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

INTRODUCTION

The Ruth D. Stephens Collection contains genealogical information on the Douglass, Stephens, Griffin, Shannon, Ellis, Parks, and Miller families. The collection consists of letters, business papers, family trees, photographs, diaries, and extensive notes on the families.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Ruth D. Stephens on 2 June 1993 (Accession No. 5304). An addition was made on 8 February 1994 by Ruth D. Stephens (Accession No. 5399).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ruth Douglass Stephens was born October 2, 1927, in St. Louis, Missouri. Her parents were Ruth Ellis Douglass (1893-1949) and Claude Elmer Stephens, Sr. (1883-1964). She had one brother, Claude E. Stephens, Jr., and a half sister, Mary Martin Stephens, from her father’s previous marriage. She moved to New Jersey around 1973 and lived there until her death on May 14, 2009. She was buried in the Stephens family plot, located in Columbia Cemetery in Columbia, Missouri.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Ruth D. Stephens Collection consists of correspondence, business papers, diaries, photographs, genealogical notes, and other miscellaneous items that illustrate the lives of the families discussed. The collection is organized into seven series: 
Griffin/Stephens, Douglass/Stephens, Douglass/Shannon, Douglass/Ellis, Parks, Miller, and Ralph Rex Parks.

The Griffin/Stephens series has been arranged by date and contains correspondence, business papers, and notes on the genealogy of the family. One of the letters contains a description of a man being shot in the street by a Civil War Union captain. This series also contains a Bible that was owned by Mary “Willie” Griffin Stephens.

The Douglass/Stephens series contains diaries, business papers, letters, and newspaper clippings about the family. This series also contains entry papers of William Stephens Jr. into the Missouri State Militia during the Civil War and a five dollar Confederate note. It also has a note describing the ways to detect counterfeit bank notes as stated by the American Bank Note Company.

The Douglass/Shannon series contains family records and notes on the genealogy of the family. It also contains biographical information on James Shannon, who was the second president of the University of Missouri and co-founder of Columbia College.

The Douglass/Ellis series contains family records, genealogical notes, and photographs of the family. There are also newspaper clippings, histories of the family and correspondence. Within this series is also a telegram from Anne Shannon Douglass.
(daughter of James Shannon) to Stephens College telling them of her declination to return.

The Parks series contains stories, a diary, notes on the family, and a family crest. There is also stories and reports on William H. Parks who was a 1st Lieutenant in the Illinois Militia during the Civil War. It also contains photographs of the University of Missouri campus and students/faculty.

The Miller series consists of genealogical notes, letters, and newspaper clippings on the family. It also contains stories and military papers on John Miller, an Indiana 12th Regiment Cavalry member during the Civil War.

The Ralph Rex Parks series contains stories, photographs, correspondence, and notes on the life of Ralph Parks. This series also contains a manuscript for a book on traveling, travel journals, and other memorabilia gathered during Ralph Parks’ travels with his wife after retirement.

FOLDER LIST

Griffin/Stephens Series

f. 1-10 Correspondence
f. 1 1824-1829
f. 2 1835-1836
f. 3 1837-1839
f. 4 1843-1846
f. 5 1852-1856
f. 6 1857-1859
f. 7 1860-1862; Dec. 22, 1861 letter contains description of a man being shot by a Union Captain Netla.
f. 8 1863
f. 9 1882-1905
f. 10 Unknown dates
f. 11 Miscellaneous; lock of hair and poem written in January 1855
f. 12-14 Griffin Business Papers
f. 12 1810
f. 13 1833-1849
f. 14 1850-1862
f. 15 Notes on Griffin/Stephens families including birth, marriage, and death records
f. 16 Bible belonging to Mary W. Griffin Stephens

Douglass/Stephens Series

f. 17 Diary of William Stephens Sr. 1857-1868
f. 18 1854-1859
f. 19 1860-1863; includes entry papers of William Stephens Jr. into the Missouri State Militia, 1863, a five dollar Confederate note, and notes on how to detect counterfeit money.
f. 20 1864
f. 21 1865
f. 22 1866-1869
f. 23 1870-1880
f. 24 Diary of William Stephens Jr. 1868
f. 25 Correspondence, 1858 and newspaper clipping on “Old George”
       a former slave and servant to the Stephens family

**Douglass/Shannon** Series

f. 26 James Shannon, notes and newspaper clippings about him and his time
     as a University of Missouri president.
f. 27 Family trees, birth/marriage/death records; includes birth records of
     slaves owned by the Shannon family 1777-1867
f. 28 Notes and biography on Shannon Clay Douglass

**Douglass/Ellis** Series

f. 29 Family trees
f. 30 Correspondence of Martha “Mattie” Douglass; telegram from Anne
     Douglass to Stephens College
f. 31 Marriage, birth, and death records
f. 32 Newspaper clippings and histories of the Ellis family
f. 33 Miscellaneous notes on genealogy
f. 34 Pictures of various family members

**Parks** Series

f. 35 William H. Parks stories and newspaper clippings about his life
f. 36 William H. Parks, reports and stories about his time as a Lieutenant in
     the Civil War
f. 37 Edward Bain Parks stories and papers from his employer Wells Fargo
f. 38 Richard “Dick” Parks story and funeral notices of his sister, Bess
     Fackler, and her husband
f. 39 Photographs of Parks family members
f. 40 Photographs of Parks family members. Photographs of a Watkins
     Remedies horse-drawn cart in 1910, Marshall Missouri Christian
     Church members in 1910, and Christian Church of Columbia members
     in 1920. Also contains photographs of University of Missouri football
     crowd at the Oklahoma Aggies game, University of Missouri Columns
     circa 1920 and the entry road leading to the columns. Pamphlets for the
     “Ye Olde Combine Shin Day” and the St. Pats Ball program from 1924
     are also included.
f. 41 Katherine Miller Parks stories and diary
f. 42 Family crest and miscellaneous notes
Miller Series

f. 43  Miller/Mueller family tree
f. 44  John Miller stories, Civil War military papers, marriage certificate
f. 45  Letters and newspaper clippings about James Wilson
f. 46  Photographs of family with notes
f. 47  Family tree, newspaper clippings, letters, and notes on Dahl family
f. 48  Miscellaneous, newspaper clippings, letters, and notes on Dahl family

Ralph Rex Parks Series

f. 49  Stories and notes on life of Ralph, including his time as a teacher and
student at the University of Missouri.
f. 50  Certificates and diplomas
f. 51  Correspondence to cousins about genealogy
f. 52  Notes and photographs about cousin Earl Baughman
f. 53-54  Photographs and newspaper clippings on family
f. 55  Boarding passes, receipts, and postcards from travels
f. 56  Maps and brochures from travels
f. 57  Manuscript of “We did it, you can do it too, travel is fun,” 1969
f. 58  Travel journal and photographs, 1964-1979
f. 59  Miscellaneous travel mementos

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