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

Introduction

The collection contains twenty-nine folders and oversize scrapbooks consisting of photocopies of short stories and newspaper and magazine articles written by Mary Bullock Aker. Her writings cover a variety of topics from the American Revolutionary War to household tips. Also included is Aker’s autobiography, two World War II scrapbooks associated with Reginald B. Aker, and materials concerning historic houses in Parkville, Missouri, compiled by Barbara Ann Aker.

Mary Bullock Aker was born on May 19, 1892, in Clay County, Missouri, to William and Cora Chedester Bullock. In 1911, Aker married Ernest Given Aker in Parkville, Missouri. Aker began writing articles for the local newspapers around 1927. Interested in pursuing this work she attended courses in journalism, forums, writing workshops, and joined the Missouri and National Press Women’s Association as well as the National League of Pen Women.

During the peak of her writing, Aker sold articles to many local and national newspapers and to adult and children’s magazines. Aker earned numerous state and national awards for her work, including a Valley Forge Freedom Foundation Award for an essay entitled, “The American Way of Life.” In 1967, Aker had compiled a booklet on the history of Parkville and Platte County, Missouri, which, was sold by the Parkville Business and Professional Women’s Club.

Aker was active in a variety of organizations in Platte County, Missouri, during her lifetime. She served as an organizer and officer for the local PTA, the Red Cross, the Women’s Association of the Parkville Community Church, the Missouri Press Women’s Association, the Parkville Business and Professional Women’s Club, and the Platte County Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons. Aker was also an ordained Deacon and Elder in the Parkville Community Church. She was a founder, past president, and executive secretary for the Platte County Historical Society. Aker received a number of awards and recognition for her extensive community work.

Aker died in January 1985, and is buried at the Walnut Grove Cemetery, in Parkville, Missouri.

Donor Information

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Mary B. Aker on June 29, 1982 (Accession No. KA0151). An addition was made on February 16, 1984 by Vera H. Eldridge (Accession No. KA230). An addition was made on February 17, 2014 by Barbara Ann Aker (Accession No. KA2192).
Copyright and Restrictions
The Donor has given and assigned to the University of Missouri 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.

Related Collections
Parkville Presbyterian Church Records (K0134)

Location Note
The collection is stored offsite and will need to be retrieved before viewing.

Box List

Box 1
Biographies
  Thomas Asbury
  Katherine Lee Bates
  Thomas Coke
  Thomas Jefferson
  James Smithson
  Eleazure Williams
  Clara Barton
  Fanny Crosby
  Ben Holladay
  Helen Hunt Jackson
  Abraham Lincoln
  Manuel de Lisa
  Charles Peale
  Sequoyah
  George Washington
  Women

Tableau script recounting the lives of Pocahontas, Fanny Crosby, Carrie Jacobs-Bond, Dorothy Deemer Houghton, Mary Cassatt, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and Betsy Ross

Collectibles
Customs and traditions
The Flag
History
  Clay and Platte Counties
  Missouri River
  The West
Holidays, Christmas and Halloween
Indians
Organizations
Poems and prose
Telephone Companies
Tennessee
Unknown Revolutionary Soldier
WAACS
Autobiography
World War II, Reginald B. Aker, including clippings, selective service registration cards
Letter from Lt. R. F. Wallace, U.S.S. Idaho to Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Aker, Parkville, Missouri, concerning his participation in downing Japanese planes off Okinawa, 1945
“Historic houses and Buildings, Parkville, Missouri”, by Barbara Ann Aker, 1983

Box 1x1
Scrapbooks
Reginald B. Akers, World War II, 1943-1945
Clippings, Platte County, certificates, USO, and ephemera, 1942-1945