



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

**RALPH LYLES WINTERS**  
**(1897-1975)**

**PAPERS, ADDITION,**  
**1874-1974**

*Processed by:*

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Archival Technical Services

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**MICROFILMED**

## INTRODUCTION

This finding aid focuses on an addition to the papers of Ralph Lyles Winters, author, local historian and genealogist, born in Adams, Tennessee. Spanning the years 1874-1974 but largely concentrated in the period of the 1950s to the 1960s, the papers contain genealogical data on many early Robertson County and Montgomery County families. Also included in the collection are numerous speeches and writings by Mr. Winters on early events in the history of Adams and Port Royal, Tennessee.

This addition, like the earlier Ralph L. Winters Papers (see accession number 87-058), was donated by his son Sam Winters of Clarksville, Tennessee.

The materials in this collection measure 5 cubic feet. There are no restrictions on the use of the material. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Ralph L. Winters Papers Addition may be made for individual or scholarly research.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **Ralph Lyles Winters**

- 1897        May 8, born in Adams, Tennessee, son of John Henry and Emma Reding Winters.
- 1913        Finished two years of high school in Adams.
- 1913-1914    Taught school in Robertson County.
- 1921        November 17, married to Esther Johnson of Clarksville, Tennessee.
- 1921-1936    Removed to Clarksville and with his father built and operated Dixie Flour Mills.
- 1937        Established the Leaf and Grain Fertilizer Store in Clarksville.
- 1941-1945    Served as local commander of Civil Defense during World War II.
- 1966        Published a family history, "Historical Sketches of the Winters Family Pioneer Settlers of Middle Tennessee."
- 1968        Published "Historical Sketches of Adams Robertson County, Tennessee and Port Royal, Montgomery County, Tennessee, 1779-1968."
- 1975        December 26, died in Clarksville and interred in Greenwood Cemetery, Clarksville, Tennessee.

### **Organizations and Honors**

President of the Tennessee Seedmen's Association

President of the Montgomery County Historical Society

Vice-president of the Tennessee Fairs Association

Member of Madison Street United Methodist Church, Clarksville, Tennessee where he served on the official board for thirty-five years and taught Sunday School classes for more that twenty years

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Ralph Lyles Winters Papers Addition, containing approximately 800 items, span the period 1874-1974, although largely concentrated in the 1950s and 1960s. The collection is composed of an account book, church records, clippings, correspondence, genealogical data, a ledger, Night Rider accounts, photographs, speeches, writings, and several miscellaneous items. Materials in the collection are concentrated on earlier settlers, institutions, and events in the Adams and Port Royal communities of Middle Tennessee.

Of particular interest are the documents relating to the activities of the so-called "Night Riders" during the strife among the dark tobacco growers in Montgomery and Robertson counties in the early decades of the twentieth century (see Box 8, Folders 5-10).

There is copious genealogical data on many early families in the Adams and Port Royal areas.

The research materials in the collection were used by Mr. Winters in the preparation of his book, *Historical Sketches of Adams, Robertson County, Tennessee and Port Royal, Montgomery County, Tennessee, from 1779-1968*, which was published in 1968.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box Number 1**

1. Account books—J. A. Whitehead, 1874
2. Adams, Tenn.—Adam's Cemetery Association
3. Adams, Tenn.—Clippings, correspondence, etc.
4. Adams, Tenn.—Family sketches
5. Adams, Tenn.—Incorporation
6. Adams, Tenn.—Lodges
7. Adams, Tenn.—Mills and manufacturing
8. Adams, Tenn.—Music
9. Adams, Tenn.—Post office
10. Adams, Tenn.—Prominent citizens
11. Adams, Tenn.—Railroad employees
12. Adams, Tenn.—Schools
13. Bible records—NICHOLS family
14. Cemeteries—Murphy, Robertson County, Tenn.

### **Box Number 2**

1. Churches—Bakers Camp Ground, Montgomery Co., Tenn.
2. Churches—Baptist Church, Guthrie, Ky.
3. Churches—Drakes Pond Baptist Church
4. Churches—Harmony Baptist church, 1835-1947
5. Churches—Red River Baptist Church, Port Royal, Tenn.
6. Churches—Spring Creek Baptist Church, St. Bethlehem, Tenn., 1808-1958
7. Churches—Trenton Baptist Church, Trenton, Ky.
8. Clippings—"Barns, Hogs, Equipment Destroyed by \$20,000 Fire"
9. Clippings—"Hills Mill Resort Nears Completion"
10. Clippings—"Historians Discuss Role of Papers"
11. Clippings—"R. L. Winters Writes His Family History"
12. Clippings—"Wessyngton Sees 150<sup>th</sup> Fall"
13. Correspondence—"A-C"
14. Correspondence—John Cotton Journal
15. Correspondence—"D-G"
16. Correspondence—"H-K"
17. Correspondence—"Historical sketches, Adams, Robertson Co., and Port Royal"
18. Correspondence—"L-P"
19. Correspondence—"R-T"
20. Correspondence—"U-Z"
21. Correspondence—Miscellaneous—unknown
22. Fairs, expositions, etc.—Montgomery Co., Tenn., 1860-1960

**Box Number 3**  
**Genealogical Data**

1. ADAMS
2. ALFORD
3. ALSBROOK
4. ATKINS
5. BARNES
6. BATTS
7. BELL-GUNN
8. BOURNE
9. BOWERS
10. BRIGGS
11. BUNCH
12. BURGESS
13. BYRD
14. CARNEY
15. CLINARD
16. COBB
17. CORNELL-ROSSON
18. COPE
19. CORBIN
20. CRAIN
21. CRENSHAW-TIMMONS
22. DARDEN
23. DARKE-CARNEAL
24. DAVIDSON
25. DERRINGTON
26. DILLARD-JOHNSON
27. DUFF
28. DUNN
29. DUVALL-TRIPLETT-DICKSON-JETT

**Box Number 4**  
**Genealogical Data**

1. EDWARDS
2. ELLIOTT-LANGFORD-PICKERING
3. FARMER
4. FINLEY
5. FISER
6. FLETCHER
7. FORD-FELTS
8. FORD

9. GARDNER
10. GOWER
11. GRISARD
12. GUNN
13. HADLEY
14. HAMLETT-DARDEN
15. HARVEY-SULLIVANT
16. HEAD
17. HERRING
18. HILL
19. HOLLOWAY
20. HOLMES
21. HOLT-ELLIOTT
22. HORNBERGER
23. HUNT
24. JACKSON
25. JETT
26. JOHNSON-TROTTER-JONES
27. JOHNSTON-HILL-HOLMES

**Box Number 5**  
**Genealogical Data**

1. KEELE-WATTS
2. KILGORE
3. KIDD
4. KILLEBREW
5. KING
6. LAWRENCE
7. LEDBETTER
8. MAYES
9. MEGGS
10. MILES
11. MOODY
12. MOORE
13. MORGAN
14. MORRIS
15. MURPHY
16. NEELEY
17. NICHOLS
18. NOLEN
19. NORFLEET
20. NORTHINGTON

21. OAKLEY
22. OGG
23. OVERDORFF

**Box Number 6**  
**Genealogical Data**

1. PARKS
2. POLK-HOLMAN
3. PORTER
4. POWELL
5. POWER
6. PRINCE
7. PUCKETT
8. QUALLS
9. RANDOLPH
10. REDING
11. REED
12. RIGGSBIE
13. ROARK
14. ROSSON
15. RUFFIN
16. SAEGER
17. SANFORD
18. SAWYER
19. SCRUGGS
20. SEAY
21. SHERROD
22. SMITH
23. SORY
24. STAINBACK
25. STRANGE
26. STUARD
27. SUGG
28. SWEENEY
29. SYKES

**Box Number 7**  
**Genealogical Data**

1. TILLEY
2. TOLLESON
3. TOMERLIN
4. TURNER
5. UNGER

6. WARD
7. WATSON
8. WEAKLEY
9. WEATHERFORD
10. WELCH
11. WHITE
12. WHITEHEAD-HEAD
13. WHITEHEAD-MORGAN-MURPHREY
14. WHITMAN
15. WILCOX
16. WILLETT
17. WILLIAMS
18. WILSON-HEAD
19. WINTERS
20. WOODRUFF

**Box Number 8**

1. Hams
2. Ledgers—W. H. McNeil and J. C. Murphey, 1976-1877
3. Lists—Christmas letters
4. Maps—Historic area—Robertson Co., Tenn., 1970
5. Night Riders—Black Patch journal, August 1907
6. Night Riders—Clippings
7. Night Riders—Gardner-Hunt murder trial, 1908
8. Night Riders—Menees v. Matthews trial, 1911
9. Night Riders—Recollections
10. Night Riders—Speeches—Ralph Winters, 1962
11. Obituaries—Robert M. Alley
12. Obituaries—Sanford Lawrence
13. Obituaries—Mamie Lee Jackson Thompson
14. Photographs—Adams, Tenn., High School, 1907-1908
15. Photographs—Night Riders
16. Photographs—Ralph Winters
17. Photographs—Unknown
18. Port Royal, Tenn.—Churches
19. Port Royal, Tenn.—Clippings, photographs, etc.
20. Postmaster—Palmyra, Montgomery Co., Tenn.
21. Sketches—Ringgold area

## **Box Number 9**

1. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—Adams Homecoming Day, 1970, 1971
2. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—Cedar Hill Men's Club, Dec. 4, 1969
3. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—Clarksville Rotary Club, May 20, 1970
4. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—"Early River Transportation," July 16, 1973
5. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—"Early Roads and Transportation," Mar. 16, 1970
6. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—"The First Cave Man," Mar. 27, 1969
7. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—"The First Hundred Years"
8. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—"The First Mills," May 8, 1964
9. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—"Flatboating Tobacco to Market...," 1966
10. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—"Four Score and Seven Years Ago"
11. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—Fred Bunch and Will "Darky" Edwards, July 4, 1967
12. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—"Heads Church," Oct. 11, 1970
13. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—Pioneer of Robertson Co.
14. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—"If They Had Not Come...," April 10, 1960
15. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—"Take Along a Little Honey," Dec. 17, 1972
16. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—"Transportation" Feb. 10, 1972
17. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—A Tribute to Dr. Frederick D. Richey, 1954
18. Speeches/Addresses—Ralph L. Winters—Welcome Wagon Newcomer Club, Jan. 25, 1971
19. "Trail of Tears"—Rev. Billy Richardson
20. Writings—Ruth Cobb—"The First Christmas I Remember"
21. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Adams Homecoming a Huge success"
22. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Another Landmark Going Down"
23. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Another Port Royal Tall Tale"
24. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Aunt Viney and the Roasted Cat"
25. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—Camp Meeting Attracted 6,000 to Cedar Hill
26. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Christmas Visits to the Old Home Town," 1961
27. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Christmas Visits to the Old Home Town," 1962
28. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Christmas Visits to the Old Home Town," 1963
29. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Christmas Visits to the Old Home Town," 1964
30. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Christmas Visits to the Old Home Town," 1965
31. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Christmas Visits to the Old Home Town," 1966
32. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Christmas Visits to the Old Home Town," 1968
33. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Christmas Visits to the Old Home Town," 1969
34. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Christmas Visits to the Old Home Town," 1970
35. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Christmas Visits to the Old Home Town," 1971
36. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Christmas Visits to the Old Home Town," 1972
37. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Christmas Visits to the Old Home Town," 1973
38. Writings—Ralph L. Winters—"Christmas Visits to the Old Home Town," 1974

## **Box Number 10**

### **Writings—Ralph L. Winters**

1. "The Cole Homestead on Long Creek in Stewart County"
2. "The Dark Ages"
3. "The Day the Boats Passed Clarksville"
4. "The Early Settlements"
5. "Farewell—'Night Train to Memphis'"
6. "Flatboating Tobacco to Market"
7. "49 years Growing Tomatoes"
8. "Going to California in 1849"
9. "Horse and Buggy Days"
10. "I Waited Too Long—Uncle Joe Is Dead"
11. "The Irish Soldier Without a Gun"
12. "Just One Dime for Christmas"
13. "My First Fair—1907"
14. "The Glenraven Estate or Empire"
15. "The Largest Group Ever to Leave Clarksville"
16. "Miss Alice"—Our First Teacher
17. My Biggest Christmas
18. "The Nicest Christmas Present"
19. "A Nickel's Worth of Education"
20. "Not Necessarily Good Old Days Back in Past"
21. "Our Letter from Herbert Hoover"
22. "The People"
23. Pioneer Homestead
24. "Pioneer Patriots Pinched Pennies"
25. "Retired Group Makes Scenic Trip"
26. "The Second Cave Man"
27. "Some Philosophy on Father's Day"
28. "Story of Hills Mill"
29. "The Story of Tobacco"
30. "Tall Tales Texas to Tennessee"
31. "The Third Cave Man"
32. "To the Clarksville Fair 50 years Ago"
33. "To the Fair in 1912"
34. The Tobacco Show of 1899
35. "Tobacco Averages Rekindle Memories"
36. "Was There A Bell Witch"
37. "Washington Hall Memories Recalled"
38. "Way Back Yonder"
39. "What to See Near Clarksville"
40. Whose Skeleton Was in the Pond?
41. "Would You Pay 50 Million Dollars for a Team of Mules?"
42. "Wynnewood Fine Home"
43. Miscellaneous