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Shakers - South Union, Kentucky (MSS 599)

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

Ann Lee (1736-1784), mother of Shakerism, claimed a few years before her death to have experienced a vision in which she saw the next great opening for the gospel occurring in 1801 or 1802 in the southwestern part of the United States. John Meacham, Benjamin S. Youngs, and Issachar Bates embarked on a missionary journey to that area on January 1, 1805. This trek proved to be one of more than one thousand miles. Because of the great religious revival taking place in Logan County, Kentucky, the Shakers proceeded to that region. They gained converts and in 1807 established a communal society, which practiced celibacy and pacifism, at South Union in Logan County. Membership peaked at 349 in 1827. Disbanded in 1922, South Union was the last of the six western societies to close.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of a photocopy of Shaker Record D, a journal documenting the history and activities of the Shaker colony at South Union, Kentucky, from 1879 to 1917. A bound two-volume typescript with a name index is also available. Entries are regularly made up to 1892, with only a few entries thereafter for 1910 and 1917. The original journal is held at the Shaker Museum at South Union.

Kept in part by Elder Harvey L. Eads, Record D includes information on the weather; agriculture, trade and manufactures at the colony; accidents, illnesses and deaths; arrivals and departures of members; ministerial travel; meetings; building construction; and outside news, including news of other Shaker colonies. Also included are censuses of members from 1879-1889 (1884 excepted).

SHELF LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>Shakers – South Union, Kentucky</th>
<th>1879-1917</th>
<th>3 items</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory</td>
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<td>1 item</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Folder 2  Shaker Record D (pp. 1-148)  1879-1883  1 item
Folder 3  Shaker Record D (pp. 149-279)  1884-1887  1 item
Folder 4  Shaker Record D (pp. 280-422)  1888-1917  1 item

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD
MSS  SHAKERS – South Union, Kentucky  1879-1917
599

Shaker Record D, a journal of the activities of the Shaker colony at South Union, Kentucky. A typescript also includes an index of names. 1 box. 4 folders. 4 items. Photocopy, typescript.

SC2017.2.4

SUBJECT ANALYTICS
Eads, Harvey Lauderdale, 1807-1892 – Relating to Shakers – South Union, Kentucky – Vital statistics

Niedermeier/Jeffrey  01/10/2017