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## McReynolds, Benjamin, 1769-1845 (MSS 603)

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

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 603 McREYNOLDS, Benjamin, 1769-1845**

3 boxes. 24 folders. 29 items. 1796-1938. Originals, typescripts.

1935.16.2; 2009.175.1

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Benjamin McReynolds was born in Bedford County Virginia on 1 April 1769. On 12 March 1798 he married Elizabeth Wilson (1776-1816). They moved to Butler County, Kentucky about 1799 and had four children: Thomas Jefferson McReynolds, Wilson Oliver McReynolds, Benjamin Shepherd ("Little Shep") McReynolds (1806-1847), and Elizabeth Hunter McReynolds (Mrs. David McKenney). After Elizabeth's death, Benjamin married Sally Dixon (b. 1775), and after her death he married Pency (Gardner) Watkins.

On his arrival in Kentucky, McReynolds settled on Sandy Creek south of Morgantown in Butler County, in a home he called "Maxalina." A Methodist minister, McReynolds preached in Butler and Logan counties, studied and wrote on doctrinal and other subjects, and taught school in his home. He died on 18 June 1845.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection consists mostly of copybooks and writings of Benjamin McReynolds on religious, medical, legal and literary topics, as well as accounts, sermons, and records from several schools. Some family history and genealogy, and a descendant's family Bible, are also included. Most of the material is contained in handmade manuscript books which are in very poor condition.

Of interest in Box 1 are: a pamphlet (Folder 3) of family history by McReynolds, which includes data on his grandparents, the families of his first and second wives (McReynolds' mother and his second wife's father were half-siblings), and an elegy to his first wife Elizabeth; extensive notes on diseases, medical conditions and remedies (Folders 4-8); and a book of ciphering, shorthand and other lessons (Folder 10).

Box 2 includes an account book (Folder 1) containing records of marriages performed by McReynolds and schools conducted by him; records of the Butler Debating Society (Folder 3), of which McReynolds was president; a diary documenting a trip from Sandy Creek to Lynchburg, Virginia in 1823 (Folder 4); a letter to Benjamin's son Thomas warning him against emigrating to Mexico or Colombia (Folder 6); and additional school records (Folder 8).

**SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Benjamin McReynolds</b>	<b>1796-1938</b>	<b>13 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Benjamin McReynolds – Biographical data and genealogy; notes on origins of collection	1938, n.d.	3 items
Folder 3	Family history by Benjamin McReynolds, with preface by Shepard S. McReynolds	[post-1820], 1891	1 item
Folder 4	Manuscript book of medical information	1796	1 item
Folder 5	Manuscript book of medical information	n.d.	1 item
Folder 6	Manuscript book of medical information	n.d.	1 item
Folder 7	Manuscript book of medical information	n.d.	1 item
Folder 8	Accounts, notes on sermons, prescriptions	1803-1811	1 item
Folder 9	Manuscript books 9a – Sermons 9b – Sermons	1803-1804 1803-1804	1 item 1 item
Folder 10	Manuscript book of ciphery, shorthand instructions, McReynolds family births and marriages, patterns for a saddle tree and coat, accounts	1815?-1845	1 item
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Benjamin McReynolds</b>	<b>1819-1845</b>	<b>9 items</b>
Folder 1	Manuscript book of sermons, essays	1819-1827	1 item
Folder 2	Account book, school and marriage records	1819-1845	2 items
Folder 3	Butler Debating Society record book	1822-1825	1 item
Folder 4	Travel diary; notes on religion	1823	1 item
Folder 5	Manuscript book of poems, prayers, writings	1825	1 item

Folder 6	Transcribed letter of James Wand to Thomas McReynolds; medical information in manuscript book	1825	1 item
Folder 7	Manuscript book, "The Baptist system weighed and found wanting" by Benjamin McReynolds	1826	1 item
Folder 8	Monte Ventu or Fairborn School attendance records	1827	1 item
<b>BOX 3</b>	<b>Benjamin McReynolds</b>	<b>1829-1843</b>	<b>7 items</b>
Folder 1	Manuscript book, "The Validity of adult and infant baptism" by Benjamin McReynolds	1829	1 item
Folder 2	Miscellaneous writings; Bible 2a – Religious, poetic, literary information, notes on stenography 2b – Bible of W. F. McReynolds	1833 n.d.	1 item 1 item
Folder 3	Manuscript book, "Errors detected" [in Baptist beliefs]	n.d.	1 item
Folder 4	Notes on legal procedures	1843	1 item
Folder 5	Manuscript book of sermons	n.d.	1 item
Folder 6	Manuscript book of sermons	n.d.	1 item

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS 603 McREYNOLDS, Benjamin, 1796-1938  
1769-1845

Manuscript books of sermons, religious, medical and other writings created by Benjamin McReynolds, a Butler County, Kentucky Methodist minister. Includes family history and records of schools operated by McReynolds.

3 boxes. 24 folders. 29 items. Originals, typescripts.

1935.16.2; 2009.175.1

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Baptism – Relating to B3,F1  
 Baptists – Comments about, 1826 B2,F7; B3,F3  
 Ciphering books, 1815 B1,F10  
 Clergy – Methodist  
 Debating societies, 1822-1825 B2,F4  
 Dixon family – Relating to B1,F3  
 Marriages – Butler County, 1831-1845 B2,F2  
 McReynolds, Elizabeth (Wilson), 1776-1816 – Relating to B1,F3  
 McReynolds family – Relating to B1,F2,3,10  
 McReynolds, Shepard S. B1,F2,3  
 McReynolds, Thomas Jefferson, 1803-1869 – Letter to B2,F6  
 McReynolds, W. F. – Relating to B3,F2b  
 Medicine – Prescriptions and remedies, ca. 1800 B1,F4-8; B2,F6  
 Prayers B2,F5  
 Religion – Butler County  
 Schools – Butler County, 1827-1839 B2,F2,8  
 Sermons – Methodist B1,F9; B2,F2; B3,F5,6  
 Virginia – Travel and description, 1823 B2,F4  
 Wand, James B2,F6  
 Wilson family – Relating to B1,F3

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 02/24/2017