5-19-2011

Crabb, Alfred Leland, 1884-1979 (MSS 367)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Alfred Leland Crabb was born on 22 January 1884 the son of James Wade Crabb and Fannie (Arbuckle) Crabb in the Girkin area of Warren County, Kentucky. He attended the Plum Springs Grade School, which he recalled frequently and with great fondness in his later writings. Before enrolling at the Southern Normal School in Bowling Green in 1904, Crabb attended Bethel College in Russellville. He received a life [teaching] certificate from Western Kentucky State Normal School in 1910. From 1913 to 1927 he served on the faculty at Western. He received his Bachelor’s degree from George Peabody College for Teachers in 1916; a Master’s degree from Columbia in 1921; and a PhD from Peabody in 1925. He later received honorary doctorates from the University of Kentucky (1942) and Georgetown College.

Crabb accepted a faculty position at Peabody College in 1927 and remained there until his retirement in 1949. He wrote extensively for scholarly journals and was editor of the Peabody Journal of Education from 1932 to 1967. He is best remembered for his historical fiction novels about Nashville and middle Tennessee. A bibliography of his fiction and non-fiction is appended to this finding aid; it was compiled by his son.

Crabb was involved in a number of community and professional organizations. He was a member of Belmont Heights Baptist Church in Nashville. He was a member emeritus of the Downtown Kiwanis Club, the Old Oaks Club, the Freolac Club and the Shakespeare Club.

Crabb married Bertha Gardner of Morgantown, Kentucky. She died in March 1979. They had one son, Alfred Leland, Jr. Dr. Crabb died on 1 October 1979 in Lexington, Kentucky. The Crabbs were interred at Mt Olivet Cemetery in Nashville.

COLLECTION NOTES

This collection consists chiefly of the published and unpublished writings of Alfred Leland Crabb, Sr., with the bulk of the material being produced from 1913 to 1966. Most of the nineteenth century items are transcriptions of original letters located elsewhere. Box 1 contains Crabb’s correspondence, chiefly with friends and colleagues in Bowling Green including the administration and faculty of Western Kentucky University and the Bowling Green Business
University. Boxes 2-4 contain corrected drafts, usually bound, of some of Crabb’s historical fiction novels. Samples of Crabb’s non-fiction writing is contained in Box 5, including a large number of short biographical sketches of prominent Nashvillians (Folders 5 & 7) and a group of short feature articles about lessons learned while at the Plum Springs School (Folder 12). Box 6 contains examples of Crabb’s short fiction including two large folders filled with “Hilltop Stories” loosely based on his experiences as a student at Western Kentucky University. Box 7 contains writings by others associated with Crabb. Photographs from this collection were transferred to the Kentucky Library and to University Archives.

SHELF LIST

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<th>414 items</th>
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<td>Inventory</td>
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<td>News clippings, bibliography prepared by Crabb’s son, and sundry other items</td>
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<td>21 items</td>
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<td>3 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Holographic notes about Dr. Crabb’s early education at Western</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1916-1929</td>
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<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1930-1935</td>
<td>88 items</td>
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<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1936-1939</td>
<td>82 items</td>
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<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>3 items</td>
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<th>1942-1955</th>
<th>6 items</th>
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<td>[1942]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
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<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Peace at Bowling Green – Draft with edits sent from publisher (p. 1-109)</td>
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<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Peace at Bowling Green – Draft with edits sent from publisher (p. 110-217)</td>
<td>[1955]</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Peace at Bowling Green – Draft with edits sent from publisher (p. 218-379)</td>
<td>[1955]</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Peace at Bowling Green – Galley proof (216 p.)</td>
<td>[1955]</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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2 items

| Folder 1 | Home to Kentucky – Bound copy (448 p.) | [1953] | 1 item |
| Folder 2 | Home to Kentucky – Bound copy (473 p.) | [1953] | 1 item |

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2 items

| Folder 1 | Lodging at the St. Cloud – Draft with edits (208 p.) | [1946] | 1 item |
| Folder 2 | Lodging at the St. Cloud – Bound draft | [1946] | 1 item |

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| Folder 2 | Essays, etc. related to Western Kentucky University | 1924-1962 | 10 items |
| Folder 3 | Essays about Henry Hardin Cherry | n.d. | 4 items |
| Folder 4 | Articles about the city of Nashville, Tennessee | 1939-1941 | 7 items |
| Folder 5 | Leadership in Nashville: A List of the Most Prominent Citizens in Nashville | 1961 | 1 item |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Articles, etc. related to education, teachers, and teaching</td>
<td>1916-1966</td>
<td>10 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Short biographical sketches of prominent people in Nashville’s history and others</td>
<td>1918-1956</td>
<td>37 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Articles related to Andrew Jackson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Essays, etc. related to Kentucky</td>
<td>1939</td>
<td>7 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Essays, etc. on a variety of topics</td>
<td>1932-1964</td>
<td>10 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Essays, etc. on a variety of topics</td>
<td>1924-1961</td>
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<td>Folder 1</td>
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<td>[1913-1923]</td>
<td>8 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>“Hilltop Stories”</td>
<td>[1913-1923]</td>
<td>12 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Short stories</td>
<td>[1916-1927]</td>
<td>13 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Short stories</td>
<td>[1916-1927]</td>
<td>10 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Untitled short story</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>1940</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Writings by Bertha Lee (Gardner) Crabb</td>
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<td>3 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
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<td>[1955-1959]</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD
MSS  CRABB, Alfred Leland, Sr.  1823-2010
CRABB, Alfred Leland, Sr.                     1884-1979
367  1823-2010

Correspondence, book and article manuscripts, and research material of Alfred Leland Crabb, a native of Warren County, Kentucky and later professor at George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee. The topics of the manuscripts include historical fiction related to Nashville and Bowling Green, biographies of prominent Nashvillians, and articles on all levels of education. Much of the unpublished material is fiction but draws from Crabb’s Plum Springs school days and his student experiences at Western Kentucky University.

7 boxes.  58 folders.  664 items. Originals, typescripts, photocopies.

1972.16.1

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SEE and SEE ALSO

Leiper, Mary (Taylor), 1885-1973
See:
   Moore, Mary (Taylor) Leiper, 1885-1973

Peabody College
See:
   George Peabody College

MSS 367 Manuscripts & Folklife Archives – Kentucky Library & Museum – Western Kentucky University
Tucker, Rosa Pierce, 1860-1946
See:
  Taylor, Rosa Pierce (Tucker), b. 1860

Jeffrey  05/19/2011