Henderson, Wathen Board, 1877-1957 (MSS 516)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Wathen Board Henderson was born in Meade County, Kentucky on 18 August 1877, but grew up in the Webster community of Breckinridge County. He worked as a clerk in the Falls of Rough store of Lafayette Green, was employed by a Boston, Massachusetts tree service company, managed a wheat ranch in Saskatchewan and, from 1929 until his retirement in 1947, served as superintendent of Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Arlington, Massachusetts. He married Maude Lawton of Newport, Rhode Island and, after her death, Esther Gannett of Arlington.

Henderson’s interest in local history extended to his home in Breckinridge County, to which he returned frequently to travel and visit friends and family. His writings about Kentucky and Breckinridge County people, families and history appeared in the Breckinridge News as “‘Old Timer’s’ Timely Topics,” a column styled as a letter to the editor by an “Old Timer.”

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of photocopied typescripts of Wathen B. Henderson’s letters to the editor of the Breckinridge News, which appeared in the newspaper as “‘Old Timer’s’ Timely Topics” columns. A news item or death notice that Henderson had read in the paper would often form the basis for a retrospective, family history or reminiscence. The columns are richly detailed and provide evidence of Henderson’s extensive knowledge of local history and genealogy. Included is some correspondence with individuals, often in response to a request for information or a comment on an article. The dated columns (Folders 2 & 3) range from 1932 to 1950 but many more (Folders 3-6) do not bear a date.
**SHELF LIST**

**BOX 1**  
**Wathen B. Henderson**  
1932-1957, n.d.  
268 items

Folder 1  
Inventory; biographical data  
5 items

Folder 2  
“Old Timer” column typescripts; miscellaneous correspondence  
1932-1943  
69 items

Folder 3  
“Old Timer” column typescripts; miscellaneous correspondence  
1944-1957  
37 items

Folder 4  
“Old Timer” column typescripts  
n.d.  
46 items

Folder 5  
“Old Timer” column typescripts  
n.d.  
55 items

Folder 6  
“Old Timer” column typescripts  
n.d.  
56 items

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS  
HENDERSON, Wathen Board,  
1932-1957

516  
1877-1957

Typescripts of “‘Old Timer’s’ Timely Topics,” a column by Wathen B. Henderson that appeared in the Breckinridge (Kentucky) News. The columns chiefly look back on the people, families and history of Breckinridge County and include Henderson’s own reminiscences.  
1 box.  6 folders.  268 items.  Photocopies.  
1966.35.1

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Breckinridge County – History  
Families – Breckinridge County  
Newspapers – Breckinridge County

Niedermeier/Jeffrey  09/25/2014