This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri, Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at research@shsmo.org.

**Dates:** 1890s-1993  
**Creator:** Stark Brothers Nurseries and Orchards Company  
**Collection Size:** 139.7 cubic feet, 12 oversize volumes, 13 oversize items, 2 16 mm films

**Introduction**  
Business records of a Louisiana, Missouri, company include correspondence, reports, catalogs, printed materials, photographs, and miscellaneous material. Also included is material pertaining to varieties of fruits and plants developed by Luther Burbank.

**Donor Information**  
The records were donated to the University of Missouri by John Logan, President for the Stark Brothers Nursery on 10 October 1977. Additional records were donated by the Stark Brothers Nurseries and Orchards Company on 18 October 1979, 5 October 1981, and 11 November 1981. An addition was made by Clay Logan on 13 September 2021.

**Box List**

**Burbank Series (Boxes B1-B21)**

**Box B1**  
Invoices, April-May 1929  
Burbank varieties sent out under restriction for testing, 1929 (4 folders)  
Burbank inserts  
Burbank color plates (2 folders)  
Reports from tests planting  
Plant experimenters  
C. Bolles, McCook, Nebraska  
Hardy Northern Varieties  
Burbank testing  
July Elberta Peach Test, 1935  
Hunsaker—Experimental  
Reports on Tested Varieties  
Testing list—Spring 1935 & later  
Jonared Agreement with Richey & Gilbert  
Colchicine Experiments—Hormones  
Propagation through phyto-hormones  
Plant research results  
Burbank Testing Association
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STARK BROTHERS NURSERIES AND ORCHARDS COMPANY RECORDS

Box B2 (full gray)
Vanderbilt Correspondence (4 folders)
Burbank Records of Original Orchards at Sebastopol, 1927-1932 (3 folders)
Burbank Shipping Tests, 1930
Burbank Louisiana Test Orchard Reports, 1927-1931 (2 folders)
Burbank Double No. Plum
Plum Miscellaneous
Plumcot

Box B3 (full gray)
Plum Descriptions- By Burbank and Earl Allander
Burbank Plum- Orchard Records (4 folders)
Lists
Elephant Heart Plum Testing, Spring 1933
Burbank Notes on Plums (4 folders)

Box B4
Burbank Plum

Box B5
Burbank Peaches
Burbank Nuts

Boxes B6-7
Burbank Plum

Box B8
Burbank Apple
Burbank Cherry

Boxes B9-11
Burbank Plum

Boxes B12-13
Photographs

Boxes B14
Burbank Quince
Burbank Roses

Boxes B15
Burbank Plums

Boxes B16-17 [Vacant - Contained books donated to Ellis Library.]
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STARK BROTHERS NURSERIES AND ORCHARDS COMPANY RECORDS

Boxes B18-21
Photographs

Stark Brothers Nursery General Material (Boxes 1-58)

Box 1
Production & Collection Correspondence, c. 1912-1921

Box 2
Correspondence, 1901-1920
Reed-Farrell Reports on Orchards. Some indication that correspondence may have been alphabetically in subject files, i.e., one correspondence file box to subject.

Box 3
Correspondence, 1901-1920
Production & Collection. Folders of files labeled “Variety File, Pear” etc. If possible, identity of these files should be maintained for horticultural research and any other variety files reconstructed if possible. Reed files.

Box 4
Production & Collection & Variety Correspondence, 1900-1923

Box 4A
Correspondence, 1918-1920

Box 5
Collection Correspondence, 1900-1923 (May really be about collecting money; some is at least.)

Box 6
Order & Collection (of money)

Boxes 7-9
Collection, Property Correspondence

Boxes 10-11
Collection of Bills and Correspondence, 1900-1920

Box 12
Controversy over Ben Davis or Gano Apple, 1904
Freight Received Records, c. 1900-1910
Fayetteville, 1904-1905
Mahin Advertising Company

Box 13
Grapes
Advertising
Other nursery trade lists and correspondence
Envelopes labeled:
   Lawrence Stark
   Lawrence Reese
   William P. Stark propagation records
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Propagation Records, 1890s
Loose William P. Stark propagation records
Sales and Propagation Records, 1910-1920

Box 14
Sales and Propagation Records, 1910-1920
“East Miscellaneous Spring, 1920”

Box 15
“East Miscellaneous Spring, 1920”
One folder of material found in Oversize Ledgers
Production Correspondence, 1890s-1910s
Miscellaneous Labor (1 folder)
Material from box labeled:
  Stock Department, 1 June 1935-1 June 1936
  Misc. A-L
  Budding Records, 1936

Box 16
Material from box labeled:
  Stock Department, 1 June 1935-1 June 1936
  Misc. A-L
  Budding Records, 1936

Box 17
Pictures apparently from other files as well as ledger
Stock Department, 1 June 1935-1 June 1936
Miscellaneous correspondence, 1935-1936 [RANDOM SAMPLE]
  Letters about accounts (financial)
  Sick employee
  Advice on how to plant fruit trees
Howell County Nursery – regarding peach bud contract
Miscellaneous correspondence, 1935-1936

Box 18
Folders containing orders, notes, payment records, correspondence

Boxes 19-25  Telegrams, early 1920s, miscellaneous (mainly re: business transactions)

Box 26
Telegram, early 1920s, miscellaneous (mainly re: business transactions)
Edwin J. Stark Correspondence, 1940s

Box 27
Edwin J. Stark Correspondence, 1940s
Victory Garden materials, 1940s
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STARK BROTHERS NURSERIES AND ORCHARDS COMPANY RECORDS

Box 28
Spray File, 1915-1916
Trade, 1914-1915
Louisiana Budding Record, 1942
Atlas Budding Record, 1940
Field Inventory Records, 1947
Miscellaneous
Price Ceilings, 1940s
Price Controls, 1940s
Price Fixing, 1940s
Sugar Rationing
Statements from Authorities
Clippings
Decisions, Rulings, Statements
Correspondence with other nurserymen re: rationing
Gas & Rubber
Gas Ration Mailing OPA
Mailings – Gas & Tires
Engleson – Gas & Tires
Letters to Salesman

Box 29
Neosho Nurseries
Jackson & Perkins
Aggregate Field Books, 1889-1890
Plant Prints
Trade, 1910-1911 (Invoices)
Stark, Lloyd, C., Test Orchard Notes, 1920s-1930s
Variety Book Notes
Stark, Lloyd, C., Test Orchard Notes
Apple Pollination & Breeding Records, 1930
Stark, Lloyd, C., Test Orchard Notes, 1919-1928
Apple Testimonial Book, 1910
Nursery Catalogs, 1917-1918 (not Stark Bros.)

Box 30
Nursery Catalogs, 1917-1918 (not Stark Bros.)
Nursery Catalogs, 1953 (not Stark Bros.)
Nursery Catalog material, mostly 1953-1954 (not Stark Bros.)
Sales Managers letters, 1939
Form letters, 1941
Film – “They Shall Not Perish” – American Red Cross

Box 31
Form letters, 1941
Naples contract, 1948
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STARK BROTHERS NURSERIES AND ORCHARDS COMPANY RECORDS

Production Records, Marionville, 1947-1966

Box 32
Chauffeur’s licenses, 1961-1964
Turfgrass Farm, Arizona, 1966-1967
Barnes, Loy J., 1964-1965
Planting Records, 1949-1953
Atlas Budding Records, 1946-1960
Plant Records, 1957-1962
Stark Nursery Printed Materials, 1880s to early 1900s (catalogs, etc.)

Box 33
Stark Nursery Printed Materials, 1908-1912 (catalogs, etc.)
Leases, Expired, 1942-1949
Salesman’s Contracts, 1942, A-H

Box 34
Salesman’s Contracts, 1942, I-Z
Sales Campaign & Mailings, 1930-1931
Recruiting Reports, 1925-1927
Advertising and Salesman’s Campaign, 1925-1928
Advertising, 1934-1941
Advertising & Salesman’s Campaign, 1926-1930
Salesmen’s Contracts, 1938
Advertising & Salesman’s Campaign, c. 1932-1934

Box 35  Infringement file, Stark & Golden Delicious, A-Mo, c. 1930s

Box 36  Infringement file, Stark & Golden Delicious, Mp-Z, c. 1930s
Infringement file, Stark & Golden Delicious, A-Ca, c. 1920s

Box 37  Infringement file, Stark & Golden Delicious, Ca-Ha, c. 1920s

Box 38  Infringement file, Stark & Golden Delicious, Ha-N, c. 1920s

Box 39  Infringement file, Stark & Golden Delicious, O-Sm, c. 1920s

Box 40  Infringement file, Stark & Golden Delicious, So-Z, c. 1920s

Box 41
Catalog and Dealership Requests, 1940s
Form letters, 1941
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STARK BROTHERS NURSERIES AND ORCHARDS COMPANY RECORDS

Box 42
Catalog and Dealership Requests, 1940s
Form letters, 1939

Box 43
Inventory & Sales Records, 1934-1936
Planting Records, 1928-1936
Invoices, 1936
Catalog & Dealership Requests, 1940s

Box 44
Catalog & Dealership Requests, 1940s
Apple Research Correspondence, 1910-1936, M (New varieties)

Box 45
Apple Research Correspondence, 1910-1936, N (New varieties)

Box 46
Catalogs, 1945-1968

Box 47
Catalogs, 1969-1979

Box 48
Catalogs, 1980-1990

Box 49
Catalogs, 1991-1993
Price lists, 1897-1942

Box 50
Price lists, 1942-1973

Box 51
Price lists, 1973-1976
Photographs
Paul Stark, Jr.
Pual Stark III
Lloyd S. Stark
Lloyd Stickney Stark
John Stark
Clay Stark
Governor Lloyd Stark (4 folders)
Paul Stark, Sr. (3 folders)
Edwin J. Stark
Tom W. Stark

Box 52
Photographs
E.W. Stark
C.M. Stark
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STARK BROTHERS NURSERIES AND ORCHARDS COMPANY RECORDS

Eugene Stark
William Stark
Judge James Stark
General John Stark
Misc. Stark Family (2 folders)
John Logan
Orchards and machinery (6 folders)
New sprayer, 1968
Fruit contest promotions

Box 53
Photographs
   Misc. promotions (3 folders)
   Old orchard scenes (2 folders)
   Stark buildings
   Seed house (2 folders)
   Old office building
   SB area scenes (2 folders)
   Cabin, Historical marker 17
   Packing and shipping

Box 54
Photographs
   Office employees (5 folders)
   Old office exterior
   Service emblem presentation, 1945
   Recognition celebration, 1944
   Jim Law
   Bob Wentz
   Homer Reed
   Wallace N. Cox
   Cold Storage
   Misc. photos – Orchards, buildings, people (4 folders)

Box 55   Photos - Large fruits, miscellaneous fruit varieties, Ornamentals, 1900s-1950s

Boxes 56-58   Victory Gardens Correspondence

PHOTOGRAPHS (Boxes 59-100)

Box 59   Shade trees, landscaped homes, plant close-ups, 1915-1950s
Box 60   Roses and evergreens, tulips, landscaping, 1915-1950s
Box 61   Pear trees (varieties and digging), orchard scenes, roses, 1890-1960s
Box 62  Landscaed homes, 1915-1950s  
Box 63  Shrubs and shade trees, flower close-ups, assorted flowers, plants, landscaped homes, 1915-1950s or 1960s  
Box 64  Ornamental shrubs, flower and plant close-ups, landscaping, 1915-1950s  
Box 65  Peach trees, shrubs, ornamentals, 1915-1950s  
Box 66  Peach trees, peaches, ornamentals, n.d.  
Box 67  Roses, shrubs, shade trees, landscaping, ornamentals, miscellaneous photographs 1920s  
Box 68  Roses, landscaping, plant close-ups, shade trees, cherries, n.d.  
Box 69  Cherry trees, landscaping, cherries, landscaped homes, miscellaneous photographs, 1915-1950  
Box 70  Landscaed homes, cherry trees, cherries, landscaping, miscellaneous photographs, n.d.  
Box 71  Landscaping, Starkling apples, apple trees, apples, miscellaneous photographs, n.d.  
Box 72  Apples, Starkling apples, Delicious apples, n.d.  
Box 73  Apples, apple trees, trees in bloom, golden delicious, Delicious apples, 1900-1930s  
Box 74  Miscellaneous apple trees, apples, Golden Delicious, miscellaneous dwarfs, fruit planting, photographs from 1909-1947, 1952 Starking Delicious and Red-Gold  
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STARK BROTHERS NURSERIES AND ORCHARDS COMPANY RECORDS

Box 76  Stark Brother’s trees in New York and New Mexico; various Stark trees, 1950s-1960s; Grades, Golden Delicious, Peach, Orchard and Nursery Views; Golden Delicious, 1916-1920

Box 77  Golden Delicious, 1920-1940; Elberta Peaches; Miscellaneous apples and fruit

Box 78  Stark sales people, 1915-1950s

Box 79  Stark sales people, Orchard scenes, individual trees, etc., 1900-1950s

Box 80  Orchard Views, Peaches, Delicious Apples, Delicious Apple Monument

Box 81  Orchard Views, Stark Delicious, Nursery Views, Various fruits, 1900s-1950s

Box 82  Orchard Views, Nursery Views, Various Apples, Photographs of individual apples, miscellaneous photographs, 1900-1950s, n.d.

Box 83  Apples, Delicious Monument, Grapes, other fruits, 1900-1950s

Box 84  Berries, Grapes, and Plums, 1900-1950s

Box 85  Plum varieties, 1900s-1950s; Apple shows and dedications, 1910s and 1950s-1960s

Box 86  Apple shows, Delicious Apple

Box 87  Miscellaneous Apples; Orchard and Nursery views; Packing; Spraying; Picking; Sales people

Box 88  Sales people; horticulturalists; Golden Delicious Apples

Box 89  Golden Delicious Apples and Peach varieties, n.d.

Box 90  Peach varieties, n.d.

Box 91  Peaches, Apricots, Quince, 1920s-1960s; Orchard Views, Nursery Views, Cover crops, and Apple varieties

Box 92  Apple and Other Fruit Varieties, Delicious Monument, Starking Apples, Starking Celebration

Box 93  Delicious Apple, 1900s-1920s; Delicious Monument

Box 94  Grades, Grapes, Various Apples, Cherries, Nursery Views, n.d.
Box 95  Grades, Grape Vines, Apples, Orchard Views, and Peach Varieties, n.d.

Box 96  Peach Varieties; Starking, Wilson Red June, Red Rome Beauty, Winesap, Stayman Winesap apples, 1920s-1940s

Box 97  
Photographs, Starking and Delicious apples, Stark celebrations, 1920s-1930s
J.H. Hale correspondence, 1910s (5 folders)
Catalogs, 1899, 1901, 1907

Boxes 98-100 (oversize)  
Photographs

Box 101  
Catalogs, 1911-1955

Box 102  
Catalogs, 1956-1969
*Stark Tree Talk*, January 6-December 29, 1930
Catalog Cut-outs, Berries
Catalog Cut-outs, Apples A-K
Catalog Cut-outs, Apples L-Z
Catalog Cut-outs, Flowers and trees
Catalog Cut-outs, Apricots
Catalog Cut-outs, Grapes
Catalog Cut-outs, Pears
Catalog Cut-outs, Triplicates
Catalog Cut-outs, Duplicates
Catalog Cut-outs, Plums
Catalog Cut-outs, Quinces
Catalog Cut-outs, Peaches
Catalog Cut-outs, Cherries
Miscellaneous Correspondence, Catalogs, and Cut-outs, 1928-1931 (5 folders)

Box 103  
Photographs
  Misc. Photos – Orchards, buildings, people (3 folders)
  Peach varieties
  Apple varieties (3 folders)
  Golden Delicious – West Virginia
Correspondence – Margaret Hastings
Burbank publicity
Price lists, 1887-1951, n.d. (15 folders)
Box 104
Photographs – Golden Delicious apples
   Arkansas
   California
   Canada
   Colorado
   Connecticut
   Georgia
   Idaho
   Illinois (3 folders)
   Indiana (2 folders)
   Iowa
   Kansas
   Kentucky
   Maine
   Maryland
   Massachusetts
   Michigan

Box 105
Photographs – Golden Delicious apples
   Missouri (3 folders)
   Nebraska
   New Jersey
   New Mexico
   New York (3 folders)
   North Carolina
   Ohio (2 folders)
   Oklahoma
   Oregon
   Pennsylvania

Box 106
Photographs
   Golden Delicious apples – Washington (3 folders)
   Golden Delicious branches (4 folders)
   Year by year Golden Delicious (4 folders)

Box 107
Stark Trees – A Book of Color Illustrations
Price lists, 1912-1916
Photographs
   Packaging (2 folders)
   Misc. orchards (5 folders)
Catalogs, 1908-1922 (10 folders)
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STARK BROTHERS NURSERIES AND ORCHARDS COMPANY RECORDS

Box 108
Catalogs, 1922-1941, n.d. (20 folders)
Stark Tree Talk, 1950

Box 109
Photographs
Golden Delicious, Smith Field, Ark.
Orchard veins
Golden Delicious specimens (2 folders)
Golden Delicious uses
Orchard views, Golden Delicious
Golden Delicious P.C.S. orchard
Original Golden Delicious
L.C.S. and P.C.S. orchards (2 folders)
Golden Delicious test orchard

Box 110
Photographs
Golden Delicious foliage
Mrs. C.M.S. Golden Delicious
Golden Delicious celebrity
Golden Delicious boxes
Golden Delicious baskets
Golden Delicious branches
Golden Delicious, States
    Tennessee
    Texas
    Utah
    Virginia (3 folders)
Stark Tree Talk, 1955
Newton Pippen
Paragon
Rambo
Stark Delicious roots
Original Stark Delicious tree

Box 111
Photographs
Memorial to original tree
Stark Delicious (4 folders)
P.C.S. orchard Delicious
Summer champion
Stark Delicious
Sweet bough
Snow apple
Spitzenburg
Spokane beauty  
Stark Summer Queen  
Original staymared (2 folders)  
Misc. apple trees (2 folders)  

**Box 112**  
Photographs  
Misc. apple trees (2 folders)  
Louisiana, MO  
Professors (3 folders)  
Part time sales people (3 folders)  
Sales contest promotions  
Sales division, 1939  
Misc. employees  
Sales division and contests (2 folders)  
Yellow transparent apple  

**Box 113**  
Negatives of Burger contest  
Photographs  
Misc. photographs (3 folders)  
Starkrimson Bisbee  
Visiting dignitaries (4 folders)  
Branch Plants/Managers  
*The Doctor’s Orders* Scenes  
Pike County scenes  
Burbank correspondence, newspaper clippings, receipts (3 folders)  
Burbank Hall of Fame  
Burbank photographs  
Nursery field records (binder)  

**Box 114**  
Publicity  
Historical file (4 folders)  
Deliveryman’s Books (9 folders)  

**Box 115**  
Deliveryman’s Books  
Budding lists, 1937-1944  
Old salesmen memorabilia photographs  
Test orchard records, 1932  
Test orchard records, n.d.  
Kiel test orchard records  
Plum variety notes  
Red skin – Yellow flesh  
Red skin – Variegated flesh
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Yellow skin – Blushed – Yellow flesh
Yellow skin – No blush – Yellow flesh
Louisiana test orchard, peach test orchard, Atlas, Ill.
Burbank plum variety notes, 1927
   Red skin – Red flesh
   Red skin – Yellow flesh
Misc. fruit variety notes (3 folders)
Test orchard notes
Publicity, newspaper and magazine clippings (2 folders)
Historical file, newspaper clippings
Men of America booklets and correspondence
Freedom Gardens

Box 116
Bunyard’s Catalogue of Fruit Trees
Photographs
   Misc. photos, Governor Stark, Burbank, apple trees, crop maintenance
   Crop spraying
   Grafting (2 folders)
   Misc. Espalier trees (2 folders)
   Nuts - pecans, chestnuts, walnuts, giant hickory
   Planting – various fruit trees
   Budding – various fruit trees
   Small fruits – grape, raspberries, Himalaya berry, gooseberry, blackberry (4 folders)
   Misc. ornamentals – sample shrubs, roses, evergreens, maiden hair tree (2 folders)

Box 117
Photographs
   Misc. ornamentals – sample shrubs, roses, evergreens, maiden hair tree (2 folders)
   Selected ornamentals (2 folders)
   Tree diseases
   Comparison of grades
   Mist beds
   Crab apple
   Dwarf apple
   Pear – blocks of trees, varieties, digging (4 folders)
   Cherry – whole trees, branches, individual specimens (2 folders)
   Peach
   Dwarf peach

Box 118
Photographs
   Apricot (6 folders)
   Plum varieties (4 folders)
   Apple exhibits (3 folders)
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Box 119
Photographs
  Apple exhibits (7 folders)
  Luther Burbank
  Misc. Burbank – trees, flowers, portraits (3 folders)
  Preliminary F ’77

Box 120
Photographs
  Misc. Burbank – family, flowers, Burbank property (5 folders)
  Negatives – Luther Burbank, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford
  Stark’s Golden Delicious trees (2 folders)
  Stark West Nursery, 1970
  Starkspur Golden Delicious
  Hiatt original Delicious Apple tree
Notes and photos of specimens, apples, grapes, cherries, pears, nectarines (3 folders)
Invoices
Burbank slides

Box 121
Burbank contract paperwork (3 folders)
Burbank articles
Luther Burbank experiment farms
Special berry garden information
Burbank trademark
Mrs. Burbank correspondence
Burbank trademark, Burpee
Stark/Burpee contract
Burpee correspondence, 1931-1932
Misc. Stark correspondence, 1929-1931
Misc. Stark correspondence, 1931-1941
Luther Burbank - church booklets, seed books, price lists
Stark correspondence – nuts, 1932-1937
Burbank correspondence, 1925-1981 (3 folders)

Box 122
Watson correspondence, 1927-1928
Burbank correspondence, 1926-1950 (2 folders)
Ford Motor Company correspondence, 1928
Burbank contracts, Stark California trip, 1927
Burbank data
Burbank correspondence, 1893-1895
Burbank contract payments
Burbank publicity
Begger correspondence (3 folders)
Burbank seeds catalog
Inventors Hall of Fame—Luther Burbank, booklets, newspaper clippings, correspondence (2 folders)

**Box 123**
Catalogs, 1910-1915
Catalogs, 1941-1944
Photographs – Stark family, nurseries, Louisiana, MO (3 folders)
Stark advertisements, nursery booklets
Metal tree tags
Scrapbook, Weekly Retail Mailings, 1945 (disbound—5 folders)

**AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL**
Films 1-2 Unedited footage from Reader’s Digest film on Stark Brothers Co.

**OVERSIZE MATERIAL**

| Item #1 | Panoramic photograph, Farm scene, n.d. |
| Item #2 | Photograph, Members of the Stark Brothers Company at the Missouri Governor’s Mansion, n.d. |
| Item #3 | Scrapbook with photographs |
| Items #4-13 | Miscellaneous photographs |
| v. 1 | State tags, 1926-1927 [removed from box 45] |
| v. 2 | Contracts with growers, 1891 |
| v. 3 | Note Register, 1907-1920 |
| v. 4 | Note Register, 1894-1905 |
| v. 5 | Orchard Records, 1893-1916 |
| v. 6 | Orchard Records, 1891-1893 |
| v. 7 | Orchard Records, 1894-1913 |
| v. 8 | Note Register, 1902-1912 |
| v. 9 | Orchards, County Record, 1889-1890s |
| v. 10 | Nursery Stock Received, 1923 |
| v. 11-12 | Advertising Materials, 1936-1937, 1951-1952 [Two volumes given to Dr. Brownlee by Stark Bros.] |