



Reynolds Family Papers (CG0007)

Collection Number: CG0007

Collection Title: Reynolds Family Papers

Dates: 1888-1997

Creator: Reynolds family

Abstract: The Reynolds Family Papers contains correspondence, guest and autograph books, postcards, barbershop business ledgers, educational awards, photographs, and films for Clayborn, Louella (Harmon), Baker, Thelma, and Nell Reynolds.

Collection Size: 2.6 cubic feet
(45 folders, 9 film reels)

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-Cape Girardeau](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at capegirardeau@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Reynolds Family Papers* (CG0007); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Cape Girardeau].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by James Brewer on April 9, 2014 (Accession No. CGA0003).

Processed by: Finding aid updated by Aaron Schmidt, September 2020

Historical Note:

This collection features the family of John Clayborn “Clabe” and Louella “Lou” (Harmon) Reynolds. This branch of the Reynolds family was originally from Pope County, Illinois and moved to Morehouse, Missouri between 1910 and 1920. After their marriage in 1904, Clabe and Lou Reynolds had four children: Charles “Baker” Reynolds, Thelma Reynolds, Nell Reynolds, and Roy Reynolds, who died in infancy. The Reynolds children have no biological descendants.

Clabe Reynolds operated a local barbershop adjacent to his home in Morehouse. By the 1940s, he was cultivating an expansive tulip garden on his property, which attracted local and out-of-state visitors. Little is known about Lou; she is represented in photographs and obituary newspaper clippings, but there is little information of her daily life as the family’s matriarch. She is buried at Memorial Park Cemetery in Sikeston, Missouri.

Charles “Baker” Reynolds attended schools in Illinois prior to his arrival in Morehouse, where he graduated from Morehouse High School. He served in the United States Army during World War II and was an active member in the Morehouse Masonic Lodge. He had no biological children, but his marriage to Barbara Tullock on September 9, 1961, provided him with two step-daughters and a step-son. Baker is buried in Old Cavalry Cemetery in Farmington, Missouri.

Thelma and Nell Reynolds were also born in Illinois. After graduating from Morehouse High School, they enrolled in the teacher training program at Southeast Missouri State College in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Thelma and Nell became well-known as the “sister teachers” at Morehouse Elementary School. In accordance with government mandates, they received their college degrees in 1956. Thelma received her degree from Arizona State University, and Nell earned hers from Southeast Missouri State University. Neither sister married, but devoted their life to their students and membership in the Order of the Eastern Star. They retired from teaching in the 1970s and were recognized by the school for their service. Thelma and Nell remained in the family home until their deaths in 1988 and 1997, respectively. They are buried beside their father in Garden of Memories Cemetery in Sikeston, Missouri.

Arrangement: The collection has been arranged into the following five series:

- Correspondence and Papers
- Personal
- Business
- Photographs
- Audiovisual

Scope and Content:**Correspondence and Papers:**

This series contains letters, newspaper clippings, genealogy information, financial papers, event programs, report cards, certificates, diplomas, and awards from the members of the Reynolds family from 1894-1996. The items are arranged by subject.

Personal:

This series consists of autograph books, visitor guest books from the Reynold’s tulip garden in Morehouse, family reunion attendees, and postcards from 1888-1997. The items in this series are arranged thematically.

Business:

This series contains business ledgers from Clabe Reynolds' barbershop in Morehouse. The ledgers include the years 1919-1935 and 1953. This series is arranged chronologically.

Photographs:

This series includes photographs, slides, and negatives of the Reynolds family and barber business, family activities, and tulip gardens from 1903 to 1996 years. This series is arranged in chronological order. The earliest photographs likely depict Reynolds and Harmon family ancestors, with the remaining photographs representing Clabe, Lou, Baker, Thelma, and Nell Reynolds.

There are many school photographs taken of Thelma and Nell as they progress throughout their career, as well as Thelma and Nell's retirement vacations to Hawaii. Baker's military service, Masonic membership, and general activities are represented and reflect popular fashion when Baker was a young man.

Besides the Reynolds themselves, the family tulip garden and home in Morehouse are regularly depicted. In addition, the collection contains photographs of Morehouse High School boys' and girls' basketball players and football players from the 1920s, demolition of the old Morehouse public school in 1968, and construction of the new Morehouse elementary school in the late 1960s.

Audiovisual

This series contains thirteen, 16mm films on seven reels. The items, which are arranged by subject, represent regional celebrations, the gardens, and family activities from 1947-1958. Reels 7 through 9 were originally donated on 3 ½" reels, but transferred to 7" reels before accession. The transfer sequence is unknown. The original boxes indicated footage of 1951 Cape Flood, 1952 Cotton Carnival, basketball and cheerleaders, Tulips, Shriner Parade; 1953 Rose Garden, Homecoming (no date), 1957 Cotton Carnival, 1958 Tulips and Iris, and college and flood water (no date). The three reels reflect all subjects listed; however, a particular subject may or may not be found on a specific reel.

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| | f. 3 Reynolds and Harmon family genealogy, 1894-1976 |
| | f. 4 Morehouse chapter No. 450 Order of Eastern Star, 1928-1990 |
| | f. 5 Family deeds, 1930-1945 |
| | f. 6 Programs, announcements, and dedications, 1920-1980 |
| | f. 7 Thelma, Nelle, and Baker Reynolds report cards, 1915-1926 |
| | f. 8 Baker Reynolds military and Kiwanis Club papers, 1941-1953 |
| | f. 9 Thelma Reynolds teaching certificates, 1926-1948 |
| | f. 10 Nell Reynolds teaching certificates and other papers, 1933-1996 |
| | f. 11 Diplomas, certificates, and licenses (oversized), 1904-1956 |
| f. 12-20 | Personal, 1888-1997 |
| | f. 12 Lou and Clabe Reynolds autograph books, 1888-1909 |
| | f. 13 Nell Reynolds funeral guest book, 1997 |

- f. 14-18 Tulip garden visitor logs, 1951-1958
- Box 002 f. 19 Morehouse (Mo.) telephone directory, no date
- f. 20 Postcards, 1912-1943, 1984
- f. 21-28 Business, 1919-1935, 1953
- f. 21-28 Barbershop ledgers
- f. 29-45 Photographs, 1903-1996, no date
- Box 003 f. 29 Photographs and tintypes (unidentified individuals), no date
- f. 30 Photographs (unidentified individuals and J.C. Reynolds), 1903, no date
- f. 31 Photographs (unidentified individuals), no date
- f. 32 Photographs (unidentified individuals), no date
- f. 33 Reynolds family photographs, 1903-1917
- f. 34 Reynolds family photographs, 1926-1927
- f. 35 Reynolds family photographs, 1920-1930
- Box 004 f. 36 Reynolds family photograph album, no date
- f. 37 Reynolds family photographs, 1926-1937
- f. 38 Reynolds family and tulip garden photographs, 1942-1949
- f. 39 Reynolds family and tulip garden photographs, 1940-1948
- f. 40 Reynolds family and tulip garden photographs, 1950-1959
- Box 005 f. 41 Reynolds family photographs, 1960-1968
- f. 42 Reynolds family photographs, 1971-1978
- f. 43 Reynolds family photographs, 1981, 1984, 1986, no date
- f. 44 Reynolds tulip garden slides, no date
- f. 45 Reynolds family photo negatives, no date
- r. 1-9 Audiovisual, 16mm films, 1947-1958, no date
- Box 006 r. 1 Morehouse School and Circus in St. Louis, 1947
- r. 2 School Circus and Christmas Parade, 1952
- r. 3 Christmas Parade, 1953
- r. 4 Masonic Temple, 1953
- r. 5 Shrine Parade, 1959
- r. 6 Rodeo, no date
- r. 7-9 1951 Cape flood, 1952 and 1957 Cotton Carnival, basketball and cheerleaders, Tulips, Shriner parade, 1953 Rose Garden, Homecoming, 1958 Tulips and Iris, college and flood water, no date

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Cape Girardeau (Mo.)	11	reel 7-9	

Index Term	Folder	Other	Image
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