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Dickerson-Venable Family Papers (MSS 334)

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William Dickerson (1777-1813) was born in Chillicothe, Ohio and probably migrated to Kentucky with his family while a young child. In 1806, he married Mary (Polly) Daniel (1784-1869). After William’s early death, possibly as a result of wounds or illness incurred during his service as a lieutenant during the War of 1812, Polly was married two more times: to John Sharp in 1815, and to William Rule in 1819.

The children of William Dickerson and Polly Daniel included a daughter, Mary Louisa Dickerson (1813-1867), who married William G. Woodson in 1833, and a son, Archer Charles Dickerson (1806-1891). In 1830, while teaching school in Mississippi, Archer Charles Dickerson married Mary Watkins Platner (1806-1839). After her death, he moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky where he married Mary J. Rogers (1820-1900), the daughter of Thomas Rogers (1766-1851) and Martha (Hamilton) Skiles. For 17 years, Archer Charles Dickerson served as pastor of Bowling Green’s First Presbyterian Church.

The children of Archer Charles Dickerson and Mary Watkins Platner included William Henry Dickerson (1833-1912). Although his father was a supporter of the Union during the Civil War, William Henry Dickerson served as an assistant surgeon with the Confederate army. Afterward, he practiced medicine in Simpson and Warren Counties. In 1867, William Henry Dickerson married Rosa Belle Praigg (1843-1902). Their children included Daisy Dickerson (1868-1956), who in 1887 married Calvin Davis Venable (1865-1932), and Zula Dickerson (b. 1876), who married Sidney Isbell (d. 1955) in 1898.

This collection consists of personal papers, correspondence, clippings and genealogical data on the Dickerson, Venable and related families, especially the Daniel, Woodson, Rule and Skiles families. Military papers include those of William Dickerson from the War of 1812 (Folder 2) and his grandson William Henry Dickerson (Folder 4) from the Civil War. Folder 3 contains material relating to Archer Charles Dickerson, including excerpts from minutes of the First Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, Kentucky, and a statement regarding the settlement of
his father-in-law Thomas Rogers’ estate. Folder 5 contains poetry and a biographical sketch of William Henry Dickerson’s wife, Rosa (Praigg) Dickerson, an author and poet. Folder 6 contains correspondence of their daughter, Daisy (Dickerson) Venable, and her husband Calvin Venable. Folders 8 and 9 contain genealogical notes and biographical sketches relating to the Dickerson, Venable, Daniel, Woodson, Rule and Skiles families. Of interest in Folder 8 is a partial, undated letter of Carlyle E. Cox, a Woodson descendant, briefly describing his early memories of Bowling Green, and in particular of the lynching of an African American. Folder 10 contains photographs of Venable and related family members.

**SHELF LIST**

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<td>Inventory and separation sheet; census data</td>
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BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS  DICKERSON-VENABLE  1804-1969
334  Family Papers

Correspondence, clippings and genealogical
data relating to the Dickerson and Venable families
of Warren County, and related families. Includes military
papers from the War of 1812 and the Civil War.
½ box. 10 folders. 78 items. Originals,
photocopies, photographs.
1977.31.1

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