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Shelton Family Papers (MSS 527)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Curran Ralph Shelton was born on 18 February 1865 in Butler County, Kentucky, the youngest of Benjamin Harvey Shelton and Hetty Jane (McCoy) Shelton’s eight children. He attended schools in Butler County and matriculated at the Glasgow Normal School in Glasgow, Kentucky in 1888. He received a teaching certificate in 1889 and taught school for approximately fifteen years. He married John Annie Mayhugh (1878-1945) of Butler County on 4 January 1898. Her parents were John William Mayhugh and Mariah Brown Mayhugh. Curran and John Annie bought a farm in the Richland Community in Butler County. They were very involved in the Richland Missionary Baptist Church, where Curran served as deacon, church clerk, and treasurer for many years. The couple lived on their Richland farm until their deaths. They had four daughters: Hettie Lois (1899-1962), Neva Mariah (1901-1951), Era Ilene (b. 1903), and Annie Mabel (b.1911). John Annie died on 17 August 1945 and Curran died on 23 June 1959; they are buried in the Riverview Cemetery in Morgantown, Kentucky.

COLLECTION NOTE

Folders 1-4 of this collection relate to Curran Ralph Shelton. Folder 1 contains letters sent to Shelton while enrolled at the Glasgow Normal School (GNS), 1888-1889, from family and friends in Berry’s Lick and Townsville, Butler County, Kentucky. Later letters are from former classmates. Correspondents talk about family matters, church meetings, and the politics involved in hiring teachers. One letter from T.E. Givens to Annie Shelton, written in 1919, discusses the operation of a YMCA in Mexico and comments on the Mexican Revolution. Folder 2 is a diary kept by Curran in 1891 in which he talks about daily life on his farm in Butler County, as well as church and family matters. Folder 4 contains sundry essays composed by Shelton as a student at the GNS. Several relate to his home in Butler County and one describes the room that Curran occupied while at GNS; other essays of note relate to tobacco use and to voting rights for African Americans.

Folders 5-7 contain dairies kept by John Annie (Mayhugh) Shelton, Curran’s wife, for the following time periods: Folder 5 (1 January to 1 September 1935), Folder 6 (1 January to 5 April 1937), and Folder 7 (1 March – 15 April 1938). Her entries concentrate on farm life—gardening,
her poultry operation, food preservation, and farm chores. She also lists the visitations of friends and family, church happenings and components of meal preparation and food preservation. In Folder 6 she mentions the great flood of 1937.

Folder 8 includes a listing of students in a school for 1890. The location and teacher is unidentified.

**SHELF LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>SHELTON Family Papers</th>
<th>1888-1919</th>
<th>44 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Letters to Curran Ralph Shelton</td>
<td>1888-1919</td>
<td>25 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Diary kept by Curran Ralph Shelton</td>
<td>1891</td>
<td>1 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Compositions written by Curran Ralph Shelton</td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>12 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Diary kept by John Annie (Mayhugh) Shelton, also includes listing of chickens and eggs sold and items purchased.</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Diary kept by John Annie (Mayhugh) Shelton</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Diary kept by John Annie (Mayhugh) Shelton</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Listing of attendance of pupils</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS 527 SHELTON Family Papers 1888-1919

Letters and compositions written by Butler County, Kentucky native Curran Ralph Shelton, while a student at Glasgow Normal School. Also includes a diary in which he records family, church, and local community happenings in 1891. Also includes several small diaries kept by Curran’s wife John Annie during the Great Depression.

1 box. 8 folders. 44 items. Photocopies.

1997.237.1
SUBJECT ANALYTICS

African Americans – Civil rights – Relating to  B1,F4
African Americans – Suffrage – Relating to  B1,F4
Agriculture – Relating to  B1,F3-4
Berry’s Lick – Relating to  B1,F2
Butler County – Relating to
Butler County – Religion and religious affairs – Relating to  B1,F2-3
Butler County – Teachers and teaching – Comments about  B1,F2
Courtship  B1,F2
Diaries, 1891 – Shelton, Curran Ralph, 1865-1959  B1,F3
Diaries, 1935-1938 – Shelton, John Annie (Mayhugh), 1878-1945  B1,F5-7
Essays  B1,F4
Farms and farming – Butler County  B1,F3,5-7
Floods – Mentioned, 1937  B1,F6
Givens, T. E.  B1,F2
Glasgow Normal School – Comments about  B1,F2,4
Greene County, Georgia – Comments about, 1890  B1,F2
Hoke, G. W.  B1,F2
Johnson, Sarah  B1,F2
Jones, E. T.  B1,F
Mayhugh, John Annie, 1878-1945  B1,F2
Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920 – Mentioned, 1919  B1,F2
Mexico – Comments about, 1919  B1,F2
Poetry  B1,F4
Porter, Cecil  B1,F2
Romans, J. E.  B1,F2
Shelton, Hetty Jane (McCoy)  B1,F2
Shelton, Willis H.  B1,F2
Teachers – Training  B1,F2
Teachers and teaching – Relating to  B1,F8
Tobacco use – Comments about  B1,F4
Townsville – Relating to  B1,F2
Vaughn, C. G.  B1,F2
Young Men Christian Association – Mexico – Comments about, 1919

SEE and SEE ALSO

Shelton, John Annie (Mayhugh), 1878-1945
See also:
Mayhugh, John Annie, 1878-1945

Niedermeier/Jeffrey  03/04/2015