Sarah Thorne Grace Papers  
(C4400)

Collection Number: C4400

Collection Title: Sarah Thorne Grace Papers

Dates: 1890s-1912

Creator: Grace, Sarah Thorne, 1877-1964

Abstract: The Papers contain letters from John L. Schmitz to Sarah Thorne Grace and photographs belonging to Sarah Thorne Grace.

Collection Size: .25 cubic feet  
(6 folders)

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-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor’s works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Sarah Thorne Grace Papers (C4400); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia.

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Jean E. Wood on June 8, 2014 (Accession No. CA6043).

Processed by: Processed by Emily Theriac, January 28, 2020

Historical Note:

Sarah Thorne Grace (18 June 1877–4 February 1964) was born and raised in Chillicothe, Missouri. She was an active member of the PEO, the Nineteen Club, The Chillicothe Club, and various other local entities. She was elected state president of the Missouri PEO in 1907 as
documented in the correspondence. She married William Edwin Hunt on November 10, 1909, in Chillicothe before moving to Portland, Oregon, where she died.

John L. Schmitz (24 June 1855 - 11 May 1928) was a superintendent, lawyer, postmaster, and judge of Chillicothe, Missouri. Schmitz was a widower with two daughters and one son. Schmitz was also very active in the Chillicothe community having been involved in the Elks Club Room, the Athletic Club, the Young Republicans of Missouri, and the Chillicothe Club.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

- Correspondence
- Photographs

**Scope and Content Note:**

**Correspondence**

This series contains materials related to the life of John L. Schmitz and Sarah Thorne Grace through letters and printed card sent from the former to the latter. The letters follow Schmitz during his travels December 1900 through June 1909. The letters from Schmitz to Grace, largely vague and sporadic, chronicle a friendship with few letters featuring deeper subjects. A few personal troubles are mentioned such as the death of Schmitz brother and the marriage of Grace’s sister, both in 1905, as well as Schmitz’s own admission of feeling depressed throughout the years. Schmitz often recalled the meaningful gifts shared between them including books, magazines, reading suggestions, and even a slice of cake from the wedding of Grace’s sister. Schmitz recounts many occasions when he interacted with Grace at local club or organization meetings, typically the Elks Club or the Annual Alumni Banquet. The letters follow Schmitz as he travels to St. Louis, Missouri, Chicago, Illinois, and Ohio. Schmitz vaguely mentions his failed attempt to run for state senate in 1902. In 1904, it is implied by Schmitz that Grace is attending higher education in St. Louis during the World’s Fair. Schmitz had plans to visit the World’s Fair when he travelled to St. Louis to attend a rally in support of that year’s Republican nominee for senate. It is unclear if he attended the fair or not. A 1907 letter shows Schmitz congratulating Grace after her election as State President of the P.E.O.

Also included is a letter from the wife of John L. Schmitz, Lillian H. Schmitz (20 February 1859 – 18 May 1896), to the Nineteen Club announcing her future absences, but not resignation, from her position in the club.

**Photographs**

This series consists of photographs collected by Sarah Thorne Grace. These include a homemade scrapbook from 1912 that depicts a family trip to the Ozarks. Members of the family include: Mrs. Black, Lena, Herbert Black, Bert Black, and Harry Black. There is one unidentified and undated photograph of a young woman taken by Dunlap in Chillicothe. There are two unidentified photographs taken by H. W. Campbell in Chillicothe that roughly date to the 1890s, one of an older woman and the other of an older man. A 1903 photograph of Herbert Black Jr. that was signed in pencil by the photographer, Campbell. Lastly, there is a photograph dated January 2, 1900, of Ida Laura “Lee” Wells taken by Dunlap in Chillicothe.
Container List:

f. 1  Correspondence, Dec. 31, 1900-March 12, 1902
f. 2  Correspondence, Dec. 16, 1902-June 1, 1904
f. 3  Correspondence, June 20, 1904-Dec. 19, 1904
f. 4  Correspondence, June 20, 1904-Dec. 19, 1904
f. 5  Correspondence, Jan. 6 1905-June 19, 1905
f. 6  Correspondence, July 15, 1905-March 13, 1909
f. 6  Photographs, 1890s-1912

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