



Gaulding and Harris Families Collection (SP0116)

Collection Number: SP0116

Collection Title: Gaulding and Harris Families Collection

Dates: 1890-2001

Creator: Gaulding, William M. "Bill," Jr., 1923-

Abstract: The Gaulding and Harris Families Collection contains family photographs, correspondence, newspaper articles, and obituaries of the Gaulding and Harris families, as well as related families of Cedar, Dent, and Douglas counties of Missouri.

Collection Size: 0.5 cubic foot
(27 folders, 136 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-Springfield](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at springfield@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 and about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Gaulding and Harris Families Collection* (SP0116); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Springfield].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Nancy Anacker on January 14, 2026 (Accession No. SPA0155).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Gaulding and Harris Families Collection can be found in the following collections:

[Barnitz Family Photographs](#) (R1296)
[Bill Dobkins Collection](#) (R1505)

[Penninger and Bolin Families Collection](#) (R1517)

[Garrott Philpott Papers](#) (R0924)

[Roller Family Papers](#) (R0310)

Processed by: Processed by Haley Frizzle-Green and Elayna Eastin, February 17, 2026

Historical Note:

Arbell Ann Rickman was born to Robert Rickman and Parthenia Strange on March 31, 1850. She was one of seven children, all of whom lived into adulthood. She married John Jefferson Harris, son of Dr. William Henry Harris, Sr. and Mary Ann Phillips, in Cedar County, Missouri in 1869. John Jefferson, a resident of Cedar County since he was a boy, served in the Civil War for over two years before being discharged in 1865. The couple had twelve children, born between 1873 and 1903: William A., Robert Henry Harris, Jr., Nancy Ella Harris Strong, Mary M., James Bradley, Effie Lea Harris Gaulding, John Oliver, Arthur Francis, Ira Elzie, Austin Eagle, and Hardy "Harda". Following Arbell's death in 1906, John Jefferson was remarried to Jennie McBride, and they moved to Lockwood, Missouri in 1920, where he would later pass in 1933. Arbell was originally buried in Girdner Cemetery in Douglas County, Missouri, but was moved to Lockwood Cemetery following John Jefferson's passing.

Effie Lea Harris, daughter of Arbell Ann Rickman and John Jefferson Harris, was born in Cedar County, Missouri in 1881. At five years old, she and her family moved to Douglas County, Missouri, where she was raised and attended schooling. In 1896, she married William M. Gaulding, Sr., son of Thomas C. Gaulding and Flora A. Tracy. Their first child, a daughter born in 1898, did not survive, but they had two more children, Mamie, born in 1899, and Lillie, born 1901, before they relocated to a farm near Girdner, Missouri in 1904. On this farm, they had two more children, Basil in 1904 and Cecyle (Cecil) in 1906. It was also here that Lillie died in 1906 and was buried in Girdner Cemetery. In 1908, the family moved to Sheridan County, Nebraska to homestead. Two children were born here, Mae in 1909 and Esther in 1911.

The family moved back to Missouri in 1913, living on a farm in Seymour where Loraine was later born in 1914. This did not last long, however, as they quickly moved back to Nebraska in 1915, to Bourbon, Kansas in 1916, and to Walnut Grove, Missouri in 1916. From Walnut Grove, they moved to Lockwood, Missouri in 1917 where they operated a hotel and livery stable for about two years, before moving to Larned, Kansas in 1920 and then to Wichita in 1921. While in Wichita, William obtained employment at Cudahy Packing Company, and the couple had two more children, Frances Orvilla, who was born in 1922 but lived a few short weeks, and William, Jr., born in 1923. William worked for Cudahy Packing Co. for nearly sixteen years before retiring in 1938. He, Effie, and their son, William, Jr., moved back to Lockwood, remaining there until 1940 before returning to Wichita, where William, Sr. and Effie passed. William Gaulding, Sr. died in 1941 and Effie in 1952. Both are buried in Old Mission Cemetery in Wichita, Kansas.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 2 series:

Family Photographs

Personal Papers

Scope and Content Note:

Family Photographs

This series contains photographs of the Gaulding and Harris families, as well as the Jones, Phillips, Rickman, Strange, and Strong families. These photos, dating from as early as 1890 to 1978, are separated alphabetically by family and then chronologically. The Harris family photographs, the largest collection of photographs, have been separated into different heads of the Harris family, such as John Jefferson, Robert Henry, James Bradley, and more. These were organized alphabetically as well, and then chronologically. Also included within this series are a collection of unidentified family members and photos from a family photo album. The photo album was disassembled for preservation and has been arranged by location alphabetically, including Kansas, Missouri, Texas, and unknown. This series is arranged alphabetically and then chronologically.

Personal Papers

This series consists of personal papers of the Gaulding family, predominately created and kept by William Gaulding, Jr. These papers consist of correspondence, newspaper articles, obituaries, a diary transcript, and Revolutionary War record photocopies.

The correspondence includes letters from various family members dating from 1926 to 1938, with one postcard from 1993. Included within these letters is a lock of braided hair from Mary Harris, dated 1933, and a letter from Austin Harris to Effie Gaulding in which he describes his working life through the end of the Great Depression. In this letter, he describes the various fruit packing and processing plants he works at, including olives, peaches, and oranges, his rate of pay, his daily and weekly hours, and his chance at receiving a Californian pension. In his discussion of work, he specifically details how orange pulp is being processed and dried to be used in cattle feed and how, depending on the season, he switches from one processing plant to another. He also offers his thoughts on Californian pensions and banking.

Also included in the personal papers are genealogical notes compiled and written by William Gaulding, Jr. This includes a transcription of an entry from his mother's diary and a photocopy of Joseph Harris' Revolutionary War records. The transcript of his mother's diary, completed by William in 1993, details specific events in her life, including her upbringing, marriage, her kids, and the different locations her and her family lived.

The newspaper articles contain clippings related to various extended families, such as the Andersons and Reeds. Dating from 1911 to 1970, these clippings detail different passings of family members, both natural and accidental. The obituaries contain funeral notices of various family members, including the Andersons, Pratts, and Harris', dating from 1943 to 1962, with one in 2001. This series is arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Container List:

Family Photographs

| | | |
|---------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Box 001 | f. 1 | Gaulding family, 1951, 1980 |
| | f. 2-10 | Harris family, 1908-1931, no date |
| | f. 11 | Jones family, 1918, 1924-1960 |

| | |
|----------|---|
| f. 12 | Phillips family, no date |
| f. 13 | Rickman family, no date |
| f. 14 | Strange family, ca. 1890, no date |
| f. 15 | Strong family, 1909-1915, no date |
| f. 16-18 | Unidentified family, 1904-1978, no date |
| f. 19-22 | Photo Album, no date |

Personal Papers

| | |
|-------|---|
| f. 23 | Correspondence, 1926-1938, 1993 |
| f. 24 | Diary transcript, 1993 |
| f. 25 | Newspaper articles, 1911-1970 |
| f. 26 | Obituaries, 1943-1962, 2001 |
| f. 27 | Revolutionary War record photocopy, no date |

Index:

| Index Terms | Folder | Image |
|---|---------------------|-------|
| Anderson family | f. 17, 25-26 | Yes |
| Canning and preserving | f. 23 | |
| Cedar County (Mo.) | f. 2-13 | |
| Dade County (Mo.) | f. 4-5, 16-17, 23 | |
| Dent County (Mo.) | f. 1-13 | |
| Depressions--1929 | f. 23 | |
| Diaries | f. 24 | |
| Douglas County (Mo.) | f. 1, 4, 23 | |
| Fruit culture | f. 23 | |
| Gaulding family | f. 1, 4, 23 | Yes |
| Gaulding, Effie Lea Harris, 1881-1952 | f. 1, 4, 23 | Yes |
| Gaulding, William M. "Bill," Jr., 1923- | f. 1, 23 | Yes |
| Gaulding, William M., Sr., 1875-1941 | f. 1 | Yes |
| Gravestones | f. 1, 13-14 | Yes |
| Harris family | f. 2-10, 13, 23, 26 | Yes |
| Harris, William Alfred "Alfred" | f. 4-6 | Yes |
| Harris, Arbell A. Rickman, 1850-1906 | f. 13 | Yes |
| Harris, Arthur Francis, 1887-1971 | f. 2, 4-5 | Yes |
| Harris, Austin Eagle, 1889-1971 | f. 4-5, 7, 23 | Yes |
| Harris, Harda "Hardy," 1886-1967 | f. 4-5 | Yes |
| Harris, James "Jim" Bradley, 1876-1958 | f. 4-6, 8, 23 | Yes |
| Harris, John Jefferson, 1847-1933 | f. 4, 23 | Yes |
| Harris, Julia Priscilla, 1875-1943 | f. 3, 26 | Yes |
| Harris, Mary Ann Phillips, 1828-1852 | f. 10, 23 | Yes |
| Harris, Robert "Bob" Henry, 1873-1953 | f. 3-5, 26 | Yes |

| Index Terms | Folder | Image |
|---|-------------------|-------|
| Harris, Robert N. | f. 9 | Yes |
| Harris, William Henry, 1825-1899 | f. 10 | Yes |
| Harris, Verdie Itress, 1888-1953 | f. 7, 23 | Yes |
| Holden (Mo.) | f. 20 | |
| Jones family | f. 11 | Yes |
| Kansas | f. 19 | |
| Lexington (Mo.) | f. 20 | |
| Lockwood (Mo.) | f. 4-5, 16-17, 23 | Yes |
| Phillips family | f. 12 | Yes |
| Phillips, Mathias "Mann," 1831-1917 | f. 12 | Yes |
| Pratt family | f. 23, 25-26 | |
| Reed family | f. 17, 25 | Yes |
| Rickman family | f. 13 | Yes |
| Rickman, Parthenia Strange, 1810-1877 | f. 13 | Yes |
| Strange family | f. 14 | Yes |
| Strong family | f. 15 | Yes |
| Texas | f. 11, 21 | |
| United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783 | f. 27 | |