11-28-2017

Fox, Arthur Smith, 1920-1997 (MSS 624)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Arthur Smith Fox was born on 19 April 1920 to William Seward Fox and Wilda Agnes (Smith) Fox in Paradise, Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. He graduated from Drakesboro High School in Muhlenberg County and in 1939 matriculated at Western Kentucky State Teachers College (now WKU), where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1947. From 1943-1946, his education was interrupted by service in the U.S. Army. While at WKU, Fox had enrolled in R.O.T.C. classes, and following his officer’s training was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He served overseas during World War II and participated in a number of campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge. In March 1945, he was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in planning and supervising transportation operations for the 290th Infantry in Belgium, France, Holland and Germany. Fox retired from active duty in April 1946, but remained in the Army Reserves. He officially retired from military service in 1980 with the rank of major. Fox earned his M.S. in Education degree from the University of Kentucky in 1953 and was a vocational agriculture teacher in the Hopkins County, Kentucky schools; he also worked as a district manager for the Southern States Cooperative. He married Mildred Juanita Kerr, the daughter of William Bugg Kerr and Maggie Mae (Hope) Kerr, on 16 October 1943; the couple had two children, William Woodrow Fox (b. 1946) and Juanita Kaye Fox (b. 1951). Mildred, also a WKU graduate (B.A. 1944, M.A. 1974), taught mathematics in the Hopkins County, Kentucky schools.

Arthur S. Fox died on 26 February 1997 and was buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Madisonville, Kentucky. In 1998, Mildred Fox established the Arthur S. Fox Agriculture Scholarship Fund at WKU in his memory.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of photocopied letters, military records and other materials documenting the Army service and later civilian life of Arthur S. Fox. Genealogical data (Folder 2) and a few original photographs (Folder 4) are also included. Much of the material relates to Fox’s service as an officer in World War II. Biographical data (Folder 3) is accompanied by
records of Fox's Army career (Folder 12) that include service records, orders, immunization cards, award citations and various certificates relating to his active and reserve status. During World War II, Fox's letters to his parents (Folder 7), brothers (Folders 9, 10) and sister-in-law (Folder 10) describe his exploration of New York, his ocean travel to Europe, and his experiences sightseeing and serving as a transportation officer in England, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany; a letter to brother William outlines the steps in the military capture of a German town. Other materials relating to Fox's life include his marriage certificate (Folder 5) and his wife Mildred's first letter to him after their marriage (Folder 6). Also documented in letters, clippings and programs are Fox's support of WKU's Hopkins County Alumni Club and Mildred's establishment of the Arthur S. Fox Agriculture Scholarship Fund (Folder 13); his participation in Future Farmers of America (Folder 15), the Kentucky Education Association (Folder 16), Madisonville, Kentucky's First Baptist Church (Folder 17) and the Hopkins County Education Association (Folder 20); and events he attended in Madisonville and in St. Louis, Missouri honoring World War II veterans and commemorating the 50th anniversaries of the Battle of the Bulge and V-E Day (Folder 21).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>Arthur Smith Fox</th>
<th>1937-1998</th>
<th>174 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>Fox and Smith genealogy</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Biographical data; clippings on Drakesboro history; Arthur Fox obituary</td>
<td>1983-1997</td>
<td>3 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Photographs (originals and photocopies)</td>
<td>1943-1994</td>
<td>33 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Arthur S. Fox marriage to Mildred Kerr – Certificate and clipping</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Letter from Mildred Fox to Arthur S. Fox</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Arthur S. Fox letters to parents</td>
<td>1944-1945</td>
<td>32 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Letter from Maurice Sharp to parents of Arthur S. Fox</td>
<td>1944</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Arthur S. Fox letters to John P. Fox</td>
<td>1944-1945</td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Arthur S. Fox letters to William J. Fox and Leta Mae Kerr</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Arthur S. Fox – Correspondence with friends and relatives</td>
<td>1944-1994</td>
<td>3 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Folder 12  Arthur S. Fox – Army records  1941-1980  37 items
Folder 13  School and alumni association records; Arthur S. Fox Agriculture Scholarship Fund  1937-1998  10 items
Folder 14  Southern States Cooperative – Arthur S. Fox employment  1952-1969  3 items
Folder 15  Future Farmers of America – Programs  1952-1984  2 items
Folder 16  Kentucky Education Association – Clippings, etc. regarding Arthur Fox’s service  1973-1982  8 items
Folder 17  First Baptist Church, Madisonville, Kentucky – Clippings, programs, etc. regarding Arthur Fox’s membership  1975-1987  10 items
Folder 18  Hopkins County Schools – Letter regarding Arthur Fox’s employment  1983-1984  1 item
Folder 19  American Legion – Madisonville post’s recognition of Silver and Bronze Star holders  1990  4 items
Folder 20  Arthur S. Fox and Mildred Fox – Hopkins County Education Association recognition of services as president  1991  2 items
Folder 21  Battle of the Bulge 50th anniversary commemoration – Clippings, programs  1994-1995  16 items

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS  FOX, Arthur Smith,  1937-1998
624  1920-1997

Letters, clippings, photographs, programs and other records relating to the life of Muhlenberg County, Kentucky native and Hopkins County, Kentucky teacher Arthur S. Fox, especially his service in World War II. Includes genealogical data.
1 box. 21 folders. 174 items. Photocopies, photographs.
1998.212.1
SUBJECT ANALYTICS

American Legion – Relating to B1,F19
Certificates – Marriage, 1943 B1,F5
Churches – First Baptist Church – Madisonville, Kentucky – Relating to B1,F17
Diplomas – Muhlenberg County – Drakesboro High School, 1937 B1,F13
England – Travel and description, 1944 B1,F7,11
Fox, Arthur Smith, 1920-1997 – Photographs B1,F4
Fox family – Relating to B1,F2
Fox, John Paul, 1929-2006 – Letters to B1,F9
Fox, Mildred Juanita (Kerr), b. 1923 B1,F6
Fox, Mildred Juanita (Kerr), b. 1923 – Photographs B1,F4
Fox, Mildred Juanita (Kerr), b. 1923 – Relating to B1,F5,20
Fox, Wilda Agnes (Smith), 1896-1991 – Letters to B1,F7,8
Fox, William Seward, 1893-1951 – Letters to B1,F7,8
Germany – Travel and description, 1945 B1,F7,11
Netherlands – Travel and description, 1945 B1,F7
Perkins, Leta Mae (Kerr), b. 1930 – Letter to B1,F10
Sharp, Maurice Ross, 1921-1950 B1,F8
Sharp, Maurice Ross, 1921-1950 – Relating to B1,F12
Short, Marion B1,F11
Smith family – Relating to B1,F2
Teachers and teaching – Hopkins County – Relating to B1,F16,18,20
V-Mail, 1944-1945 B1,F7-11
World War II, 1939-1945 – Military life, 1944-1945 B1,F7-11
World War II, 1939-1945 – Military papers, 1943-1945 B1,F12
World War II, 1939-1945 – Veterans – Relating to B1,F4,21

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 11/28/2017