



## Betty Kennedy Sewell Genealogical Collection (CG0011)

**Collection Number:** CG0011

**Collection Title:** Betty Kennedy Sewell Genealogical Collection

**Dates:** 1912-2016

**Creator:** Sewell, Betty Kennedy, 1930-

**Abstract:** The collection contains genealogical research, including family group sheets, correspondence, clippings, and photographs of the Kennedy, Zook, Sheppard, Priest, Renfroe, Whitley, Gisler, Doughty, and affiliated families.

**Collection Size:** 1.4 cubic feet  
(29 folders, 1 volume)

**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](mailto: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] *Betty (Kennedy) Sewell Genealogical Collection* (CG0011); 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 Betty Kennedy Sewell on August 22, 2016 (Accession No. CGA0010).

**Processed by:** Finding aid updated by Aaron Schmidt, February 2021

**Historical Note:**

Betty Kennedy was born March 8, 1930, to Earl Kennedy and Bertha Kennedy (nee Zook) in New Madrid County, Missouri. As a child, she moved with her family to Edna, Texas, and returned to southeast Missouri in 1943. Sewell's interest in her family's broad history inspired this genealogical research. It began in 1964 and produced extensive resources of her lineage and decades of correspondence documenting her research. The findings provided facts that were used to generating family group sheets.

Sewell's research established her lineage to an ancestor, John Kennady, who fought in the Revolutionary War as a private in the Virginia militia under Captain Peter Asturgres. John Kennady, whose birth is estimated between 1735 and 1742, died on February 1, 1802, in Nelson County, Kentucky. Because of her genealogical connection to John Kennady, she became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution on February 2, 1979.

**Arrangement:**

This collection has been arranged into a single series.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The folders have been arranged by prominent surnames contained within the papers, where applicable, and contain Betty Sewell's research correspondence, family charts, and photocopies of relevant source documents, with some folders containing original and copied photographs. The remaining folders are identified by primary content.

Sewell compiled and organized the research into two ledgers. Volume one contains the Kennedy family lineage and copies of wills, deeds, estate sale lists, death certificates, and other documents located during research. Volume two contains extensive family group sheets reflecting the donor's lineage. Other family branches were removed from the ledger and placed in folders.

**Container List:**

- |         |      |   |
|---------|------|---|
| Box 001 | f. 1 | Kennedy family genealogical documents and research notes, 1969-1998, no date              |
|         | f. 2 | Kennedy family genealogical documents and research notes, 1964-2001, no date              |
|         | f. 3 | Kennedy family genealogical documents and research notes, 1964-2010, no date              |
|         | f. 4 | Kennedy family genealogical documents and research notes, 1968-2016, no date              |
|         | f. 5 | Sheppard family genealogical documents and research notes, 1964-2007, no date             |
|         | f. 6 | Sheppard family genealogical documents and research notes, 1967-2003, no date             |
|         | f. 7 | Renfroe and Sheppard family genealogical documents and research notes, 1969-2016, no date |
|         | f. 8 | Renfroe family genealogical documents and research notes, 1965-2007, no date              |
| Box 002 | f. 9 | Wicker family genealogical documents and research notes,                                  |

- 1912-2003, no date
- f. 10 Sheppard, English, and Renfroe family genealogical documents and research notes, 1967-2007, no date
- f. 11 Gisler family genealogical documents and research notes, 1965-2010, no date
- f. 12 Fehr and Hall family genealogical documents and research notes, 1984-2016, no date
- f. 13 Whitley family genealogical documents and research notes, 1963-2016, no date
- f. 14 English and Wicker family genealogical documents and research notes, 1983-2000, no date
- f. 15 Zook family genealogical documents and research notes, 1965-2007, no date
- f. 16 Zook family genealogical documents and research notes, 1979-2001, no date
- f. 17 Priest family genealogical documents and research notes, 1966-1987, no date
- f. 18 Priest family genealogical documents and research notes, 1965-2002, no date
- f. 19 Birthday postcards, 1926, no date
- f. 20 Kennedy family research notes and correspondence, 1965-2012, no date
- f. 21 Kennedy family research notes, no date
- f. 22 Kennedy, Renfroe, Wicker, Sheppard research notes and correspondence, 1941-2015, no date
- f. 23 Kennedy family research correspondence, 1965-2003, no date
- f. 24 Samuels and Kennedy family genealogical documents and research correspondence, 1973-2011
- f. 25 Family research correspondence, newspaper clippings, family charts, 1970-2016, no date
- f. 26 Research material, family charts, and photographs, 1976-2010, no date
- f. 27 John Kennedy Revolutionary War ancestor research, no date
- f. 28 Embossed leather case photographs of Martha Kennedy Petre and Sarah Kennedy McElmurry, no date
- f. 29 Family group record sheets, 1989-2012, no date
- Box 003 v. 1 Scanned family group sheets and genealogical documents (oversized), no date

**Index:**

Index Term	Folder	Mediums	Image
Bethel Baptist Church (Jackson, Mo.)	10, 25		
Bethlehem Baptist Church (Warthen, Ga.)	10		
Charleston (Mo.)	26, 27		
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Doughty, Isaac W., 1822-1868	18, 29		
Doughty, Margaret	18, 29		

East Prairie (Mo.)	2, 26, 27, 29	v. 1	
Gisler, Abraham, 1803-1855	11, 29		
Gisler, Anna Frei, 1815-1852	11, 29		
Gisler, Jacob, 1839-	11, 29		
Gisler, Martha Whitley, 1840-1916	11, 26, 29		Yes
Hall, Ernest W., 1851-1921	12		Yes
Hayes Ranch School (Edna, Tx.)	26		Yes
Isaac Newton Sheppard house (Cape Girardeau County, Mo.)	5		Yes
Kennedy, Albert E., 1921-2012	26, 29	v. 1	
Kennedy, Anna Gisler, 1867-1911	26	v. 1	Yes
Kennedy, Bertha Zook, 1894-1973	2, 19, 26, 29	v. 1	Yes
Kennedy, Earl Jacob, 1897-1970	2, 26, 29	v. 1	Yes
Kennady, Elizabeth Countryman, -1802	4, 29	v. 1	
Kennady, Frances Clarkson, 1806-1854	3	v. 1	
Kennady, John, -1802	4, 26, 29	v. 1	
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Priest, John W., 1839-1919	17, 29		
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Priest, Sarah Thomas, 1842-1897	17, 18, 29		
Samuels, Agnes, -1798	24	v. 1	
Sewell, Betty M. Kennedy, 1930-	2, 26, 27, 29	v. 1	Yes
Sheppard, John H., 1765-1836	25		
Sheppard, John H., Jr., 1801-1866	5-7, 29		
Sheppard, Polly Renfroe, 1795-1830	5-7, 29		
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Thomas, Wesley D., 1816-	18, 29		
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Whitley, James, 1817-	13, 29		
Zook, Alexander C., 1849-1912	15, 16, 26, 29		Yes

Zook, Annie Doughty, 1854-1942	15, 16, 26, 29		Yes
Zook, Jacob Wallace, 1872-1958	15, 16, 29		
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Zook, Otis A., 1896-1966	26		Yes
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