7-16-2009

Witten, Tempie Jane (Bell), 1901-1985 (MSS 261)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
Western Kentucky University, mssfa@wku.edu

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

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid/868

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

Tempie Jane (Bell) Witten was born 15 October 1901 in Grayson County, Kentucky. Her parents were Charles William Bell and Leora (Salsman) Bell. She studied at a one-room school in Grayson County before attending Clarkson Normal School from 1917 to 1918. She passed her teacher’s examinations in 1920 and after teaching for a number of years she entered Western Kentucky State Teachers College and obtained a lifetime teaching certificate. She taught elementary and high school for 40 years, more than 20 of those in the county’s one room schools, before retiring in 1965. A highlight of her teaching career came in 1926 when one of her students, her sister Pauline, won not only the county and state spelling bees, but the national spelling competition in Washington D.C. After her retirement she devoted much of her time to genealogical research.

She married Ernest T. Witten in Springfield, Tennessee 14 June 1941. She died 3 May 1985 and is buried next to her husband in the Little Flock Cemetery, Grayson County.

COLLECTION NOTES

The Tempie Jane (Bell) Witten Collection consists of 6 boxes, 62 folders, and 1,518 items. It has two major focuses: the genealogy of Mrs. Witten’s family, the Bells of Grayson County, as well as collateral families in that area, and Grayson County history, particularly that of the county’s Baptist churches and schools. Most of the older items in the collection are actually photocopies, not original documents. Box 1 contains correspondence chiefly with family members or to those who shared Witten’s interest in genealogy. Of particular interest are four letters from Joyce Ann Hutchins describing Japan in 1947-1948. Researchers will also find in this box a lengthy genealogical related and friendly correspondence between Witten and John H. & Cora B. McCrady of Piggott, Arkansas. This couple was related to Mrs. Witten through her paternal grandmother, Malinda Jane McCrady.

Boxes 3 and 4 contain the genealogical research collected by Witten. The chief families include: Bell, McCrady, Skaggs, Salsman and Witten. Any family with more than five pieces of information was assigned an individual folder. Other family group sheets were placed in folders 1 and 2 of box 3 and arranged alphabetically by the surname.

Box 5 consists chiefly of grade books, attendance registers and other miscellaneous materials related to Witten’s teaching career. This box also contains news clippings that have been divided into
the following subjects: Grayson County schools, biographies and obituaries of Grayson County residents, Grayson County history and places, and the Grayson County Historical Society.

Box 6 consists of information about Grayson County churches, particularly Clarkson Baptist Church, and data about Grayson County schools. The folders in this box include some drafts of articles and/or reminiscences by Witten about Grayson County schools and churches. Folder 9 in this box contains an interesting sermon by LaVerne Butler of Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville on the topic of the desegregation and busing of students in the schools of that city and Jefferson County.

All material in the collection has been placed in acid free folders and boxes. All news clippings were copied onto acid free paper. Occasionally other material in poor condition was copied onto acid free paper. All staples, uncoated paper clips, metal spirals and other fasteners were removed and replaced with cotton ties or coated paper clips. Original order was maintained when possible.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1 Correspondence 1901-1985 324 items

Folder 1 Finding aid and biographical information 1901-1966 12 items
Folder 2 Correspondence 1935-1959 62 items
Folder 3 Correspondence 1960-1969 32 items
Folder 4 Correspondence 1970-1979 91 items
Folder 5 Correspondence 1980-1985 71 items
Folder 6 Correspondence n.d. 27 items
Folder 7 Writings 1944; 1969; 1977-1980; 1983; n.d. 11 items
Folder 8 Ernest Witten – Estate 1931-1984 18 items

BOX 2 Miscellaneous items 1926-1983; n.d. 141 items

Folder 1 Autograph book 1929 1 item
Folder 2 Photographs n.d. 45 items
Folder 3 Household account book 1969-1983 1 item
Folder 4 Ranie Bell Brooks – Condolences received upon her death and photographs 1966-1967 26 items
Folder 5 Brooks, James Maurice 1943-1973 4 items
Folder 6 Pauline Bell Dunn – Correspondence, 1926-1982 20 items
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Ruby Cull Whayne Nevinger – Letters from and news clippings</td>
<td>1974-1979</td>
<td>33 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Poetry by others</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>11 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Genealogical material</strong></td>
<td><strong>1794-1985</strong></td>
<td><strong>223 items</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Family Genealogies, A-M</td>
<td>1966-1984</td>
<td>35 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Family Genealogies, N-W</td>
<td>1977-1983</td>
<td>31 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Bell family</td>
<td>1897-1985</td>
<td>84 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Bell family</td>
<td>1794-1982</td>
<td>21 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td><em>Millerstown and Its People</em> – Skaggs, Watkins, Cleaver, Bell, Kirby, and Henderson families</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Bruner family</td>
<td>1863-1953</td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Carby (Kirby) family</td>
<td>1800-1980</td>
<td>27 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Downs family</td>
<td>1915-1980</td>
<td>7 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Fulkerson family</td>
<td>1979-1984</td>
<td>15 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Genealogical material</strong></td>
<td><strong>1796-1984; n.d.</strong></td>
<td><strong>382 items</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Henderson family</td>
<td>1957-1984</td>
<td>39 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Horne family</td>
<td>1976-1982; n.d.</td>
<td>8 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Layman family</td>
<td>1796-1981</td>
<td>22 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Line family</td>
<td>1976-1983</td>
<td>11 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>McCrady family</td>
<td>1879-1984</td>
<td>68 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Paris family</td>
<td>1979-1984</td>
<td>19 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Richardson family</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>7 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Salsman family</td>
<td>1909-1983</td>
<td>41 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Skaggs family</td>
<td>1848-1984</td>
<td>58 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Skaggs, James D.</td>
<td>1975-1976</td>
<td>5 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Watkins family</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>11 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>Witten family</td>
<td>1862-1983</td>
<td>93 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>School related items and news clippings</strong></td>
<td>1920-1987; n.d.</td>
<td>187 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Teacher's register of attendance for Kentucky Schools - Clarkson</td>
<td>1944-1945; 1955-1956</td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Grade books – Clarkson, 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grade</td>
<td>1945-1946</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Grade books – Clarkson, 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grade; one includes questions for a civics class</td>
<td>1960-1962</td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Grade book – Clarkson, 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grade</td>
<td>1963-1965</td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Grade book – Rock Creek; includes lists of books read by children</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Record books of Grayson County schools where Witten had taught</td>
<td>1920-1945</td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Notes for an elementary geography class</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Civil War - Unit of Study for 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; grade social studies</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>1 item (30 p.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Miscellaneous items from teaching experience</td>
<td>1947-1964</td>
<td>13 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>News clipping – Grayson County schools</td>
<td>1975-1983</td>
<td>31 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>News clippings – People from Grayson County (arranged alphabetically)</td>
<td>1953-1987</td>
<td>76 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>News clippings – Grayson County history and places</td>
<td>1944-1983</td>
<td>36 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 13</td>
<td>News clippings – Grayson County Historical Society</td>
<td>1976-1986</td>
<td>19 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grayson County schools and churches</strong></td>
<td>1917-1985; n.d.</td>
<td>261 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Grayson County – Businesses</td>
<td>1982-1985</td>
<td>3 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Folder 2  Contract for purchases of a player piano from Rudolph Wurlitzer Co. 1921 1 item

Folder 3  Grayson County churches 1972, 1980, n.d. 118 items

Folder 4  Clarkson Baptist Church 1925-1984 77 items

Folder 5  Clarkson Baptist Church – Attendance record book 1954-1956 2 items

Folder 6  Grayson County – Churches – Goshen Association 1917-1929 3 items

Folder 7  Grayson County – Churches – Little Flock 1966-1978 4 items

Folder 8  Grayson County – Churches – Rock Creek 1844-1846; 1976-1978 21 items

Folder 9  Sermon about desegregation and busing in Louisville entitled “Desegregation – Right; Forced Busing Wrong” given at Ninth & O Baptist Church by LaVerne Butler 1975 1 item

Folder 10  Grayson County – Schools – Rock Creek, Oak Grove, Crow Hollow, Clarkson 1934-1981 26 items

Folder 11  Spelling bee information 1935-1980 5 items

Folder 12  Grayson Manor - News clippings 1975-1979 77 items

CATALOG CARD

MSS 261  WITTEN, Tempie Jane (Bell) 1794-1987 1901-1985

Correspondence, chiefly genealogical related; family files; research materials about Grayson County, Kentucky schools, churches, businesses, history, and personalities. Also includes items related to Witten’s long career as a teacher in Grayson County schools.

6 boxes  62 folders  1,518 items

2009.21.1  K/127

SUBJECT ANALYTICS
Autographs – Collections – Albums and books, 1929 B2,F1
Bell family – Genealogy B3,F2-5
Boyd, Jewell B1,F4
Breathitt, Edward T., 1924-2003 B1,F3
Brooks, Ranie Lee (Bell), 1904-1966 – Relating to B2,F4
Bruner family – Genealogy B3,F6
Butler, LaVerne B6,F9
Canon, Zoe – Correspondence B1,F3
Carver, Gayle Raymond, 1913-2005 B1,F2
Churches – Grayson County B6,F3-8
Clarkson Baptist Church – Relating to B6,F4-5
Clarkson – Relating to
Cleaver family – Genealogy B3,F5
Cook, Marlow Webster, b. 1926 B1,F4
Cooper, John Sherman, 1901-1991 B1,F2
Courier-Journal – Relating to B1,F5
Crockett, Thelma B1,F4-6
Downs family – Genealogy B3,F8
Dunn, Pauline Wilson (Bell), b. 1912 B1,F4-5
Dunn, Pauline Wilson (Bell), b. 1912 – Relating to B2,F6
Ford, Gerald Rudolph, Jr., 1913-2006, U.S. Pres., – Letter to B1,F4
Fowler, Edna N. B1,F4
Fulbright, James William, 1905-1995 B1,F6
Fulkerson family – Genealogy B3,F9
Genealogy – Bell family B3,F2-5
Genealogy – Bruner family B3,F6
Genealogy – Cleaver family B3,F5
Genealogy – Downs family B3,F8
Genealogy – Fulkerson family B3,F9
Genealogy – Henderson family B3,F5; B4,F1
Genealogy – Horne family B4,F2
Genealogy – Kirby family B3,F5&7
Genealogy – Layman family B4,F3
Genealogy – Line family B4,F4
Genealogy – McGrady family B4,F5
Genealogy – Paris family B4,F6
Genealogy – Richardson family B4,F7
Genealogy – Skaggs family B3,F5; B4,F9
Genealogy – Watkins family B3,F5; F4,F11
Genealogy – Witten family B4,F12
Getzwiller, Rissa B1,F5
Grayson County – Businesses B6,F1
Grayson County – Churches B6,F3-8
Grayson County Historical Society – Relating to, 1976-1986 B5,F13
Grayson County – Relating to
Grayson County – Schools B1,F7; B5,F1-10; B6,F10
Grayson County – Teachers and teaching B5,F1-10
Grayson Manor – Leitchfield, 1975-1979 B6,F12
Gurether, Virginia       B1,F2
Harrel, Betty May (Salsman), b. 1895       B1,F5
Harris, Leon         B1,F3
Henderson family – Genealogy       B3,F5; B4,F1
Higdon, Bertha Eleanor (Bell), b. 1916       B1,F4-6
Higdon, Bertha Eleanor (Bell), b. 1916 – Comments about       B1,F6
Historical societies – Grayson County       B5,F13
Hobbs, Herschel Harold, 1907-1995       B1,F4
Hornback, Hallie       B1,F6
Horne family – Genealogy       B4,F2
Huddleston, Walter Darlington, b. 1926       B1,F4
Hunt, Mamie (Witten) Askin       B1,F2&4-5
Hutchins, Joyce Ann       B1,F2
Japan – Comments about, 1947       B1,F2
Japan – Travel and description, 1947       B1,F2
Jefferson County – School integration – Relating to, 1975       B6,F9
Kentucky Building – Relating to       B1,F2
Kirby family – Genealogy       B3,F5&7
Layman family – Genealogy       B4,F3
Leitchfield – Grayson Manor       B6,F12
Leyerle, Melanie Renee, b. 1964 – Comments about       B1,F5
Leyerle, Melanie Renee, b. 1964 – Relating to       B1,F5,7
Leyerle, Sharon Kay (Higdon), b. 1941       B1,F5-6
Line family – Genealogy       B4,F4
Little Flock United Baptist Church – Grayson County       B6,F7
Louisville – School integration – Relating to, 1975       B6,F9
McClure, Paul       B1,F5
McCutchan, Verna Mae (Witten)       B1,F5
McGrady, Cora B.       B1,F2-3,6
McGrady family       B1,F2-3; B4,F5
McGrady, Flora       B1,F3-6
McGrady, Flora – Comments about       B1,F6
McGrady, John H.       B1,F2-3,6
McGrady, Thelma       B1,F4
Millerstown – Relating to       B3,F5
Monroe, E. G., 1917-1999 – Comments about       B1,F6
Nevinger, Ruby Cull (Whayne)       B1,F5-6
Paris family – Genealogy       B4,F6
Quiggins, Shelby Jean (Bell), b. 1938       B1,F2
Pianos – Relating to, 1921       B6,F2
Poetry       B1,F8; B4,F10
Rainey, Willie       B1,F4
Reminiscences – Witten, Tempie Jane (Bell), 1901-1985       B1,F7
Richardson family – Genealogy       B4,F7
Rock Creek Baptist Church – Grayson County       B6,F8
Salsman family – Genealogy       B4,F8
Salsman, Elinor Lynne (Dunn)       B1,F4-6
School integration – Louisville – Relating to, 1975 B6,F9
Schools – Grayson County B1,F7; B5,F1-10; B6,F10
Sermons B6,F9
Siebel, Beulah Joan (Witten) B1,F4-6
Skaggs family – Genealogy B3,F5; B4,F9
Skaggs, James D. – Relating to B4,F10
Sloane, Harvey B1,F4
Spencer, Frances B1,F4-5
Teachers and teaching – Grayson County
Watkins family – Genealogy B3,F5; B4,F11
Whitebread, Murrell B1,F6
Williams, Mabel B1,F4
Witten, Ernest T., 1899-1983 – Estate B1,F8
Witten family – Genealogy B4,F12
Witten, Tempie Jane (Bell), 1901-1985 – Reminiscences B1,F7

SEE AND SEE ALSO

Carby family
   See:
      Kirby family

CHRONOLOGICAL CARDS

1794-1796
1941-1860
1861-1865
1866-1880
1881-1900
1901-1925
1926-1950
1951-1975
1976-1987

me - 1; sl - 1; chrono - 9; sa - 115; see - 1

Jeffrey 07/16/2009