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Duncan, Kate Northcott (Clagett), 1892-1983 (MSS 520)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 520 DUNCAN, Kate Northcott (Clagett), 1892-1983

5 boxes. 58 folders. 779 items. 1904-1984. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

1984.13.2

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Kate Clagett, the third child of John Henry Clagett (1856-1937) and Maggie (Northcott) Clagett (1864-1895), was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky on 23 February 1892. Kate's mother died of diphtheria in 1895, and in 1898 her father married Hattie Caruth (Strange) Cooke. Kate's half-sister, Marjorie Clagett, was born in 1900.

Kate studied music at the Cincinnati College of Music in 1910, then returned home and earned a teaching certificate from the Western Kentucky State Normal School (now WKU). She taught for a year, then in 1915 married Carroll Allen Duncan (1889-1968), a graduate of Bowling Green's Ogden College and the University of Kentucky's school of engineering. Carroll Duncan's work on various civil engineering projects took the couple to homes in several locations including New York State, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Maryland. After his retirement, they returned to Kittlestick, a farm and nature preserve in Warren County, Kentucky that they had purchased in 1935. They sold Kittlestick in 1954 and moved to a home on Smallhouse Road in Bowling Green. On 3 March 1968, the couple were involved in an automobile accident which hospitalized both and resulted in the death of Carroll Duncan on March 15.

Kate was a musician, a writer of stories, poems and plays, a genealogist, an active member and historian of the Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, and a member of the Browning Club, a women's literary club. After several years of ill health, she died on 28 July 1983. She and her husband are interred in Bowling Green's Fairview Cemetery.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists primarily of the personal papers, genealogical research, and Browning Club programs of Kate (Clagett) Duncan, and includes a small amount of Carroll A. Duncan's professional and business papers. An inventory is in Box 1, Folder 1. A related collection of the papers of Kate's half-sister, Marjorie Clagett (MSS 513) includes letters written jointly to the sisters and reflects their shared interest in family history as well as their travel in Great Britain.

Box 1 contains Kate's personal papers as well as her literary output relating to the history of the Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green. Included are items of her schoolwork while attending the Western Kentucky State Normal School (Folders 2, 3); a personal diary (Folder 4) of life with Carroll Duncan in western New York State in 1924; and travel journals of two trips to Great Britain in 1970 and 1972 (Folders 5, 6), which included sightseeing and exploration of Clagett family history sites with her sister Marjorie. Kate's correspondence (Folder 7) includes letters to her family and begins after her marriage and move to Binghamton, New York; also included is a letter to Kate from friend Belle Potter suggesting names for the Duncans' new home after the sale of Kittlestick Farm, letters to Kate from friends in Great Britain, and a letter of sympathy after the death of the Duncans' beloved dog "Tawny Boy." Kate's work as historian for the Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, and particularly as co-chairman of its 1969 Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee, resulted in several monographs, histories and plays, including the Sesquicentennial Celebration program, church histories, scripts for a historical pageant and other dramatizations (Folders 8, 9, 10, 13), and a manuscript copy of Kate's book, *Divided Way: The Story of the Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green* (Folders 11, 12).

Box 2 contains material relating to Kate (Clagett) Duncan and her husband Carroll A. Duncan, including letters and cards of sympathy to Kate after the automobile accident that resulted in Carroll's death (Folders 1, 2) and journals, kept by her private nurse, recording Kate's declining health and medical treatments from 1981-1983 (Folder 3). Carroll A. Duncan's correspondence (Folder 5) relates to his work as a civil engineer and includes letters of reference and commendation; also included are various professional certification, registration and identification cards (Folder 6). Legal papers of the Duncans (Folders 7, 8) relate primarily to their Warren County, Kentucky properties, especially Kittlestick Farm, and include surveys, deeds, leases, contracts of sale, and correspondence relating to a 1949-1950 farm tenancy. Oversized family items shelved separately (list in Folder 10) include sister Marjorie Clagett's diplomas and a pedigree certificate for the Duncans' dog "Tawny Boy."

Boxes 3 and 4 contain Kate (Clagett) Duncan's genealogical research files on the Clagett, Duncan and associated families, as well as her application and certificate of membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution (Box 4, Folder 4). The folders contain genealogical notes and correspondence with libraries and other repositories as well as with various individuals who provide information on the family line in question. The folders are arranged by family name, but the contents sometimes refer to related families.

Box 5 contains a list of programs Kate (Clagett) Duncan delivered to her literary club, the Browning Club (Folder 1), as well as research, notecards, and text for her programs on the topics indicated (Folders 2-21).

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Kate (Clagett) Duncan	1912-1980	87 items
Folder 1	Inventory and biographical data		4 items
Folder 2	English themes written at Western Kentucky State Normal School	1912-1914	8 items

Folder 3	Compositions; material for <i>The Elevator</i> (Western Kentucky State Normal School); Training School observation lesson; term final	1912-1914	8 items
Folder 4	Diary	1924	1 item
Folder 5	Diary and loose notes of trip to Great Britain	1970	3 items
Folder 6	Diary of trip to Great Britain	1972	1 item
Folder 7	Correspondence	1916-1980	42 items
Folder 8	Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green – History notes, Sesquicentennial Celebration program, pageant scripts	1969-1971	5 items
Folder 9	Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green – “Church in the Shadow”; “Golden Jubilee of 1973”; “The Little Acorn”	n.d.	4 items
Folder 10	Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green – Histories for 1972 and 1974	1972, 1974	2 items
Folder 11	<i>Divided Way: The Story of the Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, Kentucky</i> by Kate (Clagett) Duncan (manuscript pp. 1-93)	n.d.	1 item
Folder 12	<i>Divided Way: The Story of the Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, Kentucky</i> by Kate (Clagett) Duncan (manuscript pp. 94-173)	n.d.	1 item
Folder 13	Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green – “The Broadening Way” script and program	1969	7 items
BOX 2	Kate (Clagett) Duncan; Carroll A. Duncan	1917-1983	249 items
Folder 1	Letters to Kate Duncan on death of Carroll Duncan	1968	57 items
Folder 2	Get well and sympathy cards to Kate Duncan following auto accident and death of Carroll Duncan	1968	41 items
Folder 3	Health journals kept by Kate Duncan’s nurse	1981-1983	5 items

Folder 4	Negatives (unidentified)	n.d.	8 items
Folder 5	Carroll A. Duncan – Professional correspondence	1917-1942	49 items
Folder 6	Carroll A. Duncan – Miscellaneous identification, membership, professional certification cards	1917-1967	13 items
Folder 7	Kate Duncan and Carroll A. Duncan – Deeds and related papers – Kittlestick Farm	1928-1960	27 items
Folder 8	Carroll A. Duncan – Correspondence with tenant of Kittlestick Farm	1949-1950	42 items
Folder 9	Carroll A. Duncan – Funeral register	1968	1 item
Folder 10	Oversized items list	1914-1991	6 items
BOX 3	Kate (Clagett) Duncan – Genealogical Research and Correspondence	1904-1984, n.d.	257 items
Folder 1	Clagett family	1937-1984	34 items
Folder 2	Duncan and Briggs families	1939-1952	29 items
Folder 3	Gay family	n.d.	8 items
Folder 4	Harrell and Compton families	1940-1943	40 items
Folder 5	Lewis family	1912-1958	34 items
Folder 6	Nelms and Lewis families	1941, n.d.	13 items
Folder 7	Northcott family	1915-1965	54 items
Folder 8	Odell family	1904-1955	24 items
Folder 9	Odell family	n.d.	21 items
BOX 4	Kate (Clagett) Duncan – Genealogical Research and Correspondence	1934-1977	136 items
Folder 1	Rector and Glasscock families	1939-1955	50 items
Folder 2	Ringo family	1934-1956	40 items

Folder 3	Sprigg and Prather families	1966, n.d.	9 items
Folder 4	Kate Duncan – Daughters of the American Revolution application and certificate	1937-1938	10 items
Folder 5	Genealogy – miscellaneous correspondence, notes, historical postcards	1937-1977	27 items
BOX 5	Kate (Clagett) Duncan – Browning Club	1936-1979	50 items
Folder 1	List of Kate Duncan’s Browning Club programs	1952-1979	2 items
Folder 2	Browning Club program – Henry Adams	1953	2 items
Folder 3	Browning Club program – Don Quixote	1954-1955	1 item
Folder 4	Browning Club program – Italy’s Golden Hour	1955-1956	1 item
Folder 5	Browning Club program – Sir Philip Sidney	1958-1959	2 items
Folder 6	Browning Club program – 19 th -century Historians	1961	1 item
Folder 7	Browning Club program – John James Audubon on passenger pigeons	1961-1962	1 item
Folder 8	Browning Club program – Charles de Gaulle	1964	1 item
Folder 9	Browning Club program – Ben Jonson	1964-1965	1 item
Folder 10	Browning Club program – The Heroic Age of Greece	1965-1966	1 item
Folder 11	Browning Club program – Eleanor Dark	1966-1967	2 items
Folder 12	Browning Club program – Russian folklore	1969-1970	1 item
Folder 13	Browning Club program – Maxwell Anderson	1971-1972	1 item
Folder 14	Browning Club program – Captain Cook	1975	12 items
Folder 15	Browning Club program – Joseph Conrad	1976	2 items
Folder 16	Browning Club program – 18 th -century Education in the Colonies	1976-1977	2 items

Folder 17	Browning Club program – Alfred Tennyson	1977-1978	3 items
Folder 18	Browning Club program – Charles Dickens' shows	1978-1979	1 item
Folder 19	Browning Club program – Thomas Hardy	n.d.	2 items
Folder 20	Browning Club program – South American Civilizations	n.d.	4 items
Folder 21	Browning Club program – Notecards on Columbus	n.d.	2 items
Folder 22	Research material – Kentucky folkways	1936-1962	5 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS 520 DUNCAN, Kate Northcott (Clagett), 1904-1984
1892-1983

Correspondence, diaries, genealogical research, and Browning Club programs of Bowling Green, Kentucky native Kate (Clagett) Duncan. Includes her writings on the history of Bowling Green's Presbyterian Church and some correspondence and papers of her husband, Carroll Allen Duncan.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Adams, Henry Brooks, 1838-1918 – Relating to B5,F2
Anderson, James Maxwell, 1888-1959 – Relating to B5,F13
Audubon, John James, 1785-1851 – Relating to B5,F7
Authors – Bowling Green
Bowen, Nell Dickey, 1888-1974 B2,F1
Briggs family – Relating to B3,F2
Capito, Georgeanna – Relating to B2,F10
Carson, Anna Lou "Loulie" (Northcott), 1861-1933 – Relating to B3,F7
Certificates – Bowling Green Public Schools, 1914 B2,F10
Certificates – Daughters of the American Revolution B4,F4
Certificates – Divorce, 1917 B3,F7
Clagett, Brice McAdoo, 1933-2008 B3,F1; B4,F5
Clagett family – Relating to B1,F5,6; B2,F10; B3,F1; B4,F5

Clagett, Hattie Caruth (Strange) Cooke, 1872-1963 – Letters to B1,F7
 Clagett, Hubert L., 1882-1976 B2,F1
 Clagett, John Henry, 1856-1937 – Letters to B1,F7
 Clagett, Marjorie Elizabeth, 1900-2000 – Correspondence B1,F7; B2,F1; B3,F1
 Clagett, Marjorie Elizabeth, 1900-2000 – Relating to B2,F10
 Clagett, William Argo, 1885-1978 – Relating to B2,F7
 Claggett, William, 1696-1749 – Relating to B3,F1
 Clubs – Bowling Green – Browning Club – Relating to B5,F1-21
 Colleges and universities – History B5,F16
 Columbus, Christopher, 1451-1506 – Relating to B5,F21
 Compton family – Relating to B3,F4; B4,F5
 Conrad, Joseph, 1857-1924 – Relating to B5,F15
 Consolation, 1968 B2,F1,2
 Cook, James, 1728-1779 – Relating to B5,F14
 Dark, Eleanor, 1901-1985 – Relating to B5,F11
 Daughters of the American Revolution – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Chapter – Relating to B4,F4
 Day family – Relating to B3,F1
 Deeds – Warren County, 1935-1954 B2,F7
 de Gaulle, Charles, 1890-1970 – Relating to B5,F8
 Diaries, 1924, 1970, 1972 – Duncan, Kate (Clagett), 1892-1983 B1,F4-6
 Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870 – Relating to B5,F18
 Diplomas – Indiana University, 1923, 1926 B2,F10
 Dogs – Relating to B1,F7; B2,F10
 Don Quixote (Fictitious character) – Relating to B3,F3
 Drake, Louise (Carson), 1894-1979 B2,F1
 Drama – Bowling Green B1,F8,9,13
 Drivers' licenses – Kentucky, 1967 B2,F6
 Duncan, Carroll Allen, 1889-1968 – Correspondence B1,F7; B2,F5,7,8
 Duncan, Carroll Allen, 1889-1968 – Relating to B1,F7; B2,F1,2
 Duncan family – Relating to B3,F2; B4,F5
 Engineering – Relating to B2,F5,6
 Farms and farming – Warren County – Kittlestick, 1935-1950 B2,F7,8
 Forrester family – Relating to B3,F5,6; B4,F1
 Funeral homes – Bowling Green – Gerard-Bradley – Relating to B2,F9
 Gaither family – Relating to B4,F5
 Gay family – Relating to B3,F3; B4,F5
 Glasscock family – Relating to B4,F1
 Great Britain – Travel and description, 1970, 1972 B1,F5,6
 Hardcastle, Mildred (Tucker), 1894-1994 B2,F1
 Hardy, Thomas, 1840-1928 – Relating to B5,F19
 Harrell family – Relating to B3,F4; B4,F5
 Hays family – Relating to B3,F1
 Helm, Margie May, 1894-1991 B2,F1
 Historic houses – Maryland – Weston – Relating to B3,F1
 Historical drama B1,F8,9,13
 Hogben, Peggy E. (Carpenter), 1915-1996 B1,F7

Incas – Relating to B5,F20
 Jonson, Ben, 1572-1637 – Relating to B5,F9
 Leases – Warren County, 1942, 1949 B2,F7,8
 Letterheads – Luray Caverns – Luray, Virginia B3,F7
 Letterheads – Mansard Hotel – Bowling Green B3,F2
 Lewis family – Relating to B3,F5,6; B4,F5
 Licenses – Hunting and fishing, 1917 B2,F6
 MacDougall, Hope, d. 1998 B1,F7
 Nelms family – Relating to B3,F6
 Northcott family – Relating to B3,F7; B4,F5
 Northcott, Hannah Amanda (Lewis), 1826-1917 B3,F5
 Northcott, Henry Clay, 1822-1918 B3,F7
 Northcott, Theodore Clay, 1844-1941 B3,F7
 Odell family – Relating to B3,F8,9
 Owens, Bess Alice B5,F22
 Potter, Belle, 1892-1958 B1,F7
 Potter, Reed, 1888-1975 B2,F1
 Prather family – Relating to B4,F3
 Presbyterian Church – Bowling Green – Relating to B1,F8-13
 Presley family – Relating to B3,F6; B4,F5
 Quaintance family – Relating to B4,F1
 Rector family – Relating to B4,F1,5
 Richards, Frances, 1893-1991 B2,F1
 Ringo family – Relating to B4,F2,5
 Russia – Folklore – Relating to B5,F12
 Selective Service, 1942 – Relating to B2,F6
 Sewell, Olive B1,F7
 Sidney, Philip, 1554-1586 – Relating to B5,F5
 Spicer, Doris M. B1,F7
 Sprigg family – Relating to B4,F3
 Surveys and surveying – Warren County, 1928-1936 B2,F7
 Sympathy cards, 1968 B2,F2
 Tennyson, Alfred Tennyson, Baron, 1809-1892 – Relating to B5,F17
 Travelsted, Louise, 1897-1985 B1,F7; B2,F1
 Western Kentucky State Normal School – Students, 1912-1914 – Relating to B1,F2,3
 Wills – Fleming County, 1819, 1856 B3,F5
 Wills – Nelson County, 1802, 1820 B3,F4,5
 Wills – Virginia, 1763, 1772 B3,F6; B4,F1
 Wilson, Alexander Gordon, 1888-1970 B5,F22
 Wilson, Emma Meador (Allbritten), 1891-1977 – Relating to B2,F7
 Wilson, Ivan, 1889-1981 – Relating to B2,F7

SEE or SEE ALSO

Claggett family

See also:

Claggett family

O'Dell family

See:

Odell family

Presly family

See:

Presley family

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 11/24/2014