INTRODUCTION
The papers of a history professor who specialized in the subjects of higher education and local history. Geiger was a Fulbright lecturer to India, Finland, and the former Soviet Union. He corresponded with family and friends, and traveled extensively after his retirement.

DONOR INFORMATION
The Louis G. Geiger Papers were donated to the University of Missouri (Accession Numbers 5051, 5169, and 5286) from 5 July 1991 to 16 July 2003, the last accession being received from Mark Geiger, Louis Geiger’s son.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
Louis G. Geiger was born on March 21, 1913, in Boonville, Missouri, to George Victor Geiger and Dorothea Elizabeth Hoflander. He received a Bachelor of Science degree at Central Missouri State University in 1934 and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Missouri in 1940.

He was drafted into the army in the spring of 1942, and in December of that year was admitted to OCS (Officer Candidate School) Antiaircraft Artillery, Camp Davis, in Wilmington, North Carolina. He was promoted to First Lieutenant in March of 1945. While stationed in Florence, Italy, Geiger was assigned to the Fifth Army Historical Section and wrote Volume XI of the History of the Fifth Army, From the Apennines to the Alps. He was discharged from the army on May 24, 1946, and married Helen Margery Watson on December 20, 1946. They had one son, Mark.

Geiger was an Assistant professor of history at the University of North Dakota from 1946-1955, an Associate professor from 1955-1958, and full professor from 1958-1960. He was a visiting professor at the University of Missouri in 1960; Jadavpur University in India from 1963-1964, and a Fulbright lecturer at the University of Helsinki in Finland from 1954-1955, and at the University of Leningrad in the former Soviet Union from 1978-1979.

He became the president of the North Dakota Social Science Association from 1959-1960. From 1960-1970, he was Chairman for history at Iowa State University from 1972-1979, becoming Professor Emeritus in 1979.

Geiger wrote numerous articles and reviews, and authored a number of books, including Joseph W. Folk of Missouri, in 1953; Higher Education in a Maturing Democracy, 1963; And Voluntary Accreditation: History of North Central Association, 1970. He also wrote numerous papers and lectured extensively. Two of his papers included: St. Johannes Deutsche Evangelische Kirche (St. John German Evangelical Church), Oak Grove, Billingsville, 1991, In the Days of Prohibition, Cooper County 1919-1934, 1992, and The Jazz Age In Cooper County, Missouri, The 1920s, 1993. He was the recipient of a research award from the Social Science Research Council in 1963;
a member of the Western Social Science Association, acting as vice-president from 1965-
1966, and again in 1968-1969. He was a member of the American History Association,
American Studies Association, and the History Education Society. Geiger was also an
active Rotarian. In his later years, he traveled extensively throughout Europe and Asia.
Geiger died on December 15, 2002.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Louis G. Geiger Papers consist of correspondence, diaries/journals,
genealogical material, photographs, publications, travel, and World War II material.
Geiger enjoyed an extensive career as a professor of history, and the material gives a
detailed view of the changes occurring in the area of higher education, both in the United
States, and in other countries. The papers are arranged into eight series:
Correspondence, Diaries/Journals, Genealogy/Local History, Papers and
Publications, Photographs, School Material, Travel/Teaching, and Miscellaneous
Material.

The Correspondence series consists of letters written during World War II from
Helen Watson Geiger to her parents, and letters from her brother, Richard (Dick) Watson
to parents. There are a large number of letters written to Helen Watson Geiger from her
mother from the late 1950s through the 1960s. Helen Geiger also wrote a large number of
letters to her family while living abroad in the 1950s and 1960s. Also included are letters
written to Louis Geiger from colleagues at various universities, such as the University of
North Dakota, Iowa State University, and Colorado College, also including Elmer Ellis at
the University of Missouri. Correspondence in later years also comes from Mark Geiger,
son of Louis and Helen, and Mark and his wife Marianna’s family. The material is
arranged chronologically.

The Diaries/Journals series consists of Helen Geiger’s description of her
activities covering her marriage to Louis in 1946, day-to-day home life, as well as her
experiences in India, the former Soviet Union, and Finland, 1946-1985. Please note that
the diaries and journals are arranged in two separate series, due to how they were created.

The Genealogy/Local History series consists of correspondence, family
histories, cemetery lists, WWII photographs, newsletters, notes, greeting cards,
newspaper articles, papers, and photographs of the Bierbaum, Friedrich, Geiger,
Gerhardt, Grathwohl, Helmreich, Hoflander, McDonough, Mittelbach, Osten, Rentschler,
Staebler, Stegner, Zimmerman, and Zschirpe families. This series also includes local
histories of Billingsville and Boonville, Missouri, as well as surrounding areas. Heavy
emphasis is placed on churches and schools. Years covered are 1803-2002. This series is
arranged chronologically.

The Papers and Publications series consists largely of research material Geiger
used for his papers on Prohibition and the Jazz Age, Billingsville, and St. John’s Church,
Missouri, and the subject of higher education, in the United States and other countries,
1850-2001. This series is arranged chronologically.

The Photographs series consists of Geiger’s World War II service, Geiger,
Grathwohl, Hoflander and related families; travel photographs of Australia, New
Zealand, Normandy, France, India, China, Thailand, Russia, Mexico, and Arizona. The
years covered are 1945 to 2001. Please note that there are additional miscellaneous
photographs scattered throughout the collection. This material is arranged chronologically.

The **School Material** series consists of papers, articles, correspondence and miscellaneous material for Helen Watson Geiger and Louis Geiger. The years covered are 1929-1983. The material is arranged chronologically.

The **Travel/Teaching** series consists of assorted travel memorabilia collected while Geiger was a Fulbright lecturer in the former Soviet Union and China. There is also material from various other trips to Greece and throughout Europe. The years covered are from 1954 to 1996. It is arranged chronologically.

The **Miscellaneous Material** series consists of clippings on Helen Watson Geiger’s service in the WAVES, baby material, assorted articles on various subjects, (Bill Clinton, War, etc.) address books, menus, notes, receipts, invoices, etc. The material covers the years 1943 to 2001, and is arranged chronologically.

FOLDER LIST

**Correspondence Series**

- f. 1 Mrs. George Geiger, Mark Geiger to Helen and Louis Geiger, 1927, 1966-1978
- f. 2 Family letters to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1931-1965, n.d.
- f. 3 Family members to Helen Watson (Geiger), 1936-1946
- f. 4 World War II Letters, Helen Watson (Geiger), 1943-1944
- f. 5 Family letters, C.E. Watson and Richard (Dick) Watson to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1943-1955
- f. 6-7 World War II Letters, Helen Watson (Geiger), 1944
- f. 8 World War II Letters, Helen Watson (Geiger), 1944-1945
- f. 9 World War II Letters, Helen Watson (Geiger), Adolph Hitler, Shirley Temple, 1945
- f. 10-11 World War II Letters, Helen Watson (Geiger), 1945-1946
- f. 12 Family Letters, C.E. Watson to Helen Watson Geiger, Helen to Parents, 1946-1953
- f. 13 Dick Watson to Helen Watson (Geiger), 1948-1956
- f. 15 Mrs. George and Charles Geiger to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1949-1960
- f. 16 Mrs. George Geiger and Family to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1949-1963
- f. 17 Mark Geiger, Mrs. George Geiger, Family and Friends, to Louis and Helen, 1949-1975
- f. 18 Family Letters, Louis and Helen Geiger, 1951-1953
- f. 19 Mr. and Mrs. George Geiger to Louis, Helen, and Mark Geiger, 1951-1959
- f. 20 Mrs. George Geiger and Wyatt, Marie and Tom, to Helen and Louis Geiger, 1951-1960
- f. 21 Mrs. George Geiger and Charles Geiger to Louis and Helen Geiger,
1951-1961
f. 22 Mrs. George Geiger to Louis and Helen Geiger, Helen to Louis, and other Family, 1951-1967
f. 23 Family Letters, C.E. Watson to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1952-1955
f. 25 Mrs. George Geiger, Family and Friends to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1952-1958
f. 26 Family Letters, Louis and Helen Geiger, 1953
f. 28 Family Letters, Louis and Helen Geiger, 1953-1955
f. 30 Family Letters, Finland, 1954
f. 32 Family Letters, Finland, Germany, 1954-1955
f. 33 Family Letters, Louis and Helen Geiger to Parents, 1954-1971
f. 34 Family Letters, Louis and Helen Geiger to Parents, 1954-1972
f. 35 Family Letters, Finland, 1955
f. 36 Helen Geiger, Sweden, Finland, and Louis Geiger, France, Portugal, Spain, 1955
f. 37 Family Letters, Dick Watson to Sister Helen Watson (Geiger), 1956-1959
f. 38 Family Letters, Dick Watson to Sister Helen Watson (Geiger), 1956-1965
f. 39 Mrs. C.E. Watson to Helen Watson (Geiger), 1958
f. 40-41 Mrs. C.E. Watson to Helen Watson (Geiger), 1959
f. 42 Family Letters, Helen and Louis Geiger to Son Mark, 1959
f. 43-44 Mrs. C.E. Watson to Helen Watson (Geiger), 1960
f. 45 Mrs. George Geiger and Charles Geiger to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1960-1962
f. 46 Family Letters to Helen Watson (Geiger) and Richard (Dick) Watson, 1960-1965
f. 47 Miscellaneous Family Correspondence, 1960-1989
f. 48 Mrs. George Geiger, Louis and Helen Geiger, Friends, 1961
f. 49-51 Mrs. C.E. Watson to Daughter Helen Watson (Geiger), 1961
f.52 Family Letters to Louis and Helen Geiger, mostly Mrs. George V. Geiger, 1961
f. 53 Mrs. C.E. Watson to Helen Watson (Geiger), 1961-1963
f. 54-55 Family Letters, Mrs. George Geiger and Friends to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1961-1963
f. 58-59  Geiger Family, India, Letters to and from Louis Geiger, 1963
f. 60    Louis, Mark, Helen Geiger, India, 1963-1964
f. 61    Family Letters to Louis and Helen Geiger, mostly from Mrs. George V. Geiger, 1963-1966
f. 62    Mark and Marianna Geiger and Friends, 1963-1987
f. 63    Mrs. George Geiger and Family Friends to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1964-1967
f. 64    Mrs. George and Charles Geiger to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1965, 1966
f. 66    Mrs. George Geiger to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1966-1968
f. 67    Miscellaneous Family Letters, Genealogical Material, 1966-1983
f. 68    Helen and Louis Geiger, Family, Friends, 1966-1997
f. 69    Family Letters, Louis and Helen Geiger, 1967
f. 70    Family Letters, Mark Geiger to Parents, 1967-1968
f. 72    Mark Geiger to Parents, 1968-1980
f. 73    Family Letters, Louis and Helen to son Mark, England, 1969
f. 74    Family Letters, Mark to Helen and Louis Geiger, 1969-1970
f. 75    Family Letters, Mrs. George Geiger, Family Friends, 1969-1972
f. 76    Richard (Dick) E. Watson, 1969-1976
f. 77    Geiger Family, 1969-1984
f. 78    Family Letters, Mark Geiger to Parents, 1970-1971
f. 79    Family Letters, Mark Geiger to Parents, 1970-1972
f. 80    History Dept. Chair, Iowa State, 1970-1978
f. 81    Letters of Friends to Mark Geiger, c.1970-1987
f. 82    Family Letters, Mark Geiger to Parents, 1971-1973
f. 83    History Dept. Chair, Iowa State, 1971-1975
f. 84    History Dept. Chair, Iowa State, 1971-1976
f. 85    History Dept. Chair, Iowa State, 1972-1979
f. 86    Family Letters, Geiger Family, 1972-2002
f. 87    History Dept. Chair, Iowa State, 1973-1979
f. 88    Family and Friends, 1973-1985
f. 89    Family Letters, Mark and Marianna Geiger to Helen and Louis Geiger, 1974-1976
f. 90    Geiger Family, Friends to Louis Geiger, Mark Geiger Family Photos, 1974-1987
f. 92    Letters to Mark and Marianna Geiger, 1976-1982
f. 93    Arizona State University, University of New Mexico, Northern Arizona University, 1977
f. 94    Louis Geiger Appointed Prof. Emeritus, Iowa State University, 1977, 1979
f. 95    Geiger and Related Families, 1977-1992
f. 96    Letters to Mark, Marianna and Louis Geiger, 1978-2002
f. 97    Helen and Louis Geiger, Richard (Dick) Watson, 1979-1984
f. 98  Miscellaneous Family Correspondence, 1980-1984
f. 99  Geiger Family Friends to Louis Geiger, 1980-1986
f. 100 Geiger Family, 1980-1992
f. 102 Mark and Marianna, Geiger Family, 1981-1990
f. 103 Geiger Family, Friends, Elmer Ellis, to Louis Geiger, 1982-1984
f. 104 Geiger Family and Friends, Elmer Ellis to Louis Geiger, 1983, 1984
f. 106 Geiger Family Friends to Helen and Louis Geiger, 1984-1986
f. 107 Elmer Ellis, Roland “Smitty” Smith, Vico Salve, 1984-1987
f. 109 Geiger Family, Friends to Louis Geiger, 1984-1993
f. 110 Geiger Family Friends to Louis Geiger, 1984-1993
f. 111 University of Missouri-Columbia, Honorary Degree, 1985
f. 112-113 Geiger Family, Friends to Louis Geiger, 1986-1987
f. 116 S. Cooper Dawson, Jr., Camp Alleghany, 1988-1990
f. 117 Geiger Family, Friends, Photo, 1988-1992
f. 120 Louis Geiger and Family Friends, 1991-1995
f. 121 Geiger Family and Friends, 1991-1996
f. 122 Friends, General, 1991-2002
f. 124-126 Letters of Condolences, Death of Helen Geiger, to Louis Geiger, 1993
f. 128 Geiger Family and Friends, 1994-1996
f. 129 Family Friends to Louis Geiger, 1997-1999
f. 130 Family Friends to Louis Geiger, 1997-2000
f. 131 Friends and Family to Louis Geiger, 2000-2002

Diaries/Journals Series

f. 132 Helen Geiger, Volume 1, 1946-1949
f. 133 Helen Geiger, Volume 2, 1949-1951
f. 134 Helen Geiger, Volume 3, 1952-1953
f. 135 Helen Geiger, Volume 4, 1953-1954
f. 136 Helen Geiger, Volume 5, 1955-1958
f. 137 Helen Geiger, Volume 6, 1958-1959
f. 138 Helen Geiger, Volume 7, 1960-1962
f. 139 Helen Geiger, Volume 8, 1962-1965
f. 140 Helen Geiger, Volume 9, 1965-1968
f. 141 Helen Geiger, Volume 10, 1968-1969
f. 142 Helen Geiger, Volume 11, 1969-1975
f. 143 Helen Geiger, Volume 12, 1976-1980
f. 144  Helen Geiger, India, 1964
f. 145  Helen Geiger, 1972
f. 146  Helen Geiger, 1973
f. 147  Helen Geiger, 1974
f. 148  Helen Geiger, 1975
f. 149  Helen Geiger, 1976
f. 150  Helen Geiger, 1977
f. 151  Helen Geiger, 1978
f. 152  Helen Geiger, 1979
f. 153  Helen Geiger, 1980
f. 154  Helen Geiger, 1981
f. 155  Helen Geiger, 1982
f. 156-157  Helen Geiger, 1983
f. 158-159  Helen Geiger, 1984
f. 160  Helen Geiger, 1985

**Genealogy/Local History Series**

f. 162  Hoflander and Related Families, 1806-1991
f. 163  Geiger/Hoflander Genealogy, 1826-2001
f. 164  Stegner/Hoflander Families, 1853-1989
f. 165  Geiger/Grathwohl/Hoflander Families, 1854-1989
f. 166  Bierbaum, Geiger, Gerhardt, Grathwohl, Hoflander Families, Elmer Ellis Obituary, Photographs, Louis Geiger, Helen Geiger, George T. Hoflander, Photographs, 1854-1994
f. 167  Billingsville, Missouri, 1855-1930
f. 168  Military Service, War Veterans Buried at St. John’s Cemetery, Billingsville, Missouri, 1863-1994
f. 170  Dedication Marker, Battle of Wilkin’s Bridge, Billingsville, Missouri, Cooper County Historical Society Photos, 1864, 1999-2002
f. 171  Hoflander, Stegner Families, 1866-1989
f. 172  St. John’s United Church of Christ, Billingsville, Missouri, 1866-1991
f. 173  Billingsville, Missouri, Grathwohl, Hoflander, Mittelbach, Stegner, Zimmerman, and Related Families, 1879-1989
f. 174  Boonville, Central Missouri, 1880-1925
f. 175  Billingsville, Boonville, Missouri, 1880-1930
f. 177  Geiger, Hoflander, Stegner Families, 1907-1991
f. 178  Helen Geiger, 1909-1946
f. 179  Boonville, Bunceton, Missouri, Miscellaneous Clippings, 1909-
1992

f. 180 Estate of George V. Geiger, Personal Effects, Oliver E. Geiger, 1910, 1935-1961
f. 181 Hoflander, Stegner Families, Memorials, 1916
f. 182 Billingsville, McDonough Family, Henry L. McDonough, 1916-1929, 1933-1936
f. 183 Billingsville Evangelical Church, Missouri, Odon Guitar Mansion, Geiger Awards, 1916, 1919, 1991, 1992
f. 184 Cooper County, Missouri, Miscellaneous Clippings, 1924-1934
f. 186 Helen, Louis, and Mark Geiger, 1946-1960
f. 187 Lena Gratthwohl Memorial, 1947
f. 188 Oliver E. “Sonny” Geiger Memorial, 1947
f. 189 Geiger Family, Friends, Genealogical Correspondence, 1984-1994
f. 191 Newspapers, Various Obituaries, Ruth Ellis, 1993-2001

Papers and Publications Series

f. 192 Billingsville, Road, School, Church, Store, Etc., 1850-1985, 1996
f. 193 Billingsville, Missouri, 1853-1996
f. 194-196 Billingsville Churches, Homes, 1854-1991
f. 197 Battle of Wilkin’s Bridge, 1864
f. 198 Research Material for “At Century’s Turn,” 1877-1955, 1996
f. 199 Denver High School Talk, 1870s-1910, 1966
f. 200 “At Century’s Turn,” 1880-1930, 1993
f. 201 “At Century’s Turn,” 1880s-1996
f. 203 Research Material, and “The Jazz Age in Cooper County, Missouri,” 1897-1938, 1993
f. 204 “What I Remember About Billingsville, Missouri,” 1916-1929, 1933-1936
f. 205 Jazz Age Research Material, 1916, 1920s-1930s, 1993
f. 206 “In the Days of Prohibition,” Cooper County, Missouri, 1919-1934, 1992
f. 207 Research Material, Prohibition, 1919-1934, 1992
f. 208 Billingsville, Missouri, McDonough Family, 1923-1991
f. 209 Helen Watson (Geiger), 1934-1935
f. 210 Helen Watson (Geiger), University of Minnesota, 1940, 1942, 1943
f. 211 “Four Years in the Army,” Photos, Elmer Ellis, 1942-1946
f. 212 Book Reviews, Joseph W. Folk of Missouri, 1953, 1960
f. 213 Book Reviews, Various, 1954-1982
f. 217 The Nonpartisan League, 1957
f. 218 University of the Northern Plains, 1958
f. 219 “Professor Macnie’s Utopia, “ Helen Geiger, 1958
f. 220-221 University of North Dakota, 75th Anniversary, 1958
f. 222-223 The University of the Northern Plains, 1958, 1959
f. 224 History of the University of North Dakota, 1958, 1962
f. 225 University of North Dakota, 1959
f. 226 Schools, Education, Segregation, 1959
f. 227 Research Notes, Arizona, North Dakota, 1950s-1960s
f. 228 “The Social Sciences in the Critical 1960s, “ 1961
f. 229 Science Instructor’s Talk, 1961, 1962
f. 232 Book Reviews, Articles, Southwest, 1962-1977
f. 234 Jadavpur University Report, Calcutta, India, 1963, 1964
f. 235 India Talks, 1964, 1965
f. 236 Colorado College, Alumni Review, 1965
f. 238 Articles, Colorado College, University of North Dakota, 1965-1968, 1973
f. 239 Founders Day, University of North Dakota, “Students and Their Universities. A Changing Relationship?” 1966
f. 240 Reviews, 1966, 1967
f. 241 “The Relevance of the Humanities,” 1967
f. 242 Indian Universities, India, 1967
f. 243 The Broadmoor Story, Zoo on the Mountain, 1968
f. 244 “Recruiting History Faculty-The Liberal Arts College,” 1968
f. 245 North Dakota Papers, 1968
f. 246 Miscellaneous Talks, 1968
f. 248-250 Geiger Colleagues Reprints, 1968-2001
f. 252-253 “Revolt Against Excellence,” 1969-1971
f. 254 Research Notes, Colorado, Montana, Utah, 1960s
f. 255 Research Notes, History of North Dakota, Schools, 1960s
f. 256 Research Notes, New Mexico, Wyoming, 1960s
f. 258 75th Anniversary of North Central Association, 1970
f. 259 “Thomas Jefferson and Our Educational Heritage,” 1971
f. 260 “School and Society,” 1971
f. 261 “The University and Revolution,” 1971
f. 262  “Impending Crisis,” 1971, 1972
f. 263  “Academic Codes and Governance,” 1971-1974
f. 265  “Land Grant Universities and the Taming of the West,” 1972
f. 266  “Academic Codes and Governance,” School Society, 1972, 1973
f. 267  Conference Papers, Southwest, 1972-1978
f. 268  Comment, Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, 1973
f. 269  OAH, Organization of American Historians, 1973, 1974
f. 270  Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, 1973, 1974
f. 271  Orin G. Libby Manuscript Collection, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, 1973-1975
f. 272  Mechanical Engineering Seminar, 1974
f. 274-275  Colleagues Reprints, Kennedy, McCarthy, 1974-1995
f. 276  Northern Great Plains History Conference, 1975
f. 277  Western Social Science Association, Arizona, 1976
f. 278  University of North Dakota, 1976, 1977
f. 279  “Liberal Education,” 1976, 1977
f. 280  University of Minnesota, University of North Dakota Reports, 1977
f. 281  Kansas State University Conference, 1978
f. 282  Research Notes, Sources, Arizona, Etc., 1970s
f. 283  Helen Geiger, Illness, 1981-1993
f. 284  Helen Geiger, Memorial Note, 1988-1993
f. 286  St. John’s Sanctuary, Memorials, 1989-1991
f. 287-288  “At Century’s Turn,” 1993
f. 289  “The Jazz Age in Cooper County, Missouri, The 1920s,” 1993
f. 290  Tom Reeves Literary Work, 1994-2001

Photographs Series
f. 292  World War II, Louis Geiger, Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois, Italy, 1943-1945
f. 293  World War II, Italy, Washington, D.C., 1945-1946
f. 296  Helen, Mark and Mariana Geiger, 1970s-1980s
f. 297  Mark Geiger and Family, Louis and Helen Geiger, 1981-1986
f. 299  Hoflander Family House and Barn, 1989
f. 300  Charles Henry Grathwohl Farm, 1992
f. 301  India, Louis Geiger, 1996
f. 302  India, Mexico, Arizona, Louis Geiger, 1996-1999
f. 303  India, Russia, Switzerland, Arizona, Yosemite, Louis Geiger, 1996-1999
f. 304-305  Russia, Louis Geiger, 1998
f. 306  Arizona, California, 1999
f. 307  Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Louis Geiger, 2000
f. 308  Ayers Rock, Australia, Great Barrier Reef, Louis Geiger, 2000
f. 309  Alice Springs to Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart, Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, 2000
f. 310  Sydney, Australia, and New Zealand, 2000
f. 311-313  China, Thailand, Louis Geiger, 2000
f. 315  World War II, Tour of Normandy, France, Louis Geiger, 2001

School Material Series

f. 316  Boonville H. S., Billingsville School, 1885, 1912, 1929, 1994
f. 317-318  Helen Watson (Geiger) Dance Cards, 1920s, 1930s
f. 319  Helen Watson (Geiger) Dance Cards, 1930s
f. 320  University of Missouri Commencement, Final Exam Program for Dr. of Philosophy, 1941-1948
f. 321  Exam Material, Miscellaneous, 1948, 1983
f. 322-324  75th Anniversary of University of North Dakota, 1958
f. 325-327  University of North Dakota, Centennial/Research Material, 1982, 1983

Travel/Teaching Series

f. 328  Finland, 1954
f. 331  Senegal-Ivory Coast, Ghana Dahomy, Ethiopia, 1972
f. 332-334  Fulbright Lecturer, Soviet Union, 1977, 1978
f. 335  Research Grants, Iowa State University, 1977, 1978
f. 337  Soviet Union, 1979
f. 338  Athens, Greece, 1980
f. 339  Germany, 1981
f. 341  China, 1994
f. 342  Italy, 1994
f. 343  Europe, 1995
f. 344  Europe-Greece, 1995
f. 345  Greece, 1995
f. 346-347  Spain, Morocco, Portugal, 1996
Miscellaneous Material Series

f. 350  University of North Dakota Foundation, V.A. Letters, St. John’s, Billingsville, Missouri, 1947, 1988
f. 351  Helen Geiger, Baby Record, Death Certificate, Sketch of Cartoon Character Pogo, signed by artist Walt Kelly for son Mark Geiger, Etc., 1940s-1990s
f. 352  C.E. Watson, Helen Watson (Geiger), 1940s-1990s
f. 355  Wilkins Bridge Historical Marker, 1997, 1998

INDEX TERMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Folders</th>
<th>Image</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>307-310</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank of Speed, Speed, Missouri</td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bierbaum Family</td>
<td>166</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado</td>
<td>243</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil War--Battle of Wilkins Bridge</td>
<td>170, 197, 355</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cote d’ Ivoire</td>
<td>331</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>80, 83-85, 87, 93, 94, 111, 199, 210, 218-242, 244-282, 316-327, 335, 350</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellis, Elmer (1901-1989)</td>
<td>103, 104, 107, 166, 211</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellis, Elmer (1901-1989)</td>
<td>166</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>29, 73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>331</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>343, 344</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe, Eastern</td>
<td>330</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>29, 30-32, 35, 36, 328</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>295</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geiger family</td>
<td>67, 95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geiger, George ( -1960)</td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geiger, Helen Watson (1909-1993)</td>
<td>1-46, 48-58, 60-61, 63-66, 68-79, 82, 86, 89,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Folders</td>
<td>Image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geiger, Mark (1949-)</td>
<td>1, 27, 70, 72, 74, 78, 79, 82, 89, 102</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geiger, Mark (1949-)</td>
<td>296-298</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geiger, Oliver (1919-1947)</td>
<td>180, 185, 188</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geiger, Oliver (1919-1947)</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerhardt family</td>
<td>166</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>331</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodrich, Jim (1939-2007)</td>
<td>115</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grathwohl family</td>
<td>165, 166, 173</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grathwohl family</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grathwohl, Lena (1868-1947)</td>
<td>187</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guitar Mansion</td>
<td>183</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hitler, Adolph (1889-1945)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoflander family</td>
<td>162-166, 171, 173, 176, 177, 181</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoflander family</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>144, 234, 235</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>301-303</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>342</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy, Rome</td>
<td>29, 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonough family</td>
<td>161, 190, 208</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonough, Henry L. (1912-1992)</td>
<td>182</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri, Billingsville</td>
<td>193, 204</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri, Billingsville--Billingsville Evangelical Church</td>
<td>183</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri, Billingsville--St. Johns United</td>
<td>172</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Folders</td>
<td>Image</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Church of Christ</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri, Cooper County</td>
<td>184, 203, 206</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri, Cooper County</td>
<td>184, 203, 206</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri, Cooper County, 1920s</td>
<td>203</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri, Speed--Bank of Speed</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mittelbach family</td>
<td>173</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>346, 347</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nineteen twenties</td>
<td>205, 289</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>36, 346, 347</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prohibition</td>
<td>207</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prohibition, Missouri, Cooper County</td>
<td>206</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, Rowland H. (1907-1991)</td>
<td>107</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soviet Union</td>
<td>332-337</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>36, 346, 347</td>
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<td>Stegner family</td>
<td>161, 164, 171, 173, 176, 177, 181, 190</td>
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<td>Temple, Shirley (1928- )</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>29-36, 60, 73</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vico salve</td>
<td>107</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vico salve</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>y</td>
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<tr>
<td>World War, 1939-1945</td>
<td>4-11, 169, 211, 295, 315, 349</td>
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<td>World War, 1939-1945</td>
<td>292, 293</td>
<td>y</td>
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<td>Zimmerman family</td>
<td>173</td>
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</table>