



Mattie Henry Papers (R0191)

Collection Number: R0191

Collection Title: Mattie Henry Papers

Dates: 1983

Creator: Moore, Benjamin Bird

Abstract: The Mattie Henry Papers contain a compiled and edited grammar notebook used by Mattie Henry to instruct grade school students at Charleston, Mississippi County, Missouri. The book includes rules and examples for English grammar and sentence diagramming. The book was edited by Benjamin Bird Moore and was published by the Mississippi County Historical Society in 1983.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot
(1 folder)

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] *Mattie Henry Papers* (R0191); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by the Mississippi County Historical Society on January 31, 1984 (Accession No. RA0210).

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, June 1984. Revised by Kathleen Seale, April 6, 2021.

Biographical Note:

Known as the most successful grammar teacher in southeastern Missouri, Mattie Henry was a familiar figure to generations of grade school students in Charleston. She was born in 1892 at Marion, Kentucky, and moved to Charleston with her family in 1906. She graduated from high school in 1911 and began teaching the same year. She was hired by the Charleston Public School in 1917, the beginning of a tenure that lasted until 1962. She died of cancer in Charleston in 1978.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

It was said that Henry's students could be identified easily by their writing. She emphasized English grammar and vocabulary and insisted that schoolwork be flawless. A large part of her success was due to the grammar notebook, which each student in the seventh and eighth grades was required to keep. Word-for-word, they were laboriously copied from the blackboard. The notebook was so effective in reducing the English language to outline form that the president of Southeast Missouri State University at Cape Girardeau sent copies to all school superintendents and English teachers in the region served by the college. Any student who mastered the notebook, he said, would have no problems with college English.

The notebook published by the Mississippi County Historical Society was compiled from three extant copies: Mattie Henry's own copy, and those of two of her former students. It is arranged in three parts: the sentence, sentence diagramming, and parts of speech. The notebook is indexed for easy reference.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 "Grammar Notebook, By Mattie Henry," 1983

Index:

Index Term	Folder
Charleston (Mo.)	1
English language--Grammar	1
Frye, Jennie Cooper	1
Henry, Mattie, 1892-1978	1
Mississippi County (Mo.)	1
Mississippi County Historical Society (Mo.)	1
Moore, Benjamin Bird	1
Teachers--Missouri	1