Information Sheet

R  Cook, Warren.  
43  Collection, 1782-1978.  
      Five folders.  

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are photocopies of papers of the Smith, Havins, Roseberry, and Cook families of southwestern Missouri, Arkansas, and Texas. The collection includes correspondence, estate papers, and genealogical records. There are also two farm diaries, 1875-1876.

The Warren Cook Collection consists of photocopies of letters, estate papers, and miscellaneous documents, principally pertaining to Cook’s ancestors in southwestern Missouri. Cook inherited the manuscripts upon the death of his grandmother, and he has used some of the papers as sources for a series of articles in the Neosho Daily Times entitled “Out of the Attic.” Photocopies of several of these articles have been placed in Folder 5.

The Cook family has its antecedents in the Smith and Havins families of Kentucky and Alabama, and the earliest papers in the collection are indenture contracts and estate documents from those states. The Smiths and the Havinses began moving westward in the 1830s, and while some settled in southwestern Missouri, others moved on to homestead in Texas and in northwestern Arkansas.

The period from 1850-1900 is well represented in the collection, primarily by correspondence among the various branches of the family. In addition to family news, the letters contain comments on economic conditions in Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri, as well as notes on cattle prices and markets. The Civil War period is represented by letters and papers of Lt. J. W. Roseberry of the 16th Regiment, Missouri Volunteers (Confederate). Roseberry wrote to his family from army camps in Arkansas and Louisiana, and his letters contain interesting comments on the war and the army, including a religious revival in the camps in late 1864. Roseberry surrendered with the army in 1865, and included are photocopies of his parole and oath of allegiance. There is also a letter of recommendation from the elders of a church at Camp Allen, Louisiana, attesting to Roseberry’s good standing in the congregation there.

Two other items of interest in the correspondence are an eyewitness description of the San Francisco earthquake and fire, 1906, and a letter from Clara Smith Steichen, wife of the famed photographer Edward Steichen, in which she describes events in Europe at the beginning of World War II.

The correspondence has been arranged chronologically in folders 1 and 2.

The remainder of the collection includes photocopies of two pocket farm diaries for 1875-1876 that were kept by J. W. Roseberry of Kent, Missouri. In addition to the weather and domestic events, the diaries mention trips to Neosho to buy supplies, sell farm produce, and to attend Grange meetings. The diaries have been placed in Folder 3. Folder 4 contains various receipts and promissory notes, and Folder 5 includes genealogical notes, newspaper clippings, and copies of photographs of several of the individuals represented in the collection.

Shelf List

 These are photocopies of papers of the Smith, Havins, Roseberry, and Cook families of southwestern Missouri, Arkansas, and Texas. The collection includes correspondence, estate papers, and genealogical records. There are also two farm diaries, 1875-1876.

Folder 1: Correspondence and estate papers, 1782-1875.
06 Aug 1782 Last Will and Testament of John Haven, Fincastle County, Va.
12 Sep 1796 Warranty Deed: James Mann to James Havans, Jefferson County, Tenn.
01 Jun 1814 Warranty Deed: Henry Beeson to David Smith, Wayne County, Ky.
06 Nov 1821 Appointment of Executors: Christina Alsop and James Havens to the estate of William Alsop, Lawrence County, Ala.
06 Aug 1822 Appointment of Executors: Sarah Havens and David Smith to the estate of James Havens, Lawrence County, Ala.
January 1823 Assignment of Dower of Sarah Havens from the estate of James Havens.
11 Feb 1823 Inventory of the estate of James Havens.
04 Apr 1824 James Langston, Monticello, Ky., to David Smith, Lawrence County, Ala.
February 1826 Order to sell property from estate of James Havens, Lawrence County, Ala.
17 Aug 1828 Dillard and Nancy Huse (Hughes), Boonville, Mo., to Nancy Huse, Monticello, Ky.
01 Mar 1831 Bill of sale of property from the estate of Nicholas Alexander.
28 Nov 1838 Certificates of pedigree for horses.
04 Feb 1839 Promissory Note: William Spradlin to David Smith.
28 Aug 1848 Letter: Martha B. Carnes, Lee County, Va., to Amanda Roseberry, Newton County, Mo.
25 Jun 1849 Letter: Thomas J. Havins, Hopkins County, Tex., to Mrs. Charlotte Smith, Newton County, Mo.
12 Oct 1850 Letter: N. A. Langston, Randolph County, Ky., to “Dear Aunt.”
21 Jan 1854 Letter: Thomas P. Wilson, Carrollton, Mo., to William Gibson, Carthage, Mo.
2 Mar 1854 Letter: H. C. Armstrong, Neosho, Mo., to Charlotte Smith. Concerning hire or sale of Negro girl to Armstrong.
06 Jun 1854 Letter: J. Mitchell, Lee Valley, Va., to Amanda Roseberry, Senacker[?] County, Mo.
September 1854 Letter: C. S. Havins, Grenville, Tex., to Sarah Smith.
29 Jun 1855 William K. Summers, Carroll County, Ark., to “Cousin John Smith.”
28 May 1858 J. R. Smith, Washburn's Prairie, Mo., to Thomas Benton.
03 May 1859 J. R. Smith, Washburn's Prairie, Mo., to “Mother.”
01 Sep 1863 Alvin B. Havins, Erath County, Tex., to Franklin Marrs, Miller Grove, Hopkins County, Tex. Concerns the death of Abigail Havins.
18 Jan 1864 James W. Roseberry, Camp Bragg ( Ark. or La.[?]), to Charlotte Smith.
Folder 1 (Cont’d)
19 Sep 1864 James Roseberry, “Texas,” to “Dear Friend.”
14 Oct 1864 Nannie Coffey, Monticello, Ky., to “Dear Cousin.”
10 Dec 1864 Printed Form: Headquarters Department, Department of Arkansas, ordering guards to pass Sarah A. Walker en route by horseback to Newtonia, Mo.
circa 1865 Verse: “Richmond on the James,” by James W. Roseberry, 16th Missouri Infantry, camp near Camden, Ark.
01 May 1865 General Order No. 27, Shreveport, La., announcing promotion of James W. Roseberry as 2nd Lieutenant of Co. E, 16th Missouri Infantry.
19 May 1865 Certification of membership of James W. Roseberry as a member of the “Christian Church of the 2nd Brigade of Missouri Infantry,” Camp Allen, La.
08 Jun 1865 Printed parole of James W. Roseberry, 16th Missouri Infantry, Shreveport, La.
22 Jun 1865 Oath of Allegiance: James W. Roseberry, at St. Louis, Mo.
29 Aug 1866  Receipt for land taxes, Newton County, Mo., to Charlotte Smith, Executor of estate of David Smith.
20 Dec 1867  Adolphus Mitchell, Visalia, Calif., to Amanda Roseberry.
16 May 1873  Thomas Havins, Hopkins County, Tex., to Charlotte Smith.
28 Aug 1874  Affidavit by James and Mary Langston, Macon County, Mo., concerning the deaths of Polly Langston, Chariton County, Mo., and D. S. Langston, San Francisco, Calif.
22 Mar 1875  Statement concerning personal effects of late Walter Adams.

Folder 2: Correspondence and estate papers, 1883-1978.

12 Aug 1883  Last Will and Testament of Charlotte Smith, Newton County, Mo.
03 Mar 1884  Printed invitation to attend commencement exercises at the Physio-Medical Institute, Chicago, Ill.
16 Jan 1888  J. W. Roseberry, Chillicothe, Mo., to Charlotte Smith.
24 Mar 1888  J. W. Roseberry, Browning, Mo., to “Dear Wife.”
17 Jun 1888  J. W. Roseberry, Unionville, Mo., to Chalmer Roseberry.
May 1892  Printed invitation to attend commencement exercises of the Scarritt Collegiate Institute, to Charlotte Smith, Neosho, Mo.
14 Mar 1893  J. W. Roseberry, Kent, Mo., to “Dear Nephew.”
18 Sep 1895  Harve[?] Hamilton, Cabool, Mo., to Charlotte Roseberry.
05 Oct 1895  Ethel M. Roseberry, San Francisco, Calif., to Chalmer Roseberry.
circa 1897  Affidavit of John R. Smith, Newton County, Mo., concerning descendants of David Smith.
22 Mar 1899  “Cousin Wade,” Blue Ridge, Tex., to Chalmer Roseberry.
14 Apr 1899  “Cousin Wade,” Blue Ridge, Tex., to Chalmer Roseberry.
15 May 1901  Le Souvenir, a four-page newsheet printed at Neosho, Mo.
17 Sep 1901  Charles Payne, Wichita, Kan., to C. H. Roseberry, Kent, Mo.

Folder 2 (Cont’d)

12 Oct 1902  E. M. Roseberry, Hobart, Okla., to “Mother.”
October 1902  The Amicus Curio, Vol. III, No. 4, printed at Kent, Mo.
23 May 1903  A. S. Havins, Hillsboro, Hill County, [Calif.], to Charlotte Roseberry.
26 Nov 1905  Ozro Mitchell, Visalia, Calif., to Charlotte Roseberry, Kent, Mo.
21 Apr 1906  Ozro Mitchell, Visalia, Calif., to Chalmer Roseberry, Kent, Mo. Contains a description of the San Francisco earthquake.
28 Jun 1906  Mabel [?], Prosperity, Mo., to Chalmer Roseberry.
29 May 1916  J. R. Roseberry, Springfield, Mo., to Chalmer Roseberry, Stella, Mo.
29 Nov 1938  Clara S. Steichen, Florence, Italy, to Mrs. J. E. B. Cook, Roseberry, Mo.
31 Dec 1949  Bill for services by C. H. Roseberry, Stella, Mo., to Newton County, Mo.
Folder 3: Farm diaries, 1875-1876.

These are pocket farm diaries for 1875-1876. The diary for 1875 was marked on the outside of the cover “J. W. Roseberry, Kent, Newton Co. Mo.” The inside flyleaf bears the inscription, “Presented to Chalmer H. Roseberry on his 29th birthday by his mother, Jan. 11, 1904.” The diaries were photocopied one above the other on the same page. The diary at the top of the page is for the year 1875, that at the bottom for 1876.

Folder 4: Miscellaneous papers, 1816-ca. 1875.

Included here are promissory notes, tax and financial papers, and a few estate papers. (Circa 40 pages.)

Folder 5: Miscellaneous genealogical notes and records.

Includes obituaries, “The Havins Recorder,” and photocopies of photographs. (Circa 40 pages.)

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