1-23-2012

Richards, Alta Beatrice (Lightfoot), 1900-1989 (MSS 381)

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Alta Beatrice (Lightfoot) Richards was born in Allen County, Kentucky 14 June 1900 to John Willis (1864-1945) and America Rumina (Pedigo) Lightfoot (1875-1954). Her younger brother William Sherman Lightfoot was born nine years later (1909-1959). Bea Richards taught at Mt. Victory School, Allen County, in 1920 before she received a degree from Bowling Green Business University in 1927. After graduation she was employed in a number of positions at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, where she discovered her life-long passion for weaving. She returned to Bowling Green in 1949 to care for her mother. She was subsequently employed by First Federal Savings and Loan and Jaggers Construction Company, but she maintained her active involvement with weaving. In 1962 she was one of the founding members of the Kentucky Weavers of Bowling Green and served as secretary. Mrs. Richards was a member of First Baptist Church where she taught simple weaving as part of the church’s crafts program. She gave many demonstrations of her textile art at craft fairs and shows. Bea Richards was married to John Frank Richards (19 July 1889 – 29 April 1974). She died 17 April 1989 and is buried in Bowling Green’s Fairview Cemetery.

The materials in this collection are chiefly related to Bea Richards’s love of weaving. Even though there are three folders (Folders 3-5) devoted to descriptions of her vacation trips and to Lightfoot and Pedigo genealogies, the remaining 12 folders are devoted to weaving. Most of the letters in the correspondence folder (Folder 2) are primarily related to this textile art. Folder 6 contains the minutes of the Kentucky Weavers of Bowling Green, 1962-1972. Folder 7 contains a manual of weaving instructions (85 p.) from a course offered at Berea College in the 1940s. Folder 8 offers general weaving patterns that have been arranged alphabetically. Folders 9-11 contain patterns for specific woven items, also arranged alphabetically. Information related to weaving techniques and looms can be found in Folder 12. Most of the patterns and techniques compiled by Mrs. Richards were printed in the periodical *Kentucky Weaver*, published by Lou Tate at the Little Loomhouse, Louisville, Kentucky and in Tate’s *Some Historic Kentucky Coverlets*. The collection includes other material related to Lou Tate...
such as correspondence in Folder 2 and clippings in Folder 14. Folder 13 contains an example of Mrs. Richards’s own weaving, a small pink and blue mat, approximately 6 \( \frac{1}{2} \) in. by 12 in. Folders 15 and 16 hold clippings related to weaving, and miscellaneous material, respectively. More of Mrs. Richards’s materials such as scrapbooks, patterns, and another of her weaving examples can be found in the Kentucky Library collection Ephemera Q.

**SHELF LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>1815-1992</th>
<th>422 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory and biographical information</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1927-1986</td>
<td>83 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Materials related to vacation trips</td>
<td>1939-1982</td>
<td>32 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Family records, chiefly Pedigo and Lightfoot families</td>
<td>1940-1982</td>
<td>47 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Lightfoot family deed, Allen County</td>
<td>1894</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Minutes of the Kentucky Weavers of Bowling Green</td>
<td>1962-1972</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>“Outline for Course in Weaving” from Berea College</td>
<td>1948?</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Weaving patterns</td>
<td>1930s-1976</td>
<td>49 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Weaving patterns for hot plate mats</td>
<td>1953</td>
<td>4 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Weaving patterns for bookmarks</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>9 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Weaving patterns for lace</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>4 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>Weaving techniques</td>
<td>1957-1984</td>
<td>21 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 13</td>
<td>Small mat woven by Richards, app. 6 ( \frac{1}{2} ) x 12 in</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 14</td>
<td>Material, chiefly clippings, related to Lou Tate and the Little Loomhouse</td>
<td>1944-1983</td>
<td>41 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 15</td>
<td>Little Loomhouse Newsletters</td>
<td>1815-1973</td>
<td>71 items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Materials chiefly related to Allen County-native Alta Beatrice Richards's interest in weaving, developed while working at Berea College. Includes correspondence with other weavers, weaving patterns, and weaving techniques. Also, information concerning noted Kentucky weaving authority Lou Tate of the Little Loomhouse, Louisville, Kentucky.

1 box. 17 folders. 422 items. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

1990.12.97

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Bousman, Louisa Tate, 1906-1979 – Correspondence F2
Bousman, Louisa Tate, 1906-1979 – Relating to F6,8-12,14
Cherry, Henry Hardin, 1864-1937 F2
Deeds – Allen County, 1894 F5
Fireside Industries – Berea College – Berea F16
Fitzgerald, Anne LeGrande (Walker), 1903-2005 – Correspondence F2
Genealogy – Lightfoot family F4
Genealogy – Pedigo family F4
Kendrick, Sue – Correspondence F2
Kentucky Weavers of Bowling Green – Bowling Green F6
Little Loomhouse – Louisville – Relating to F6,8-12,14
Looms – Relating to F12,16
Schools – Allen County – Mt. Victory School – Relating to F16
Weavers – Bowling Green
Weavers – Kentucky F2,6-12,14-15
Weaving F2,6-16
Weaving – Berea College – Berea F7,16
Weaving – Patterns F7-11
Weaving – Technique F7,12
SEE or SEE ALSO

Tate, Lou:
  See:
    Bousman, Louisa Tate, 1906-1979

Lile/Jeffrey  01/23/2012