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Adams, Marion Lee, 1930-2013 (MSS 638)

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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 638 ADAMS, Marion Lee, 1930-2013

½ box. 9 folders. 107 items. 1946-1993. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

SC2018.55.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Marion Lee Adams, the daughter of Dency Adams (1897-1986) and Lura Alice (Hopper) Adams (1903-1996) was born in Warren County, Kentucky on 15 August 1930. She graduated from Bowling Green's College High in 1947, earned her A.B. degree in music education from Western Kentucky State College (now WKU) in 1951, and received an M.A. degree in music education from George Peabody College in 1959. She was a music specialist with the Christian County (Kentucky) public schools, president of the Kappa chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, the international honor society for women educators, a Girl Scout leader, and music director at Hopkinsville's First United Methodist Church. She died on 28 November 2013 and was interred in Bowling Green's Fairview Cemetery.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of material created and collected by Marion Lee Adams in connection with her research on teachers Patty Smith Hill and Mildred Jane Hill of Louisville, Kentucky and their composition of the song "Happy Birthday to You." Originally titled, "Good Morning to You," the song was written for young children in kindergarten and Sunday School and copyrighted in 1893. It became one of the most popular songs in the English language and earned the Hills and their successors copyright royalties until 2016, when a court declared the song to be in the public domain. In 1982, Marion Lee Adams published an article, "Patty Hill and Her Happy Song," in the *Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin*. Interest in the topic led her to publish further in periodicals such as *Bluegrass Music News* and *Back Home in Kentucky* (see Folder 5).

A collection finding aid is in Folder 1. Adams' general correspondence in connection with her research into the song (Folder 2) includes answers to queries about the Hill sisters and their father William W. Hill's school, Bellewood Female Seminary in Anchorage, Kentucky, as well as correspondence putting Adams in touch with the Hill sisters' only surviving descendant, their nephew Archibald A. Hill. Letters to Adams from Archibald Hill (Folder 3) are replete with memories of his family and career, the Hill sisters, and the origins of "Happy Birthday to You." Letters to Adams from Hill's friend and caregiver Muriel Wright (Folder 4) notify her of his final

illness and death, and seek advice on suitable repositories for Hill's papers. Articles and clippings about the Hill sisters and "Happy Birthday to You" (Folder 5) include Adams' own articles as well as reports on unusual venues for performance of the song and the sale of the song's copyright. Adams' miscellaneous notes (Folder 6) mostly concern the Hill family and Bellewood Seminary, and other miscellaneous matter (Folder 7) includes recognitions of both Adams and the Hill sisters. Sheet music (Folder 8) from music books is for children's songs by Patty and Mildred Hill. Photographs (Folder 9) are of all four Hill sisters and a class at Hopkinsville's Millbrooke Elementary School in front of a "Happy Birthday to You" display.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Marion Lee Adams	1946-1993	107 items
Folder 1	Inventory, obituary, separation sheet		3 items
Folder 2	Correspondence	1978-1990	15 items
Folder 3	Letters from Archibald A. Hill	1982-1990	15 items
Folder 4	Letters from Muriel Wright	1991-1992	5 items
Folder 5	Articles about "Happy Birthday" and the Hill sisters	1946-1993	39 items
Folder 6	Notes, etc., mostly on the Hill family	1983-1989	14 items
Folder 7	Miscellaneous programs, printed matter	1982-1990	5 items
Folder 8	Sheet music from songbooks	1962-1966	4 items
Folder 9	Photographs	1984, n.d.	7 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS ADAMS, Marion Lee, 1946-1993
638 1930-2013

Research, articles and clippings relating to Patty and Mildred Hill of Louisville, Kentucky, and their composition of the song "Happy Birthday to You." Includes letters of the Hills' surviving descendant written to Marion Lee Adams of Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Bellewood Academy – Anchorage – Relating to B1,F2,5,6
 Children – Songs
 Davis, Fanny Fern, 1902-1989 B1,F2
 Davis, Fanny Fern, 1902-1989 – Relating to B1,F2
 “Happy Birthday to You” (song) – Relating to B1,F2,3,5,8
 Hill, Archibald Anderson, 1902-1992 B1,F3
 Hill, Archibald Anderson, 1902-1992 – Photographs B1,F3
 Hill, Archibald Anderson, 1902-1992 – Relating to B1,F2,4
 Hill family – Relating to B1,F2,3
 Hill, Jessica Mateer, 1874-1951 – Photograph B1,F9
 Hill, Jessica Mateer, 1874-1951 – Relating to B1,F2,3,5,8
 Hill, Mary Downing, 1864-1916 – Photograph B1,F9
 Hill, Mary Downing, 1864-1916 – Relating to B1,F3,5,8
 Hill, Mildred Jane, 1859-1916 – Photograph B1,F9
 Hill, Mildred Jane, 1859-1916 – Relating to B1,F2,3,5,8
 Hill, Muriel Louise (Byard), 1898-1986 – Photograph B1,F3
 Hill, Muriel Louise (Byard), 1898-1986 – Relating to B1,F4
 Hill, Patty Smith, 1868-1946 – Photograph B1,F9
 Hill, Patty Smith, 1868-1946 – Relating to B1,F2,3,5,6,8
 Hill, William Wallace, 1815-1878 – Relating to B1,F2,5,6
 Kindergartens – Louisville – Relating to B1,F6
 Millbrooke Elementary School – Hopkinsville – Photograph B1,F9
 Millbrooke Elementary School – Hopkinsville – Relating to B1,F5
 Settlement houses – Louisville – Neighborhood House – Relating to B1,F3,4
 Sheet music B1,F8
 Songs
 Wright, Muriel B1,F4

SEE and SEE ALSO

Bellewood Female Seminary – Anchorage
 See:
 Bellewood Academy – Anchorage

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 04/25/2018