Helm, Margie Mae, 1894-1991 (MSS 250)

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid
Part of the United States History Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid/830

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in MSS Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Margie Mae Helm was born in Auburn, Logan County, Kentucky, 21 August 1894. Her parents were Dr. Thomas Oliver Helm and Nellie (Blakey) Helm. The family, which included brothers Blakey, Tom, and Harold, moved to Bowling Green in 1910 where Margie became one of the members of the first graduating class of Bowling Green High School in 1912. She received her AB degree from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Virginia and a certificate from the Pratt Institute Library School, Brooklyn, New York. In 1933 she received her MA from the University of Chicago.

Margie Helm began her long career in library service in 1920 as assistant librarian to Miss Florence Ragland at Western Kentucky State Teachers College. In 1923 she became the college’s librarian, a post she held for 48 years. In 1929 she also assumed the position of head of the Department of Library Science. During her tenure she saw the library move from a small collection in the Cedar House to the newly-renovated building named in her honor in 1965.

In addition to her work as director of the campus library, she was active on the Board of Trustees of the Bowling Green Public Library from 1938 to 1963, overseeing the library’s move to its new building.

Professionally she was a member of the Kentucky Library Association, the Southeast Library Association, and the American Library Association. In 1959 she was included in Who’s Who of American Women and in 1964 she was named College Librarian of the Year.

She was an active member of the Bowling Green Presbyterian Church where she became the first woman elder. She was also a member of the Twentieth Century Club, XX Club, Samuel Davies Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Inter-racial Commission.

Margie Helm died 19 December 1991 and is buried in Bowling Green’s Fairview Cemetery.
COLLECTION

This collection reveals Miss Helm’s activities on behalf of the Bowling Green Public Library and expanded state-wide library service via the Kentucky Bookmobile Project. The correspondence folder includes communications with local government officials and architects about the proposed Bowling Green Public Library building as well as letters related to the efforts to provide library service throughout Kentucky. Other public library related materials include budgets, financial reports, and copies of service agreements. There are also copies of news clippings related to bookmobile service in Warren County and elsewhere in the state and information regarding Friends of Kentucky Libraries.

SHELF LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>Title of box</th>
<th>1922-1962</th>
<th>93 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folder 1 Inventory</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folder 2 Correspondence</td>
<td>1948-1961</td>
<td>39 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folder 3 Information about the operation of the Bowling Green Public Library and other activities Helm was involved with</td>
<td>1943-1953</td>
<td>26 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folder 4 News clippings chiefly about bookmobiles and libraries</td>
<td>1953-1962</td>
<td>19 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Folder 5 Pamphlets chiefly related to libraries and Friends of Kentucky libraries</td>
<td>1922-1954</td>
<td>8 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CATALOG CARD

MSS HELM, Margie Mae, 1922-1962
250 1894-1991

Correspondence and business papers related to Helm’s role in the establishment of the Bowling Green Public Library, and her involvement in the Kentucky Bookmobile Project. ½ box. 5 folders. 93 items. Originals and photocopies.

2009.30.1 K/26
SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Bingham, Mary, 1904-1995     F2
Bookmobiles, 1953     F2, 4-5
Bookmobiles – Bowling Green     F2, 4-5
Bowling Green – Bookmobiles     F2, 4-5
Bowling Green – Librarians
Bowling Green – Libraries
Bowling Green Public Library
Campbell, Elvis R., d. 1978 – Correspondence     F2
Children’s books, 1922     F5
Friends of Kentucky Libraries     F2, 4-5
Hines, Duncan, 1880-1959     F2
Kentucky Bookmobile Project, 1953     F2, 4&5
Librarians – Bowling Green
Librarians – Western Kentucky State College
Librarians – Western Kentucky State Teacher’s College
Libraries – Kentucky Bookmobile Project, 1953     F2, 4-5
Libraries – Bowling Green
Western Kentucky State College - Librarians
Western Kentucky State Teachers’ College – Librarians

CHRONOLOGICAL CARDS

1922
1943-1950
1953-1962

SEE ALSO CARDS

Bowling Green Public Library
  See also:
    Warren County Public Library

Warren County Public Library
  See also:
    Bowling Green Public Library

sl - 1; me - 1; sa - 19; chrono - 3; see also - 2

Lile/Jeffrey  05/04/2009