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Neal, Mary Julia, 1905-1995 (MSS 4)

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

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 4 NEAL, Mary Julia, 1905-1995

10 boxes. 115 folders. 1545 items. 1806-1995

1995.49.1

BIOGRAPHY

Mary Julia Neal was born August 15, 1905 in Auburn, Logan County, Kentucky, the daughter of Presley Taylor Neal and Nettie Pace Neal. Auburn is located near the former Shaker colony of South Union, and Neal grew up visiting the brethren and sisters and becoming familiar with her Shaker neighbors. However, it wasn't until she was in college that she began to research and write about the group that would become her life's work.

Neal received an AA degree from Bethel Women's College, Hopkinsville, Kentucky in 1925. She began taking classes at Western Kentucky State Teacher's College, Bowling Green, Kentucky later that year, graduating with a Bachelor's in English in 1931. While working on the school's newspaper, the *College Heights Herald*, Neal was assigned to write a feature article about the Shakers by her instructor Dr. Gordon Wilson. "Shakertown of Long, Long Ago" appeared in the January 1926 issue, the first of her many writings that would deal with this unique religious group.

Neal received her Master's degree from Western in 1933 and taught there as an instructor in the English Department for ten years. During this time the Kentucky Library was built on campus. Among the many items donated to its collections were documents from South Union which Neal utilized for her research. She also investigated collections of materials at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, and the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland. Neal visited the Canterbury, New Hampshire and Sabbathday Lake, Maine communities where she established friendships with the last twentieth century Shakers.

In the early 1940s Neal left Western to do post-graduate work at the University of Michigan. While there she completed the manuscript for *By Their Fruits: The Story of Shakerism in South Union, Kentucky*. This book, the result of her research into diaries, manuscripts, ledgers, and other primary sources, was published in 1947 by the University of North Carolina Press. Reviewer Adele Brandeis wrote "it is written with the honesty and dignity and at the same time with the quiet joy and occasional humor of that people...."

In 1946 she joined the faculty of Florence State College, Florence, Alabama as associate professor of English and taught there until 1964 when she returned to Western to become Director of the Kentucky Library & Museum. At the Kentucky Building, she oversaw the creation of a Manuscripts division and spoke out about the need for an addition to the building. In addition to her work on campus, Neal was actively involved in the attempt to preserve Shaker artifacts by the creation of a South Union museum. She was also part of a group that sought to purchase and to restore the remaining buildings at South Union. Julia Neal retired from the Kentucky Library in 1972, but she continued researching, writing, traveling, and volunteering at the South Union Shaker Museum.

When Julia Neal died July 22, 1995, she was regarded as one of the country's leading Shaker historians. Her writings had helped preserve America's and Kentucky's Shaker history. In

addition to *By Their Fruits*, she edited *The Journal of Eldress Nancy, Kept of the South Union, Kentucky, Shaker Colony, August 15, 1861-September 4, 1864* (Parthenon Press, 1963). She authored the text for *The Shaker Image* (New York Graphic Society, 1974) and wrote *The Kentucky Shakers* for the Bicentennial Bookshelf series (University Press of Kentucky, 1977). Her articles appeared in journals such as *Shaker Quarterly*, *Filson Club History Quarterly*, and *Kentucky Folklore Record*.

COLLECTION NOTES

The collection consists of the correspondence, speeches, and writings of Shaker scholar and English professor, Mary Julia Neal. Boxes 1-3 consist of Neal's correspondence from childhood letters to her later professional correspondence. The later correspondence is chiefly with personal friends, Shaker scholars, and those interested in communal or utopian studies. Of particular interest is some correspondence with Kentucky author, Jesse Stuart, and correspondence with twentieth century Shakers.

Boxes 4-5 contain drafts and galley proofs of Neal's books about the Shakers. Box 6 contains other writings by Neal, chiefly speeches and articles about Shakers or Kentucky culture. Box 7 consists of research pursued by Neal and other Shaker scholars, again chiefly related to the Shakers. Box 8 contains personal information about Neal including newspaper clippings, programs listing Neal as a speaker, notes about awards received by Neal, and information about her time at Bethel College (Hopkinsville), as well as vertical file material about Shaker villages.

Box 9 contains photographs of the Neal family as well as nineteenth and twentieth century photos of Shakers and their villages. The majority of the Shaker photographs are from South Union, Kentucky. The box also contains a number of photographs of the Shakers who lived in the later part of the twentieth century at Canterbury, New Hampshire and Sabbathday Lake, Maine. The box also includes some snapshots of the Red River Union Meeting House.

Box 10 contains information about Neal's professional associations and interests: newspaper clippings about the history of Auburn, Kentucky; her nephew, Stanley Carter Pace, St. Mark's Priory at South Union, the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society, and the Historic Communal Societies Association and its annual conference.

SHELF LIST

| BOX 1 | | 1915-1995 | 426 items |
|--------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Folder 1 | Inventory | | |
| Folder 2 | Letters written by Neal as a child to her parents while she was visiting relatives in Cumberland County. | 1915 | 17 items |
| Folder 3 | Correspondence | 1921-1959 | 64 items |
| Folder 4 | Correspondence | 1960-1969 | 103 items |
| Folder 5 | Correspondence | 1972 | 64 items |
| Folder 6 | Correspondence | 1973-1974 | 68 items |

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|--------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Folder 7 | Letters to Neal | 1975-1977 | 70 items |
| Folder 8 | Letters to Neal | 1978-1979 | 40 items |
| BOX 2 | | 1967-1995 | 398 items |
| Folder 1 | Letters to Neal | 1980-1982 | 56 items |
| Folder 2 | Correspondence | 1983-1984 | 54 items |
| Folder 3 | Letters to Neal | 1985-1986 | 54 items |
| Folder 4 | Letters to Neal | 1987-1989 | 43 items |
| Folder 5 | Correspondence | 1990 | 29 items |
| Folder 6 | Correspondence | 1991-1995 | 28 items |
| Folder 7 | Correspondence | n.d. | 79 items |
| Folder 8 | Correspondence with Jesse Stuart | 1967-1974 | 42 items |
| Folder 9 | Kentucky Quilt Project – Correspondence, exhibit invitation, etc. | 1982-1986 | 13 items |
| BOX 3 | | 1902-1985 | 192 items |
| Folder 1 | Correspondence with Shakers | 1954-1982, n.d. | 73 items |
| Folder 2 | Christmas and other holiday cards sent to Neal by various Shakers | 1974-1990, n.d. | 54 items |
| Folder 3 | Letters by Shakers or Shaker scholars addressed to someone other than Neal | 1930-1985 | 14 items |
| Folder 4 | Letters sent by Shakers to Deedy Hall (Mrs. Curry Hall) | 1961-1964 | 16 items |
| Folder 5 | Letter, postcards, and articles from James E. Pace regarding a trip to the Middle East; also a death notice for Pace | 1912; 1917 | 13 items |
| Folder 6 | Receipts and promissory note related to John C. Darby and Mary E. Darby of Auburn, KY | 1877-1910 | 11 items |

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|--------------|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| Folder 7 | Letters to Neal's parents, P.T. & Nellie (Pace) Neal | 1902; 1920-1924 | 8 items |
| Folder 8 | Letters written by Aaron Fuqua to family and a genealogy of the Fuqua family | 1894-1898 | 3 items |
| BOX 4 | | [1945]-1977 | 43 items |
| Folder 1 | Draft for <i>By Their Fruits</i> | [1945] | 1 item; 349 p. |
| Folder 2 | <i>By Their Fruits</i> – Dust jackets | 1947 | 2 items |
| Folder 3 | Hopwood Award – Correspondence and news clippings | 1945-1964 | 40 items |
| BOX 5 | | 1947-1995 | 69 items |
| Folder 1 | Draft of <i>The Journal of Eldress Nancy</i> | 1962? | 1 item; |
| Folder 2 | Galley proof for <i>The Journal of Eldress Nancy</i> | 1963 | 1 item; |
| Folder 3 | Draft, Rough – <i>Kentucky Shakers</i> | [1976] | 1 item |
| Folder 4 | Draft, 2 nd – <i>Kentucky Shakers</i> | [1976] | 1 item |
| Folder 5 | Galley, proof & notes – <i>Kentucky Shakers</i> | 1977 | 2 items |
| Folder 6 | Draft, Rough and notes – <i>Shaker Image</i> | n.d. | 3 items |
| Folder 7 | University Press of Kentucky – Promotional material | 1977; n.d. | 5 items |
| Folder 8 | Book reviews of Neal's books | 1947-1995 | 55 items |
| BOX 6 | | 1940-1989 | 46 items |
| Folder 1 | "The Allan Trout Collection" | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 2 | "American Shakers" – Article that appeared in <i>Communities</i> (Winter 1985) | 1985 | 2 items |
| Folder 3 | "Bearing a Sound, Good Cross" – Paper read at Hancock Studies Conference | 1968 | 1 item |
| Folder 4 | "The Cumberland Trace" – Paper | 1970 | 1 item |

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|-----------|---|-----------|---------|
| Folder 5 | [Eldress Nancy Moore's Diary of Civil War Events at South Union] – Article, Filson Club History Quarterly | 1965 | 1 item |
| Folder 6 | How I became interested in the Shakers – Presentation | n.d. | 5 items |
| Folder 7 | “Kentucky Shakers Go to Market” – Presentation at the Pleasant Hill Friends Forum | 1974 | 3 items |
| Folder 8 | “Language of the South Union Shaker Manuscripts” – Article, Filson Club History Quarterly | 1974 | 2 items |
| Folder 9 | “The Rise and Fall of the South Union” – Presentation at KY-TN American Studies Association meeting | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 10 | “Shaker Children” – Presentation at the South Union Shaker Seminar | 1989 | 2 items |
| Folder 11 | “Shaker Festival” – Article in the <i>Kentucky Folklore Record</i> | 1962 | 2 items |
| Folder 12 | [Shaker Furniture] – Article, <i>Antiques</i> | 1970 | 1 item |
| Folder 13 | “Shaker Industries in Kentucky,” – Article, <i>Antiques</i> | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 14 | Shaker industries in the West – Paper | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 15 | “Shakerism as Revealed in the Western Publications” – Presentation at the Historic American Communal Societies Association at Pleasant Hill | 1976 | 1 item |
| Folder 16 | “Shakerism in the United States” – Seminar paper at University of Michigan | 1940 | 1 item |
| Folder 17 | “Shakers of West Union” – Paper | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 18 | “South Union Shakers” – Presentation at the Louisville Arts Club | 1973 | 1 item |
| Folder 19 | “Value of experience in education” – Article in <i>Peabody Journal of Education</i> | 1967 | 2 items |
| Folder 20 | “Woman's Missionary Union, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, KY” – Manuscript | 1879-1985 | 1 item |

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|--------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| Folder 21 | Book reviews by Neal | 1973-1985 | 8 items |
| Folder 22 | Short articles or published letters by Neal | 1977-1985 | 7 items |
| BOX 7 | | 1806-1990 | 98 items |
| Folder 1 | "Investigator's Application" used by the North Union, Ohio Shakers, signatures of North Union village leaders | 1871 | 2 items |
| Folder 2 | Research material related to Sally Boler | 1809-1970 | 18 items |
| Folder 3 | Shaker journal entries about construction of buildings and flower, shrubs, trees, etc., planted at South Union | 1990 | 15 items |
| Folder 4 | Shaker letter (copies) from the South Union letter book, miscellaneous | 1806-1920 | 15 items |
| Folder 5 | Shaker documents – Journal of Isaac Youngs during visit to the West, South Union | 1834 | 1 item; |
| Folder 6 | "Spirit and Intellect": Farewell sermon of the South Union Shakers | 1892 | 1 item |
| Folder 7 | Title abstract for land in Auburn, KY, that James A. Pearce sold to the Shakers in 1813 | 1895 | 1 item |
| Folder 8 | Research material related to Shaker children | 1812-1825; 1977 | 4 items |
| Folder 9 | Research materials related to Shaker deaths | 1883-1924; n.d. | 16 items |
| Folder 10 | Research material related to the Moore family | 1816-1983 | 9 items |
| Folder 11 | Article entitled "Communal History in America" by Robert S. Fogerty (<i>American Studies & Choice</i>) | 1963 | 2 items |
| Folder 12 | Article entitled "The Shakers" from <i>Harper's New Monthly Magazine</i> | 1857 | 1 item |
| Folder 13 | Article entitled "The Shakers of New England" by Edward Deming Andrews | 1960 | 1 item |
| Folder 14 | Article entitled "A Small Family of Seven" by Berton Roueche | 1947 | 1 item |

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|--------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| Folder 15 | Article entitled "Suffer Dearly" by Henry A. Lachane (<i>Yankee</i>) | 1974 | 1 item |
| Folder 16 | Articles from Icarian Society publications related to the Shakers (In French) | 1856-1880 | 1 item |
| Folder 17 | Chapter entitled "The Shakers, 1805" from <i>The Story of a Country Church</i> | 1902 | 1 item |
| Folder 18 | Fictional story entitled "Shaker John" | 1872 | 1 item |
| Folder 19 | Fictional story about Shakers entitled "Out of the World" from <i>Scribners</i> , v. 18 | 1879 | 1 item |
| Folder 20 | Paper by Charles O. Lee entitled "The Shakers as Pioneers in the American Herb and Drug Industry" | 1959 | 1 item |
| Folder 21 | Paper by Donald E. Janzen "Shakerism in the Old South: A Story of the Alabama Shakers" | 1982 | 1 item |
| Folder 22 | Paper by Julie Allyn Nicolette entitled "Structures for Communal Life: Shaker Dwelling Houses at Mount Lebanon, New York" | 1991 | 1 item |
| Folder 23 | Paper by Mary Lou Conlin entitled "North Union and Cleveland: Two Worlds on a Collision Course" | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 24 | Paper by R. Peter Wilcox entitled "Shakertown: Sun-light and sun-order in Kentucky Communitarian Architecture" | n.d. | 1 item |
| Folder 25 | Paper by Rose Mary Lawson entitled "A Tree Potpourri" | n.d. | 1 item |
| BOX 8 | | 1818-1995 | 429 items |
| Folder 1 | Miscellaneous items related to Neal | 1923-1985 | 8 items |
| Folder 2 | News clippings about Neal | 1926-1995 | 96 items |
| Folder 3 | Programs indicating Neal as a speaker | 1948-1988 | 16 items |
| Folder 4 | Bethel College items | 1925-1952 | 10 items |
| Folder 5 | Awards of Neal | 1931-1986 | 19 items |

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|--------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| Folder 6 | Shaker Bicentennial National Convention – Miscellaneous material | 1974 | 6 items |
| Folder 7 | News clippings – Shaker cookery | 1960-1977 | 11 items |
| Folder 8 | Shaker magazine articles and newspaper clippings | 1945-1986 | 48 items |
| Folder 9 | General information about Shakers, Shaker conferences, Shaker exhibits | 1947-1986 | 45 items |
| Folder 10 | Shaker village information – Busro, Indiana (West Union) | 1884-1974 | 5 items |
| Folder 11 | Shaker village information – Canterbury, New Hampshire | 1947-1988 | 18 items |
| Folder 12 | Shaker village information – Hancock, Massachusetts | 1947-1974 | 23 items |
| Folder 13 | Shaker village information – Lebanon, Ohio | 1947 | 4 items |
| Folder 14 | Shaker village information – Mt. Lebanon, NY (Watervliet) & Old Chatham | 1905-1977 | 12 items |
| Folder 15 | Shaker village information – North Union, Ohio | 1960-1962 | 4 items |
| Folder 16 | Shaker village information – Pleasant Hill, Kentucky | 1814-1985 | 27 items |
| Folder 17 | Shaker village information – Sabbathday Lake, Maine | 1961-1986 | 15 items |
| Folder 18 | Shaker village information – South Union, Kentucky | 1818-1983 | 36 items |
| Folder 19 | Shaker village information – South Union, Kentucky – Shaker Festival | 1963-1989 | 26 items |
| BOX 9 | | 1885-1995 | 152 items |
| Folder 1 | Photos of Neal and family | 1906-1977 | 30 items |
| Folder 2 | Photos taken at luncheon honoring Neal | Aug. 1977 | 1 item |
| Folder 3 | Photos of Shakers and Shaker sites with emphasis on South Union | 1885-1974 | 60 items |

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|---------------|---|------------------|-----------------|
| Folder 4 | Photos of Shakers and Shaker sites with emphasis on South Union | n.d. | 46 items |
| Folder 5 | Shaker photos and Red River Union Meeting House | 1963-1995 | 15 items |
| BOX 10 | | 1940-1990 | 90 items |
| Folder 1 | U.S. Bicentennial – Programs, invitation, etc. | 1973-1974 | 4 items |
| Folder 2 | Historic Communal Societies Conference – Programs | 1974-1983 | 6 items |
| Folder 3 | Newspaper clippings – Auburn, KY | 1959-1965 | 21 items |
| Folder 4 | St. Mark's Priory – Information | 1952-1980 | 11 items |
| Folder 5 | Kentucky Baptist Historical Society | 1981-1988 | 16 items |
| Folder 6 | Speech and newspaper clippings of Stanley C. Pace | 1984-1990 | 19 items |
| Folder 7 | Press conference and McNeil-Lehrer interview of Stanley C. Pace | 1986 | 3 items |
| Folder 8 | Programs from the School Masters Club and from missions events at First Baptist Church, Bowling Green | 1940-1942 | 10 items |

CATALOG CARD

MSS NEAL, Mary Julia, 1905-1995 1806-1995
4

Correspondence, speeches, and writings of Shaker scholar and English professor, Mary Julia Neal, a native of Auburn, Kentucky. Neal served as director of the Kentucky Building at Western Kentucky University from 1964 to 1972. Includes photos and correspondence with twentieth century eastern Shakers.

10 boxes. 115 folders. 1545 items. Originals and photocopies.

1995.49.1

K/380

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Jeffrey 07/09/2008