McReynolds, Benjamin, 1769-1845 (MSS 603)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
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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 Pensy (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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>Benjamin McReynolds</th>
<th>1796-1938</th>
<th>13 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Benjamin McReynolds – Biographical data and genealogy; notes on origins of collection</td>
<td>1938, n.d.</td>
<td>3 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Family history by Benjamin McReynolds, with preface by Shepard S. McReynolds</td>
<td>[post-1820], 1891</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Manuscript book of medical information</td>
<td>1796</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Manuscript book of medical information</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Manuscript book of medical information</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Manuscript book of medical information</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Accounts, notes on sermons, prescriptions</td>
<td>1803-1811</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Manuscript books</td>
<td>1803-1804</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9a – Sermons</td>
<td>1803-1804</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9b – Sermons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Manuscript book of ciphering, shorthand instructions, McReynolds family births and marriages, patterns for a saddle tree and coat, accounts</td>
<td>1815?-1845</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 2</th>
<th>Benjamin McReynolds</th>
<th>1819-1845</th>
<th>9 items</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Manuscript book of sermons, essays</td>
<td>1819-1827</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Account book, school and marriage records</td>
<td>1819-1845</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Butler Debating Society record book</td>
<td>1822-1825</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Travel diary; notes on religion</td>
<td>1823</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Manuscript book of poems, prayers, writings</td>
<td>1825</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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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

BOX 3  Benjamin McReynolds  1829-1843  7 items

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  1833  1 item 2b – Bible of W. F. McReynolds 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  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, 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