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Farmer Family Papers (MSS 751)

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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 751 FARMER Family Papers

1 box. 19 folders. 196 items. 1865-1978. Originals, photocopies.

SC2023.13.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

A native of Trinidad, Colorado, Lucretia Helm Yeaman (1895-1982) was a graduate of the University of Colorado and of Wellesley College. Lucretia counted as ancestors her grandfather George Helm Yeaman (1829-1908), appointed by President Abraham Lincoln as minister to Denmark; and her great-grandmother Lucretia Sneed Helm (1809-1889), a sister of Kentucky governor John LaRue Helm. Lucretia Yeaman came to Henderson, Kentucky as the bride of Henry Hughs Farmer (1876-1964), a businessman and county judge.

Henry Hughs Farmer's grandfather, also named Henry Hughs Farmer (1825-1904), was the son of Henry Alpin Farmer (1802-1833) and Martha Hughes Walton (1805-1825). A native of Virginia, he married Sarah Ann Swann (1831-1919) and practiced medicine in Henderson County.

Born in Evansville, Indiana, Henry Hughs Farmer III (1928-2015) was the son of Lucretia (Yeaman) Farmer and Henry Hughs Farmer. He graduated from Sewanee Military Academy in 1946, attended Cornell University, and graduated from Purdue University with a chemical engineering degree. He worked for Ashland Oil & Refining Company and Laclede Gas Company in St. Louis, Missouri. He also operated an antiques import business in Henderson, Kentucky with his mother; Lucretia had developed an interest in antiques, particularly silver drinking vessels, after her marriage, when she and her husband took up residence in one of Henderson County's oldest houses.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of letters and papers of the Farmer, Yeaman and associated families of Henderson County, Kentucky and of Colorado. Chiefly represented are Henry Hughs Farmer III; his great-grandfather Henry Hughs Farmer (1825-1904) and some members of his family; and Lucretia (Yeaman) Farmer's great uncles, Malcolm and Caldwell Yeaman. An inventory and genealogical notes are in Folder 1; the genealogical notes are intended to show relationships among persons featured most prominently in the collection and should not be construed as comprehensive.

Folder 2 contains various clippings, obituaries and biographical data on family members.

Folder 3 contains letters to Henry Hughs Farmer (1825-1904), primarily from his cousin Henrietta (Farmer) Vaughan in Powhatan County, Virginia, concerning Henrietta's legacy from the estate of Nancy S. Farmer of Henderson County. Identifying Nancy as her grandmother, Henrietta writes to Farmer, the administrator of the estate, regarding her share and calculations of money owing. Enduring straitened circumstances in post-Civil War Virginia, she makes increasingly urgent requests to be sent funds. She puzzles over Farmer's accounts, expresses concern over the value of receipts in currency rather than in gold or silver, and worries that her legal right to the assets might be less secure in Virginia. Farmer receives other letters from his sister-in-law Amanda (Swann) Watt, for whom he also appears to be administering assets.

Folders 4-8 contain primarily letters of Henry Hughs Farmer III to his parents. They include letters written while on a childhood trip in the West; letters written while a student at Sewanee Military Academy and Cornell University; and a few postcards. He writes faithfully and in some detail about his studies, academic routine, and struggles with grades.

Folder 9 contains two letters from Malcolm Yeaman, an attorney in Henderson, Kentucky, to his brother Caldwell. He offers to mentor Caldwell in his legal studies, but urges him to think carefully about his decision to enter the profession. He also conveys some genealogical information in response to Malcolm's question about their mother's age.

Folder 10 contains papers relating to Caldwell Yeaman, who began his legal career in Henderson before relocating to Denver, Colorado. They consist of the deed to a lot in a masonic cemetery in Trinidad, Colorado; a whimsical "petition in equity" from his nephew Lewis R. Caldwell regarding a gift of cigars; and Caldwell's will.

Folder 11 contains letters of Caldwell and Malcolm's nephew (and Lucretia Farmer's father) Robert T. Yeaman, an attorney in Trinidad, Colorado, principally regarding the use of the masonic cemetery lot; also included is a memorial resolution of the legal community upon Robert's death.

Folder 12 contains papers of Robert T. Yeaman's wife Beatrice (Edkin) Yeaman regarding receipts for family cemetery lots and headstones. Also included is a response to her inquiry about grandson Henry Hughs Farmer III being admitted to a Cornell fraternity.

Folders 13-15 contain papers and letters of Lucretia (Yeaman) Farmer, principally regarding her graduation from the University of Colorado and Wellesley College. Of interest are two letters to her parents describing in detail the commencement activities at Wellesley when she received her master's degree in 1921 and during which the college awarded its first honorary degree to physicist Marie Curie.

Folder 16 contains narratives on Yeaman family history and genealogy, some composed by Lucretia's grandfather George Helm Yeaman.

Folder 17 contains a record of births, marriages and deaths in the Betts family [Virginia Carter (Farmer) Betts was a sister of Henry Hughes Farmer (1825-1904)].

Folder 18 contains a release of dower interest in lands in Henderson County by the mother of Henrietta (Farmer) Vaughan.

Folder 19 contains oversized items: a 1905 passport issued to Caldwell Yeaman; a Sewanee Military Academy certificate issued to Henry Hughs Farmer III; and four genealogy charts.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Farmer Family Papers	1865-1978	196 items
Folder 1	Inventory; genealogy notes; list of oversized items		3 items
Folder 2	Clippings and biographical data	1890-1978	18 items
Folder 3	Henry Hughs Farmer (1825-1904) – Letters to; papers	1865-1880, n.d.	43 items
Folder 4	Henry Hughs Farmer (1928-2015) – Letters to parents from Sewanee Military Academy	1943-1946	39 items
Folder 5	Henry Hughs Farmer (1928-2015) – Letters to parents from Cornell University	1946, n.d.	19 items
Folder 6	Henry Hughs Farmer (1928-2015) – Letters & postcards to parents	1953-1954	14 items
Folder 7	Henry Hughs Farmer (1928-2015) – Letters to parents	n.d.	13 items
Folder 8	Henry Hughs Farmer (1928-2015) – Miscellaneous	1946-1949	3 items
Folder 9	Malcolm Yeaman – Letters to brother Caldwell Yeaman	1868-1914	2 items
Folder 10	Caldwell Yeaman – Will; miscellaneous	1889-1920	4 items
Folder 11	Robert T. Yeaman – Correspondence; resolution on death	1912-1946	3 items
Folder 12	Beatrice (Edkin) Yeaman – Letter to; papers	1923-1947	6 items
Folder 13	Lucretia (Yeaman) Farmer – Birth certificate; letters to parents from Wellesley College	1921-1949, n.d.	4 items
Folder 14	Lucretia (Yeaman) Farmer – University of Colorado	1917	4 items
Folder 15	Lucretia (Yeaman) Farmer – Wellesley College	1917-1921	5 items

Folder 16	Yeaman genealogy narratives	1903-1904, n.d.	8 items
Folder 17	Betts genealogy	n.d.	1 item
Folder 18	Mary T. Farmer release of dower in lands in Henderson County, Kentucky	1869	1 item
Folder 19	Oversized items	1905-1946	6 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS FARMER Family Papers 1865-1978
751
C1,D9, Letters and papers of the Farmer family of
#4 Henderson County, Kentucky. Includes items
from associated families, especially the Yeaman
family of Colorado. Also includes some genealogical
data.
1 box. 19 folders. 196 items. Originals,
photocopies.
SC2023.13.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Betts family – Relating to B1,F17
Betts, Virginia Carter (Farmer), 1829-1912 B1,F3
Clarke family – Relating to B1,F16
Condict, Anna Hamilton (Yeaman), 1877-1927 – Relating to B1,F2
Curie, Marie, 1867-1934 – Comments about, 1921 B1,F13
Diplomas – Sewanee Military Academy, 1946 B1,F8
Edkin family – Relating to B1,F12
Farmer, Edward Chambers, 1878-1958 – Relating to B1,F2
Farmer, Henry Hughs, 1825-1904 – Letters to B1,F3
Farmer, Henry Hughs, 1825-1904 – Relating to B1,F2
Farmer, Henry Hughs, 1876-1964 – Letters to B1,F4-7
Farmer, Henry Hughs, III, 1928-2015 B1,F4-7
Farmer, Henry Hughs, III, 1928-2015 – Relating to B1,F8,12,19
Farmer, Lucretia Helm (Yeaman), 1895-1982 – Correspondence B1,F4-7,10,13
Farmer, Lucretia Helm (Yeaman), 1895-1982 – Relating to B1,F2,14
Farmer, Mary T. (Knight), 1812?-1880 – Relating to B1,F18
Farmer, Nancy S., 1782-1861 – Relating to B1,F3
Farmer, Sarah Ann (Swann), 1831-1919 – Relating to B1,F2
Knight, William Carter, 1818-1896 B1,F3
Noble, Marion – Relating to B1,F15

Norment, Ella B. (Davis), 1884-1921 – Relating to B1,F2
 Passports, 1905 – Yeaman, Caldwell, 1849-1920
 Sewanee Military Academy – Relating to B1,F8,19
 Sharpe, Mary – Relating to B1,F3
 Swann, Edwin Reese, 1834-1906 – Relating to B1,F2
 University of Colorado – Commencement, 1917 B1,F14
 Vaughan, Henrietta (Farmer), 1835-1889 B1,F3
 Vaughan, John N., 1825-1880 B1,F3
 Watt, Amanda Converse (Swann), 1847-1907 B1,F3
 Wellesley College – Commencement, 1921 B1,F13,15
 Wellesley College – Photographs B1,F15
 Wellesley College – Relating to B1,F15
 Wills – Colorado, 1920 B1,F10
 Yeaman, Beatrice Maud (Edkin), 1869-1968 – Letters to B1,F13
 Yeaman, Caldwell, 1849-1920 – Letters to B1,F9,11,16
 Yeaman, Caldwell, 1849-1920 – Relating to B1,F10,19
 Yeaman family – Relating to B1,F9,16,19
 Yeaman, George Helm, 1829-1908 B1,F16
 Yeaman, George Helm, 1829-1908 – Relating to B1,F2
 Yeaman, Lewis Rogers, 1872-1946 B1,F10
 Yeaman, Malcolm, 1841-1927 B1,F9
 Yeaman, Robert Triplett, 1857-1946 – Correspondence B1,F11,13
 Yeaman, Robert Triplett, 1857-1946 – Relating to B1,F2
 Yeaman, Sarah (Clarke), 1749-1821 – Relating to B1,F16
 Yeaman, William Pope, 1832-1904 – Comments about, 1904 B1,F16
 Yeaman, William Pope, 1832-1904 – Relating to B1,F10