Dorothea Smith Owen Papers
(SP0157)

Collection Number: SP0157

Collection Title: Dorothea Smith Owen Papers

Dates: 1874-2003

Creator: Owen, Dorothea Lea Smith, 1917-2002

Abstract: The Dorothea Smith Owen Papers contain genealogical research created and compiled by Dorothea Lea Smith Owen, including surname files, correspondence, family histories and charts, and newspapers. The materials date from 1874 to 2003 and relate to the Collin, Smith, and Owen families throughout Missouri.

Collection Size: 7.5 cubic feet
(282 folders, 55 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.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Dorothea Smith Owen Papers* (SP0157); 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 2002. 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 24, 2026

Historical Note:

Dorothea Lea Smith Owen was born August 22, 1917, near Dexter, Missouri, to George Lee and Bertha Malinda Collins Smith. She attended Springfield High School before graduating from the Missouri State Teachers College, now known as Missouri State University, in Springfield, Missouri. Dorothea graduated with a double major in Art and English but was employed as a science teacher at Reed Junior High School. On December 21, 1947, she married Stanley Burgess Owen, an injured veteran of World War II, in Springfield. There was one child born of the union, Linda Owen Simmons. After her retirement from the secondary education system, Dorothea became involved in many social organizations, including the Ozarks Genealogical Society, Daughters of the Confederacy, Colonial Dames of the 16th Century, and Christian Women's Fellowship. Dorothea was a charter member of the Ozarks Genealogical Society and served as the first president of the organization from 1969 to 1971. Dorothea Lea Smith Owen passed on May 4, 2022, and is buried in the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Springfield, Missouri.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 3 series:

Collins
Smith
Owen

Scope and Content Note:

Collins

This series contains genealogical research created and compiled by Dorothea Lea Smith Owen, including surname files, correspondence, family histories and charts, and newspapers on the Collins family. This series also includes surnames related to the family such as the Crowder, Floyd, Hastin, Odom, Vincent, Wilson, and Wray families. Of particular note are the records for the Beulah Baptist Church, Brewington Cemetery, and Green Chapel Church of Christ, all in Madison County, Missouri. While some folders contain original documents, the majority of the collection contains photocopies. This series has been arranged by surname and left in original order.

Smith

This series consists of genealogical research created and compiled by Dorothea Lea Smith Owen, including surname files, correspondence, family histories and charts, and newspapers on the Smith family. The series also includes surnames related to the family, such as the Black, Clay, Dewey, Laswell, Long, Matthews, Miller, Scribner, and Stearns families. Within the surname files are records for the Liberty Cemetery in Iron County, Missouri, and military records of the Mexican War. While some folders contain original documents, the majority of the collection contains photocopies. This series has been arranged by surname and left in original order.

Owen

This series contains genealogical research created and compiled by Dorothea Lea Smith Owen, including surname files, correspondence, family histories and charts, and newspapers on the Owen family. The series also includes surnames related to the family such as the Barnes, Bradshaw, Bushong, Burgess, Hartzell, McElhaney, Rose, Soper, Yarbrough, and Young families. Under the Owen surnames, there are records for the Cave Springs Cemetery, Lindsey Chapel Cemetery, and Yarbrough Cemetery, all of Greene County, Missouri. The Lindsey Chapel Cemetery records contain photographs of the cemetery, as well as Republic, Missouri, where the cemetery is located. Of particular note are papers relating to the Mickey Owen Baseball School, a school run by major league baseball player Mickey Owen of the Owen family line, which include advertisements and information on the school. While some folders contain original documents, the majority of the collection contains photocopies. This series has been arranged by surname and left in original order.

Container List:

Collins

Box 001	f. 1-16	Family charts, 1924-2001
Box 002	f. 17-20	Family charts, 1932-1952, 1972-2000
	f. 21-22	Missouri county records, 1995-1996
	f. 23-25	Correspondence, 1993-1998
	f. 26	Crowder family, 1993-1997
	f. 27	Floyd family, 1950, 1970-1989
	f. 28	Hastin family, 1997
	f. 29-30	Odom family, 1968-1997
	f. 31-33	Vincent family, 1900, 1930, 1971-2002
	f. 34-40	Wilson family, 1967-1998, no date
	f. 41-50	Wray family, 1917, 1943, 1968-1998

Smith

	f. 51-63	Dewey family, 1912, 1934-1997
Box 003	f. 64-89	Dewey family, 1898-1991, no date
	f. 90	Bartlet family, 1971
	f. 91	Bean and Judkins families, 1970-1978
	f. 92	Brookins family, 1973, 1990

	f. 93	Chadwick, Grant, Crispe, and Lawrence families, no date
	f. 94	Clement and Morrill families, 1982
	f. 95	Kimball, Rayno, and Severance families, 1977
	f. 96	Sanderson family, 1971
	f. 97-98	Scribner family, 1967-1989
Box 004	f. 99-100	Stearns family, 1971-1997, no date
	f. 101	Stevens family, 1940-1942
	f. 102	Webster family, 1970-1973
	f. 103	Welch family, no date
	f. 104-106	Black family, 1958, 1971-1985
	f. 107-111	Smith and Clay families, 1964, 1978-1988
	f. 112-117	Laswell family, 1967-1978, no date
	f. 118-134	Long family, 1935-1998
Box 005	f. 135-139	Matthews family, 1931, 1957, 1977-1998
	f. 140-144	Miller family, 1935, 1970-1989, no date
	f. 145-169	Family charts, 1887, 1902-2000
Box 006	f. 170-178	Family charts, 1902, 1934-1995

Owen

	f. 179	Photograph collection, 1975-1999
	f. 180-181	Family charts, 1970-2002
	f. 182-184	Barnes family, 1926, 1966-1974
	f. 185	Bradshaw family, 1971-1976
	f. 186-192	Bushong family, 1968-1997, no date
	f. 193-205	Burgess family, 1937-2002
	f. 207-211	Hartzell family, 1937, 1969-1976, 1998, no date
	f. 212-215	McElhaney family, 1950-1986, no date
Box 007	f. 216	Owen family history and reunion, 1971, 1994-1995
	f. 217-265	Owen family charts, 1874-1910, 1947-2003, no date
Box 008	f. 266-272	Rose family, 1968-1994, no date
	f. 273	Soper family, 1882, 1974
	f. 274-277	Yarbrough family, 1957-1997
	f. 278-282	Young family, 1968-1986

Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Andrews family	167	
Arcadia (Mo.)	137	
Arnett family	152	
Atkinson family	160	
Aurora (Mo.)	116	
Barnes family	182-184	
Barry County (Mo.)	55, 114, 183-184	

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Bartlet family	90	
Battlefield (Mo.)	179, 216, 223, 237	
Bean family	91	
Beeman family	162-169	
Benton County (Mo.)	111	
Beulah Baptist Church (Madison County, Mo.)	21-22, 42	
Black family	104-106	
Bollinger County (Mo.)	25	
Bradshaw family	185, 193	
Brewington Cemetery (Madison County, Mo.)	22	
Brookins family	92	
Burgess family	180, 193-204	
Bushong family	185-192, 264	Yes
California (Mo.)	107	
Cape Girardeau County (Mo.)	140	
Carthage (Mo.)	63	
Cave Springs Cemetery (Greene County, Mo.)	215	
Cedar County (Mo.)	243	
Cemeteries	21-22, 27, 32, 42, 53, 55, 76-77, 87-88, 137, 142, 146, 151-152, 157, 159, 176-177, 183, 186-187, 189, 197, 215-216, 223, 257, 262-265, 268, 272-273, 277-278	Yes
Chadwick family	93	
Chamois (Mo.)	5	
Christian County (Mo.)	131, 207, 223, 233, 236, 265, 272, 278-281	
Christian County Fair (Mo.)	236	
Clay family	107-111, 135	
Clement family	94	
Clinton (Mo.)	53-54	
Cole County (Mo.)	111	
Collins family	1-50, 153	
Competition (Mo.)	112	
Cooper County (Mo.)	111	

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Correspondence	23-25, 27, 40, 59, 62, 68, 73, 75, 79, 96, 98, 105-106, 110, 134-135, 144, 152, 154-156, 160, 163, 167-169, 171-172, 174, 176, 184, 192-193, 195, 200-202, 204, 211, 215, 257, 267, 269, 275-276	
Crispe family	93	
Crowder family	26	
Daughters of the American Revolution	76-77, 92, 104, 110, 118, 147, 161, 170, 187, 189, 191, 211, 258	
Dent County (Mo.)	35	
Dewey family	51-89	Yes
Dexter (Mo.)	146-148	
Dollison Cemetery (Greene County, Mo.)	278	
Drury College (Springfield, Mo.)	247	
Dunklin County (Mo.)	89	
El Dorado Springs (Mo.)	243	
Elam family	164	
Eaudevie Springs (Christian County, Mo.)	223	
Farmington (Mo.)	5, 135	
Floyd family	27	
Fredericktown (Mo.)	4, 12, 18, 23, 44, 139	
Frisco (Mo.)	147	
Genealogy	1-282	
Glidewell Cemetery (Greene County, Mo.)	278	
Goodnight Cemetery (Barry County, Mo.)	183	
Graff Vocational-Technical School (Springfield, Mo.)	236	
Grant family	93	
Green Chapel Church of Christ (Madison County, Mo.)	41	
Greene County (Mo.)	2, 12, 15, 19, 23-24, 26-27, 32, 34, 40-41, 45, 54-55, 59, 62, 68, 75-76, 79, 91, 95-96, 98, 102, 105-107, 110, 112-113, 115-116, 118-119, 123-124, 126, 129-131,	

Index Terms	Folder	Image
	134-136, 138-139, 144-146, 148-151, 153, 156, 161, 163, 167-168, 170, 172, 176, 179-182, 184-186, 188, 192-196, 198-202, 204, 206-207, 211, 213-232, 234-254, 257, 261, 265-267, 270-272, 274-282	
Harris Cemetery (Greene County, Mo.)	278	
Hartzell family	207-211	
Hastin family	28	
Hazelwood Cemetery (Mo.)	272	
Henry County (Mo.)	53-54, 57	
History Museum on the Square (Springfield, Mo.)	254	
Howell County (Mo.)	182	
Iron County (Mo.)	1-10, 12-13, 16-18, 20-21, 34, 39, 41-42, 52, 111-112, 136, 140, 142, 145, 150-152, 154	
Ironton (Mo.)	9, 17	
Jackson County (Mo.)	57, 110	
Jasper County (Mo.)	119, 269	
Jefferson City (Mo.)	113	
Judkins family	91	
Julian family	243-244	
Kansas City (Mo.)	57	
Kimball family	95	
Knox County (Mo.)	116	
Kreider Cemetery (Greene County, Mo.)	278	
Lamar (Mo.)	230	
Laswell family	112-117	
Lawrence County (Mo.)	55	
Lawrence family	93	
Liberty Cemetery (Iron County, Mo.)	142, 151	Yes
Licking (Mo.)	243	
Lindsey Chapel Cemetery (Republic, Mo.)	277	
Little Vine United Baptist Church (Madison County, Mo.)	22	
Long family	118-134, 176	Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Madison County (Mo.)	1, 8, 12, 18, 22, 29, 31, 33, 35-36, 41-42, 44, 46-48, 112, 135-137, 139-142, 151, 154	
Manley Cemetery (Greene County, Mo.)	278	
Maple family	131-132	
Maries County (Mo.)	111	
Matthews family	134-139	
McElhaney family	212-215, 265	
Mercer County (Mo.)	115	
Mexican War, 1846-1848	20, 69, 111, 140, 143, 158, 164, 169	
Mickey Owen Baseball School (Miller, Mo.)	227	
Miller family	140-144	
Minimum (Mo.)	4	
Moniteau County (Mo.)	107, 111	
Monett (Mo.)	114	
Monroe County (Mo.)	110	
Morgan County (Mo.)	111	
Morrill family	94	
Mount Pisgah Cemetery (Madison County, Mo.)	22	
Mountain Grove Academy (Wright County, Mo.)	223	
New Home General Baptist Church (Madison County, Mo.)	22	
Newton (Mo.)	116	
Newton County (Mo.)	114	
Nixa (Mo.)	233, 278-280	
Nodaway County (Mo.)	118	
Norman Cemetery (Greene County, Mo.)	278	
Oak Grove Cemetery (Clinton, Mo.)	53	
Odom family	29-30	
Old Masonic Cemetery (Frederickton, Mo.)	12	
Orme family	172	
Osage County (Mo.)	111	
Osceola (Mo.)	254	
Owen Cemetery (Battlefield, Mo.)	179, 216, 223	
Owen family	179-282	Yes
Owen, Charles Baker, 1827-1907	224-226	

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Owen, Dorothea Lea Smith, 1917-2002	1-282	
Ozark (Mo.)	207	
Ozarks Genealogical Society	1-282	
Palace Hotel (El Dorado Springs, Mo.)	243	
Patterson Cemetery (Greene County, Mo.)	278	
Payne Cemetery (Greene County, Mo.)	278	
Pemiscot County (Mo.)	152	
Platte County (Mo.)	111, 117	
Polk County (Mo.)	193	
Poplar Bluff (Mo.)	48	
Powersville (Mo.)	124	
Prospect Cemetery (Greene County, Mo.)	32, 272	
Pulaski County (Mo.)	185	
Putnam County (Mo.)	124-125	
Rayno family	95	
Republic (Mo.)	116, 249, 277	Yes
Reynolds County (Mo.)	34-35, 40	
Richland (Mo.)	113	
Richmond (Mo.)	120	
Rose family	265-271	
Sanderson family	96	
Scribner family	97	
Severance family	95	
Shell Knob (Mo.)	116	
Smart family	126	
Smith family	51-178	Yes
Soper family	273	Yes
Southwest Missouri State Teachers College (Springfield, Mo.)	261	
Southwest Missouri State University (Springfield, Mo.)	194, 236, 244	
Sparkman family	250	
Springfield (Mo.)	2, 12, 15, 19, 23-24, 26-27, 34, 40-41, 45, 54-56, 59, 62, 68, 73, 75-76, 79, 91, 95-96, 98, 102, 105-107, 110, 112-113, 115-116, 118-119, 123-124, 126, 129-131,	

Index Terms	Folder	Image
	134-136, 138-139, 144-146, 148-151, 153, 156, 161, 163, 167-168, 170, 172, 176, 179-181, 186, 188, 192-196, 198-202, 204, 206-207, 211, 213-214, 217-232, 234-238, 240-244, 246-254, 257, 261, 265-266, 272, 274-278, 280-282	
St. Francois County (Mo.)	3, 41, 110, 135	
St. John (Mo.)	124	
St. Louis (Mo.)	5, 122, 151, 171	
Stanley family	180	
Ste. Genevieve County (Mo.)	135, 143	
Stearns family	99-100	
Steele family	277	
Stevens family	101	
Stockton (Mo.)	243	
Stoddard County (Mo.)	145, 217	
Stone County (Mo.)	55	
Sullivan County (Mo.)	115	
Texas County (Mo.)	132	
Townsend family	184	
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	9, 21, 31, 34, 41, 46, 51, 61, 72, 74, 81-82, 90, 92, 98, 102, 107, 113, 115-117, 120, 124-125, 127-129, 132, 135, 137-138, 150, 169, 213-215, 219, 223-226, 228, 239, 241, 243, 245, 252, 266, 269-270, 274, 276-277	
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783	26, 28, 30-31, 76-77, 81-82, 90, 92-95, 97-98, 101, 104, 107-112, 117-118, 121, 129-130, 132-135, 138, 159, 161, 163, 170-171, 177-178, 245, 258	

Index Terms	Folder	Image
United States--History--War of 1812	10, 81, 95, 101, 109, 112, 117, 130, 132, 135-136, 140, 143, 168, 210, 240, 256	
United States--History--World War, 1938-1945	11-12, 73, 121, 123, 145, 148-149, 217	
Vietnam War, 1961-1975	251	
Vincent family	31-33	
Wayne County (Mo.)	2, 8-13, 17-19, 22, 25, 34-35, 37-38, 43, 47, 52, 150, 153	
Webster County (Mo.)	225	
Webster family	102	
Welch family	103	
World War, 1914-1918	92	
Wilson family	34-40	
Wray family	41-50	
Wright County (Mo.)	223	
Yarbrough Cemetery (Springfield, Mo.)	274, 278	
Yarbrough family	274-277	Yes
Yeakeley Chapel Cemetery (Springfield, Mo.)	272	