Mary Ellen Higginbotham Papers
(SP0144)

Collection Number: SP0144

Collection Title: Mary Ellen Higginbotham Papers

Dates: 1831-1989

Creator: Higginbotham, Anna Mary "Mary" Ellen Hill, 1916-1996

Abstract: The Mary Ellen Higginbotham Papers contain genealogical research created and compiled by Anna Mary Ellen Hill Higginbotham, including surname files, correspondence, family histories and charts, and newspapers. The materials date from 1831 to 1989 and relate to families of the Higginbotham line across the Ozarks.

Collection Size: 5.2 cubic feet
(222 folders, 115 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] *Mary Ellen Higginbotham Papers* (SP0144); 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 the Ozarks Genealogical Society on October 2, 2024 (Accession No. SPA0143).

Custodial History: The collection was originally donated to the Ozarks Genealogical Society in Springfield, Missouri, in 1988. After the organization closed in 2024, all manuscript collections were transferred to the State Historical Society of Missouri-Springfield Research Center.

Processed by: Processed by Elayna Eastin, November 20, 2026

Historical Note:

Anna Mary "Mary" Ellen Hill Higginbotham was born June 4, 1916, in Nevada, Missouri to Melvin Marion and Mae Delia Holcomb Hill. She married Romie George Higginbotham, Sr., in 1936, and they had a child, Romie George Higginbotham, Jr., in 1941. Romie, Sr., was drafted for World War II and following his discharge he worked as a truck driver. In 1950, their son, Romie, Jr., passed after a long illness. Mary later retired from her work as the owner of a floral shop and became a member of the Ozarks Genealogical Society in 1974, serving as the Treasurer from 1975 to 1976. After Romie's passing in 1982, she gifted her genealogical research to the Society in 1988. Anna Mary Ellen Hill Higginbotham passed on May 26, 1996, and is buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Polk County, Missouri.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 6 series:

Correspondence
John Higginbotham and Frances Riley
Other Surnames
Records by States
Moses Higginbotham and Mary Black
Higginbotham Family Records

Scope and Content Note:

Correspondence

This series contains genealogical research created and compiled by Anna Mary Ellen Hill Higginbotham, including her correspondence with embers of the Higginbotham family and fellow researchers and genealogists. The correspondence dates from 1964 to 1988 and focuses predominately on the Higginbotham family lines, including volumes 1 through 31 of the *Higginbotham Retailer* newsletters. While some folders contain original documents, the majority of the collection contains photocopies. The collection has been organized by correspondent and left in original order.

John Higginbotham and Frances Riley

This series consists of genealogical research created and compiled by Anna Mary Ellen Hill Higginbotham, including surname files, family histories and charts, and newspapers related to

the John Higginbotham and Frances Riley lines. This series also includes published genealogies and excerpts from published records, as well as research from other Higginbothams. While some folders contain original documents, the majority of the collection contains photocopies. The collection has been organized by surname and left in original order.

Other Surnames

This series contains genealogical research created and compiled by Anna Mary Ellen Hill Higginbotham, including research on other surnames such as the Black, Cates, Dowell, Easley, Keenan, McKinney, Payne, Reed, Sproul, and Turpin families. The research includes surname files, newsletters, family histories and charts, and correspondence. While some folders contain original documents, the majority of the collection contains photocopies. The collection has been organized by surname and left in original order.

Records by States

This series contains genealogical research created and compiled by Anna Mary Ellen Hill Higginbotham, including research on Higginbotham family members across multiple states and a few countries, such as Barbados, England, Ireland, and Wales. The research includes surname files, military records, family histories and charts, and correspondence from 1881 to 1987. While some folders contain original documents, the majority of the collection contains photocopies. The collection has been organized in alphabetical order and left in original order.

Moses Higginbotham and Mary Black

This series contains genealogical research created and compiled by Anna Mary Ellen Hill Higginbotham, including surname files, family histories and charts, and newspapers related to the Moses Higginbotham and Mary Black lines. The series maps seven lines under Moses and Mary, including Joseph and Mary Reed Higginbotham, Oglesby and Elizabeth Reed Higginbotham, Emanuel and Elisa Reed Higginbotham, Mary and Reuben Harrison, Thomas and Jane Reed Higginbotham, James and Jane Moss Higginbotham, and Andrew and Nancy Moss Higginbotham. The research includes surname files, military records, photographs, family histories and charts, and correspondence from 1831 to 1984. While some folders contain original documents, the majority of the collection contains photocopies. The collection has been organized by surname and left in original order.

Higginbotham Family Records

This series contains genealogical research created and compiled by Anna Mary Ellen Hill Higginbotham, including compiled records on the Higginbotham family such as manuscripts, photographs, newspapers, newsletters, and correspondence. The photographs predominately focus on members of the Higginbotham family but also feature cemeteries and members of the Holsapple family. While some folders contain original documents, the majority of the collection contains photocopies. The collection has been organized by subject and left in original order.

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	f. 8-11	Surnames, A-Z, 1972-1988
	f. 12	*Higginbotham Retailer,* vol. 1-31, 1975-1985
	f. 13	Gary J. Higginbotham, 1978-1981
	f. 14-15	William Higginbotham, 1981-1988
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John Higginbotham and Frances Riley

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Moses Higginbotham and Mary Black

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