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

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 716    BRYANT, Hal Farnsworth, 1888-1975


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**

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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. 17 folders. 385 items. Originals, photocopies, typescripts, photographs.

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