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Morningstar, Jane (Hines), 1904-1989 (MSS 225)

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BIOGRAPHY

Margaret Jane Hines was born on 20 November 1904 to John Porter Hines and Margaret Hines in Calhoun, Kentucky. She was a graduate of Bowling Green Business University and worked briefly for the Park City Daily News (Bowling Green) prior to marrying Roy Ballinger Morningstar on 6 April 1926 in the Christ Church Cathedral in Louisville. The couple lived in Louisville, Florida and St. Louis, until Mr. Morningstar passed away in 1935. Jane returned to Bowling Green and began working part-time for the Daily News in 1936. She became a full-time employee in 1942 and eventually worked her way up to city editor. Besides writing news stories, Morningstar also wrote a popular column for the Daily News titled, “Home Folk.” For brief periods she was an editor for the Gimlet (Edmonson County) and a regional stringer reporter for the Courier-Journal (Louisville). Her stories were often picked up by wire services.

Mrs. Morningstar was a respected civic and cultural leader. She was a founding member of the Landmark Association and the Hobson House Association. She was also a member of the XX Literary Club, National Society of Colonial Dames of America, Magna Charter, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1985 she received the Landmark Association’s highest honor, the Heritage Award, for her contributions to sustaining the preservation ethic in Bowling Green and Warren County. She also served for decades on the Bowling Green Public Library’s Board of Trustees. In addition, Morningstar was an active congregant at Bowling Green’s Christ Episcopal Church.

Morningstar died on 22 December 1989 in Bowling Green, and she was interred in Fairview Cemetery. Upon her death, the local paper editorialized about her civic involvement: “She showed to the city a passion for its past and a vision for its future. She accomplished each with a vibrance that is seldom paralleled.”
COLLECTION NOTES

This collection consists chiefly of correspondence of the Covington family’s second generation in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Correspondents include the children of Elijah Moorman Covington (1773-1848): Dr. Albert G. Covington, Euclid Madison Covington, Harriet (Covington) Delafield, and Juliet (Covington) Janin. In addition, the correspondence of Josephine (Wells) Covington (Mrs. Albert Covington) and her daughters, Clara Delafield (Covington) Dulaney and Lena H. (Covington) Logan, is included. Much of the correspondence relates to Covington, Janin, and Delafield family matters. Albert sends a number of letters to Josephine from St. Louis, where he is settling her father’s estate in the 1860s (folder 7). Josephine’s letters include several correspondents, but the majority of the letters were written by Emilie Ringgold, the wife of former Christ Episcopal Church (Bowling Green) priest, Samuel Ringgold (folder 3). Many of these letters relay information about home life for women during the Civil War.

A folder of letters (1900-1902) from Kate Meador Covington to Elizabeth A. Buttersworth in Richmond, Virginia are beautifully written and relay information about widowhood, the next generation of Covington family members, and her interest in the McAden family. A number of these letters were written at Bowling Green.

The remainder of the collection consists of family or reference letters written to Morningstar by readers of the Park City Daily News. They pose questions or contain information about steamboats, the restoration of the Hobson House in Bowling Green, and other local history topics.

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MSS MORNINGSTAR, Jane (Hines)  1819-1986  225  1904-1989

Correspondence, chiefly of the Covington family of Bowling Green, Kentucky, particularly that of Dr. Albert G. and Josephine (Wells) Covington. Also includes reference letters written to Jane (Hines) Morningstar about local history topics, including steamboats and the Hobson House Association.

1 box. 21 folders. 181 items. Photocopies and originals.
1985.155.1

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