William L. Wood Papers
(SP0169)

Collection Number: SP0169

Collection Title: William L. Wood Papers

Dates: 1791-2008

Creator: Wood, William L. "Bill," 1918-2008

Abstract: The William L. Wood Papers contain genealogical research created and compiled by William L. "Bill" Wood, including surname files, correspondence, family histories and charts, and manuscripts. The materials are dated from 1791 to 2008 and include the Bledsoe, Blevins, Clark, Cook, Douthit, Elrod, Hammond, Moody, Rogers, Roller, Ryan, and Wood families of the Ozarks.

Collection Size: 1.5 cubic feet
(64 folders, 52 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] *William L. Wood Papers* (SP0169); 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. After the organization closed in 2024, all manuscript collections were transferred to the State Historical Society of Missouri-Springfield Research Center.

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the William L. Wood Papers can be found in the following collections:

Vera Wood Papers (SP0159)

Processed by: Processed by Elayna Eastin, November 4, 2026

Historical Note:

William L. "Bill" Wood was born January 21, 1918, in Tulsa, Oklahoma to William Andrew and Olive Bell Clark Wood. In July of 1939, he enlisted into the United States Army where he served as a Warrant Officer in the 103rd Division. On March 12, 1960, he married Vera L. Fouch in Jackson County, Missouri. Bill later retired from the Post Office in Kansas City, where he was the first to deliver mail from Missouri to Kansas by train. Following his retirement, he and Vera joined the Ozarks Genealogical Society (OGS), where they worked together on genealogical research and helped establish the organization's publication of *Ozar'kin*. Bill also became the first Business Manager and served on the editorial board from 1979 to 2008. Alongside his work at OGS, he was also involved in the Sons of the American Revolution and other social organizations. Bill L. Wood passed on February 11, 2008, preceded in death by Vera, and is buried in the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Springfield, Missouri.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into 64 folders.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains materials related to genealogical research created and compiled by William L. "Bill" Wood, including surname files, correspondence, family histories and charts, and manuscripts. The materials are dated from 1791 to 2008 and include the Bledsoe, Blevins, Clark, Cook, Douthit, Elrod, Hammond, Moody, Rogers, Roller, Ryan, and Wood families of the Ozarks. Of particular note are the records and photographs related to the Roller School, a subscription school located in Roller Holler, Taney County, Missouri, that was also used as a religious meeting area. The photographs include groups of students posed in front of the school from the early 1900s. While some folders contain original documents, the majority of the collection contains photocopies. The collection has been arranged by surname and left in original order.

Container List:

Box 001	f. 1	William L. Wood Charts, 1977-2008
	f. 2-5	Bledsoe family, 1824-1994
	f. 6	Blevins family, 1832-1981
	f. 7-12	Clark family, 1815-1915, 1972-2006
	f. 13-18	Cook family, 1803-1896, 1963-1976, no date
	f. 19-20	Crouch family, 1834-1844, 1969-1978
	f. 21-24	Douthit family, 1930, 1967-1996
	f. 25-31	Elrod family, 1845-2006, no date
	f. 32	Hammond family, 1822-1906, 1972-1981
	f. 33	Hogg family, 2006, no date
	f. 34	McComesky family, no date
	f. 35-38	Moody family, 1818-1912, 1951-1978, 2006, no date
Box 002	f. 39	Rogers family, 1886-1898, 1976-1999
	f. 40-49	Roller family, 1791-1876, 1898-1986, no date
	f. 50-52	Ryan family, 1832-1837, 1901, 1973-1992
	f. 53-64	Wood family, 1864-2007, no date

Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Barry County (Mo.)	45	
Bledsoe family	2-5	
Blevins family	6	
Bradleyville (Mo.)	53	
Cassville (Mo.)	45	Yes
Cemeteries	5, 7, 13, 44, 62	Yes
Christian County (Mo.)	7, 13-14, 17-18, 35, 40-41, 46, 57	
Clark family	7-12, 35	Yes
Confederate States of America. Army--Prisons	50	
Cook family	13-18	
Correspondence	22, 30, 51-52	
Crouch family	19-20	
Daughters of the American Revolution	12, 21, 26, 33, 38, 42-43, 48	
Deeds	2, 29, 44, 58	
Douglas County (Mo.)	46	
Douthit family	21-24, 29	
Elrod family	6, 25, 35	Yes
Folk music	57	
Forsyth (Mo.)	7, 62	

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Genealogy	1-64	
Gimlin family	18	
Goodwin family	7	
Greene County (Mo.)	1, 18, 54	
Guerillas	17	
Hammond family	32	
Highlandville (Mo.)	13	
Hogg family	33	
Jackson County (Mo.)	1, 54	
Johnson family	62	Yes
Maps	25	
Maries County (Mo.)	6, 25, 36-37	
McComesky family	34	
McDonald County (Mo.)	45	
Military pensions	4, 6, 9-12, 20, 31, 36, 38, 50, 59-60	
Moody family	35-	Yes
Moravians	21, 29	
Newton County (Mo.)	24	
Owen family	15	
Ozarks Genealogical Society (Springfield, Mo.)	1-64	
Probate records	14, 34	
Publications	5, 18, 23-24	
Ray County (Mo.)	15	
Religion	13, 21, 29, 32	
Riley family	62	
Rogers family	39	
Roller Cemetery (Roller Holler, Mo.)	44	
Roller family	40-49	Yes
Roller Holler (Mo.)	40	Yes
Roller School (Roller Holler, Mo.)	40	Yes
Ryan family	50-52	
Slavery	13	
Sons of the American Revolution	1, 4, 12, 21, 27, 33, 50, 54	
Taney County (Mo.)	7-9, 13, 15-18, 32, 35-36, 39-40, 44, 53-55, 57-58, 62	

Index Terms	Folder	Image
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	9, 17, 31, 36, 38, 50, 59-60	
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783	4, 6, 12, 20-21, 32, 34, 38, 42-43, 50	
United States--History--War of 1812	9-11	
White Cemetery (Highlandville, Mo.)	13	
White Oak Grove School (Swan, Mo.)	53	
Wood family	1, 44, 53-64	Yes
Wood, Vera Luella Fouch, 1913-2003	1	Yes
Wood, William L. “Bill,” 1918-2008	1-64	Yes
Wyatt family	31	