



State of Tennessee
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Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

REEVES, HENRIETTA (KENDRICK)
(1871 – 1968)
PAPERS
1860-1967

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INTRODUCTION

These are the papers of Henrietta (Kendrick) Reeves (Mrs. John H.), cultural and social leader in Nashville, Tennessee. The collection includes her poems, short stories and sketches, autograph book, and scrapbook.

The materials in this collection measure .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Henrietta (Kendrick) Reeves Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection of five volumes and about 60 items is mainly composed of some of the writings of the donor, Henrietta Kendrick Reeves (Mrs. John H. Reeves), cultural and social leader of Nashville, Tennessee.

In the collection are 26 poems, nine short stories, and 15 essays and other sketches written by Mrs. Reeves between 1917 and 1920. Included is her autograph book with notations made by such visiting poets and writers as Robert Frost and Lord Dunsany.

Some of the most interesting items in the collection are her clippings, letters, photographs, and poems dealing with her career. The material tells much of the cultural history of Nashville from 1891 – 1960, and deals especially with the Centennial Club of which Mrs. Reeves was an active member and past president. For several years she served as chairman of its literacy department and was responsible for bringing many famous writers and artists to Nashville as guests and lecturers. Some who came during her regime are Vachel Lindsay, Margaret Widdemer, Louis Untermeyer, Thornton Wilder, William Butler Yeats, Robert Nichols, and Robert Frost. Letters in the scrapbook are from Algernon Blackwood, Eugene Brieux, Walter Bynner, Lord Dunsany, Robert Frost, John Galsworthy, Amy Lowell, Renee Maeterlinck, Robert Nichols, Alfred Noyes, Brand Whitlock, and others.

Miscellaneous items include a photograph, biographical sketch, and letter of Samuel Dold Morgan (1798 – 1880), great-grandfather of Mrs. Reeves. Samuel Dold Morgan, “merchant prince” of Nashville, manufactured percussion caps for the Confederacy in Nashville (1861) and was chairman of the Capitol Commission responsible for building the present capitol building. At his death, the State honored him by interring him in a crypt in the walls of the capitol.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Henrietta Morgan (Kendrick) Reeves was born in Nashville, Tennessee on February 7, 1871, and lived in Nashville all her life, playing a prominent role in the cultural and social life of the city. She was the daughter of Thomas Fluker Kendrick and Sarah Cheney Clark Kendrick of Nashville. Mrs. Reeves was educated in Nashville at Ward Seminary and took courses also at Peabody College and Vanderbilt University. She excelled as an amateur poet, musician, French scholar, art critic, and lecturer, taking an active part in the cultural activities of the city. She organized the first poetry society in Nashville which later developed into a nationally recognized writers' group, and in 1919, she was elected to membership in the Poetry Society of America. As chairman of the literary department of the Centennial Club, she was responsible for bringing to Nashville many famous writers, poets, and artists as guest lecturers.

Mrs. Reeves was the wife of John Herriford Reeves, a prominent Nashville wholesaler and manufacturer whom she married in 1891. He died in 1921. They had one son, John.

Mrs. Reeves died January 1, 1968, two months before her ninety-seventh birthday.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Autograph book
2. Letter, 1860, Samuel Dold Morgan
3. Magazines – 1917, 1920
4. Miscellaneous
5. Poems dedicated to Mrs. Reeves on birthday, 1967
6. Poems – 1917-1920
7. Portrait – ca. 1920 – Mrs. Reeves
8. Portrait – ca. 1880 – Samuel Dold Morgan
9. Scrapbook – 1860-1960
10. Short stories – 1917-1920
11. Sketch of Samuel Dold Morgan, 1917
12. Sketches – 1917-1920
13. Writings – 1917-1920

Poems

An Author's Prayer
Abou Simbel
Bedtime
A Canticle to Earth
Definitions of Poetry
The Dream-ship
The End of Kings: a Prophecy
The Flag of Liberty
Friend Fruitage
The Harvest
In Belleau Wood
My Love
Our Volunteers
Pavlowa: a Portrait
The Peach of Lhasa
The Pine Tree
Rodin
Salutation
Secrets
The Service Flag
Spring Song
Sunrise

Supremacy
Two Love Sonnets
White Magic
The Wrath of a Patient Man

Short Stories

The Broken Tendon
The Clock
The Dragon and the Pearl
The Godmother (published)
The Real Thing
The Red-Lacquered Box
The Undoing of the Duchess of Pomerania
The Wings of a Butterfly

Sketches

About Tagore: "Two points of view"
Algernon Blackwood
Dunsany the Dramatist
The Genius of Lord Dunsany
L'Idealisme de Rostand
Maeterlink
Maeterlinking in Nice
Masefield and Water
In the Presence of Genius (re: William Merritt Chase)
Robert Nichols in Silhouette
Sir Oliver Lodge

Anecdotes, Sketches

Where to Serve God
The Legend of Brunnenberg
Legal Resource
The Fable of the Indian and the Pale-Face