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## **Florence Holmes Ryan family collection**

**Title:** Florence Holmes Ryan family collection

**Collection No:** MSS.509

**Extent:** 0.5 cubic feet

**Inclusive Dates:** 1855-1969

**Abstract:** The collection comprises material documenting the lives of members of the Florence Holmes Ryan family, including programs, publications, clippings, and a photograph.

**Processed by:** Gerald Chaudron, June 2017.

**Access:** Open to all researchers.

**Language:** English

**Preferred Citation:** Florence Holmes Ryan family collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

**Publication date:** June 2017

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## Biographical information

Compiled by Beverly Crawford.

The donor of the collection, Florence Eloise Holmes Ryan (1913-2005), was the daughter of Augusta Winfield Malone (1874-1967) and John Gardner Holmes (1875-1955). Florence was born and raised in Trezevant, Carroll County, Tennessee, where her father practiced dentistry. She attended Tennessee College in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and was a high school teacher and librarian in Haywood County in the late 1930s and early 1940s. She worked for the Proctor and Gamble Defense Corporation plant in Milan, Tennessee, during the war. Florence married John Erle Ryan (1913-2008) in 1947 in Williamson County, Tennessee. John Ryan was raised and worked in the Trezevant area until he moved to Memphis in 1940 to begin working in the insurance industry. John and Florence had two children: Gay Ryan Bradshaw and John Holmes Ryan. Florence was a member of the Poetry Society of Tennessee. She won an award for one of her poems from the Jackson Writers Group.

Augusta "Gussie" Winfield Malone was born on September 26, 1874, in Hickory Plain, Arkansas, one of six children of Benjamin Hicks Malone (born 1833) and Nannie Leonora Stephens (1842-1891). Her siblings included: Rebecca Elsie (born 1859 in Savannah, Tenn.; married Levi McCollum in 1885), Harry Stephens (born 1863), Juliette Irwin (born 1865), Robert N. (born 1868), Nannie Leonora (born 1870), and Benjamin Hicks (born 1872). She was living in Waverly, Humphreys County, Tennessee, by 1880. In 1893 she was a student at Potter College for Young Ladies in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and her home is listed as Bald Knob, Arkansas, but she also is recorded as attending Waverly College that year, where her sister Elsie and brother Harry taught, and graduated from Waverly in 1894. In 1896 she was teaching elocution at Arkansas College, Batesville, Arkansas, and later at Marion Female Seminary in Marion, Alabama. According to an article written by Florence Holmes Ryan for the book *The History of Carroll County, Tennessee*, Augusta was a speech teacher in Carroll County when she met her future husband John Gardner Holmes who was serving as a substitute teacher. They married in 1901. Subsequently, John attended Vanderbilt University and Augusta taught at St. Cecilia Academy in Nashville. According to Florence, Augusta had also taught at Edward McGehee College in Woodville, Mississippi, and McFerrin College in Martin, Tennessee. After John obtained his dentistry degree from Vanderbilt in 1906, the couple returned to Trezevant where Augusta taught at Trezevant High School. After John's death in 1955, Augusta went to live with John and Florence Ryan in Memphis where she died in 1967.

Augusta's father, Benjamin Hicks Malone was born in Athens, Alabama, in 1833. He received an A.M. degree from Florence Wesleyan University in Florence, Alabama in 1859. Benjamin was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church South as well as an educator. By 1860 he was living in Purdy, McNairy County, Tennessee, and was a professor of ancient languages at Purdy College. In 1867 he was the president of the Pebble Hill Academy attached to the Savannah Station Quarterly Conference. By 1868, he was the president of Hanner Highland College near McMinnville, Tennessee. In 1873 he was transferred to the Little Rock Conference of the M.E. Church South. In the mid-1870s he was the principal of a school in Old Lewisburg near

Morrilton, Arkansas. By 1880 he was living in Waverly, Humphreys County, Tennessee, and may have taught at Waverly College. By the mid-1880s he was the president of Ashland Institute in Ashland City, Tennessee, and then became the first president of Bolton College in Arlington, Shelby County, Tennessee, around 1889. At some point the family moved back to Arkansas where his wife Nannie died in Clarendon in 1891. In 1910, Benjamin is recorded in Webster County, Mississippi, as a 76-year-old teacher in a public school.

Source:

Clark, Edward Stephens, *American Genealogical Record, Vol. 1: The Stephens family with Collateral Branches*, San Francisco: Joseph Winterburn Company, 1892.

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## Scope and contents

The collection comprises material documenting the lives of members of the Florence Holmes Ryan family, including programs, publications, clippings, and a photograph. The collection is arranged by family member but the majority of the material concerns Augusta Malone Holmes.

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## Subject terms

Elocutionists--United States.  
Holmes, Augusta W., 1874-1967.  
Holmes, John G., 1875-1955.  
Malone, Benjamin H.  
Ryan, Florence E., 1913-2005.

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## Inventory

### Box 1

Folder

- Benjamin H. Malone:
- 1           *Southern College Magazine*, Florence, Ala.:  
                    Vol. 1, No. 2, 1856 June. Includes poem by Malone on page 52.  
                    Vol. 1, No. 9, 1857 March.
  - 2           Florence Wesleyan University, Florence Ala.:  
                    Commencement program, 1856 July 9.  
                    Annual Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1856-1857.
  - 3           Bolton College, Shelby County, Tennessee:

Page from a catalog describing Wade H. Bolton, the founder of Bolton College, and an illustration of the college with a note written by Augusta Malone about her father, undated.

Augusta Malone Holmes:

- 4 Potter College for Young Ladies, Bowling Green, Ky.:  
Advertising card, undated.
- 4a Quadrennial announcement, 1893.
- 5 Waverly College, Waverly, Tenn.:  
Program: Recital, 1893 December 20.  
Commencement invitation, 1894 June 7.
- 6 Arkansas College, Batesville, Ark.:  
Program: Elocution class recital, 1896 February 27.  
Clipping: Saturday Bee, Little Rock, Ark., 1896 circa March 7. Refers to Elocution class recital.  
Photograph: Students, undated. Names noted include: June Glenn, Effie Glenn, Nora Glenn, Mrs. Glenn, Ray Adler, Oldfield, Augusta Malone.
- 7 Batesville, Ark.: Invitation to "Hop" at City Hall given by the young gentlemen of Batesville in honor of Miss Hennie G. Hopkins, 1896 February 7.
- 8 Edward McGehee College, Woodville, Miss.:  
Program: Teachers' Recital, 189? September 22.  
Program: Recital, 1899 April 14.  
Clipping: paper unknown, undated.  
Catalogue of 38<sup>th</sup> annual session, 1899-1900.  
Invitation: Fancy dress ball en masque, Masonic Hall, 1898 January 12.
- 9 Edward McGehee College, Woodville, Miss.: "The L.L.L. Star", Vol. 1, No.1-6, 1899; Vol. 2, No. 2, 3. School paper published by students in the Longfellow Literary League of McGehee College under direction of Augusta Malone.
- 10 Marion Female Seminary, Marion, Ala.:  
Program: Faculty recital, 1901 October 25.  
Mounted image of seminary building from unknown publication, 1900.
- 11 *Werner's Magazine*, Vol 25, No. 4, 1900 June. Contains article "Expression in the South", pp.325-367, in which Augusta Malone made notations.
- 12 John G. Holmes: Vanderbilt University, 1906. Includes invitation and program for commencement and banquet of Department of Dentistry; clipping listing graduates. Also includes notebook published by American Cast Iron Pipe Company, Birmingham, Ala.
- OS1** Florence Malone Ryan: "Wolf Creek Banner", Vol. 2, No. 3, 1943 June 25.
- 13 Florence Malone Ryan: Includes Poetry Society of Tennessee newsletters, 1956, 1960; "The Pen Wheel", 1958-1960, 1960-1962; *Poet: An International Monthly*, guest edited by Kenneth Beaudoin, 1972 September, which includes poem by Florence Ryan, pp.290-291.
- 14 Elsie Malone McCollum: Commencement program and invitation, 1912, E.M. McCollum

- School of Expression, McCaulley, Tex., 1912 May 28.
- 15 Walter Malone (1866-1915): Clippings, 1916-1954 and undated. Re: life and work of the Memphis poet and judge.
- Miscellany:
- 16 Program: Vocal and instrumental concerts, Florence Synodical Female College, Florence, Ala., 1855 December 21-22.
- 17 Woodville, Miss.: Clippings and pamphlet, 1923-1965 and undated.
- 18 Nashville, Tenn.: Pamphlets for Travelers' Rest and Belle Meade.
- 19 Evangeline, La.: Clipping, *Commercial Appeal*, 1929 May 19.
- 20 Flyer: Cornelia Otis Skinner, "Modern Character Sketches", Memphis State University, 1963 February 14.
- 21 *The Window: A Missions Magazine for Young Women*, Vol. 40, No. 5, 1969 January.
- 22 Trezevant, Tennessee:
- Trezevant High School:
- Program: "The Zander-Gump Wedding", 192? February 25.
- Program: Certificate recital, 1927 April 18.
- Program: *Les Miserables*, Public School Chapel. (2)
- Clipping: Unknown paper, undated. Re: recital of *Les Miserables*, August 10.
- Program: Trezevant Woman's Christian Temperance Union, 1908-1909. Augusta Malone Holmes, president.
- Postcard: Jeff J. Blanks Company department store.
- Scrapbook: Small book of clippings about Trezevant and its people, 1926.
- Clippings:
- Watkins, Kenny, "Trezevant", *Carroll County Democrat*, 1954 February 22?
- Hinton, Mrs. James, "Trezevant was Named after Rail Engineer", *Jackson Sun*, 1958 June 29.
- OS1** Hillsman, Mrs. B.H., and Blanks, Mrs. Jeff J., "History of Trezevant Schools", *Carroll County Democrat*, 1957 April 5.
- 23 Proctor and Gamble Defense Corporation plant, Milan, Tenn.:
- "Vital for Victory, Proctor & Gamble, On Three Fronts", 1943.
- Proctor & Gamble Defense Corporation, "General Information Manual for Employees".
- "Presentation of the Army-Navy Production Award to The Proctor & Gamble Defense Corporation Wolf Creek Ordnance Plant, Milan, Tennessee, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1942." Also program.
- U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Impact of the War on Gibson County, Tennessee: Location of the Wolf Creek Ordnance Plant", Industrial Area Study No. 7, 1943 July, pp.1-3 (copy).
- Proctor & Gamble Defense Corporation, "Wolf Creek", 1942. (copy)
- "Saga of Wolf Creek", circa 1945 (copy). History and timeline.

OS1 Williamson, Harry, "They Put the TNT Touch to Missiles Adolf Doesn't Like", *Commercial Appeal*, Memphis, Tenn., 1943 September 12, Section 4, p. 1.

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## Separated materials

The following material was separated from the collection and disposed of as follows:

- Clarke, Rebecca Sophia, *Little Prudy's Dotty Dimple*, Chicago: Saalfield.
- Cranfill, J. B. *Courage and comfort: or, Sunday morning thoughts*, Nashville: The Southwestern Company, 1902.
- Gordon, Anna A., *Popular campaign songs*, Evanston, Ill.: National W.C.T.U. Publishing House.
- Grimshaw, William, *History of the United States, from their first settlement as colonies, to the peace with Mexico, in 1848. Comprising every important political event ...*, Philadelphia, Lippincott, Grambo & Co., 1853.
- Langley, Adria Locke, *A lion is in the streets*, Garden City, N.Y.: The Sun Dial Press, [c.1945].
- Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway Company, *"Southern battlefields": a list of battlefields on and near the lines of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway and Western & Atlantic Railway, and a brief description of the more important battles fought along these lines, also information about Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga Park and the famous engine "General"*. (MVP 1363)
- Oliver, N. T., *Lee's priceless recipes; the standard collection of famous formulas and simple methods for farmers, dairymen, housekeepers ... and all people in every department of human endeavor*, Chicago, Laird & Lee, 1931.
- Pickett, L. L., Geo. E. Kersey and O. B. Culpepper. *Gems*, Louisville: Pickett Publishing Co., [c.1900?]
- Rice, Thomas A. *Practical single and double entry book-keeping: commercial calculations, business correspondence and detection of counterfeit money*, St. Louis: Published by author, c.1889.
- Summers, Thomas O., *Scripture catechism*, Vol. 1, Nashville, Tenn.: Southern Methodist Pub. House, 1870.
- Tennessee blue book, 1937-1938*, Nashville: Secretary of State.
- University of Tennessee Record*, Vol. 33, No. 4, July 1930. (MVP 1575)
- Wood-Allen, Mary, *What a young woman ought to know*, Philadelphia: The Vir Publishing Company; [1905]
- Separated to Special Collections book collection.
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- Map of Carroll County, Tenn., Nashville, Tenn.: E. Falkner; Marshall & Bruce Co., Stationers, 1900. (TENN 69)
- Separated to Special Collections map collection.