These are letters of recommendation for individuals joining Rhea Church in southern Phelps County, Missouri. Baptist churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri issued most of the letters.

Rhea Church, in Cold Spring Township, Phelps County, Missouri, was formally organized in 1851 by its first pastor, the Rev. James Walker. It was originally called Zion Hill Church, and was affiliated with the Dry Fork Association of Baptist churches. Its first building was constructed in 1879. Members of the Church of Christ now use the building, adjacent to the Rhea Cemetery.

The records of Rhea Church consist of letters of recommendation for members transferring from other churches. They name the individual joining the Rhea Church, and also the church to which he or she formerly belonged. Baptist churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri issued most of the letters. There are also two letters issued by churches in Phelps County that indicate that the bearers were certified to preach.

The letters of recommendation have been arranged chronologically. An index can be found in the Information Folder.

**Shelf List**

These are letters of recommendation for individuals joining Rhea Church in southern Phelps County, Missouri. Baptist churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri issued most of the letters.

Folder 1: Letters, 1844-1865.

Folder 2: Letters, 1868-1900.

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