W. Harry Barron Papers  
(R0630)

Collection Number: R0630

Collection Title: W. Harry Barron Papers

Dates: 1946

Creator: Barron, W. Harry, 1875-1951

Abstract: The W. Harry Barron Papers contain a typescript copy of a letter from Dr. W. Harry Barron to Ruth Berry dated October 27, 1946, concerning the history of Mine La Motte in Madison County, Missouri. A physician who practiced medicine in Madison County for most of his life, Barron was also the unofficial historian of Mine La Motte.

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.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] W. Harry Barron Papers (R0630); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: This collection was loaned for photocopying to the University of Missouri by Historic Madison County on May 9, 1996 (Accession No. RA0650).

Biographical Note:

W. Harry Barron a native of Madison County was born in October 1875, to Edwin and Rebecca Rock Barron. Edwin was a miner at Mine La Motte. Barron himself worked in the mines and then taught school before turning to medicine. He practiced in Mine La Motte over twenty years before opening an office in Fredericktown. Barron was interested in the history of Mine La Motte and became the historian of the area. He wrote articles concerning the area and collected artifacts from the earliest days of the mining community. His office was said to resemble a museum. With the exception of his college years at Cape Girardeau, Barron lived in Madison County his entire life. He drowned at the age of seventy-five while crossing a low-water bridge.

Naomi Ruth Berry was born on September 14, 1926 in Arcadia, Missouri, to Oscar and Berth Rohan Berry. She married William B. Mozo in Cape Girardeau in November 1946 where Ruth was attending college. She later remarried to Don C. Gottlob while working at McDonnell Aircraft (now Boeing). Ruth died in North Carolina on September 26, 2020.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

In 1946, Barron wrote to Ruth Berry, a student at Cape Girardeau, in response to a query about the history of Mine La Motte. After a brief autobiographical paragraph, Barron sketched the history of the village and its various mining enterprises, noted buildings and some of the physical features, and wrote briefly of the social life of the community. The typescript copy of Barron’s letter was prepared to ensure legibility.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 Letter, Dr. W. Harry Barron to Ruth Berry, 1946

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