INTRODUCTION
The records of the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers contain printed material which include the origins of the Congress, bylaws of the organization, study programs, subjects of interest for parents and teachers, and planning of programs.

DONOR INFORMATION
The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Annette Swetnam on behalf of the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers on 12 June 1985 (Accession No. 2565).

ORGANIZATIONAL SKETCH
One of the early leaders of the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers was Mary Harmon Weeks. Weeks was a part of the kindergarten movement, and worked toward incorporating kindergartens into the school system, succeeding in 1894. Mrs. Week’s effectiveness became known nationally and she was asked by Mrs. Alice McLellan Birney, founder of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, to help organize of the National Congress of Mothers. Weeks became the first corresponding secretary of the organization in 1899.

Mrs. Weeks later created an eight-volume work on parent education. “Parents and Their Problems,” was considered by education experts as “the germ of the whole modern child study and the parent education movement.” In her parent-teacher work she trained many leaders and helped launch numerous Missouri parent-teacher associations.

In March of 1912, St. Louis, Missouri, officially became a branch of the National Congress. This in turn culminated in a state convention held in Louisiana, Missouri. At the time of this convention, the active membership in the Missouri Congress had risen from 500 to 2,201.

The Missouri Congress considered as its field of work everything that concerned children, their homes, schools, and community environment and their mental and physical health. Child health was uppermost on its improvement agenda and committees were also appointed in 1912 to study juvenile court conditions, literature for children, homes and schools, and the general area of marriage and family living. Soon it became apparent that in order to create a closer home-school relationship, it would be advisable to open public school buildings as social centers and a petition was formulated. This was the groundwork for many improvements in the lives of children, their parents and teachers, their communities, the state of Missouri, and beyond, which continues to the present day.
FOLDER LIST

f. 1  SKITS: Used for Promoting Leadership; Founders Day; Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and Parent-Teacher-Student-Association (PTSA) in Secondary Schools; Resolutions, Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, 1970-1982.

f. 2  Recipes for Reading; Stella Story: A Public Relations Handbook; Pointers for the President, a Handbook; Planning Schools of Information: The Challenge to Develop New Leaders; Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers: PTAs and School Boards, 1973-1981

f. 3  SKITS: Used for Promoting Membership, Programs and Leadership. 1975

f. 4  Measures of Faith (Inspirational Verses); Practical Pointers of the Nominating Committee; Flyer for Parent-Teacher-Student Association, PTSA; TV Violence...Children Imitate What They See; Missouri P.T.A. Preschool/Early Childhood; The Caroline B. Ullmann Student Loans and Scholarships; Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers-Revised, 1985; Block Parent Plan-June 1978 (providing a safe place for children feeling threatened); The Rainbow Connection-nonsectarian policy, recognition of right of every person to his own religious beliefs; Program for Parenting, Seven Basic Areas: Nutrition, Teenage Parents; Genetics; Parent-Child Relationship; Child Development; Child Abuse; Birth Defects (Resources); Missouri’s Investment-Children for a Better World; 50th Anniversary History of the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers by Elly Ellzey. Years covered, 1961-1985

f. 5  Hospitality, Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers; Legislative Workbook, Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, 1978, 1985

f. 6  Helps for Classroom Parties: A Handbook for Room Representatives, Missouri Parent-Teacher Association (PTA); Beat the Drum PTA, You are Now Duly Installed, c. 1980s

f. 7  Notes on Founder’s Day Programs; Missouri PTA Membership Guide, The Bigger Value for Everyone, 1984

f. 8  Guidelines in Establishing a School Library; Bylaws, Missouri PTA; Missouri PTA Tool Kit, Theme: Reaching for New Horizons, 1983-1985

INDEX TERMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index Terms</th>
<th>Folders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents' and teachers' associations</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>