



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

**WINTERS, RALPH L. (1898-1975)**  
**PAPERS, 1934-1977**

*Processed by:*

Greg Poole  
Archival Technical Services

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Ralph L. Winters Papers, (1934-1977), are centered on the writings and newspaper clippings of Ralph L. Winters (1899-1975), a local historian and genealogist of Robertson County, Tennessee. The papers contain early history of Robertson County. The papers are a gift by Mr. Sam Winters, Clarksville, Tennessee.

The materials in this collection measure .63 feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Ralph L. Winters Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Ralph L. Winters Papers, containing approximately 200 items, cover the years 1934 to 1969. The collection consists of certificates, clippings, correspondence, genealogical data, maps, minutes, notes, photographs, sketches, and writings of Ralph L. Winters (1898-1975), historian and genealogist. Mr. Winters was a Clarksville businessman with an interest in local history. The papers reflect some of the early history of the Robertson County area.

Subjects discussed in the newspaper clippings include the first settlers, first settlements and church histories of Robertson County. Several genealogies of prominent families are included of the Adams-Port Royal, Tennessee area.

In the collection are notes made by Winters while researching his two most important works: *The Winters Family History* (1966) and *Historic Adams and Port Royal* (1970). A small part of the collection reflects his involvement with the Montgomery County Fair and the Tennessee Fair Association.

The Ralph L. Winters Papers provide valuable information on the early history of Montgomery and Robertson County.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

### Ralph L. Winters

- 1898      June 12, born in Adams, Tennessee, son of John Henry and Virginia Winters
- 1916      Graduated from high school in Springfield, Tennessee
- 1918      Served in the United States Army during World War I
- 1920-21    Attended Southwestern Presbyterian College in Clarksville, Tennessee
- 1938-70    Continued to write articles for the Springfield *Herald* and Clarksville *Leaf-Chronicle*
- 1975      September 29, died at his home in Clarksville, Tennessee, and interred in Adams Cemetery, Adams, Tennessee

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

1. Certificates – Degree-Solomon Davis Winters, University of Nashville n.d.
2. Clippings – “The General Store: A Part of the Past”
3. “Harmony Church Was Not Always True To its Name”
4. “Historic Building to Give Way to Progress”
5. “Historians Honored at Dinner Party”
6. “Joseph Bollin Has Served Long, Well”
7. “Miss Lucy’s Influence Will Go On”
8. “Mrs. B.H. Sory Recalls 99 Years of Living”
9. “Paper Tells of Big Day in Clarksville – New Courthouse”
10. “Ruins of Hillside Furnace Recall Tennessee’s Iron Hey-Day
11. “The Sam Winters Family Goes to Dinner”
12. “Tragic Day – Port Royal Bridge”
13. “Weems Internationally Known for Navigation”
14. “Winter’s New Book of Local Interest”
15. “Your Clarksville Fire Department-Past and Present”
16. Correspondence – H. Fort Flowers (2)
17. Sam B. Smith
18. Tennessee Fair Association
19. Genealogical Data – Grisard family
20. Gunn family
21. Gunn, Miles – Spotswood Scott families
22. Hamlett family
23. Head family of Adams
24. Head, George family of Port Royal
25. Hill family
26. Hogan family
27. Holloway family
28. Hornberger, George E. family
29. Power family of Port Royal
30. Reding, Richard Lowe family
31. Reding, Samuel F. Adams
32. Reding, Willis B.
33. Reed families of Adams
34. Winter, Thomas family
35. Winter, William Henry family
36. Winter, Zachariah family
37. Maps – “G.A. Washington Land Procession” May 30, 1893
38. Minutes – Montgomery County Historical Society, June 28, 1960, June 15, 1970
39. Notes – Ralph L. Winters – Historical Sketches of Adams and Port Royal
40. Winters’ family history
41. Winters’ family history
42. Winters’ family history
43. Photographs – Electric Dump Carr of DIF. Co.

44. H. Fort Flowers
45. Montgomery County Fair, 1960
46. Printed Materials – Booklet – “Montgomery County Fair Programs,” 1949, 1955, 1956, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1964
47. Booklet – “Winters’ Memorial Dedication Service,” October 18, 1970

**Box 2:**

1. Writings – “106-Year Safety Record Broken
2. “Adams Homecoming – A Huge Success
3. “Another Port Royal Tall Tale”
4. “Back to Little Red Schoolhouse”
5. “The Beginnings of Stewart County”
6. “Christmas Eve, 1779”
7. “Christmas Eve, 1965”
8. “Christmas Visit to Old Home Town”
9. “The County Uncle Goes to a City Wedding”
10. “The First Armistice Celebration, Nov.11, 1918”
11. “Four Newspaper Men From Adams-Port Royal”
12. “The Glenraven Estate or Empire”
13. “The Herbert Carney Family of Port Royal”
14. “Historical Sketches of Port Royal”
15. “Horse and Buggy Days Recalled”
16. “The Hospital at Port Royal
17. “The Largest Group Ever to Leave Clarksville”
18. “The Night Train to Memphis Makes Final Run Wednesday”
19. “One Hundred Years of County Fairs in Montgomery County”
20. “Pioneer Homesteads: Bellar Homestead”
21. “Pioneer Homesteads: The Ed Elliot Home”
22. “Pioneer Homesteads: Sam Ford Homestead”
23. “Pioneer Homesteads: The Watson-Richard Home”
24. “Port Royal Has Furnished Clarksville Four Mayors”
25. “The Potts Twins, 182 Years Combined
26. “Road Location is Not New in Robertson County”
27. “The Snow of 1879”
28. “The Story of Hills Mill”
29. “Trail of Tears is Walking Ministry”
30. “Was There a Bell Witch”
31. “Were Good Old Days Good?”
32. “Why I am Thankful”
33. “Would You Pay \$50 Million for a Team of Mules”
34. Sketches – Carl S. Smith