Blumenhorst Family Papers  
(S0442)

Collection Number: S0442

Collection Title: Blumenhorst Family Papers

Dates: 1586-1959

Creator: Blumenhorst, Margaret F., 1918-2010

Abstract: The Blumenhorst Family Papers contain correspondence, bills of sale, wills, and a diary, chronicling the histories of the Craig, Lewis, Watts, Wallace, and Woodson families from 1586 to 1959.

Collection Size: 1.2 cubic feet  
(117 folders)

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-St. Louis. If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsMO.org.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Margaret F. Blumenhorst Papers (S0442); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were loaned for photocopying to the University of Missouri by Margaret Blumenhorst on February 6, 1984 (Accession No. SA2598). An addition was made on April 5, 1984 by Margaret Blumenhorst (Accession No. SA2611)

Existence and Location of Originals: The donor retained the original manuscript; their current location is unknown.

Processed by: Processed by Western Historical Manuscript Staff, May 1984; Revised by AJ Medlock, July 2023.
Historical Note:

The marriage of Laura Holloway Watts (1854-1940) and James Craig Wallace (1840-1916) in 1877 united five Missouri families: the Watts, Lewis, Woodson, Craig, and Wallace families. Laura Watts descended from the Watts, Lewis, and Woodson families, and James Craig Wallace from the Craig and Wallace families. Members of the five families settled along the Chariton and Missouri Rivers in Howard and Chariton Counties in Missouri between 1817 and 1820.

Early ancestors of these families came to Virginia from England, Ireland, and Scotland. After settling in Virginia, they became planters and intermarried with the Smiths, Harrises, Washingtons, Jeffersons, and Morton families. During the Revolutionary War, most of the individuals from these families fought for independence from Great Britain, including Major Andrew Wallace (1748-1829), great-grandfather of James Craig Wallace, and Obediah Smith (1749-1810) and Jacob Woodson (1748-1839), great-grandfathers of Laura Watts Wallace.

After the Revolutionary War, Major Andrew Wallace received a land grant from the state of Virginia in the Kentucky territory. In 1872, Andrew Wallace and his wife Catherine Parks Wallace (1749-1825) moved to Lincoln County, Kentucky. Samuel Wallace (1770-1852), their eldest son, married Anna Snoddy (1778-1861) in 1798 before migrating westward to Missouri. Samuel and Anna Wallace's oldest son, John Snoddy Wallace, married Idress Craig in 1833. Her father, Colonel Hiriam Craig, migrated from Kentucky to Missouri in 1819. John and Idress Wallace became the parents of James Craig Wallace in 1840.

Laura Watts Wallace's grandmother, Mary Burke Smith (1781-1866), married William Watts (1779-1840). Their son, James J. Watts (1818-1894), married Martha Woodson Lewis (1820-1907) in 1840. Martha's parents, Henry Lewis (1782-1873) and Elizabeth Woodson Lewis (1790-1857) moved to Glasgow, Missouri, from Virginia in 1817, along with Elizabeth Woodson Lewis' parents. Henry Lewis, a judge, settled on a farm called Hackleberry Grove and became active in Glasgow's educational and cultural institutions. Reverend William Henry Lewis, Henry's son, established the Monticello Male and Female Seminary in the late 1830s.

Laura Watts Wallace and James Craig Wallace had three daughters, Idress Elizabeth (1878-1959), Agnes Stanford (1879-1945), and Margaret Cotilde (1882-1914). Agnes and Margaret Wallace never married. In 1915, Idress Elizabeth Wallace married William E. Flower of St. Louis. The couple's daughter, Margaret Wallace Flower (1918-2010), married Karl Blumenhorst (1917-2000). The couple had three children: Carol McIlroy, Ann Brown, Bill Blumenhorst, Karl Blumenhorst, and Chris Blumenhorst. Margaret Blumenhorst died in Webster Groves, Missouri, on December 9, 2010.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into four series:

Correspondence
Legal Materials and Accounts
Personal Papers
Newspaper Clippings

Scope and Content Note:
Correspondence

The Correspondence series consists of letters written by the Lewis, Watts, Wallace, and Woodson family members, who migrated westward during the nineteenth century. The principal authors include James Craig Wallace, James Jordan Watts, Martha Lewis Watts, Judith Lewis Bigelow, Laura Watts Wallace, and Will F. Carter. In the letters, the authors discuss births, deaths, marriages, land sales, medical school, slavery, and family finances. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically by author and are arranged chronologically, dating from 1821 to 1959.

Legal Materials and Accounts

The Legal Materials and Accounts series consists of bills of sale, land sales, wills, and a bill of sale for an enslaved person. Items of interest include articles of incorporation for the Lewis family cemetery in Glasgow, Missouri. The materials in this subseries are arranged alphabetically, dating from 1790 to 1892.

Personal Papers

The Personal Papers series contains genealogies, eulogies and memorial addresses, school reports, poems, and songs, pertaining to the Lewis, Watts, Wallace, and Woodson families. Items of interest include John S. Wallace’s 1849 Gold Rush diary and a narrative documenting the legend of Anna Snoddy’s sister, Libby Snoddy’s capture by Indigenous peoples in Kentucky in the early 1800s. The materials in this subseries are arranged alphabetically, dating from 1586 to 1916.

Newspaper Clippings

This series contains newspaper clippings containing articles, obituaries, and wedding announcements of the Lewis, Watts, Wallace, and Flower families. The materials in this series are arranged in one folder, dating from 1832 to 1945.

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f. 3  Judith Lewis Bigelow to Henry and Elizabeth Lewis, October 1844-August 1855
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