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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 699 ASHBY, Rickie Zayne, b. 1949

2 boxes. 46 folders. 629 items, 1837-2018.
 Original typescripts, illustrations, photographs, and photocopies.

SC2018.119.1

COLLECTION NOTE

Rickie Z. Ashby, a native of Ohio County, amassed this material as he worked on various historical and genealogical research projects. The chief focus of the collection is the vigilante group known as the Possum Hunters, which operated in the first quarter of the twentieth century in various western Kentucky counties, chiefly Butler, Muhlenberg, Ohio, and Daviess counties. A great deal of the material in Box 1 relates to Commonwealth or Ohio Circuit court cases involving the Possum Hunters (Folders 2-16), interviews with Possum Hunters or people familiar with them (Folders 17-20), news clippings about the group (Folder 21), and a paper by Ashby about the vigilantes' reign of terror (Folder 23). Folder 22 contains a small number of photographs and illustrations related to the Possum Hunters and other topics of interest to Ashby. The other folders in this box relate to violence in western Kentucky with particular reference to the Night Riders, who were generally active a decade prior to the Possum Hunters.

Box 2 includes other files related to Ohio County and broader Kentucky historical themes. Folder 1 includes news clippings related to Ohio County history. Folders 2 through 9 relate to biographical or genealogical material of people or families from western Kentucky, again with an emphasis on Ohio County. Folder 10 includes a few news clippings related to the history of education in Ohio County and a lengthy paper titled "Education in Ohio County, Ky. During the Transitional Era, 1860-1920." Folder 11 includes a typescript titled "A Trip to Dixie" by Thomas S. Petit and edited by Ashby. It chronicles an 1864 trip from Owensboro, Kentucky, where Petit was editor of the *Monitor* newspaper, to Memphis, Oxford, Mississippi, Charleston, South Carolina, and eventually Richmond, Virginia. The location of the original is not noted. A paper titled "The Fortification of Bowling Green During the Civil War, 1861-1865" by Kenneth C. Wolfe can be found in Folder 13. A photocopy of Henry Clay's will is housed in Folder 14.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Material about the Possum Hunters	1837-2018	448 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item

Folder 2	Commonwealth versus Claude Allen, et al.	1915-1916	14 items
Folder 3	Commonwealth versus Marvin Taylor, et al.	1915-1916	6 items
Folder 4	Commonwealth versus Murray Maddox	1916	3 items
Folder 5	Commonwealth versus Newt Dennis, et al.	1915-1916	12 items
Folder 6	Commonwealth versus Rex Arbuckle	1917	7 items
Folder 7	Commonwealth cases – Miscellaneous	1915-1916	17 items
Folder 8	C. W. Barnes versus Claude Allen, et al.	1916	13 items
Folder 9	Charlie L. Brown versus F. M. Allen, et al.	1916	13 items
Folder 10	Frank M. Allen versus J. Igleheart and J. Rome	1914-1917	20 items
Folder 11	Frank M. Allen versus Messenger Publications Company	1915-1916	13 items
Folder 12	J. M. Igleheart versus F. M. Allen, et al.	1916	8 items
Folder 13	Pen Maddox, Administrator of H. Maddox versus Evan Davenport, et al.	1916	17 items
Folder 14	Tom Heflin versus F. M. Allen, et al.	1916	8 items
Folder 15	Court cases from Ohio County	1918-1926	16 items
Folder 16	Masonic Trial of some of the Possum Hunters (transcript)	1915	2 items
Folder 17	Holographic transcript of an interview with Dauphin Hunter	1975	3 items
Folder 18	Transcript of an interview with Oscar Lawrence	1975	2 items
Folder 19	Holographic transcript of an interview with Guy Russell	1972	4 items
Folder 20	Pencil and pad interviews with various individuals	1972-1980	27 items
Folder 21	News clippings about the Possum Hunters	1915-2007	38 items

Folder 22	Photographs and illustrations	1909-1969	20 items
Folder 23	"The Possum Hunters in Ohio County, Kentucky"	1915-1973	9 items
Folder 24	Night Riders – working file	1852-1985	23 items
Folder 25	Items related to the Night Riders found in John G. Miller papers	1908-1937	14 items
Folder 26	Susan Jones: "Local Citizens' Views of Night Riders" from Murray State Oral History files on tapes	1973	1 item
Folder 27	Information about adjacent counties: Butler, McLean, Muhlenberg	1837-2018	16 items
BOX 2	Ohio County or General Kentucky Topics	1849-2006	181 items
Folder 1	Ohio County history – News clippings, maps, papers	1849	55 items
Folder 2	Ashby family	1957-1978	13 items
Folder 3	McCreery, Thomas and McCreery family material	1899-1978	15 items
Folder 4	Sewall, Joe with Barry Shollenberger – Transcript and photograph	1979	6 items
Folder 5	Smothers, William – Biographical information	1881-1979	22 items
Folder 6	Minton, Hayward P. – Biographical information	1973-1985	32 items
Folder 7	Biographies and obituaries – Chiefly Possum Hunters	1875-1996	7 items
Folder 8	Genealogy column titled "The Family Tree" authored by Agnes D. Ashby for <i>The Ohio County Times</i>	1971-1972	44 items
Folder 9	"Echoes From the Past" columns by Alney Ashby	n.d.	8 items
Folder 10	Paper and news clippings about the history of education in Ohio County	1909-1938	11 items
Folder 11	"A Trip to Dixie" by Thomas S. Petit	n.d.	1 item
Folder 12	Tollgate Raiders Law, 1897	1897-1975	2 items

Folder 13	Civil War fortifications – Bowling Green, Kentucky	1972	1 item
Folder 14	Henry Clay – Will	1851-1852	1 item
Folder 15	Turkey drives in central Kentucky	1941-1968	5 items
Folder 16	Electrification in Kentucky	1897-2006	4 items
Folder 17	Henry Fields Seed and Nursery – Correspondence and 1954 catalog	1954-2005	5 items
Folder 18	“History of Carrier Mills, Illinois”	1976	1 item
Folder 19	Oversized items Filed in C2-D2, #3	1941-1980	3 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS ASHBY, Rickie Zayne, b. 1949 1837-2018
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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Ashby, Agnes (Duncan), 1894-1972 B2,F8
 Ashby, Alney Carol, 1902-1973 B2,F2,9
 Ashby family B2,F2
 Ashby, Jerry Paxton, 1936-1978 – Relating to B2,F2
 Ashby, Mary Jane “Jennie” (Jeffers), 1883-1972 – Photograph B2,F2
 Ashby, Mary Jane “Jennie” (Jeffers), 1883-1972 – Reminiscence B2,F2
 Ashby, Rickie Zayne, b. 1949 – Correspondence B2,F5
 Ashby, Rickie Zayne, b. 1949 (Interviewer) B1,F17-21

Burluson County, Texas – Relating to B2,F5
 Carrier Mills, Illinois – History B2,F18
 Catalogs – Henry Fields Seed and Nursery – Aurora, Indiana, 1954 B2,F17
 Chapman, Raymond Johnson “Ray,” 1891-1920 – Relating to B2,F4
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Bowling Green – Fortifications B2,F13
 Civil War, 1861-1865 – Relating to B2,F11
 Clay, Henry, 1777-1852 – Relating to B2,F14
 Depression, 1932-1936 – Comments about B2,F2
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 Electrification – Kentucky B2,F16
 Fort Hartford – Ohio County – Relating to B2,F1
 Genealogy – Ohio County B2,F8
 Hartford College – Hartford – Relating to B2,F10
History of Carrier Mills, Illinois (book) B2,F18
 Hunter, Dauphin, 1889-1977 (Informant) B1,F17
 Jones, Susan B1,F26
 Lawrence, Oscar (Informant) B1,F18
 Maddox, Duma (Turner) – Photograph B1,F22
 Maddox, Harrison – Photograph B1,F22
 Maddox, Joyce – Photograph B1,F22
 Maddox, Rexford – Photograph B1,F22
 Masons (Fraternal organization) – Relating to B1,F16
 Mays, Carl William, 1891-1971 – Relating to B2,F4
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 Miller, John Goodrum, Sr., 1853-1936 – Relating to B1,F25
 Minton, Hayward Pryce, 1916-1985 – Relating to B2,F6
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 Possum Hunters – Relating to B1; B2,F1,7
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 Russell, Guy (Informant) B1,F19
 Sewell, Joseph Wheeler “Joe,” 1898-1990 (Informant) B2,F4
 Shollenberger, Barry John, b. 1941 (Interviewer) B2,F4
 Smeathers, William, 1765?-1837 – Relating to B2,F5
 Smith, Claude – Photograph B1,F22
 Smothers, Elsie – Correspondence B2,F5
 Stuart, Cynthia Green Clay (McCreery), 1855-1923 – Comments about B2,F3
 Turkeys – Kentucky B2,F15
 Vigilantes – Kentucky B1; B2,F1,7
 Walton’s Creek School – Relating to B2,F2
 Wills – Fayette County, 1851-1851 B2,F14

SEE and SEE ALSO

Maddox, Dumie (Turner)

See:

Maddox, Duma (Turner)

Smothers, William, 1765?-1837

See:

Smeathers, William, 1765?-1837

Vigilantes

See also:

Night riders

Vigilantes

See also:

Possum Hunters

Vigilantism

See:

Vigilantes

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