

RIDENOUR COLLECTION
C. George Ridenour Manuscript Collection
APP. MSS #5
FINDING AID

INTRODUCTION: These documents belonged to Dr. George Lawrence Ridenour (class of 1914 B.A., 1915 M.A.) and are primarily related to Meade County, Kentucky.

Over the years his daughter Crea Ridenour has made several generous donations to the college and archives. This was included at some point but there is no accession information. [Agnes Whipple Ridenour was Dean of Women at C-N from 1920-21 and 1922-23 and married George Ridenour (class of 1914) after his first wife (Sara Ella Miller) died. Crea Ridenour (class of 1941) was George and Sara's daughter. George's third wife was Mary Heatherly Ridenour. See Bio VF for more information].

Dr. Ridenour was born and raised in Tennessee. He was licensed to preach and later ordained, holding pastorates in Tennessee and Kentucky. He graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky earning the degrees of Th.M. in 1923, Th.D. in 1927, and Ph.D. in 1932. His theses focused on social conditions in Kentucky's coal mining regions and the history of the Salem Association of Baptists.

In 1932 he returned to Tennessee and spent the next thirty years in Baptist work. In 1950 he earned a M.A. in education from the University of Tennessee. Interested in the history of pioneer days in Kentucky and Tennessee, his published works include *Early Times in Meade County, Kentucky*, *The Land of the Lake*, and *A Baptist Primer*.

He passed away December 12, 1974.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3 Boxes / 32 folders / 216 documents

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1782-1932

HISTORICAL / BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: "Meade County, the 76th county in Kentucky, was established by Legislative action December 17, 1823 from both Hardin and Breckinridge counties and was named in honor of Captain James M. Meade. It is bounded north and northeast for a great length by the Ohio River, east by Hardin, south by Hardin and Breckinridge County.

Early settlers arrived in the Wolf Creek Area around 1785, but the first permanent settlements were Hill Grove, Stith's Valley, Doe Run Creek and Otter Creek in 1792. There was an abundance of game for food but the Indians were a problem making it necessary to build solid stockades. Land was cleared and planted. Grinding mills were built on Doe Run and Otter Creeks using the fast flowing creeks as power for the mills. The first mill (*Lincoln's father was the stonemason*) on Doe Run Creek is now an Inn featuring Kentucky foods. Small distilleries dotted the county as apple and peach orchards thrived in the area. Meade County's apple brandy was reputed to be the best in the world.

Meade County is well-watered with streams such as Otter, Doe, Wolf, and Spring Creeks. Topographically, Meade County is made up of "barrens" as well as gently rolling river bottoms. The soil is clay with an abundance of limestone and fertile nature. Tobacco and corn have been leading crops throughout the years,

as well as the raising of livestock, grains, etc. in the farmers livelihood.

Brandenburg, is the county seat, situated along the Ohio River, 40 miles below Louisville. It was named for Colonel Solomon Brandenburg and became incorporated in 1825. Circa 1870, the population stood at 427.”

From: <http://www.visitmeadecounty.org/history.shtml>

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the Meade County Fiscal Court & Meade County Tourism
- Meade County, Kentucky -

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTES: The majority of these records are from Kentucky, and Meade County in particular. Included are five land Virginia land grants signed by Governor Patrick Henry and one by Governor Henry Lee. Also included are voter names for the presidential / vice presidential race for Meade County from November, 1833. There are also a plans for New Philadelphia, KY and Ohioiomisigo (sp?).

These documents were in letter sized envelopes of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company of Fort Wayne, IN with “Meade County Historical Society, Brandenburg, Kentucky” typed on them. Each folder contains the contents of these envelopes.

Surnames mentioned include: Abell, Addison, Alexander, Atwell, Atwill, Barger, Bate, Bates, Beaty, Berry, Bleight, Boon, Boone, Brown, Browne, Byran, Calhoun, Calvin, Campbell, Carneal, Chambers, Crutcher, Deane, Delafiedld, Ditto, Dowdell, Durbin, Elkin, Fairleigh, Finley, Foster, Goatley, Grable, Hagan, Hardaway, Harrison, Hayden, Haines, Haynes, Hays, Helm, Henderson, Herndon, Holderman, Holme, Holston, Hornet Steam Boat Co., Imlay, Jeffries, Johnson, Johnston, Kelley, Kendall, Kennady, Kenny, King, Lamon, Lee, Lewis, Love, Massey, May, McCarty, McClanahan, McCrackin, McFall, McGehee, Morgan, Murray, Overton, Page, Pell, Peyton, Rankin, Rentfro, Richardson, Riney, Rogers, Sebastian, Shacklet, Stevenson, Stewart, Stith, Tallbott, Thomas, Vanmetre, Washington, Waterman, Watts, Wayne, Wells, White, Wigg, Wilkins, Wilson, Wintersmith

Places mentioned include: Bardstown, Brandenburg, Brandenburg Seminary, Breckinridge County, Centennial, Cloversport and Tobinsport Ferry, Hopewell Baptist Church, IN, Conway County, AK, Crawford County, IN, Elizabethtown, Greencastle, IN, Johnson Mills, Louisiana, Memphis, TN, New Philadelphia, KY, Ohioiomisigo (sp?), Paducah, Pitts Point Academy, Rockingham County, NC, Three Lakes, WI, Virginia, West Point (Hardin County, KY)

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

- Advertisements
- Court Records
- Correspondence
- Deeds
- Financial Records
- Indentures
- Legal Records

Maps
Photographs
Plats
Wills

CONTAINER LISTS:

BOX 1

Scrapbook: Historical clippings from Kentucky newspapers (1920's, 1930)

BOX 2

Philip Johnson Virginia land deed – signed by Patrick Henry (Dec 3, 1785)

George Pickett Virginia land deed – signed by Patrick Henry (Dec 3, 1785)

George Imlay Virginia land deed – signed by Patrick Henry (Dec 9, 1785)

Benjamin Harrison Virginia land deed – signed by Patrick Henry (July 14, 1786)

Samuel Wells Virginia land deed – signed by Patrick Henry (Sept 20, 1786)

Samuel Well Virginia land deed – signed by Henry Lee (April 25, 1792)

BOX 3

Folder 1 1798-1845 16 documents

Folder 2 1819-1851 11 documents

Folder 3 1820's-1830's 1 document

Folder 4 1808-1840 5 documents

Folder 5 1818-1868 11 documents

Folder 6 1783-1860 5 documents

Folder 7 u.d. 1 document

Folder 8 1804-1931 4 documents

Folder 9 1782-1832 9 documents 1/2

Folder 10 1842-1882, u.d. 5 documents 2/2

Folder 11 1832-1842 9 documents

Folder 12 1816-1854 7 documents

Folder 13 1824-1826 10 documents 1/2

Folder 14 1829-1842 10 documents 2/2

BOX 4

Folder 1 1786 1 document

Folder 2 1830 3 documents

Folder 3 1795-1932 3 documents

Folder 4 1814-1831 3 documents

Folder 5 1816-1931 7 documents

Folder 6 1821-1840 4 documents

Folder 7 1813-1868 6 documents 1/3

Folder 8 1813-1868 9 documents 2/3

Folder 9 1813-1868 3 documents 3/3

Folder 10 1833-1834 2 documents

Folder 11 1824-1868 4 documents

BOX 5

Folder 1 1813-1850 7 documents

Folder 2 1825-1844 7 documents 1/2

Folder 3 1832-1872 11 documents 2/2

Folder 4 1820 3 documents

Folder 5 1826-1832 11 documents

Folder 6 1810-1837 10 documents 1/2

Folder 7 1810-1837 14 documents 2/2

BOX 6

Panoramic photo of unidentified group

*Panoramic photo of 64th session of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY (Mar 9, 1923) on display in Baptist Archives