Brashear, William Helm, 1855-1942 (MSS 14)

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 American Literature Commons, and the United States History Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid/1850

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.
William Helm Brashear was born in 1855 and died in 1942. He was one of nine children of Walter Curran Brashear and Martha Hope Crutchfield. In 1859, the family moved to a Warren County, Kentucky, farm located in the Big Bend area of the Barren River (later known as Beech Bend). William Helm was granted a law license in 1880; however, he never practiced his profession. Following a western tour, he returned to Beech Bend and settled down to farming and market gardening. Sometime later he opened the Beech Woods or bottom as a park, which at first was used mainly for church picnics. Later, he built a platform for dancing that proved to be quite an attraction and a source of entertainment for many participants. Next, he constructed a pavilion with a dance floor on the second story and a dining room and kitchen on the ground floor. Here his two sisters, Misses Dora and Jennie, served delicious dinners to clubs and private parties. The dance floor became quite popular for the Fair Hops, which were great social affairs of the era.

Brashear, even though busy with managing the garden market and park, found time to pursue his love of writing, especially that of poetry. His book of poetry, Varied Voices from the Muse of Beech Bend, was published in 1905. He also had poems published in the local papers and in the Farmer’s Home Journal, which was published in Louisville.

After the death of Brashear in 1942, at the age of 87, the remaining Brashear heirs sold Beech Bend to Charles Garvin. The Garvin family developed this area into Beech Bend Amusement Park.

Bibliographical Notes
Excerpts from a letter of Mrs. Zeleine Brashear Cottrell, (Mrs. T. C.), 1530 State Street, Bowling Green, Ky., July 22, 1969. She was a niece of Brashear.
THE COLLECTION

This collection is composed chiefly of manuscript poems, compositions, prose, and a play. The correspondence is limited to 3 incoming and 3 outgoing letters, 1921-1940. Some clippings of poems were pasted in old magazines (3) by the author; whereas, others have been pasted on rag paper and alphabetized. These magazines could be classified as scrapbooks. Lastly, there are 35 manuscript notebooks.

See also: Varied Voices from the Muse of Beech Bend by William Helm Brashear, 1905.

SHELF LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>1849-1940</th>
<th>217 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Poems &amp; biographical sketch</td>
<td>1907-1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Poems</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Poems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3a</td>
<td>Poem “Alf Anarch”</td>
<td>23 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3b</td>
<td>Poem with prefactory note, “Not Wisely, But Too Well”</td>
<td>1 item, 7p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3c</td>
<td>Poems - printed but printed copy unlocated</td>
<td>1 item, 17p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d</td>
<td>Printed &amp; manuscript verses which have been copied or examined, 1929</td>
<td>3 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3e</td>
<td>Poems examined in 1929 by W. H. Brashear</td>
<td>1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Play - “Albean”</td>
<td>1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Prose - Eulogy of Clarence Underwood McElroy, compositions</td>
<td>1849-1928, 1884?-1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Prose</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Prose - “Adventures with Wolves”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Letters</td>
<td>1921-1940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td>1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Partial manuscript</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Magazines with clippings of poems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
pasted in
Folder 11   Newspaper clippings (prose)    10 sheets
Folder 12   Clippings of printed poems    44 sheets

BOX 2      n.d.        35 items
Folder 1   Manuscript notebooks    n.d.     35 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS    BRASHEAR, William Helm,  1880-1940
14    1855-1942

Poet and writer of Bowling Green. Manuscripts
of his poems, essays, play, and eulogy of Clarence U.
McElroy--some in notebooks; others in loose-leaf
paper. A few letters (6) and many clippings of his
published works are included. Also scrapbooks have
published poems pasted in them (3).
2 boxes.  12 folders.  217 items.  Originals.
1942.19.1

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Authors – Kentucky
Bowling Green – Poets
Drama
Essays, 1884-1940
McElroy, Clarence Underwood, 1849-1928 – Eulogy of
Poetry
Poets – Kentucky

Jeffrey  09/19/2011