This is a copy of a history of the family of Cyrus Russell and Rebecca Pease, compiled by John Steele McCormick, ca. 1932-1934. It also contains additional material and photographs up to 2004, supplied by the donor and representing her line of descent from Cyrus Russell and Rebecca Pease.

Beginning in the 1830s, Cyrus Russell and his family, from the “Connecticut branch” of the Russells in America, became prominent citizens of what is now Iron County, Missouri. Descendant John Steele McCormick of Forest Hill in Crawford County, Missouri, compiled a history of the Missouri Russells about 1932-1934. It was based in part on his correspondence with “Aunt” Sarah Russell of Fredericktown, Missouri, and the work is dedicated to her. This correspondence, genealogical research, and other papers pertaining to the Russell family may be seen in the John Steele McCormick papers, WHMC-Rolla collection R877, and the Russell family papers, WHMC-Rolla collection R330. The Russell family and the writings of Theodore Pease Russell are the subject of *A Connecticut Yankee In the Frontier Ozarks*, by James F. Keefe and Lynn Morrow (University of Missouri Press, 1988).

John S. McCormick may have produced several handwritten drafts or copies of the Russell family history. A few pages of another copy are in Folder 5 of the Russell Family papers (WHMC-Rolla collection R330). As written in the “Explanations”[sic] of the history by Steele: “Part I gives the known ancestors of Col. Cyrus Russell; Part II gives the known ancestors of Rebecca Pease; Part III gives the descendants of this marriage….Footnotes and a complete index are added to clarify the reading….This work is just preliminary. It is primarily gotten together in this form to arrange the known materials so that the missing links be shown.” The narrative combines genealogical data with anecdotal material and family stories.

The Russell history in the Sandra Skaggs Menke collection came down through the donor’s grandparents, Theodore G. P. Russell and Bess Russell, and her mother, Marjorie Russell Skaggs. The book survived a fire in 1979 when the home of Marjorie and Martin Skaggs burned. It was in poor condition; parts of it were traced by Sandra Skaggs Menke. Beginning on page 226, Menke updated the Russell connection, derived from Cyrus Russell through his youngest son, William Russell, and added to the work to include her own family to 2004.
**FOLDER 1**

**Part I**
- The Origin of the Russells
- Ancestry of Margarete St. John, wife of Sir Francis Russell
- The Russell Family in America
- The Cooley Family
- The Families of Griswold, Wolcott, and Beckwith
- The Early Family of Wolcott

**Part II**
- The Peases
- Descendants of Giles and Jerusha Pitkin Pease
- The Pitkin Family
- Ancestors of Elizabeth Stanley, wife of William Pitkin
- A Sketch of the Hadley, Connecticut Family of White
- Cyrus Russell

**FOLDER 2**

**Part III**
- Children of Colonel Cyrus Russell & his wife, Rebecca Pease
- Theodore Pease Russell
- Brief Survey of the Ancestors of Willard Guild
- Children of Theodore Pease and Emily Wilder Guild Russell

**Part IV**
- Addition to “Old Book” by Sandra Skaggs Menke, following the line of William Russell (son of Cyrus and Rebecca) and Martha Keach Russell.
- Theodore Giles Pease Russell and Bess Idella Boyd
- Marjorie Bess Russell and Thomas Martin Skaggs
- Photographs and miscellaneous

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**Index Cards**

- Beckwith family—Genealogy.
- Cooley family—Genealogy.
- Griswold family—Genealogy.
- Guild, Willard.
- Menke, Sandra Skaggs.
- Pease, Giles.
- Pease, Jerusha Pitkin.
- Pease, Rebecca.
- Pease family—Genealogy.
- Pitkin family—Genealogy.
- Stanley, Elizabeth.
Russell, Bess Idella Boyd.
Russell, Cyrus.
Russell, Emily Wilder Guild.
Russell, Martha Keach.
Russell, Rebecca Pease.
Russell, Sarah.
Russell, Theodore Pease.
Russell, Theodore Giles Pease.
Russell, William.
Russell family—Genealogy.
Skaggs, Thomas Martin.
Skaggs, Marjorie Bess Russell.
White family—Genealogy.
Wolcott family—Genealogy.