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Bernie Babcock autobiography, 1925

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Bernie Babcock autobiography

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Arkansas State Archives
Title	Bernie Babcock autobiography
Date	circa 1925
Extent	0.02 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.
Microform [Reel]	MG00227

Preferred Citation

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Biographical/Historical Note

Bernie Smade was born in Union, Ohio, on April 28, 1868, the first of six children, to Hiram Norton Smade and Charlotte Elizabeth Burnelle Smade. Her family moved to Russellville Pope County, where Smade attended public school. On March 17, 1884, when she was fifteen, she read her impassioned essay at the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) Convention, which was published by request of the Russellville WCTU. She enrolled in Little Rock University, paying her way by working as the college president's housekeeper. Bernie married William Franklin Babcock in 1886 with whom she had five children and was married eleven years until his death. Bernie was determined to make a living by writing so that she could stay at home and raise her family; at night, she wrote stories and poems that she sent to editors across the county. Her first book, *The Daughter of the Republican*, was published in 1900 and sold 100,000 copies in six months. It was followed by *The Martyr* (1900). These were "temperance novels," describing the suffering caused by the consumption of liquor. Her books and emotionally charged tracts on the subject were credited with helping to bring about the national prohibition amendment in 1920. When her youngest child started school, Babcock became society page editor for the *Arkansas Democrat*. Bernie lived out the rest of her life in a small house on top of Petit Jean Mountain, where she began to paint and continued to write. In 1959, she published her only volume of poetry, *The Marble Woman*. She died at home on June 14, 1962, a few weeks after her ninety-fourth birthday; a neighbor found her sitting with a manuscript in her hand. Her mountaintop retreat had been aptly named—*Journey's End*. She was buried in Oakland Cemetery in Little Rock.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains a transcript of Bernie Babcock's autobiography.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 04/26/2021

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use. The ASA possesses the material listed in this finding aid in the original format, but due to preservation concerns this collection is accessible to the public through microfilm format.

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Unknown.

Collection Inventory

circa 1925: Autobiography; transcript