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TOWNLEY, LOUISE DICKSON
(1892-1994)
GENEALOGICAL COLLECTION

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Wayne C. Moore
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INTRODUCTION

The Louise Dickson Townley Genealogical Collection was compiled by Mrs. Townley (May 26, 1892-October 21, 1994) during six decades of genealogical research. The papers consist largely of compiled and transcribed records pertaining to Mrs. Townley's ancestors, many of whom were prominent early residents of Montgomery County, Tennessee. The Dickson, McCauley, Moore, Batson, Tisdale, Williams, and Corban families figure prominently in the collection.

Born May 26, 1892, Louise Dickson was the second-youngest of 14 children born to Martha Euphrasia Batson Dickson and John McCauley Dickson, a Confederate veteran of the Civil War. Following her graduation from Clarksville High School in 1912, she worked as a sales clerk at one of the town's drug stores. It was there that Miss Dickson met J. Earl Townley, whom she married in 1925. They lived with his family in a house on Union Street until his death in 1952. In addition to her genealogical research, Mrs. Townley stayed active in the affairs of the Madison Street United Church and various community organizations. She died on October 21, 1994, at the age of 102. The material was donated by Bristol and Richard Gannaway, the latter of whom was the executor of Mrs. Townley's estate.

This collection measures approximately 3 cubic feet and contains around a thousand items. There are no restrictions on this collection. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Louise Dickson Townley Genealogical Collection may be made for the purpose of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Louise Dickson Townley Genealogical Collection represents the accumulated research, notes, and transcribed records of Montgomery County genealogist Louise Dickson Townley (1892-1994). The collection consists of correspondence, clippings, county records, notes, photographs and scrapbooks compiled by Mrs. Townley during a long lifetime of genealogical work.

Mrs. Townley, who resided in Clarksville and lived to the age of 102, had a lifelong interest in genealogy and history, especially as it concerned her Montgomery County forebears. For an amateur genealogist, her work shows a careful attention to detail and a scrupulous insistence that family history be verified by the documentary record. As early as the 1930s, Mrs. Townley spent considerable time in the Montgomery County courthouse transcribing by hand early land and court records that pertained to her ancestors.

Most of Mrs. Townley's ancestors came from that section of Montgomery County below Clarksville known as "Southside," referring to that area south of the Cumberland River. This area of rolling hills and bottomland, along Little Bartons, Big Bartons, Indian, and Yellow Creeks, was settled early in the 19th century by families from Virginia and North Carolina. It is with these "Southside" families – Dickson, Batson, McCauley, Moore, Swift, Corban, Neblett, Orgain, Mills, Tisdale, Trotter, Williams, Wyatt, and others – that the Townley papers are concerned. Many of these families later migrated into Humphreys County and other parts of middle Tennessee.

The bulk of the collection consists of compiled family histories and genealogical notes, along with a large number of transcribed or abstracted deeds, wills, marriages, and court records, most of them from Montgomery County, Tennessee. This material has been arranged as "Genealogical data" under the relevant family names(s). Mrs. Townley was an active compiler of local cemetery records, and there are a number of transcribed tombstone inscriptions as well as census records. There are, in addition, several original documents, letters from kinsmen regarding genealogical subjects, and newspaper clippings.

Of particular interest are two large scrapbooks which Mrs. Townley put together. One contains a number of original early photographs of members of the Dickson, Batson, McCauley, Mills, and other families; Southside school class pictures; and photographs of a few early Montgomery County homes. The other contains mostly newspaper clippings of obituaries, weddings, awards for Mrs. Townley, and items of local history.

The Louise Dickson Townley Collection offers significant genealogical data and documentation for a number of prominent Southside Montgomery County families, as well as records, writings, and photographs relating to the history of that area.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Bill of Sale – McCauley slaves
2. Biographical and historical data – transcribed from *Goodspeed's History of Tennessee*
3. Biographical data – Martha Euphrasia Batson Dickson
4. Cemetery records – Montgomery County, Tennessee
5. Census records (Tennessee) – McCauley, Dickson, Tisdale families
6. Census records (Virginia, North Carolina) – Dickson and McCauley families
7. Census records – 1820 Bedford and Montgomery Counties, Tennessee
8. Church bulletins and history
9. Clippings – Heraldry, etc.
10. Correspondence
11. Court records – Montgomery County, Tennessee
12. Genealogical data – Batson Family I
13. Genealogical data – Batson Family II
14. Genealogical data – Batson Family III
15. Genealogical data – Batson Family IV
16. Genealogical data – Batson, Allen, Blackford families

Box 2

1. Genealogical data – Stephen Carney Batson
2. Genealogical data – Family History of Smith Alexander Batson, *et. ux.*
3. Genealogical charts – Batson, Mills, Blackford families
4. Genealogical data – Blackford and McCurdy families
5. Genealogical data – Corban family
6. Genealogical data – Cowan family
7. Genealogical data – Dickson family I
8. Genealogical data – Dickson family II
9. Genealogical data – Dickson family III
10. Genealogical data – John McCauley Dickson family
11. Genealogical data – Index to Dickson, Batson, McCauley, Moore, Tisdale and Williams files
12. Genealogical data – Dickson, Batson, Gannaway families

Box 3

1. Genealogical data – McCauley family I
2. Genealogical data – McCauley family II
3. Genealogical data – McCauley family III
4. Genealogical data – McCauley family IV
5. Genealogical data – McCauley, Swift, Orgain, Corban, Dickson families

6. Genealogical data – Mills family
7. Genealogical data – Moore family I
8. Genealogical data – Moore, Dickson, Tisdale, Williams families
9. Genealogical data – Moore, Swift, Crockett families
10. Genealogical data – Neblett family
11. Genealogical data – Orgain family
12. Genealogical data – Tisdale and Williams families
13. Genealogical data – Trotter family
14. Genealogical data – Williams and Wyatt families
15. Genealogical data – Wyatt family

Box 4

1. Historical data – Montgomery County, Tennessee
2. Marriage and cemetery records – Montgomery County, Tennessee
3. Marriage records – Montgomery County, Tennessee
4. Muster roll (transcribed) – War of 1812, Cap. Joseph Williams, 1814-1815
5. Obituaries – Montgomery County, Tennessee
6. Photographs – Grafton Dickson, Sarah Dickson Martin
7. Photographs – Angelina McCauley Patrick, James Henderson Patrick
8. Scrapbook I (copies of original)
9. Scrapbooks II (copies of original)
10. Will – John McAlister (1826)
11. Writings – “Joseph Dickson and His Descendants”
12. Writings – “My Fourth Great Grandfathers of Montgomery County, Tennessee

Box 5

1. Scrapbook I (original) – Photographs, clippings, memorabilia

Box 6

1. Scrapbook II (original) – Photographs, clippings, memorabilia