



Janet Lee Smith Rees Papers (K1430)

Collection Number: K1430

Collection Title: Janet Lee Smith Rees Papers

Dates: 1894-2010

Creator: Smith Rees, Janet Lee

Abstract: The Janet Lee Smith Rees Papers is a collection of family records, scrapbooks, certificates, and books. These materials consist of different baby books, funeral records, picture and memorial scrapbooks, and other records concerning the life of Janet Lee Smith Rees and other members of her extended family. Many of these scrapbooks and documents are oversized.

Collection Size: 3 cubic feet
(38 folders, 2 oversized folders, 6 oversized boxes, 16 volumes, 905 photos)

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-Kansas City](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Janet Lee Smith Rees Papers* (K1430); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Kansas City].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Richard Dale Rees on March 22, 2021. (Accession No. KA2534).

Processed by: Processed by Kansas City Research Center Staff, October 2023.

Historical Note:

Janet Lee (Smith) Rees was born on September 4, 1937, to Walter D. and Frances Maxine (Bowen) Smith, all of whom were originally from Kansas City. Growing up, she attended Foxen Grade School and eventually went to Paseo High School where she was a member of the Thicions Literary Society and president of the Theta Chi Gamma Sorority. She graduated from high school in 1955. After high school, she spent a few years working as an accounts clerk at Trader's National Bank and then as an administrative assistant at the Midwest commercial department of Mobil Oil. She soon resigned from Mobil Oil after marrying her husband, Richard D. "Dick" Rees in 1970. They soon moved to Overland Park and Janet joined the organization of Welcome Wagon of Johnson County in 1972. She was eventually elected president of the organization and spent many years organizing and conducting numerous events for it. During this time, Janet also began raising Boston Terriers with her husband, a lifelong passion of hers, as they were unable to have children.

In 1981, Janet and Richard Rees joined the Topeka Boston Terrier Club, the Heart of America Kennel Club, and the Boston Terrier Club of America (BCTA). Janet eventually became president of the Topeka club and served as publicity chair with her husband in her local kennel club for 18 years. She then became secretary and board member of the Heart of America Kennel Club during the final years of her life. Additionally, she was active in the BTCA as its national treasurer and was responsible for the creation and management of the national breed publication, *The Boston Quarterly*.

Throughout her life, Janet was entrusted by her family with collecting different family materials by older relatives. She amassed a collection family scrapbooks, records, certificates, and other memorabilia which she maintained up until her passing on November 4, 2010.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 6 series:

Janet Lee (Smith) Rees
Walter and Frances Smith
Williamson Family
Norfleet Family
Bowen Family
Other Family Records

Scope and Content Note:**Janet Lee (Smith) Rees**

This series contains materials related to the life of Janet Lee (Smith) Rees such as scrapbooks and other photo albums. The first two folders contain baby cards removed from her Baby Days photo album. There are also photographs from her childhood to adulthood arranged in chronological order from 1938 to 1970 as well as school and organization photos and scrapbooks. The final two folders contain materials relating to Janet's funeral, including a memorial CD and a funeral register book.

Box 002 and 003 are oversized and contain Janet Lee (Smith) Rees' Baby Days Photo Album, a black scrapbook with other childhood photographs, a high school dance album and another family scrapbook. These items are arranged chronologically.

Walter and Frances Smith

This series consists of materials pertaining to both Walter and Frances Smith, the parents of Janet Rees. The series begins with Walter Smith's baby book as well as greeting cards and a scrapbook related to his infancy. Following are the funeral and memorial books for Walter Smith. Frances Smith's materials also begin with a baby book, followed by documents removed from Frances Smith's photo album. There is correspondence on donations made in honor of Frances Smith's passing in 1999 as well as her funeral register. This series also includes the wedding book of Frances and Walter Smith. The oversized box, Box 005, contains two photo albums concerning both Walter and Frances Smith, along with Walter Smith's High School Diploma. This series is arranged first by subject, and then chronologically.

Williamson Family

This series contains materials related to the Williamson family line, related to Janet Lee (Smith) Rees. It contains funeral registers for Thomas Dudley Williamson and Turner Lee Williamson, notes concerning different members of the Williamson extended family and funeral invitations for various members of the Williamson family. These invitations were originally contained in the red fabric family photo album. The first oversized box, Box 007, in this series contains Williamson family photo albums with some Norfleet family photographs mixed in. Box 008 has a family photo album of Turner Williamson, a scrapbook concerning the law firm owned by Thomas Williamson, a scrapbook concerning the Williamson family farm, and a general Williamson family scrapbook.

Norfleet Family

This series contains materials that pertain to Norfleet family line, who is also a part of Janet Lee (Smith) Rees' extended family. Many of the materials relate to Maurice and Eva Norfleet. Maurice Norfleet was the husband of Eva (Williamson) Norfleet, who was the sister of Janet's paternal grandmother, Seviella (Williamson) Smith Frischer. The box begins with Norfleet and Frischer family photos from 1911 to 1972, with Eva and Maurice's marriage certificate in the next folder. The next two folders contain both Eva and Maurice Norfleet's funeral registers. This series also contains a general guestbook with visits between 1948-1975 and a scrapbook kept by Eva Norfleet, with the next folder containing extra cards and papers from the scrapbook. The final folder in this series consists of note pages that describe the family history of the Norfleet family and makes note of different family members. This series is arranged topically.

Bowen Family

This series consists of materials that relate to Smith Rees's Bowen heritage, from her maternal side of the family. They focus mainly on her relative Taylor Bowen, with some materials relating to Katherine Bowen. It contains Taylor Bowen's baby book from 1894, stage actor photos from when Taylor Bowen was involved in her high school theater, and her funeral book. For Katherine Bowen, there is another funeral book. The oversized folder, f. 50, contains materials that relate to Taylor Bowen's time in theater, the physical scrapbook that contained the stage actor photos and financial statements for the theater club. This series is arranged by subject.

Other Family Records

This series contains materials that were saved by Janet Lee (Smith) Rees that pertain to her extended family. The first oversized folder contains a series of group photos that Thomas Williamson and Maurice Norfleet took together from the early 20th century, with some photos undated. The oversized box contains an unfinished scrapbook from Eva Norfleet and the first two volumes of the history of Lafayette County, Missouri.

Container List:

Janet Lee (Smith) Rees Records

f. 1-11

Box 001	f. 1	Baby Days Greeting Cards, 1937
	f. 2	Baby Days First Birthday Cards, 1938
	f. 3	Childhood Photographs, 1938-1970, no date
	f. 4	Faxon Grade School Graduation Scrapbook, 1950
	f. 5	Theta Chi Gamma and Thicions Classmate Photographs, no date
	f. 6	Life Memorial CD, 2010
	f. 7	Janet Rees Funeral Register, 2010
Box 002	f. 8	Baby Days Photo Album
	f. 9	Black Childhood Photographs Scrapbook
Box 003	f. 10	Brown High School Dance Album, 1951-1955
	f. 11	Janet Rees and Family Scrapbook

Walter and Frances Smith Records

f. 12-23

Box 004	f. 12	Walter Smith Baby Book, 1912
	f. 13	Walter Smith Baby Greeting Cards and Scrapbook, 1912-1914
	f. 14-15	Walter Smith Funeral Register Book, 1963
	f. 16	Frances Smith Baby Book, 1916
	f. 17	Green Scrapbook Extra Documents, no date
	f. 18	Frances Smith Donation Letters, 1999
	f. 19	Frances Smith Funeral Register, 1999
	f. 20	Walter and Frances Wedding Book, 1936
Box 005	f. 21	Walter Smith Photo Album
	f. 22	Frances Smith Photo Album
	f. 23	Walter Smith High School Diploma

Williamson Family Records

f. 24-33

Box 006	f. 24	Thomas Dudley Williamson Funeral Register, 1933
	f. 25	Turner Lee Williamson Funeral Register, 1949
	f. 26	Williamson Family Notes
	f. 27	Williamson Family Funeral Invitations
Box 007	f. 28-29	Williamson and Norfleet Family Photos, 1908-1924
Box 008	f. 30	Turner Williamson Family Album
	f. 31	Thomas D. Williamson and Lawson, Missouri, Bank Scrapbook
	f. 32	Williamson Family Farm Scrapbook, 1910-1959

f. 33 Williamson Family Scrapbook

Norfleet Family Records

f. 34-42

Box 009 f. 34 Norfleet and Frischer Family Photos, 1911-1972
 f. 35 Norfleet Marriage Certificate, 1908
 f. 36 Maurice Norfleet Funeral Register, 1977
 f. 37 Eva Norfleet Funeral Register, 1979
 f. 38 Maurice and Eva Norfleet Guestbook, 1948-1975
 f. 39 Eva Norfleet Scrapbook, 1906-1965
 f. 40 Eva Norfleet Scrapbook Extra Cards, 1905, 1958, no date
 f. 41 Cattle Sale Flyer, 1910
 f. 42 Norfleet Family History

Bowen Family Records

f. 43-50

Box 010 f. 43 Taylor Lynn Bowen Baby Book, 1894
 f. 44-46 Taylor Bowen Stage Actor Photographs
 f. 47 Taylor Lynn Bowen Funeral Register, 1968
 f. 48 Katherine Bowen Funeral Register, 1965
 f. 49 Katherine Bowen Mass Cards, 1965
 f. 50 Taylor Bowen Theater Scrapbook and Statements, 1916

Other Family Records

f. 51-54

f. 51 Thomas Williamson and Maurice Norfleet Group Photographs,
 1925, 1930, no date
 Box 011 f. 52 Eva Williamson Norfleet Scrapbook, 1897
 f. 53 History of Lafayette County, Missouri Volume I
 f. 54 History of Lafayette County, Missouri Volume II

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Baby Book	1, 2, 8, 12, 13, 16, 43	Yes
Bowen, Katherine	48, 49	Yes
Bowen, Taylor Lynn	43-47, 50	Yes
Faxon Grade School	4	Yes
Funeral Register	7, 14, 15, 19, 24, 25, 36, 37, 47, 48	Yes
Greeting Cards	1, 2, 13	Yes
History of Lafayette County, Missouri	53, 54	

Index Term	Folder	Image
Newspaper Clippings	4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 19, 20, 24, 25, 31, 36, 37, 39, 47, 48	Yes
Norfleet, Eva	35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 52	Yes
Norfleet, Maurice	35, 36, 38, 51	Yes
Scrapbooks	4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 39, 50, 52	Yes
Smith Rees, Janet Lee	1-11	Yes
Smith, Frances	16-20, 22	Yes
Smith, Walter	12-15, 20, 21, 23	Yes
Theta Chi Gamma Sorority	5	Yes
Thicions Literary Society	5	Yes
Wedding	20, 35	Yes
Williamson, Thomas Dudley	24, 31, 51	Yes
Williamson, Turner Lee	25, 30	Yes