

**Roanoke Public Libraries  
Virginia Room  
Bonnie S. Ball Manuscripts**

**Collection Description:**

**Repository:** Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

**Accession Number:** 2010.1.4

**Title:** Bonnie S. Ball Manuscripts

**Physical Characteristics:** 1 record storage box

**Donated by:** unknown

**Arrangement:** Documents are arranged alphabetically by the last name of the family that was researched. The scrapbook is located last due to its size and unrelated nature.

**Creator:** Bonnie S. Ball

**Reproduction Restrictions:** No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

**Processor:** Lynsey Allie , May 2014

**Introduction:**

This collection highlights the extensive genealogical research done by Mrs. Bonnie S. Ball, who worked primarily in Southwestern Virginia historical records. Contained in the collection are notes for merely a handful of family histories researched by Ball.

**Biographical Note:**

Bonnie Sage was born on December 17, 1901 near Stickleysville, Virginia. She was the fourth of thirteen children! Bonnie later became a teacher and taught all over Virginia and adjoining states. During her teaching, she met and married Palmer Ball. After 33 years of teaching, Bonnie retired to Big Stone Gap, Virginia, but remained active. She was a member of several historical societies, DAR, UDC, a correspondent for several papers and publications, published several books, and participated in church activities. Unfortunately, Mrs. Ball suffered poor health during her later years and succumbed to her ailments on May 11, 1996 at the age of 95. She was a well-known and respected genealogist and her work can be passed down to future generations<sup>1</sup>.

**Scope and Content:**

- The Bonnie S. Ball collection comprises 1 record storage box.
- The collection is made up of handwritten notes by Ball, all done on standard notebook paper; genealogical charts; scrapbook is approximately 8x12 and contains various sized church photos, both in color and black and white
- This collection dates mainly from the late 1950s through the early 80s

**Container List:**

Box 1 of 1

Folder 1- copy of tribute article to Bonnie Ball, written by Gladys Stallard for the December 1996 edition of the Appalachian Quarterly after Ball's passing.

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Folder 2- Letter from a Mrs. Jean Patterson in TN.; dated 1/22/1972; asking Mrs. Ball about any genealogical information on the Bramletts of Bedford County. Ball's handwritten notes are taped to back of letter

Folder 3- folder of correspondence from a Ms. Ann Ryan of San Clemente, California; undated but most likely are from the late 60s-early 70s. Ms. Ryan is looking for genealogical information on Chapman family. Mrs. Ball has added pages of handwritten notes to end of folder.

Folder 4- contains copious correspondence with a Ms. Florence Cates from Kingman, Kansas; letters date from 1962-1969. Mrs. Ball's notes are also included, along with genealogical charts of the Cates, Hess, Cunningham, Trumbo, Rinker, and Cleveland families.

Folder 5- folder houses correspondence with a Mrs. Mary Neal Routzhon of Harlan, Kentucky looking for information on Coulson family; the letters date from the early 60s-early 70s. Mrs. Ball added notes regarding different sources for information on Coulson family

Folder 6- contains a letter from a Sybil Barker, dated November 15, 1972, regarding Sage family. Folder also contains numerous genealogical charts for the Sage, Cornett, and Barker families.

Folder 7- contains ample notes on Cox family, while there seems to be no originating request or letter from a patron for her services, Ball notes the name of a Mrs. Lucille Cox Jones along with her address.

Folder 8- Letter from a E. Cutchenson in Atlanta, Georgia; dated march 19, 1984, asking for help tracing back Delp-Rhudy lineage and attached genealogy chart.

Folder 9- general index of marriages of Scott County females; dating from 1800s-1930s, mainly looking at Elam clan

Folder 10- Ball's brief note on Francisco family will search; undated

Folder 11- Notes dated 1978 for a Gaddy family for a Mrs. Ruth Maxwell from TN.

Folder 12- Numerous copies of different records for Glass family, again, no letter or patron request attached

Folder 13- Letter from a Mrs. Paul Murff of Floydada, TX, dated 3/16/1969 requesting assistance with research on Gwin (Gwyne) family and Ball's notes regarding her research.

Folder 14- Notes on research of Hale family; undated with no known letter from client who requested this information

Folder 15- Copy of letter written, February 14, 1984, by a Mrs. Robert E. Spencer in Sonoma, California, regarding her search for Harding family history and attached genealogy chart

Folder 16- Folder contains large amounts of notes on Haven family research and correspondence with another genealogist regarding this family.

Folder 17- Folder that contains extensive correspondence with a J.B. Havens of Stafford, Texas, through the early 70s; Ball's notes are also included

Folder 18- Copies and notes related mainly to Holland family, in addition to Brewer and Elkins related lines; notes come from late 50s

Folder 19- Notes on Jones family; dated from late 50s-early 60s

Folder 20- Brief notes on Lohr family, no original request letter, etc.

Folder 21- Brief notes on Martin family, no original request letter, etc.

Folder 22- Brief notes on Moore family, no original request letter, etc.

Folder 23- Brief notes on Ott family, no original request letter, etc.

Folder 24- Contains folder with letters and notes regarding Sayers (Sawyers) family; dated from mid-60s.

Folder 25- Brief notes on Stealy family, no original request letter, etc.

Folder 26- Folder contains notes, correspondence, and genealogical charts sent from client to Ball on Todd family for further research assistance

Folder 27- Brief notes on Grayson Co., Virginia, no original request letter, etc.

Folder 28- Brief notes on Wright family, no original request letter, etc.

Folder 29- Brief notes on Tazewell Co., Virginia, no original request letter, etc.

Folder 30- Folder of notes pertaining to Washington Co., Virginia and Smythe Co., Virginia

Folder 31- Folder of notes pertaining to Wise Co., Virginia

Folder 32- Folder holds copies of early Rowan Co., North Carolina records with the names and birthdates of early settlers to the area

Folder 33- Grayson Co., Virginia Historical Society newsletters from 1983 and other miscellaneous notes

Folder 34- copy of 1850 census of Mercer Co., Virginia and 1810 census of Giles Co., Virginia and handwritten Index of non-military service for W. Va. In American revolution

Folder 35- 3 notebooks filled with various information on census, land and marriage records for several counties

Folder 36- Folder with typed pages listing the index of border settlers of Northwestern Virginia from 1768-1795

Folder 37- handwritten list of the first settlers of Jamestown, Va.

Scrapbook- lastly Ball constructed a scrapbook depicting various churches throughout the state that have historical significance; each page has a short history of the church and most also have a photo, either black and white or color.