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2021

### **MSS0196. Dyess Colony, Arkansas, collection finding aid**

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Special Collections Department**

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## **Dyess Colony, Arkansas, collection**

**Title:** Dyess, Colony Arkansas, collection  
**Collection No:** MSS.0196  
**Extent:** 1.25 cubic feet  
**Inclusive Dates:** circa 1936-1974

**Abstract:** The collection contains photographs featuring the people and activities of Dyess colony and receipt books from the Dyess Cooperative Gin Association.

**Processed by:** Grace Neeley, 2022.  
**Access:** Open to all researchers.  
**Language:** English  
**Preferred Citation:** Dyess Colony, Arkansas, collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis

**Publication date:** 2022 April

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## **Institutional History**

Dyess is a town in Mississippi County, Arkansas town was founded as Dyess Colony in 1934 as part of the New Deal efforts of Franklin D. Roosevelt administration's agricultural relief and rehabilitation program and was the largest agrarian community established by the federal government during the Great Depression.

The project was established by Mississippi County cotton planter and local politician William Reynolds Dyess (1894-1936), director of the Arkansas Emergency Relief Administration, who sought the establishment of a self-supporting agricultural community.

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## **Scope and contents**

The Dyess Colony, Arkansas, collection is comprised of 108 photographs, taken by Everett Henson, that document when the people of Dyess colony moved onto the land. The photographs include images of the families, workers, buildings, homes, fields, a bull, the cotton gin, the library, the hospital, warehouses, and a commemorative plaque of W.R. Dyess. In addition, this collection has "Dyess Reunion Directory" by Everett Henson on July 4, 1986, and daily receipt books from the Dyess Cooperative Gin Association.

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## **Subject terms**

Great Depression and the New Deal.  
Mississippi County (Ark.)—History.  
Cotton farmers—Arkansas—History.  
Cotton gins.

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## **Inventory**

Folder

### **Box 1**

Unfolded Dyess Cooperative Gin Association, daily receipt book, 1948-1974 (17).

### **Box 2**

Dyess Colony photographs:

- 1 Photographs, 1.
- 2 Photographs, 2.
- 3 Photographs, 3.
- 4 Photographs, 4.
- 5 Photographs, 5.
- 6 Dyess Reunion Directory by Everett Henson, 1986 July 4.