



Rosati, Missouri Collection (R0181)

Collection Number: Rosati, Missouri Collection

Collection Title: R0181

Dates: 1918-1983

Creator: Brogi, Francesco

Abstract: The Rosati, Missouri Collection contains photocopies of materials pertaining to the history of Rosati (formerly Knobview) in Phelps County, Missouri. The collection includes the business notebook of Antonio M. Piazza, a tape-recorded interview with Jodie Donati, and a research paper by Francesco Brogi.

Collection Size: 0.04 cubic foot
(2 folders, 1 audio cassette)

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-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@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] *Rosati, Missouri Collection* (R0181); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The collection was loaned for photocopying to the University of Missouri by Joseph Piazza and Francesco Brogi on June 30, 1983 (Accession No. RA0184).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Rosati, Missouri Collection can be found in the following collections:

Rosati, Missouri Label Collection (R0101)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, February 27, 1984. Revised by Kathleen Seale, February 16, 2021.

Historical Note:

Rosati, on the eastern edge of Phelps County, was known as Knobview until 1931. Immigrants from northern Italy, who came to Missouri via Sunnyside, Arkansas, founded the community. The Corbin Plantation Company of Sunnyside encouraged the settlers to immigrate to Arkansas, in the hopes of find a solution to its problems securing a satisfactory labor force for the production of cotton. One hundred and twenty-five families made the journey from Genoa to Sunnyside in 1895, moving into houses built for them by the company.

Sickness and an inability to adapt to cotton farming left many of the immigrants dissatisfied, and the group choose a committee of three to select a new location for settlement. One of the members recommended land at Tontitown in northwestern Arkansas, while the other two favored land owned by the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad Company near the flag stop of Knobview in Phelps County, Missouri.

The first small group arrived at Knobview in 1898 and began to build houses for those on their way. By March, thirty families had arrived. As it would require years of labor to make the Ozark soil sufficiently productive to support all of the families, most of the men took seasonal jobs in railroad construction and in the local coal mines of southern Illinois. Tomato production provided some farm income through sales to a local, Italian-owned cannery. Around 1921, most of the immigrants began cultivation of French Concord grapes for use as table grapes. A cooperative winery soon failed, but the Welch Grape Company began purchasing entire harvests in the 1930s for jellies and jams. Thereupon grapes became the basis of a thriving local industry.

Antonio M. Piazza was one of the first Italian settlers to arrive at Knobview. He built a store, and later was appointed postmaster, in which position he was succeeded by his son Joseph Piazza, who served until the office was discontinued in 1965.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into two series:

Rosati History
Oral History

Scope and Content Note:

Rosati History

This series contains photocopies of materials pertaining to the history of Rosati (formerly Knobview) in Phelps County, Missouri. Included are the business notebook of Antonio M. Piazza and a research paper by Francesco Brogi. Antonio Piazza's notebook includes data on a variety of matters, from postal receipts to shipments of produce and sales of vine cuttings.

Oral History

This series consists of a recorded interview with Piazza's granddaughter, Jodie Donati, conducted by Francesco Brogi. Brogi, a native of Italy, became interested in the community while a student at the University of Missouri – Rolla (now Missouri University of Science and Technology). His research paper on Rosati is included in the collection.

Container List:

| | | |
|---------|------|---|
| f. 1-2 | | Rosati History |
| Box 001 | f. 1 | Antonio Piazza notebook, 1918-1931 |
| | f. 2 | Francesco Brogi, "Rosati, Little Italy of the Ozarks," 1983 |
| a.c. 1 | | Oral History |
| | a.c. | Jodie Donati interview, 1983 |

Index:

| Index Term | Folder | Medium |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Agricultural colonies--Missouri | 1-2 | a.c. 1 |
| Arkansas--History | 2 | |
| Brogi, Francesco | 2 | a.c. 1 |
| Business records--Missouri | 1 | |
| Chicot County (Ark.) | 2 | a.c. 1 |
| Donati, Jodie | 2 | a.c. 1 |
| Grape industry--Missouri | 1-2 | a.c. 1 |
| Italians--United States | 1-2 | a.c. 1 |
| Knobview (Mo.) | 1-2 | a.c. 1 |
| Phelps County (Mo.) | 1-2 | a.c. 1 |
| Piazza, Joseph, 1900-1986 | 1 | |
| Piazza, Antonio, 1866-1943 | 1 | a.c. 1 |
| Rosati (Mo.) | 1-2 | a.c. 1 |
| Sunnyside (Ark.) | 2 | a.c. 1 |
| Vineyards--Missouri | 1-2 | a.c. 1 |
| Viticulture--Missouri | 1-2 | a.c. 1 |