

## Bessie C. Ray Collection

**Repository:** Rockingham Co. Historical Collections  
Gerald B. James Library  
Rockingham Community College  
P. O. Box 38  
Wentworth, NC 27375

**Title:** Bessie C. Ray Collection

**Accession No.:** 98-001

**Extent:** 1 box

**Provenance:** Donated by Rachel Ray Wright in 1998

**Inclusive Dates:** 1890-1987

**Subject Headings:** Brown, Mary Elizabeth Taylor  
Clark, George Henry  
Clark, Howard Lee  
Clark, James Wyatt  
Clark, Mattie Vivian Hall  
Clark, Sallie Ann Taylor  
Clark, William Hatcher  
Gravelly, Lane  
Ivie, Denny  
Leaksville Methodist Church  
Leaksville Practical High School  
Leaksville Station  
Merchants Ice & Coal Co.  
Post Office – Leaksville (N. C.)  
Ray, Berta King  
Ray, Bessie Clark  
Ray, Florence  
Ray, Fred  
Ray, Lucie  
Ray, Phil  
Ray, Phoebe  
Ray, Rufus  
Ray, Samuel Philip  
Ray, Vivian

Rockingham County (N. C.) – Genealogy  
Spray Mercantile  
Snead, Anna  
Trent, Emma Staples Clark  
Trent, Fred  
Trent, William Hartfield  
Willow Oaks  
Wright, Rachel Ray

**Items Separated:** Family photographs filed in the private photograph collections

**Related Collections:** Berta King Ray Collection 04-027

**Preferred Citation:** *Bessie C. Ray Collection. 98-001. Rockingham Co. Historical Collections, Gerald B. James Library, Rockingham Community College.*

**Descriptive Note:** Collection of papers and photographs of Bessie Clark Ray. Includes church information, family information, photos, etc.

**Contents:** Brochure -- *An Anniversary Celebration* October 20, 1985, 4:00 pm. Leaksville United Methodist Church, Eden, NC

Booklet -- *The Story of The Methodist Church Leaksville, North Carolina 1837 – 1957*

Booklet -- *Christian Symbols in Leaksville United Methodist Church Eden, NC*

Pamphlet -- *A Time for Decision To Give, Leaksville United Methodist Church, Eden, NC*

Pamphlet -- *The Methodist Church, Edgar Parke Billups, Pastor, Leaksville, N. C. In Appreciation*

Directory -- *Leaksville United Methodist Church, Eden, North Carolina, 1987*

Church Programs -- Leaksville Methodist Church, Leaksville, NC  
December 12, 1965  
March 27, 1966

*The Church Voice*, Bulletin of Leaksville Methodist Church,  
Sunday,

September 23, 1956  
February 21, 1960  
May 8, 1966

Sesquicentennial Committee – Leaksville United Methodist Church, notes

Three Copies: 'Leaksville United Methodist Church, Eden, North Carolina, Sesquicentennial Celebration 1837 – 1987, October 4, 1987, 10:30 am

Hymn Festival sponsored by The Tri-City Ministerial Association and The Martha Taylor Davison Music Club, The Christian Experience in Hymns, Spray Baptist Church, Spray, North Carolina, Three O'clock, Sunday, October 18, 1959

Pamphlet - *A Journey from Ashes to Easter*

Pamphlet -- Invitation presented by the Members of Leaksville United Methodist Church, Eden, NC, *A Christmas Madrigal Dinner at the home of Charles Wesley, Sunday, December 9, 1984 and Monday, December 10, 1984*

Notes for *The Bicentennial of American Methodism*

*The Leaksville News*, Vol. 33; No. 46, February 14, 1957

*The Leaksville News*, Vol. 33, No. 22, August 30, 1956

Newspaper Clippings

Booklet – *Inaugural Ball*, Jan 8, 1953

Bulletin -- *Musical Tempo*, North Carolina Federation of Music Clubs, Fall Issue, November 1950

Three replicas of Spray Water Power and Land Co., Spray, NC Stock

Commencement, Leaksville High School, 1950  
Commencement, Leaksville High School, 1949

Magazine -- *Vogue*, Feb 1, 1921

Magazine -- *Ladies Home Journal* Vol. LXXXV No. 11 Nov, 1968

Magazine -- *LOOK*, featuring Robert F. Kennedy

Magazine -- *Better Homes and Gardens*, Sep, 1969

Magazine -- *Our Proud Heritage*, Rockingham County, NC

Brochure -- Dedication Newlin Physical Education – Athletics Building Morehead High School

Brochure -- Willow Oaks

*Life Liner*, Morehead Memorial Hospital, Eden, NC, Vol. 12, No. 1, Jan., Feb.

File -- Copies of Berta Ray's memos

Booklet -- *Salem College*, March 1972

Booklet -- *Tributes to Mrs. Maude Moore Latham Donor Tryon Palace Restoration*, New Bern, NC, Apr 8, 1961

Booklet -- *Golden Anniversary Reunion Banquet*, Girl Scouts Mar 20, 1962

Booklet -- *Eden Preservation Society, Driving Tour of Historical Spray*, Aug 11, 1985

Booklet: *The Journal of Rockingham County History and Genealogy*,

Volume XI, No 1, Jun 1986

Volume XII, No 1, Jun 1987

Volume XII, No 2, Dec 1987

Volume XIII, No 1, Jun 1988

*Our Proud Heritage: A Pictorial History of Martinsville and Henry County, Virginia*

*North Carolina Preservation*, The Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. No 61, Jan-Feb 1987

Eden Preservation Society Membership List

Article -- *Mr. & Mrs. D. F. King, Sr. and "Idlewild"*

Pamphlet -- Dedication and Formal Opening, Eden Public Library, Sunday, Sep 26, 1976

Certification -- The United States Air Force certifies that Lieutenant Junior Grade George C. Wright, Navigator Training: Certificate of Training, March 21, 1995

*A Sketch of the Life of Dr. Samuel Philip Ray* by Bessie C. Ray

Letter to 'Bessie-Girl' from Lettie Faye, Jun 9, 1972

*A Tribute to the Articulate Artist, the Hostess with the mostest, the Heroine of the Highlands* by Mrs. Bessie C. Ray

Article -- (two copies) "From Darkness into the Light" (Summary of my pastorate of the Leaksville Methodist Church, 1941-1946 by J. Elwood Carroll) Mar 4, 1973

Copy of letter to Allen from ???

Letter from W. E. Pilcher, Jr. to Mrs. S. Philip Ray, Organist, Dec 18, 1959

Genealogical notes on Ray, Clark, King, Taylor, Dalton, etc. families by Bessie Clark Ray

*A Dream for Higher Education in the 'Land of Eden'*

'James Hunter's Service'

'Eden Preservation Society's Walking Tour', Sunday, May 23, 1982

Leaksville in the Year 1900. Two Copies

'A Walking Tour of some Historic Sites, Washington, Patrick, Moncure Streets' The Eden Preservation Society's Second Walking Tour'

'Tour of Some Historic Sites in Rockingham County – October 21, 1962'

Rockingham County Historical Society, Inc., Membership Roster – 1976

Article -- *The Leaksville Railroad Station*

*History of Rockingham County*

*Leaksville History*, by Mrs. R. P. Ray

*Music in Rockingham County: A Short History of Music in Leaksville and Surrounding Towns in Rockingham County*

Letter to Mrs. Bessie Ray, Supervisor from The Board of Trustees, Leaksville Township Schools regarding congratulations for the Music Festival held in Morehead High School

*A History of the Border Book Club* by Louise D. Smith, Oct 20, 1971

*Religion and Music* by Bessie C. Ray and given to Circle #1 of the Woman's Society of Leaksville United Methodist Church on Oct 13, 1975

*The Family Doctor's Family Life (As Told by His Wife)*

*We Don't Like Dogs* By Bessie Clark Ray

*Dr. Samuel Philip Ray (1903-1952): a sketch of the life of Dr. Samuel Philip Ray*

Article -- *George Henry Clark (1878-1957)*. By Bessie C. Ray

Article -- *The Saga of Arthur Motley* by Bessie Clark Ray, Mar 17 1989

Article -- *Memories of the Civil War* by Mrs. Martha Ann Stone

Article -- *Billy Strong Recalls Early Days in Leaksville History* by Daisy King Barker

*Family History, The Ray/King Families of Leaksville, North Carolina* (draft)

Copies of Berta Ray's memos

Photographs:

George Henry Clark

Mary Elizabeth Taylor Brown with her 2 daughters, 2 sons, their families and John Wm. 'Booker' not yet married

Mr. J. ?. Lipford and family

James Wyatt Clark family photo including James Wyatt Clark, Sallie Ann Taylor Clark (wife), Emma Staples Clark Trent (daughter), Back Row, L-R, Howard Lee Clark, William Hatcher Clark, George Henry Clark (Sons), William Hartfield Trent (Grandson), Fred Trent (Grandson)

Mattie Vivian Hall Clark (Bessie Ray's mother; George Henry Clark's wife) shown with horse and buggy

George & Mattie Clark, Dec 28, 1949, 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (Bessie Ray's Parents)

Mattie Clark & Anna Snead (mother & aunt of Bessie Ray)

Hatcher, George & Howard Clark (brothers)

Tin photograph of unknown woman

"Sunburst," the home of Rufus and Berta King Ray. To the left, Fred Ray, Berta Ray, Mr. Ray, Bessie Clark Ray, Phil Ray, holding Lucie Ray. Florence & Berta Ray in front

Mr. R. P. Ray & grandchildren: Front row: Fred Ray, Jr. and Vivian Ray. Lucie Ray, Phoebe Ray, Rachel Ray, Penny Ray, Berta Ray

Florence Ray, Berta Ray, Lucie Ray, Rachel Ray. Daughters and nieces of Bessie Ray

Lucie Lane & Denny Ivie as children

Bessie Ray and daughter Vivian, Jan. 1945

Bessie Ray and granddaughter, Lane Gravely, Dec 1958

Bessie C. Ray wearing lavender suit

Dr. Samuel Philip Ray, husband of Bessie Ray, 1925

Martha Smith Butler giving Martha Taylor Davidson Club Awards

Bessie Ray playing for a class in Leaksville School system. She was the first and only music school supervisor for Leaksville

Mrs. Ray, accompanist – 1950. Mrs. Wrenn & Miss Royster – Fourth grades

Sponsors for Inaugural of Gov. and Lt. Gov. Luther Hodges. Left: Belva Hodges, Luther Hodges, Rachel Wright, Bob Starling, Barbara Jean Earles (Stone), Bob Edwards, Gary Ann LaMar, Allen Bobbitt

Junior-Senior Dance, old Leaksville High School 1952-1953. To the right, Rachel Ray joins hands with John E. Grogan

Junior-Senior, old Leaksville High School 1952-1953. Making the turn on the far right, Rachel Ray & Wayne Thomas

Denny Ivie and Lucy Lane Ray at the mid-winter formal dance at William and Mary College, March 14, 1952

Lucie Ray & Denny Ivie on horseback, Sept 1944

Children on horseback

Bingham Military School (Asheville) dance. George Henry Clark, Jr. in group

Home of Martha & Luther Hodges, No. 1 Highland Drive, Leaksville, NC.

Large photograph of white brick house

Mrs. Sybrook, Winston Salem, NC

Leaksville Station before moved, Boone St.



Merchants Ice & Coal Co., in the middle in leather Jacket, Fred C. Ray

Spray Mercantile Staff, 1890. Jim Ray & George in office

Boys' Band, O. P. Manker, Director (1) Fred Ray; (2) Prof Manker; (3) Berte Weaver; (4) A. B. Martin; (5) Philip Ray; (6) Lawrence Wilson; (7) Son of Murdock Murray

Leaksville NC post office delegation, Washington DC May 20, 1935. O'Mansky; Dehart; Thomas; Pace; Ray (F.C.); Jones (Ben); Smith; Fitts; Ray (J. B.);

Photo Album

Processed July 21, 2004  
Rita Nance Gantt, Archival Clerk  
Rockingham Community College  
Rockingham County Historical Collections