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## Bryant, Hal Farnsworth, 1888-1975 (MSS 716)

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

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 716 BRYANT, Hal Farnsworth, 1888-1975**

1 box. 18 folders. 391 items. 1910-1976.  
Originals, photocopies, typescripts, photographs.

SC2018.16.8; SC2021.25.9

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Born on 15 September 1888 in Lexington, Kentucky, Hal Farnsworth Bryant left college to work as a reporter for the *Lexington Leader*. During the early years of the 1910s, He and a *Leader* editor, James M. Ross, formed a partnership to supply syndicated news stories, articles and photographs to publications in New York, Chicago and elsewhere.

Bryant returned to college and obtained a master's degree in genetics from the University of Kentucky. In February 1915, he began work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Crop Estimates, reporting to Charleston, West Virginia under a cooperative agreement with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. Two years later, he took on additional responsibility for Kentucky, and in 1927 relocated to Louisville. Bryant's service with the Department of Agriculture ended with his retirement in 1958.

Hal F. Bryant died in Louisville on 30 March 1975. He and his wife Elizabeth (Hilleary) Bryant, were the parents of two daughters and a son.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection contains materials relating to Hal F. Bryant's careers as a journalist and as a statistician for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A small amount of personal papers and correspondence is also included in Folder 15.

Samples of Bryant's journalistic output (Folders 3-14) consist of news articles (both in manuscript and published form), feature stories, and a few photographs produced for newspaper syndication by the Ross & Bryant firm. Most of the material dates from 1910-1911. A small amount of correspondence (Folder 2) with news organizations discussing their requirements, and a solicitation letter from the Ross & Bryant firm, are also included.

Material relating to Bryant's work at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Folders 15-17) includes clippings, letters, speeches, and numerous letters of praise and recognition delivered upon his retirement in 1958. Of interest in Folder 15 is an unsigned copy of a 1921 letter from Montgomery, Alabama, in which the writer strongly defends state departments of agriculture against a move to delegate their functions to colleges, and tells of gathering statistics across the

country in challenging and hostile conditions. Also of interest is a letter (Folder 15) and narrative (Folder 16) by Bryant recalling the beginning of his career with the Department of Agriculture in West Virginia and the circumstances of his relocation to Louisville, Kentucky.

### ***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Hal F. Bryant</b>	<b>1910-1913</b>	<b>391 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Correspondence relating to journalism	1910-1913	10 items
Folder 3	News items – Eastern Kentucky feuds & violence	1910-1911	45 items
Folder 4	News items – Governors Conference, Frankfort	1910	3 items
Folder 5	News items – Horses & horse racing	1910-1911	13 items
Folder 6	News items – Land & resource development – Eastern Kentucky	1910-1911	12 items
Folder 7	News items – Monuments & memorials	1910	16 items
Folder 8	News items – Night Riders	1910-1911	61 items
Folder 9	News items – People	1911	21 items
Folder 10	News items – Railroads	1910-1911	8 items
Folder 11	News items – Shakers	1912	3 items
Folder 12	News items – Tennessee Woman's Press & Authors' Club	1912	4 items
Folder 13	News items – Tobacco	1910-1911	39 items
Folder 14	News items – Miscellaneous	1910-1912	13 items
Folder 15	Miscellaneous correspondence	1921-1976	17 items
Folder 16	Correspondence, speeches, etc. relating to U.S. Department of Agriculture	1958-1965	8 items
Folder 17	Letters, greetings, etc. regarding retirement from U. S. Department of Agriculture	1958	111 items

Folder 18 Documents relating to application for and retirement from federal employment 1915-1958 6 items

### **BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS BRYANT, Hal Farnsworth, 1910-1976  
716 1888-1975

News items and features written for syndication by Bryant and his partner James M. Ross, both of the *Lexington (Kentucky) Leader*; correspondence and papers relating to Bryant's subsequent career as a statistician with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

1 box. 18 folders. 391 items. Originals, photocopies, typescripts, photographs.  
SC2018.16.8; SC2021.25.9

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Niedermeier 03/23/2021; 05/28/2021