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**THE MARTHA RIVERS ADAMS (1882-1959) COLLECTION**

This microfilmed collection includes Civil War records, correspondence, financial documents, land records, ledgers, legal documents, lists, maps, obituaries, photographs, poetry, receipts, and scrapbooks of the RIVERS, PAINE, ABERNATHY, and BROWN families of Giles County, Tennessee. The collection was originally assembled by Martha Rivers ADAMS, a historian and writer of a column for the Lynchburg (Va.) *News and the Daily Advance*.

**MARTHA RIVERS ADAMS (1882-1959)**

Martha RIVERS, daughter of James W. RIVERS and Mary FLOURNOY, was born 10 November 1882 at Conway, Giles County, Tennessee. She was graduated from Athens College, Athens, Alabama, and from Martin College, Pulaski, Tennessee. She also attended Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia, for two years, a member of the class of 1904. On 12 January 1904, Martha RIVERS married William Duval ADAMS, Jr., son of William Duval ADAMS and Elizabeth Victorine MULLAN, of Lynchburg.

Martha Rivers ADAMS was employed by *The News* of Lynchburg, first as a substitute for the society editors. During a career that spanned 45 years at the newspaper, she worked in almost every department as a reporter, covering courts, municipal offices, and "activities of military units and individuals during and after World War I." She also reported on numerous groups, "including all women's organizations." She eventually became Women's Editor of *The News*.

In 1951, Martha Rivers ADAMS began a weekly column entitled "Browsings." This column covered a variety of topics, but concentrated on local history. The column continued until her death in 1959.

Martha Rivers ADAMS was a director of the Travelers Aid Society from 1914 until 1950. She was an honorary member of the Woman's Club of Lynchburg, a member of Kirkwood Otey Chapter, UDC, and a member of the Lynchburg Art Club. She died 28 June 1959 and was buried in the Spring Hill Cemetery in Lynchburg.

[Phillip Wayne Rhodes, "The Adams Family of Lynchburg, Virginia," Mss., FF1985, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA.]