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Gentry, Robert Turner, 1865-1950 (MSS 713)

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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 713 GENTRY, Robert Turner, 1865-1950

½ box. 6 folders. 79 items. 1888-1918. Originals.

SC2021.2.3

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Robert Turner Gentry, the son of Reuben Gentry and Pauline Baker, was born at New Liberty in Owen County, Kentucky on 18 August 1865. In 1890, he married Martha Beck Spangler of Owen County, the daughter of William Spangler and Harriett Carter. Their son, Reuben Emmett Gentry, was born in 1892; a second son, William Paul Gentry, was born in 1899.

After working at banks in Owenton, Georgetown and Corinth, Kentucky, in 1896 Gentry organized the Bank of Sonora in Hardin County and became its cashier. He also operated an insurance agency in partnership with his son Emmett. Gentry was associated with the Bank of Sonora until his death on 4 June 1950. He is buried in Sonora Cemetery.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of correspondence and personal papers of Robert T. Gentry. Correspondence includes letters relating to his purchase of buggies; letters of recommendation written for him as he planned to establish a bank in Sonora; a letter from the Prohibition Party paper *The Kentucky Vindicator* asking him to serve as a treasurer; and letters from dealers in antiquities, particularly Indian relics, that Gentry had expressed an interest in collecting. During World War I, he receives letters in connection with fundraising for the YMCA, Liberty Loans, and applications to the U.S. Fuel Administration. A copy of a letter to the Kentucky Fuel Administrator laments the shortage of coal for the citizens of Sonora in 1918. Also included are routine letters to Gentry from colleagues in the banking and insurance business, and a letter from his wife written during an illness she experienced when Emmett was a young child. A few letters to Emmett concern possible employment in banking and insurance, investments in oil and coal, and membership in the Navy League during World War I. Also included is a certificate regarding Emmett's service with the Kentucky Council on Defense. Other papers of Robert Gentry include some genealogical notes on the relationship between his mother's family and that of Daniel Boone; cancelled checks written primarily on the Bank of Sonora; bank and pocket memo books; and pocket maps of the West Indies and Philippines theatres during the Spanish-American War, and of the grounds of the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Robert T. Gentry	1888-1918	79 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Correspondence	1888-1904	26 items
Folder 3	Correspondence	1917-1918	30 items
Folder 4	Genealogy notes	n.d.	2 items
Folder 5	Certificates	1918-1919	2 items
Folder 6	Checks, bank books, pocket maps, memo books	1888-1904	18 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS GENTRY, Robert Turner, 1888-1919
713 1865-1950

Correspondence and personal papers of Robert T. Gentry, Sonora, Kentucky, an insurance agent and cashier for the Bank of Sonora. Includes correspondence relating to his and son Emmett's service on civilian committees during World War I.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Antiquities – Collectors and collecting B1,F2
 Baker family – Relating to B1,F4
 Banks and banking – Hardin County B1,F2,6
 Banks and banking – Louisville B1,F3
 Banks and banking – Owen County B1,F2,6
 Calloway family – Relating to B1,F4
 Carriages and carts B1,F2
 Dentists – Hardin County – Relating to B1,F2
 Exhibitions and fairs – St. Louis, Missouri, 1904 B1,F2,6
 Gentry, Marcus Clark, 1872-1951 B1,F3
 Gentry, Martha Beck “Mattie” (Spangler), 1862-1940 B1,F3
 Gentry, Reuben Emmett, 1892-1981 – Letters to B1,F3

Gentry, Reuben Emmett, 1892-1981 – Relating to B1,F5
Greene, Roy Farrell, 1873-1909 B1,F2
Louisville and Nashville Railroad B1,F2
Mann, Owen Reed, 1876-1944 B1,F3
Prohibition Party – Relating to B1,F2
Spanish-American War, 1898 – Relating to B1,F6
Temperance – Newspapers B1,F2
Tobacco industry and trade – Henry County, 1903 B1,F2
World War I, 1914-1918 – Hardin County B1,F3
World War I, 1914-1918 – Liberty Loans B1,F3
World War I, 1914-1918 – United States Fuel Administration – Relating to B1,F3,5
World War I, 1914-1918 – YMCA – Relating to B1,F3

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