



Haun Family Papers (K1465)

Collection Number: K1465

Collection Title: Haun Family Papers

Dates: 1929-2012

Creator: Haun, Russell, and Taylor families

Abstract: The papers of a Kansas City-area family include photographs, an oral history interview, reminiscences about the Great Depression, and materials related to the Belles of the American Royal.

Collection Size: 0.25 cubic foot
(5 folders, 4 photographs)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. 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.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Haun Family Papers* (K1465); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Amy T. Haun on June 7, 2017 (Accession No. KA2374).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Haun Family Papers can be found in the following collections:

[American Royal Records, 1899-1991 \(K0265\)](#)

Processed by: Processed by Molly Sloan, January 2026

Historical Note:

Longtime Jackson County resident Rahe James Russell was born in 1906 and lived in the area until his death in 2007. Russell worked in real estate and was a proud outdoorsman in his free time. He was married to his wife, Virginia Russell, for 76 years. The two had a daughter, Virginia Taylor, and two granddaughters, Amy Taylor Haun and Polly Revare.

John Wilmot Taylor, brother-in-law to Virginia Taylor, was born in 1922. Upon his graduation from the University of Colorado, he served with the U.S. Army's heavy artillery in World War II, fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. He worked in commercial real estate and belonged to the Kansas City Bicycle Club along with his wife, Arline Smith Taylor.

Belles of the American Royal (BOTAR) was founded in 1949 to encourage interest in the American Royal. Twelve young women were selected to serve as hostesses at the American Royal Coronation Ball. Today, BOTAR is a 1,200-member women's leadership organization that promotes local agribusiness. Funds raised from the annual BOTAR ball supports the American Royal's scholarship and educational programs.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged chronologically into 5 folders.

Scope and Content Note:

Folder 1 consists of photographs depicting the Russell and Taylor families. Folder 2 contains two copies of reminiscences, one photocopy and one typed, of the Great Depression by Rahe J. Russell, grandfather of Amy Taylor Haun. Folders 3 and 4 both contain BOTAR materials: a 50th anniversary book co-authored by Haun and a VHS tape of a ball, respectively. Folder 5 includes a transcript of an oral history by John Wilmot Taylor, uncle to Haun.

Container List:

Box 001	f. 1	Photographs, 1929-1945
	f. 2	"Some Highlights of the Great Depression as I Remember Them," Rahe J. Russell, 1987
	f. 3	<i>Belles of the American Royal Fiftieth Anniversary Book 1949-1999</i> , 1999
	f. 4	BOTAR Ball VHS Tape, 2003
	f. 5	John Wilmot Taylor Oral History Interview Transcript, 2012

Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Image
American Royal Live Stock & Horse Show	3-4	
Balls (Parties)	3-4	
Haun, Amy Taylor	3	

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Russell, Rahe James, 1906-2007	1	Yes
Russell, Rahe James, 1906-2007	2	
Russell, Virginia Anthony, 1909-2003	1	Yes
Taylor, John Wilmot, 1922-2013	1	Yes
Taylor, John Wilmot, 1922-2013	5	
World War II	1, 5	