



*Raymond R. Nicholson - 1956
("New Senators Get Together")*

Raymond R. Nicholson to Dan Tompkins

Hunter Library MSS 80-14, Folder 4

September 19, 1941

Transcribed and Edited by Yustin Riopko
for ENGL 618: Research Methods in English
Western Carolina University

Instructor and General Editor: Dr. Brian Gastle

12 December 2018

SERIES INTRO

This transcription and its attendant annotations, explanatory material, and bibliography were prepared by students in ENGL 618: Research Methods in English, the required gateway class for the MA in English at Western Carolina University. The learning outcomes for this class include the following:

1. Conduct appropriate, effective, and ethical scholarship
 - a. Effectively find and use advanced research tools (handbooks, databases, guides, bibliographies, etc.) appropriate to a subject.
 - Students will be able to use a wide variety of such tools and evaluate those tools.
 - b. Find appropriate advanced research (print and electronic scholarship) and apply that research to specific disciplinary questions or issues.
 - Students will be able to find a variety of scholarship, evaluate both the appropriateness and rigor of that scholarship, and incorporate that scholarship correctly and effectively.
 - c. Develop accurate bibliographies and reference citations.
 - Students will be able to annotate, abstract, and cite materials following standard MLA format.
2. Understand the process by which the texts we use are made available.
 - Students will be able to conduct basic editorial work and evaluate them editorial work of others.

All work is presented as submitted by the students. While these students take great care with their transcriptions and annotations, errors are always possible. As these students learn throughout this class, good scholarship requires checking of sources and corroboration by authoritative sources.

It is hoped that the transcription and annotation of WCU Special Collections materials will be useful to the institution, students, scholars, and other patrons and users of WCU's Special Collections materials.

INTRODUCTION

Raymond Rockhill Nicholson was born in Jackson County in 1898. He studied at what is today known as Western Carolina University. From 1917 to 1921, he served as principle of three different public schools. Between the years 1920 and 1926, he served as registrar of deeds of Jackson County. He was a member of the County Board of Elections and actively served the Democratic Party. When Nicholson wrote this letter, he was probably working with Mead Corporation or the C.J. Harris Community Hospital as an accountant. Fourteen years after he wrote this letter, he was appointed to state senate where he served in 1955 and 1956 (Jackson County Genealogical Society).

Dan Tompkins was born in Webster, NC in 1890. He graduated from high school in Waynesville and studied law at Wake Forest College. The *Jackson County Journal* started in 1906, and Tompkins became the editor in chief in 1912. He served in the military in 1917 and 1918 during World War I, during which time he was part of the offensive that broke the Hindenburg line at Ballicourt, France (Jackson County Genealogical Society). After his honorable discharge, Tompkins returned to his job at the *Journal* and was elected Mayor of Sylva as a Democrat. He was Jackson County's representative to the General Assembly in 1933, 1939, and 1943.

Robert Rice Reynolds was born in Asheville in 1884. An avid traveler from a young age, Reynolds was known to send back post cards from all over the world and to boast of having "circled the globe more than a dozen times" (Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society). He wrote two books titled *Wanderlust* and *Gypsy Trails*. Reynolds held many occupations including coaching, wrestling, news reporting, babysitting, practicing law, and even managing a roller skating rink. He got his law degree at Chapel Hill in 1906 and was elected district prosecutor in 1910. In 1932, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he was serving at the time this letter was written.

It is unknown why Nicholson would have been to have been writing on Sylva Supply Company stationary. I found no association between him and the company. This note, in and of its self, is as mundane as it appears, but contextually it is something more interesting. It is a note about an influential man, from one influential man to another.

EDITORIAL STATEMENT

Sometimes a manuscript's handwriting can make editing a challenge. That was not the case with this letter. Nicholson's handwriting was exceptionally good. In fact, Joyce Nicholson Evans reported to the Jackson County Genealogical Society, "[M]any people still comment on his unusual and neat penmanship" (Jackson County Genealogical Society). That skill, which I'm sure served him well during his six years as Jackson County's registrar of deeds, made my job that much easier with this project.

I entered onto a new line whenever the body of the letter reached a new line, because I wanted to stay true to its original form.

Regarding the letterhead: Since this document was written on branded stationery, some of the information was printed on the paper before the note itself was written. I decided to type that information as part of the transcript, but to italicize it so that it is distinct from the note itself.

RAYMOND R. NICHOLSON'S LETTER TO DAN TOMPKINS

E. L. MCKEE

CHESTER SCOTT

SYLVA SUPPLY COMPANY, INC.
... Merchants ...

SYLVA, N. C.

Sept. 19, 1941.

Dear Dan:

You very clearly expressed my sentiments in your editorial "Ignorant North Carolina". Every word is in exact line with my thinking and while I can't express it in such clear terms, I can think such thoughts as you brought out.

If Bob ever goes back to the Senate, it will be through no management of mine. I'm through with him and not only that, I'm ashamed that I ever sponsored his cause in his first campaign.

Your other editorials are equally as good and I feel are doing much good at this time.

Yours sincerely,
Raymond R. Nicholson

*E.L. McKee*¹

Chester Scott

*Sylva Supply Company, Inc.*²

Merchants

Sylva, N.C.

September 19, 1941

Dear Dan:³

You very clearly expressed my sentiments in your editorial “Ignorant North Carolina”.⁴ Every word is in exact line with my thinking and while I can’t express it in such clear terms, I can think such thoughts as you brought out.

¹ Ernest Lyndon McKee was one of the owners of Sylva Supply Company. He was a son of Gertrude Dills McKee, the first woman to serve in the North Carolina Senate. Her father, William Allen Dills, was actually the founder of Dillsboro (Beck).

² The Sylva Supply Company opened in 1898 and was one of only three stores in Sylva at the time. The other two were Mack Fowler’s General Merchandise and A.B. Dill’s store. Sylva Supply served as a general store for local workers, who used their work coupons (Bell 172).

³ Dan Tompkins, born 1890, was an influential figure in Western North Carolina, especially around Sylva (Austin). He served as the editor of the Jackson County Journal from 1912 until 1943 – except for during the period of 1917-18, when he volunteered for the military during World War I (“Special Collections”). Tompkins was Jackson County’s Representative to the General Assembly in 1933, 1939, and 1943. He was the reading clerk in the House of Representatives for a time, and he served multiple terms as the mayor of Sylva starting in 1919 (Jackson County Genealogical Society 456).

⁴ In this *Jackson County Journal* editorial, published September 8 1941, Tompkins scolds Senator Robert Rice Reynolds for inviting Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh to come to North Carolina and make a speech. The full editorial can be read in Appendix A of this document (Tompkins).

If Bob⁵ ever goes back to the Senate, it will be through no management of mine. I'm through with him and not only that, i'm ashamed that I ever sponsored his cause in his first campaign.⁶

Your other editorials are equally as good and I feel are doing much good at this time

Yours sincerely,
Raymond R. Nicholson⁷

⁵ Robert Rice Reynolds, born 1884, served two terms as a U.S. senator representing North Carolina starting in 1932. He was known for being a traveler, claiming to have been around the world more than twelve times. Ironically, Reynolds won the 1932 election by criticizing his opponent for being too cultured, and claiming that he himself was satisfied with the simple North Carolina lifestyle. (Old Buncombe County 309). He was in his second term at the time this editorial and letter were written.

⁶ Tompkins, Reynolds, and Nicholson all served the Democratic party in their respective offices (Jackson County Genealogical Society, Old Buncombe County).

⁷ Raymond Rockhill Nicholson, born 1898, served many occupations throughout his lifetime. He earned the nickname, "Prof," during his time teaching, and served as registrar of deeds in Jackson County, holding office from 1920 to 1926. Nicholson was also member of the County Board of Elections. In 1955, he was appointed to fill a vacancy in the state senate, where he served from 1955 to 1956 (Jackson County Genealogical Society 367).

Works Cited

- Austin, Suelle Reece. "Dan Tompkins: Mountain Editor." MA Thesis, Western Carolina U. 1966.
- Beck, Teresa Kay. "McKee, Gertrude Dills." *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, edited by William S. Powell, UNC Press, 1979-1996 (1991). *NCpedia*.
<https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/mckee-gertrude-dills>. Accessed 11 Dec. 2018.
- Bell, John L. "Economic Activities." *The History of Jackson County*, edited by Max R. Williams, The Jackson County Historical Association, 1987, pp. 147-85.
- Jackson County Genealogical Society. *Jackson County Heritage*. Wallsworth Publishing Co., 1992.
- "New Senators Get Together." *The Asheville Citizen Times*. July 24, 1956. *Western Carolina University Special and Digital Collections*, Hunter Library.
- Nicholson, Raymond. Letter to Dan Tompkins, 19 Sept. 1941. *Western Carolina University Special and Digital Collections*, Hunter Library MSS 80-14.
- Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society. *The Heritage of Old Buncombe County*. Winston-Salem, Hunter Publishing Co., 1987.
- Special Collections Accession Form*. Western Carolina University Special and Digital Collections, Hunter Library MSS 80-14.
- Tompkins, Dan. "Ignorant North Carolina?" *The Jackson County Journal*, 18 Sept. 1941. *Western Carolina University Special and Digital Collections*, Hunter Library.

Jackson County Journal
Entered as second class matter
at the Post Office Office, N. C.
Published Weekly By
DAN TOMPKINS
DAN TOMPKINS, Editor

EDITORIAL

THAT BULGARIAN NAVY

Because the rest of us have been "lying supinely upon our backs and hugging the delusive phantom of hope" for the past twenty years while Germany has been preparing for yet another murderous and bur-

As an example, there is the Bulgarian navy. Up to now nobody ever heard of Bulgaria possessing a navy. But, observers have been taking notice of certain preparations that the Germans have been making for a naval offensive against the Russian Crimea in the Black Sea.

We'll bet that any American confidence men could sell the Brooklyn Bridge to the master mind who thought up that one.

IGNORANT NORTH CAROLINA?

Senator Robert Rice Reynolds, prospective owner of the Hope Diamond, by virtue of his fifth venture in the seas of matrimony, (Bob always was a traveller)

So, Bob, the people of North Carolina are ignorant upon the questions that confront the country and the world? They cannot rely upon the information that they have been able to glean from reading the public press?

At the same time the men of the Legion stand for the perpetuation of the principles upon which our government was founded, for the survival of our government and its institutions.

Back in the summer of 1939, when the clouds were gathering about the horizon, and when President Roosevelt and Secretary Hull were trying to get the American house in order against the coming storm,

Just you wait, Bob, until 1944, and North Carolina will speak her little piece to you. We can't say anything to Lindbergh then, unless he happens to be running on a National ticket (a thing for which we suspect he is bidding).

institutions. They love their liberty. They have battled for these on many occasions, and they didn't flee when the testing time came.

We know enough already to be thoroughly disgusted with Lindbergh and his ilk. We know disloyalty when we see it, and we hold no truck with those who seek to divide us, as other nations now beneath the heel of the conqueror, have been divided.

THE LEGION RINGS CLEAR

The American Legion, at its annual convention in Milwaukee, went as far in support of the Administration's foreign policy as even the Committee for the Defense of America could have wished.

There never was any real sense or real Americanism in either the surrender of the freedom of the seas, implied in the so-called Neutrality Act, or the decision of Congress to prohibit the soldiers, except those in the regular army, from being ordered to any point, anywhere, where their services may be needed for the defense of the United States and its nationals.

that if another war had to be fought, it should be waged upon American soil. "Let them come over here," was heard on every hand. No more fallacious idea ever gained such prevalence.

Another good mixture for temporary grazing, Moore said, is: three bushels of winter oats or two bushels of wheat, and 15 pounds of crimson clover, and 15 pounds of Italian rye grass.

New Proved-Sire List Aid in Bull Selection
The need for more careful sire selection is emphasized in the U. S. Department of Agriculture's 1941 list of sire specialists of the N. C. State College Extension Service.

The list, which soon will be available to North Carolina dairy farmers, shows that less than half of the 3,219 proved during the year which ended April 1, 1940, improved milk and butterfat production in their daughters over their dams.

Remember that this resolution, this stand, and this determination are the studied thought of the men in America who really know modern warfare. Who follows The Legion?

OUR DEMOCRACY

PROGRESS IN OUR DEMOCRACY
SOLDIER'S HEALTH 1898 AND NOW.



IN FOUR MONTHS IN 1898 IN CAMPS IN THE U. S., 20,738 CASES OF TYPHOID DEVELOPED AMONG 107,975 OFFICERS AND MEN—NEARLY 20% OF THOSE SICK 76% DIED.



IN FOUR MONTHS IN 1941 (JANUARY TO MAY) IN AN ARMY WHICH GREW TO 1,300,000 OFFICERS AND MEN IN CAMPS AND BARRACKS, NOT ONE CASE OF TYPHOID IN ANY ONE OF THE 48 STATES.

GOOD PASTURES PAY LARGE DIVIDENDS

Land, labor, and seed used for temporary and permanent pastures pay handsome dividends, says James L. Moore, assistant dairy investigations for the Experiment Station at N. C. State College.

North Carolina has 1,250,000 acres of idle clear land. Such a portion of this as will make a fair crop of corn should be prepared this fall and seeded to permanent pasture.

Another good mixture for temporary grazing, Moore said, is: three bushels of winter oats or two bushels of wheat, and 15 pounds of crimson clover, and 15 pounds of Italian rye grass.

New Proved-Sire List Aid in Bull Selection

The need for more careful sire selection is emphasized in the U. S. Department of Agriculture's 1941 list of sire specialists of the N. C. State College Extension Service.

The list, which soon will be available to North Carolina dairy farmers, shows that less than half of the 3,219 proved during the year which ended April 1, 1940, improved milk and butterfat production in their daughters over their dams.

HARVEST TIME NEARS FOR SWEET POTATOES

Shortening days and cool nights herald the arrival of fall and harvest time for sweet potatoes, staple in the diet of North Carolina farm people.

The horticulturist advises the use of a vine cutter attached to the beam of the plow when vines are not removed before harvest.

As the potatoes are removed from the soil and piled in the heap or row, they should be graded carefully.

For curing and storing, a regular storage crate has many advantages over the bushel tub. Besides conserving room, the crate allows a better circulation of air.

Some instances, the AAA committee observed, farmers have been told that cannot could not pay better prices this year because the market was not sufficient to permit a price increase.

Farmers Benefit in U. S. Purchases of Tomatoes

North Carolina farmers and canners will continue to benefit from government purchases of canned tomatoes, it was announced by David T. House, Pitt County farmer and member of the State AAA committee.

News Oddities

WE EMBROIDER BATHING SUITS IN SHORTLY PILES OF STROM-GO BRIMS COVERED WITH BUNDS OF ANIMALS. B.C. 2 IN THE DOWN.

QUEEN HETERHEPERS
THE FIRST HETERHEPERS
FIRST HETERHEPERS
FIRST HETERHEPERS

BEES
HONEY WITH FOOD AND DRUGS
HONEY WITH FOOD AND DRUGS

THE LURE OF THE
THE LURE OF THE
THE LURE OF THE