Green Hotels,” by Margie Helm	1959	10 items
Folder 6	“The Parks and the Waterworks Systems of Bowling Green, Kentucky,” by Margie Helm, and associated material	1947-1963	4 items
Folder 7	Louisville & Nashville Railroad Centennial	1959	14 items
Folder 8	Mammoth Cave National Park Association	1964-1979	25 items
Folder 9	Mammoth Cave – Harold Meloy research papers	1968-1969	4 items
Folder 10	Shakertown at South Union; St. Mark’s Priory	1941-1983	48 items

BOX 9	Helm Family – Papers	1876-1985	346 items
Folder 1	Dr. Thomas O. Helm	1891-1938	60 items
Folder 2	Helm Hotel (formerly Morehead House)	1876-1977	46 items
Folder 3	Ellen “Nellie” (Blakey) Helm	1880-1920	39 items
Folder 4	Ellen “Nellie” Blakey – Autograph album	1880-1882	1 item
Folder 5	Louise B. Blakey	1916-1966	29 items
Folder 6	John C. Helm	1884-1939	40 items
Folder 7	John Blakey Helm	1905-1979	54 items
Folder 8	Thomas O. Helm, Jr.	1908-1980	42 items
Folder 9	Mary Norris (Burge) Helm	1935-1949	9 items
Folder 10	Eleanor Blakey Helm	1949-1955	14 items
Folder 11	Helm, Carson and Porter family reunions	1930-1985	12 items
BOX 10	Helm Family – Papers & Genealogy	1768-1989	377 items
Folder 1	Moses Helm	1797-1862	54 items
Folder 2	Specifications for meeting house at Little Muddy campground; temperance lecture delivered at Little Muddy Meeting House	1849, n.d.	3 items
Folder 3	John Barnett Helm	1845-1896	62 items
Folder 4	Account book of John C. Helm, for John B. Helm estate	1896-1897	8 items
Folder 5	David O. Helm	1849-1877	6 items
Folder 6	Lydia Amanda (Boadley) Helm	1851-1859	6 items
Folder 7	Miscellaneous Helm family papers	1768-1972	50 items
Folder 8	Helm genealogy and history – General research	1944-1975	54 items

Folder 9	Reverend Benjamin Helm – Papers on Helm family genealogy and history	1882-1908, n.d.	4 items
Folder 10	Helm genealogy and history – Correspondence	1924-1959	39 items
Folder 11	Helm genealogy and history – Correspondence	1961-1979	33 items
Folder 12	Helm genealogy and history – Correspondence	1980-1982, n.d.	20 items
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BOX 11	Blakey, Carson and Porter Families – Papers & Genealogy	1788-1991	372 items
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Folder 2	A Genealogy of the Blakey Family and Descendants, compiled by Lue Adams Kress	1942	1 item
Folder 3	In Memory of Our Revolutionary Forefathers, compiled by Mrs. Fred Kress (includes “Men Whom I Remember,” by George D. Blakey); obituary of George D. Blakey	1877-1886	3 items
Folder 4	Blakey family papers	1901-1967, n.d.	20 items
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Folder 6	Blakey genealogy and history – B.B. and Jo Blakey	1964-1979	19 items
Folder 7	Blakey genealogy and history – Correspondence	1941-1970	43 items
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Folder 10	Miscellaneous Carson family papers	1803-1972	27 items
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Folder 13	Carson genealogy and history – Clippings	1943-1984	6 items
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Folder 17	Porter genealogy and history – Correspondence	1925-1977	16 items
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Folder 1	Allison family	1832-1974	15 items
Folder 2	Magna Charta – Barons of Runnymede	n.d.	13 items
Folder 3	Beard family	1850-1881	4 items
Folder 4	Theodore Becker – Papers and biographical data	1819-1853	19 items
Folder 5	Becker family papers	1846-1907	19 items
Folder 6	Becker family – Genealogy and history	1872-1975	24 items
Folder 7	Joseph and Catherine (Stark) Burge family	1966	4 items
Folder 8	Churchill family	1952-1961	9 items
Folder 9	Clark and Paulett families	1935-1965	12 items
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Folder 2	McKinney family	1814-1867	4 items
Folder 3	McLean family	1885-1976	4 items
Folder 4	Mercer family	1939, n.d.	2 items
Folder 5	Owen and Russell families	1827-1960, n.d.	64 items
Folder 6	Sarah E. Smith autograph album; letter to Bettie Smith	1855, 1878	2 items
Folder 7	Whitsitt family papers	1901	1 item
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Folder 12	Recipes	1961, n.d.	22 items
Folder 13	Story, “The Ridleys Can Take Learning”	n.d.	1 item

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Folder 3	Blakey family gravestones	n.d.	3 items
Folder 4	Porter family	1974, n.d.	9 items
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Folder 6	Warren County Library Bookmobile; Kentucky Library; WKU personnel	n.d.	17 items
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1.	Deed from Mathias and Mary Smock to Moses Hellim [Helm], lands in Piscataway Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey	1740	1 item
2.	Deed from North Carolina to Thomas Sharp, lands in Middle District (photocopy)	1788	1 item
3.	Deed from North Carolina to Thomas Sharp, lands in Middle District (photocopy)	1788	1 item
4.	Fragment of newspaper page (Richmond, Virginia?)	1801	1 item
5.	Deed from Jonathan and Eleanor Ward to Solomon P. Sharp, lands in Logan County, Kentucky (photocopy)	1813	1 item
6.	Estate accounts of George McAllister	1818-1831	1 item
7.	Broadside “To the People of Logan County” regarding candidacy of E. M. Ewing for Kentucky legislature	1832	1 item
8.	Obituary for Letitia Todd (1799-1868), reprinted from the <i>Louisville Courier</i>	1868	1 item

9. Deed from John and Melvina Newton to J. B. Helm, 3 acres in Butler County, Kentucky	1883	1 item
10. Certificate of appointment of John B. Helm as postmaster at Sugar Grove, Butler County, Kentucky	1878	1 item
11. Diploma, Thomas O. Helm, University of Louisville Medical Department, Private Instruction in Materia Medica, Therapeutics, and Practice of Medicine	1884	1 item
12. Scrapbook with clippings on Blakey, Hall, Helm, Parker, Porter family members (original front cover, photocopies of pages, name index; original chromolithographs transferred to Kentucky Library Research Collections)	[1887-1901]	1 item
13. <i>Ladies Home Journal</i> article by Ida Tarbell on women's dress (photocopy)	1913	1 item
14. Diploma, Margie May Helm, Bachelor of Arts, Randolph-Macon Woman's College	1916	1 item
15. Diploma, Thomas O. Helm, Jr., Civil Engineer, Princeton University	1920	1 item
16. "Sea Moss: A Tone Poem," by David Maury Helm	1945	1 item
17. Certificate of membership, Margie Helm, National Society of Magna Charta Dames	1969	1 item
18. Diploma for Distinguished Achievement, Margie Helm, The World Who's Who of Women	1973	1 item
19. Diploma, Margie May Helm, Bowling Green High School (oversized; shelved in C1-D6,#1)	1912	1 item
20. "Presbyterian Churches in Bowling Green and their early background in Kentucky," chronological chart by Margie Helm (oversized; shelved in C1-D6,#1)	n.d.	1 item
21. Rubbing of Thomas Carson/Ann Porter historical marker (torn, oversized; shelved in C1-D6,#1)	n.d.	1 item

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS HELM, Margie May, 1740-1992
552 1894-1991

Personal and professional correspondence and papers of Margie Helm, Auburn, Kentucky native and longtime Western Kentucky University head librarian. Includes ancestral and family correspondence and papers, photographs, and genealogical research on the Helm, Carson, Porter, Blakey and related families.

15 boxes. 150 folders. 3,448 items. Originals, photocopies, photographs, cassette tape.
1991.79.60; SC2016.55.1

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Allison family

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See:

Carson, Ann "Nancy" (Porter)

Caudill, Rebecca, 1899-1985

See:

Ayars, Rebecca (Caudill)

Dykeman, Wilma, 1920-2006

See:

Stokely, Wilma (Dykeman)

Helm, Amanda (Boadley), 1836-1870

See:

Helm, Lydia Amanda (Boadley)

Helm, Blakey, 1889-1979

See:

Helm, John Blakey

Helm, Mae, 1888-1978

See:

Helm, Lydia Mae

Helm, Nancy Porter (Carson), 1825-1861

See:

Helm, Ann "Nancy" Porter (Carson)

Helm, Nellie, 1865-1920

See:

Helm, Ellen "Nellie" (Blakey)

Matsui, Haru, 1903-1996

See:

Ishigaki, Ayako

Whitsett family

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Whitsitt family

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