



State of Tennessee
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**RANSOM FAMILY
PAPERS
1833-1957**

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INTRODUCTION

This collection of Ransom Family Papers was made by Miss Ellene Ransom (1894 - 1963) and was given to the Manuscript Unit of the Tennessee State Library and Archives after her death by her friends, Miss Frances McLester and Mrs. Edgar H. Duncan of Nashville, Tennessee.

The materials in this collection measure 10.92 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Ransom Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Ransom Family Papers, consisting of about 5,400 items and 21 volumes and covering the years 1833-1957, are composed of correspondence, clippings, accounts, legal documents, biographical and genealogical data, data regarding the Brazilian Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church (South), family records, letter books, music programs and music club scrapbooks, family photographs, sermons, and writings.

This is a collection of Ransom family papers beginning with the Reverend Robert Paine Ransom, a Methodist minister who settled in Rutherford County, Tennessee in the first half of the nineteenth century. Included are about seventy-five letters written by this minister from 1869 to 1885, primarily to his son, John James Ransom. They are good letters covering a critical period both of Southern and church history.

John James Ransom (1853-1934) was also a Methodist minister and a missionary to Brazil, 1876-1887. The papers include his letters, those of his wife, Ella (Crowe) Ransom, and their four children, Richard Bruce Ransom (1885-____), Annie Phillips Ransom (1887-), John Crowe Ransom (1888 -), and Ellene Ransom (1894-1963).

There are about 250 letters and three letter books of the Reverend John James Ransom for the years 1872 – 1929. The letters were written to members of his family and a number of his fellow ministers in Nashville and elsewhere. They contain a wealth of material about mission conditions in Brazil and the Methodist church in general. His correspondents include A.L. Blackford, Samuel Elliot, H. Gartner, J.C. Granbery, David Campbell Kelley, James Koger, Junius E. Newman, and A.W. Wilson.

Letters of John Crowe Ransom, numbering about 100, span the years 1904-1939, and include the period when he was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University, England; his service in the first World War in the Field Artillery, American Expeditionary Forces; his tenure as a master at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut; and his years at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. Included is a handwritten essay-review by Ransom of Lord Hugh Cecil's "Conservatism."

Miss Annie Ransom was a music teacher, and there are programs, scrapbooks, clippings, correspondence, etc., belonging to her in the papers. Her sister, Ellene, the collector of these papers, was an English teacher. Included is her dissertation, "Utopus Discovers America or Critical Realism in American Utopian Fiction," Vanderbilt University, 1946. Included also are several of her writings for church publications.

Other papers include biographical and genealogical data on the Ransom and Crowe families, some early family records; deeds (1833-1859); two personal account books (1847-1852) with a few diary notes; obituaries; pamphlets and clippings concerning schools and churches; and a large number of family photographs.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John James Ransom

- 1853 July 8 – Born near Salem (Rutherford County), Tennessee, son of the Reverend Robert Paine Ransom and Frances Bask Ransom
- 1874 Graduated from Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia
- 1875 First pastorate in Nashville, Tennessee
- 1876 February – Arrived in Brazil as a missionary
- 1879 Married Annie Newman, daughter of Nunius E. Newman, who was the organizer of the first society of Methodists in Nashville
- 1880 Annie (Newman) Ransom died.
- 1884 Returned to the United States; married Ella Crowe of Pulaski, Tennessee, and they returned to the missionary field in Brazil
- 1885 September 16 – Their first child, Richard Bruce, was born in Rio de Janeiro
- 1886 Returned to the United States and became an itinerant preacher
- 1887 Their second child, Annie Phillips, was born in San Francisco.
- 1888 April 30 – Third child, John Crowe, born in Pulaski, Tennessee
- 1894 July 22 – Fourth child, Ellene, born in Spring Hill, Tennessee
- 1934 Died in Nashville, Tennessee

John Crowe Ransom

- 1888 April 30 – Born in Pulaski, Tennessee, son of the Reverend John James Ransom and Ella (Crowe) Ransom
- 1909 Received B.A. Degree, Vanderbilt University, Nashville; was a Founder's Medalist, Phi Beta Kappa, etc.
- 1910-1913 Rhodes scholar, Christ Church College in Oxford University, England
- 1913-1914 Master at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut

1914-1917	Member of the English Department, Vanderbilt University
1917-1919	1 st Lt., Field Artillery, American Expeditionary Forces
1920	Returned to Vanderbilt; married Robb Reavill (Died August 29, 1980)
1922-1924	Organized the Fugitive Group at Vanderbilt; contributed poems to its magazine
1927-1937	Professor of English at Vanderbilt
1937 -	Carnegie professor of poetry at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio
1951-	Guggenheim Fellow for Creative Writing Author of a number of books of poetry and criticism
1974	Died

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Box 1

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4. Bible Records – Ransom Family
5. Biographical and genealogical data – Ransom, Annie Phillips
6. Biographical and genealogical data – Ransom, Ella (Crowe)
7. Biographical and genealogical data – Ransom, Ellene
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9. Biographical and genealogical data – Ransom, John James

Microfilm Reel # 1

Box 2

1. Bonds - Confederate
2. Books – *The Daily Light*
3. Books – *Parnaso Lusitano* and a book of hymns in Portuguese with E. Crowe on cover
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5. Church papers – Brazil and Cuba
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Microfilm Reel # 1

Box 3

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14. Clippings, etc. – Schools – Belhaven College
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1. Photographs – two albums of family photographs taken in Brazil, unidentified
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1. Scrapbooks – Tennessee Federation of Music Clubs, The Fifth District, 1936-1937
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Box 21

1. Document – Ransom, Annie Phillips – passport, 1924
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4. Journal – Ransom, Ellene – notes on daily calendar, February-December 1929
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Scrapbooks (Wrapped Separately)

1. Woman’s Club of Nashville Music Department, 1939-1940; compiled by Annie Phillips Ransom
2. Junior Music Department of the Woman’s Club of Nashville; Annie Phillips Ransom, counselor, 1941-1942
3. Junior Music Department of the Woman’s Club of Nashville, 1943-1944. Received Superior Rating on May 7, 1943 from the State scrapbook judge

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Scrapbooks (Wrapped Separately)

4. Junior Music Department of Woman's Club of Nashville, 1943-1944
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1. Rhodes scholars at Oxford, England, ca. 1912

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