



Forister Family Collection (CG0097)

Collection Number: CG0097

Collection Title: Forister Family Collection

Dates: 1891-1996, n.d.

Creator: Robert H. Forister

Abstract: This collection consists of photographs, genealogical research, and local history research materials, mostly related to the Forister and Cozort families of southeast Missouri.

Collection Size: 0.3 cubic feet
(11 folders, 63 photographs)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at capegirardeau@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Forister Family Collection* (CG0097); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Cape Girardeau].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by - Carol Forister on July 22nd, 2026 (Accession No. CGA0092).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to rural schools in southeast Missouri can be found in the following collections:

Southeast Missouri Collection (CG0001), f. 70

Huskey Family Papers, (CG0075)

Mississippi County, Missouri, School District 1 Records, (CG0063)

Processed by: Processed by Ann Lowe, August 10th, 2026

Historical Note:

Robert H. Forister was an educator and writer, with a focus on southeast Missouri and county history. He was born in St. Louis in 1935 to parents Otho Forister and Rosa Nell Cozort Forister, but lived in and worked in Bloomfield for many years. He published histories of Butler, Scott, Wayne, and Stoddard counties, as well as works for genealogical researchers such as compilations of Stoddard county cemeteries and Stoddard county marriage records. He published a memoir of his childhood in Wayne County and a history of Bloomfield (Missouri) as well. He married Joan Towery in 1962; they had two children. Forister passed in 2026 at the age of 91.

Arrangement:

This collection has been arranged into a single series. Folders are organized alphabetically.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains family and local history materials. In particular, Forister collected many photographs of both Forister and Cozort ancestors. He also collected information on the history of Morehouse, Missouri (in New Madrid County), and the Center Ridge Church in Wayne County, Missouri. Of particular interest to researchers are the 26 photographs of students and teachers at rural schools in Butler, New Madrid, and Wayne counties, including Big Island, Center Ridge, Chaonia, Davis/Lost Creek, Oak Grove, Wappapello, and Yokum schools. Several of these photographs are reprints/enlargements of pictures that would have been published in local newspapers.

Container List:

- f. 1 Assorted building photographs (2):
 - Old Stoddard county courthouse ca. 1975, n.d.;
 - Center Ridge church, n.d.
- f. 2 Assorted people photographs (8):
 - Gustavous Towery, n.d.;
 - Victoria Jane Dever Towery, n.d.;
 - Otho Holtz and wife Tabitha on porch, n.d.;
 - Otho Holtz, Tabitha, and Jacob Alger ca. 1900, n.d.;
 - William Rad Frederick, n.d.;
 - Group at Blue Spring near Kime ca. 1907, n.d.;
 - Unidentified school group, n.d.;
 - Center Ridge Church group ca. 1910, n.d.
- f. 3 Center Ridge General Baptist church book, 1898-1911, n.d.
- f. 4 Cozort family photographs (10):
 - Delia Berry Cozort's home in Wayne County, 1942
 - Robert, Russell, and Radie Cozort ca. 1930s, n.d.
 - Quilting party ca. 1940, n.d.
 - Cozort family photo, 1945

- Russell, Raymond, Rosco, Nellie, and James Cozort ca. 1916, n.d.
 - Eliza A. Cozort and Aunt Geo. Ann Clark, n.d.
 - Jim Page and Henrietta H. Cozort Page, 1903
 - Delia Cozort and old beau, n.d.
 - Delia Berry Cozort and Jas. Osa Cozort, 1906
 - David and Eliza Huggins Cozort, n.d.
- f. 5 Forister family photographs (12):
- Ed and Eliza Forister Gibbs, 1900
 - Lucretia (Laura) and Hiram Forister, 1891
 - Hiram and Laura (Lucretia) Forister, n.d.
 - Laura Lucretia Lane Forister, n.d.
 - Hiram and Laura Lane Forister and grandchildren ca. 1908, n.d.
 - Edna and Laura Lane Forister ca. 1914, n.d.
 - Possibly George, Lee Roy, Mallie, and Otho Forister, n.d.
 - George, Lee Roy, Mallie, and Otho Forister, n.d.
 - MO-PAC railroad workers including Otho Forister, 1930
 - Otho and Nellie Forister, n.d.
 - Robert H. Forister, 1951
 - Robert H. Forister and hunting dog "Annie", 1951
- f. 6 Genealogy materials, n.d.
- f. 7 *Greenville Sun* obituaries, 1913-1983
- f. 8 History of Morehouse (Mo.) research, 1907, 1948, 1996
- f. 9 Neal/Berry/Owenby families (5):
- Owenby family photo, n.d.
 - Franklin Berry and Mary Clark Berry, n.d.
 - Nancy Neal Forister and husband Jim, n.d.
 - Fred Neal, Doug Neal, Henry Neal, n.d.
 - Neal family photo, n.d.
- f. 10 Rural school photographs (26):
- Big Island (2), 1944-1945
 - Carter School (2), n.d.
 - Center Ridge (7), 1918, 1939-1940, 1960, n.d.
 - Chaonia (7), 1906, 1926, 1932, n.d.
 - Davis/Last Creek (3), n.d.
 - Oak Grove (3), 1919-1920, n.d.
 - Wappapello (1), n.d.
 - Yokum (1), n.d.
- f. 11 Oversized photographs (5)
- Dalton baseball team (2), 1909-1910, n.d.
 - Star brand shoes store exterior with group, n.d.
 - Center Ridge church group (enlargement), n.d.
 - Center Ridge school group (enlargement), 1918

Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Allen, Eunice	10	Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Allen, Gladys	10	Yes
Allison, Alleen	10	Yes
Allison, Emma	10	Yes
Allison, Loren	10	Yes
Allison, Pauline	10	Yes
Allison, Rouse	10	Yes
Allison, Willie	10	Yes
Anderson, Earl	10	Yes
Anderson, Hugh	10	Yes
Anderson, Joyce	10	Yes
Anderson, Patricia	10	Yes
Anderson, Robert	10	Yes
Anderson, Ruth	10	Yes
Atnip, Albert	10	Yes
Atnip, Eva	10	Yes
Bailey, Ann	10	Yes
Bailey, Nellie	10	Yes
Banks, Bernice	10	Yes
Banks, Lester	10	Yes
Barks, Charley	10	Yes
Barks, Ethel	10	Yes
Barks, Stella	10	Yes
Barks, Willard	10	Yes
Barntrigger, Helen	10	Yes
Batton, Irvin	10	Yes
Bauchus, Cory E.	11	Yes
Berry, Franklin	9	Yes
Berry, Mary (Clark)	9	Yes
Big Island School (Butler County, Mo.)	10	Yes
Birdnow, Allen	10	Yes
Birdnow, Ray	10	Yes
Blue Spring (Kime, Wayne County, Mo.)	2	Yes
Blue, E.K.	11	Yes
Bollinger, Phillip	10	Yes
Bounds, Iva	10	Yes
Bresland, Charles	10	Yes
Bresland, Edna	10	Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Bresland, Johnnie	10	Yes
Burchard, Leslie	10	Yes
Burchard, Lola	10	Yes
Buttingham, Pauline	10	Yes
Cahill, George	11	Yes
Campbell, Beulah	10	Yes
Campbell, Elsie	10	Yes
Capper, Fayette	10	Yes
Capper, Ruth	10	Yes
Carter School (Butler County, Mo.)	10	Yes
Carver, Prentice	10	Yes
Center Ridge General Baptist Church (Wayne County, Mo.)	1-3	Yes
Center Ridge School (Wayne County, Mo.)	10	Yes
Chaonia High School (Wayne County, Mo.) boys' basketball team	10	Yes
Chaonia High School (Wayne County, Mo.) girls' basketball team	10	Yes
Chaonia School (Wayne County, Mo.)	10	Yes
Choat, Druzie	10	Yes
Clark, Geo. Ann	4	Yes
Clubb, Bertha	10	Yes
Clubb, Chester	10	Yes
Clubb, Katty	10	Yes
Clubb, Octa	10	Yes
Cook, Buddy	11	Yes
Cowan, Cleve	10	Yes
Cowan, Ernest	10	Yes
Cowan, Wylie	10	Yes
Cozort, Amalee	10	Yes
Cozort, Carrie	10	Yes
Cozort, Clecie	10	Yes
Cozort, Clifford	10	Yes
Cozort, David	4	Yes
Cozort, Delia (Berry)	4	Yes
Cozort, Eliza A.	4, 10	Yes
Cozort, James	4	Yes
Cozort, Nellie	4, 10	Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Cozort, Radie	4	Yes
Cozort, Raymond	4, 10	Yes
Cozort, Robert	4, 10	Yes
Cozort, Roscoe	4, 10	Yes
Cozort, Russell	4, 10	Yes
Cozort, Ruth	10	Yes
Cozort, Thelma	10	Yes
Crady, Charley	10	Yes
Craig, Ivy	10	Yes
Craig, Orvel	10	Yes
Craig, Willie	10	Yes
Croft, Richard	10	Yes
Cromwell, Jud	10	Yes
Daltons baseball team (Poplar Bluff, Mo.)	11	Yes
Daves, Beulah	10	Yes
Daves, Virgil	10	Yes
Davis School (Wayne County, Mo.)	10	Yes
Davis, Ben	10	Yes
Davis, Carl	10	Yes
Davis, Charley	10	Yes
Davis, Delbert	10	Yes
Davis, Etta	10	Yes
Davis, Flora	10	Yes
Davis, Howard	10	Yes
Davis, Joe	10	Yes
Davis, Lorene	10	Yes
Davis, Roxie	10	Yes
Davis, Roy	10	Yes
Davis, Tommy	10	Yes
Dees, Mary Ellen	10	Yes
Dees, Sammy	10	Yes
Dunn, Clecy	10	Yes
Dunn, Ella	10	Yes
Dunn, Irma	10	Yes
Dunn, Jack	10	Yes
Dunn, Maude	10	Yes
Dunn, Tera	10	Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Durham, Winifred	10	Yes
Eads, Ira	10	Yes
Edwards, Asa	10	Yes
Edwards, Clyde D.	11	Yes
Edwards, Minnie	10	Yes
Edwards, Needa	10	Yes
Edy, J. N.	11	Yes
Elder, Lucy	10	Yes
Fair, John	10	Yes
Fair, Virginia	10	Yes
Faris, Ardith	10	Yes
Forister, Edna	5, 10	Yes
Forister, George	5	Yes
Forister, Harold	10	Yes
Forister, Hiram	5	Yes
Forister, James "Jim"	9	Yes
Forister, Lee Roy	5	Yes
Forister, Lucretia Laura (Lane)	5	Yes
Forister, Mallie	5, 10	Yes
Forister, Nancy (Neal)	9	Yes
Forister, Nellie	5	Yes
Forister, Otho	5, 10	Yes
Forister, Ray	10	Yes
Forister, Robert H.	5	Yes
Forister, Virgil	10	Yes
Frederick, William	2	Yes
Garrison, Myrtle	10	Yes
Gibbs, Ed	5	Yes
Gibbs, Eliza (Forister)	5	Yes
Gifford, Priscilla	10	Yes
Griffen, Ethel	10	Yes
Griffin, Evelyn	10	Yes
Griffin, Mary	10	Yes
Griffith, Vena	10	Yes
Guinn, Vada	10	Yes
Hardin, Betty	10	Yes
Harris, Cecil	10	Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Harris, Clifford	10	Yes
Harris, Eng	10	Yes
Harris, Ethel	10	Yes
Hees, W. C.	11	Yes
Henson, Lenoard	10	Yes
Holtz, Jacob Alger	2	Yes
Holtz, Otho William, 1836-1927	2	Yes
Holtz, Tabitha (Vincent), 1866-1915	2	Yes
Hopkins, Albert	10	Yes
Howell, Marvin	10	Yes
Jackson, Walter	10	Yes
Johnson, Clyde	10	Yes
Johnson, Helen	10	Yes
Johnson, Jesse	10	Yes
Johnson, Noleh	10	Yes
Jones, Luna	10	Yes
Jones, Martha	10	Yes
Jones, Marvin	10	Yes
Jones, Nell	10	Yes
Jones, Tom	10	Yes
Kime, Jeff	10	Yes
Kirkpatrick, Clarence	10	Yes
Kirkpatrick, Doram	10	Yes
Kirkpatrick, Fred	10	Yes
Kirkpatrick, Lucy	10	Yes
Kirkpatrick, Willie	10	Yes
Langley, Lester	10	Yes
Lavin, Ray P.	11	Yes
Lavins, May	10	Yes
Layton, Bernice	10	Yes
Layton, Vada	10	Yes
Leonard, W. S.	11	Yes
Lost Creek School (Wayne County, Mo.)	10	Yes
Loucks, Ben	10	Yes
Lovins, Ed	10	Yes
Lovins, Willie	10	Yes
Luke, Arthur	10	Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Mabley, Ruth	10	Yes
Mabrey, Bettie	10	Yes
Mabrey, Carl	10	Yes
Mabrey, Mary	10	Yes
Mabrey, Nell	10	Yes
Mabrey, Ruth	10	Yes
McClure, Sam	10	Yes
McCowan, Earl	10	Yes
McCowan, Ernest	10	Yes
McCowan, Lucy	10	Yes
McPherson, Tillie	10	Yes
McPherson, Virginia Lee (Forister)	10	Yes
Meloy, Grace	10	Yes
Meloy, Lydia	10	Yes
Meloy, Ora	10	Yes
Meyer, J. A.	11	Yes
Moore, Andonia	10	Yes
Morgan, Beulah	10	Yes
Morgan, Blanche	10	Yes
Morgan, Hazel	10	Yes
Morgan, Mand	10	Yes
Muro, J. G.	11	Yes
Neal, Doug	9	Yes
Neal, Fred	9	Yes
Neal, Henry	9	Yes
Noldge, Clara	10	Yes
Noldge, Gladys	10	Yes
Noldge, Mary	10	Yes
Noldge, Ruth	10	Yes
Oak Grove School (Kime, Wayne County, Mo.)	10	Yes
Page, Ada	10	Yes
Page, Arlie May	10	Yes
Page, Blanche	10	Yes
Page, Clorel	10	Yes
Page, Florence	10	Yes
Page, Floyd	10	Yes
Page, Fred	10	Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Page, Harvey	10	Yes
Page, Henrietta H. (Cozort)	4	Yes
Page, Ira	10	Yes
Page, James "Jim"	4	Yes
Page, Jim	10	Yes
Page, Laura	10	Yes
Page, Lena	10	Yes
Pay, Perlie	10	Yes
Payne, Ely	11	Yes
Powell, Tenna	10	Yes
Powell, Zella	10	Yes
Powers, Bessie	10	Yes
Powers, Henry	10	Yes
Powers, Ruth	10	Yes
Radford, Carl	10	Yes
Rector, Gertie	10	Yes
Reichenbach, Charles V.	11	Yes
Reineley, Velda	10	Yes
Reinely, Marvin	10	Yes
Rhodes, Carl	10	Yes
Rhodes, Charles	10	Yes
Rhodes, Clyde	10	Yes
Rhodes, Ira	10	Yes
Rhodes, June	10	Yes
Rhodes, Matt	10	Yes
Richmond, Dora	10	Yes
Richmond, Jewell	10	Yes
Richmond, Norman	10	Yes
Richmond, Willard	10	Yes
Richmond, Zella	10	Yes
Richter or Rector, Hattie	10	Yes
Richter or Rector, Hazel	10	Yes
Richter or Rector, Tressie	10	Yes
Richter, Bertie	10	Yes
Richter, Carl	10	Yes
Robinson, Ruby	10	Yes
Sadler, Sadie (Anderson), 1932-	10	Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Sandlin, Ruby	10	Yes
Sauls, Mary	10	Yes
Sauls, Pearl	10	Yes
Sauls, Rosie	10	Yes
Sauls, Roy	10	Yes
Sauls, Ruby	10	Yes
Scott, Wilma	10	Yes
Seabaugh, Albert	10	Yes
Seabaugh, Dade	10	Yes
Seabaugh, Maggie	10	Yes
Seabaugh, Virgil	10	Yes
Smith, Flora	10	Yes
Smith, Frank	10	Yes
Smith, J. Ray	10	Yes
Smith, Neva	10	Yes
Snow, T. E.	11	Yes
Sollars, Alma	10	Yes
Stoddard County Courthouse (Bloomfield, Mo.)	1	Yes
Stokely, Mary	10	Yes
Stokes, Julius	10	Yes
Stokes, Mildred	10	Yes
Strickland, Maxine	10	Yes
Strickland, Myrtle	10	Yes
Thresher, Alfred	10	Yes
Thresher, Florence	10	Yes
Tidwell, Henrietta	10	Yes
Towery, Gustavous "Gus" Gorman, 1872-1953	2	Yes
Towery, Victoria Jane (Dever), 1871-1913	2	Yes
Vincent, Ava	10	Yes
Vincent, Clyde	10	Yes
Walker, Nellie	10	Yes
Walker, Ollie	10	Yes
Wappapello School (Mo.)	10	Yes
Webb, Agnes	10	Yes
Webb, Freddie	10	Yes
Webb, Juanita	10	Yes
Webb, Lester	10	Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Image
White, Betty Lee	10	Yes
White, Clara	10	Yes
White, Ivy	10	Yes
White, Lois	10	Yes
White, Lulu	10	Yes
White, Margaret	10	Yes
Whitt, Donald	10	Yes
Williams, Maggie	10	Yes
Wills, Ilene	10	Yes
Wills, Jay	10	Yes
Wills/William, Albert	10	Yes
Wilson, Charlene	10	Yes
Wilson, Delores	10	Yes
Yokum School (Wayne County, Mo.)	10	Yes
Yost, E. G. "Matt"	11	Yes
Yost, F. G. "Mutt"	11	Yes