Personal Papers and Family Collections
in Special Collections and Archives*

From the Owen-McCutchen-Merritt Papers

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*This is a selected list of resources from our holdings. For a comprehensive list of materials in Special Collections, please consult the Regional History and the University Archives Collections Guides.
Blackwelder Collection, Eva E., circa 1820s-1980s. 21.0 linear feet. 1999.001.
Family papers documenting the Blackwelder, Del Mar and MacCoy family activities including domestic and international travel, genealogy, women’s club work, and everyday life; an extensive series of personal and travel journals; photographs, slides, lantern slides, negatives and drawings documenting various family members, their travels, the destruction wrought by World War I in France, and the St. Louis World’s Fair; printed material including sheet music and postcards; and ephemera from travels around the world.

Blue Collection, John Lloyd, 1933-1954. 0.5 linear feet. 2002.076.
Materials relating to Blue’s years as a student at Southeast Missouri State Teachers College and as a member of the Navy V-12 program. Includes an athletics scrapbook, programs from athletic, theatrical, social, and university events, photographs, and ephemera.

Letters, newspaper clippings, photographs (13) and yearbooks (2) relating to Bowden, a prominent African-American educator in Southeast Missouri and principal of the Lincoln High School, Charleston, [Mo], for 23 years. Yearbooks are from Lincoln High School (1950) and Lincoln University, Jefferson City, [Mo] (1950).

Bradford Papers, Malakiah, 1836-1866. 2 items. 1998.068.
Transcript (41 pages, 2 copies) of legal and personal papers of Bradford, a Southern businessman from Baton Rouge [LA] who owned property in Cape Girardeau, including an interest in the Johnson House.

Photographs (58), photo albums (3), postcards (7), and other documents collected by the Brase Family over the years. Also includes the baby book of Richard Brase, son of prominent Cape Girardeau businessman and philanthropist, A.C. Brase, news clippings about A. C. Brase, and a marriage record book.

Browning Collection, Ella, 1927-1942. 1 folder. 2002.097.
Photocopied typed reminiscences (3p) of Browning, one of the founders of the Clio Society at the Missouri State Normal School at Cape Girardeau; and photocopied correspondence between Browning and former Clio members and the Alumni Association at the college.

Genealogical research of the Cross and Edwards families of Dunklin County, compiled by Wendell Mills.

Daues Collection, Charles H., circa 1898-1900. 6 items. 2002.246.
Ephemera from Daues, a student at the Missouri State Normal School at Cape Girardeau (class of 1898), including photographs, a program, and letter of recommendation from Edward H. Engelmann, Clerk of the Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas.

Ephemera from Daughtery’s days as a student at the Missouri State Normal School at Cape Girardeau, including programs for Hesperian Society events, recitals, a Cape Girardeau High School Commencement program (1915) and a Women’s Missionary Society District meeting program (1915).

Correspondence between the Southeast Missouri State College Alumni Association and Hattie Eicholtz, former Director of Placement and Alumni Affairs at the college, regarding her receipt of the Alumni Association Award, including presentation speech, clippings, biographical information on Eicholtz, and programs from commencement, during which the award was presented.
Personal, business and legal correspondence, financial and legal papers, school, church and 
genealogical records, scrapbooks, photographs, postcards, and artifacts from the four allied families of 
Friend, Bollinger, Heise and Heldemon of Southeast Missouri. The Friends were a pioneering family in 
Scott County, first settling there in 1796, near Benton.

Photocopied typescript (14p) by Gaines entitled “South Spanish Street: I Remember it Well,” about his 
boyhood growing up on this Cape Girardeau street, in which he recounts the home and businesses 
located along Spanish between Independence and Morgan Oak Streets. Accompanied by photocopied 
newspaper clipping from Southeast Missourian pertaining to Gaines’ remembrances, which were printed 
in the newspaper.

Correspondence, photographs, negatives, slides, clippings, publications, club and student record books, 
University Centennial material, and ephemera from Dr. Harold O. Grauel, professor of English at 
Southeast Missouri State University from 1928 to 1971. *Oversized

B.W. Harrison was an agent of the Missouri Farm Bureau. His collection consists of newspaper clippings, 
obituaries, scrapbooks, sheet music, and materials concerning the Missouri Farm Bureau.

Primarily consists of Holograph letters between Bill and Margaret Haslauer during their courtship and 
marrriage. The Hauslauers were originally from Mound City [Il] and Cairo [Il]. Letters primarily date to 
periods when Margaret and Bill are separated, for example during the 1937 Mississippi Flood, when 
Margaret was away at school, and when Bill was trained and served as an navigator on a bomber for the 
Army in WII, as well as when he was held as an internee in neutral Sweden.

Personal correspondence, newspaper clippings, ephemera, drafts of and notes for Heil’s book 
“Recollections” regarding her years of service as secretary to the President of the Southeast Missouri 
State Teachers College from 1905 to 1930 and as secretary to school’s Board of Regents from 1912 to 
1947.

Transcription of the “Diaries of Albert S. Hunter, Stoddard Co., Missouri Farm Boy.” The diaries begin 
when Hunter is 18 years old and tell about his daily life on the family farm and about Hunter’s attempts at 
various home-study courses in ventriloquism, guitar, taxidermy, and architectural drafting.

Johnson Collection, 1837-1999 0.25 linear feet. 2001.001.
Materials relating to the Big Hill Historic Farmstead in Jackson, [Mo], owned by G. Fredrick Williams and 
Mary Kate Williams-Johnson at the time Big Hill was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. 
Included in the collection is the complete National Register nomination packet, transcripts of letters and 
documents of George Fredrick Bollinger and Ralph Daughtry, who were prominent citizens of Cape 
Girardeau County as well as direct relatives of the owners. Additionally, there are letters between Kate 
McGuire and Miss Freddie Williams between 1873-1894, as well as 11 photographs of members of 
McGuire’s family.
Biographical materials relating to the life of Dr. Helen Kinney, who established and ran an innovative two-year nursing degree program at Southeast Missouri State University. Awards, news clippings, and photographs are the primary materials.

Drafts and published poetry and essays, reviews, correspondence, newspaper clippings, ephemera and videos of Lewis, an essayist and poet from Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Greatly influenced by the struggles of farm laborers, his work focuses primarily on the social and political issues of the 1930s through the 1950s. Later in his life, Lewis developed theories about the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Mabuce Papers, Ethel, 1887-1975. 2.5 linear feet. 1998.039.  
Correspondence, personal memorabilia, Methodist missionary publications, and photographs of Mabuce, a native of Marquand, [Mo], and former student of the Missouri State Normal School at Cape Girardeau, who served as a missionary in Burma from the Methodist Episcopal Church from 1916-1921. The collection contains an autographed copy of I Always Wore My Topi, (1974), a collection of Mabuce’s letters from Burma. *Oversized

McLain Family Papers, 1780-1880. 17 items. 1998.046.  
Receipts and financial paperwork of the McLain Family, Alexander McLain, David McLain, and John McLain, consisting of Alexander McLain’s pension for his service in the American Revolution, as well as a list of Alexander’s expenses, family receipts, two partial letters, and a contract for the establishment of a ferry at Crooked Creek.

Millner, Louise R. Sparks Collection, 1941-1986. 21 items. 2008.014.  
Newspaper clippings, correspondence, and other materials relating to the life of Louise R. Sparks Millner, a prominent African-American businesswoman of Southeast Missouri. Millner owned and operated the Sparks Funeral Homes of Cape Girardeau and Sikeston, Mo for 48 years, and was an active member of the community, focusing especially on the educational needs of children.

Genealogy of the Mills family of Dunklin County, compiled by Wendell Mills. 125 pp.

Copy of Colonel Murdoch’s reminiscences (46p) about his service in the American Civil War. Murdoch was first commissioned as a Captain in the Union Army, Co. A, 50th Infantry Volunteers, and in 1861 became Lt. Colonel of the Fremont Rangers. He commanded Forts A, B, C, and D in Cape Girardeau. Includes information on the organization of the Fremont Rangers and the Missouri State Militia, and Union and Confederate activities in Stoddard, New Madrid, Bollinger, Wayne, Madison, Perry, Scott, Mississippi, and Cape Girardeau Counties in Missouri. The reminiscences are accompanied by background information on the Murdoch family, a poem by Murdoch, and copies of photographs related to Murdoch’s American Civil War service, home and family.

Correspondence, scrapbooks, business and legal papers, ephemera, postcards, and photographs of the Owen, McCutchen, and Merritt families, who were connected by marriage and were influential, early settlers in the Campbell and Four Mile, Missouri communities in Dunklin County. The families owned and operated local businesses including a mercantile company and the Bank of Campbell, and were active in local politics. *Oversized.
Photocopied typescript (110p) of genealogical records relating to the Proffer family from 1758 to 1978, compiled and written by Alice Proffer Spillman. The Proffer family settled in Cape Girardeau in 1818.

Primarily personal correspondence to and from members of a Cape Girardeau pioneer family, the most notable member of whom was Honorable William C. Ranney, who served on the Common Pleas Circuit Court from 1851 to circa 1861 and was elected State Senator in 1871.

Documents from St. Avit family of Cape Girardeau, including warranty deed for lot on Spanish Street, power of attorney assignment between John Duffort and John St. Avit, birth certificate for Jeanne Dupont, personal letter from Auguste Dolenc to “Nephew” and survey of tract lying northwest of the city of Cape Girardeau in 782 Township 31 North Range 13 East. Newspaper article provides background on St. Avit family. *Oversized*

Scivally Family Bible and Papers, Dennis, 1881-1985. 0.5 linear feet. 1998.053.
Scivally Family Bible and the papers on family history that had been stored in the bible. The majority of the material is on Dennis Scivally, a Cape Girardeau civil engineer.

Serena family correspondence and correspondence concerning Keuka College [New York], William Woods College [Fulton, Mo], and Southeast Missouri State Teachers College, at which Serena held presidencies, as well as the activities of the Christian Church. Also included are family financial papers, genealogy records, and poetry written by Virginia Hearne Serena, who married Joseph in 1915.

Correspondence, financial records, high school and college papers, campaign materials (1948-1980), case reviews, material related the Missouri Trade Mission in Europe in 1964, photographs of political appearances, family, and Cape Girardeau scenes, interview transcript with Spradling, maps, clippings and publications, documenting Spradling’s career as an attorney in Cape Girardeau and a Missouri State Senator (1952-1976). *Oversized*

Photographs, sheet music, ephemera, publications, clippings, phonographic and tape records of Stacy, a jazz pianist with roots in Southeast Missouri.

Photographs, news clippings and other materials documenting the life of P.J. Stearns, a prominent educator and business man in New Madrid County, Mo.

Photocopied typescript (45p) by Vandiver (1854-1932), former Professor of Natural Science and President of the Missouri State Normal School at Cape Girardeau, and Missouri Congressman credited with originating Missouri's “Show-Me State” nickname. Manuscript covers Vance and Vandiver family genealogies, Vandiver’s educational and religious upbringing, professional training, years in Cape Girardeau and as a Congressman, and other personal and political reminiscences. Accompanied by four photocopied news clippings and photocopied image of Vandiver.