Minton, John Dean, Sr., 1921-2008 (MSS 660)

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John Dean Minton, Sr. was born in Cadiz, Trigg County, Kentucky on 29 July 1921, the son of John Ernest and Daisy (Wilson) Minton. He attended the public schools in Trigg County and later received bachelor's (1943) and master's degrees (1947) from the University of Kentucky. He served three years in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After the war he taught school in Florida and then moved to Trigg County, where he taught school and served as principal from 1953 to 1958. He earned his doctorate from Vanderbilt University in 1957. He joined the faculty Western Kentucky University in 1958, becoming the Associate Dean of Graduate Instruction in 1962, then Graduate Dean, and then Administrative Vice-President in 1970.

When Dero Downing retired as Western's fourth president, Minton was appointed interim president effective 8 January 1979. He served in this capacity until July 31, 1979, when Donald Zacharias was appointed president. In recognition of his service, the Board of Regents recognized Minton as Western's fifth president. At the time of his retirement in 1986, he held the position of Vice-President for Student Affairs. He chaired the faculty athletic committee at WKU during most of his career and served as president of the Sun Belt Conference. He was responsible for implementing Title IX at WKU and was an advocate for women's athletic programs. In 2002, WKU's Central Hall was renamed John D. Minton Hall in his honor. The College Heights Foundation at WKU awards an annual John D. Minton Graduate Fellowship which recognizes the highest-performing graduate student at the graduate commencement each year.

Minton married Betty Redick and they had two sons: John D. Minton, Jr. and J. Ernest Minton. He was an active member of Broadway United Methodist Church in Bowling Green. Dr. Minton died on 29 June 2008 and was interred in Bowling Green’s Fairview Cemetery.
**COLLECTION NOTE**

This collection consists chiefly of letters (Folder 2-3) written by John Dean Minton, Sr. to his brother, Layton Minton, while they were in military service during World War II. The letters discuss some family matters and information related to John’s military training. Folder 4 contains a few pieces of Minton family correspondence chiefly related to the illness of John Ernest Minton, father of John and Layton, and several letters written to the proprietors of the Sudden Service Station of Hopkinsville from the State Tax Commission. Folder 5 contains two vocational agriculture notebooks kept by Layton (1928) and John (1938) as school projects in Trigg County, Kentucky.

**SHELF LIST**

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<td>Inventory</td>
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<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Letters from John Minton to his brother Layton</td>
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<td>1928-1938</td>
<td>3 items</td>
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**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS 660 MINTON, John Dean, Sr., 1928-1945 1921-2008

Letters written by John D. Minton, Sr. to his brother, Layton Minton, while both were in military service during World War II. The collection also contains a small amount of Minton family correspondence and some vocational agriculture notebooks kept by the brothers while in high school.

½ box. 5 folders. 94 items. Originals. SC2019.14.1
SUBJECT ANALYTICS

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Minton, Layton W. – Letters to F2-3  
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World War II, 1939-1945 – Soldiers from – Trigg County F2-3  
U.S. Navy – Relating to, 1943-1945 F2-3  

Jeffrey  01/25/2009