



Belchamber Family Papers (CG0041)

Collection Number: CG0041

Collection Title: Belchamber Family Papers

Dates: 1872-1993, no date

Creator: Belchamber family

Abstract: The Belchamber family papers contain photographs, correspondence and scrapbooks from the Belchamber family and its various branches. This collection also includes photographs and memorabilia relating to Will Mayfield College in Marble Hill, the Iron Mountain Railroad, and regional buildings and environs from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Collection Size: 3.2 cubic feet
(6 boxes, 72 folders, 2,240 photographs)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri, Cape Girardeau

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] *Belchamber Family Papers* (CG0041); 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 Lisa Murphy on September 30, 2019 (Accession No. CA0040).

Processed by: Processed by Aaron R. Schmidt, December 11, 2019.

Historical Note:

Daniel Belchamber, the patriarch of the Belchamber family, was born in Dorking Surrey, England, on April 22, 1828. His wife, Phoebe Ann Latour Belchamber, was born near Ameliasburgh in Ontario, Canada, on August 31, 1835. In 1852, the couple wed in Hamburg, Canada, and later moved to Michigan. Together, they had four children: James A. Belchamber, Sr. (1856-1916), John Belchamber (1863-1884), Sarah Ann Belchamber (1868-1947) and Daniel "Dan" Belchamber (1871-1937).

James Albert Belchamber, Sr., the oldest child of Daniel and Phoebe Belchamber, was born in Port Huron, Michigan, on July 2, 1856. In 1859, James and his family moved to Bollinger County, Missouri, where he worked as an engineer for the Iron Mountain Railroad for most of his life. In 1880, James married Louvenna "Vinnie" Elizabeth Peterson, and the couple raised five children: Mary Emily "Emma" Belchamber, James A. Belchamber, Jr., Lula Belchamber, Leona Belchamber, and Gail Belchamber. James and Vinnie, who were Baptists, instilled seeds of faith in their family that flourished throughout their children's lives.

Sarah Ann Belchamber, the third child of Daniel and Phoebe Belchamber, was born on April 30, 1868, presumably on the Belchamber farm in Bollinger County. On January 6, 1889, Sarah married Archibald Warren (1860-1907), a native of Indiana, in Bollinger County. The couple had seven children and eventually moved west, settling near Cherryvale, Kansas. After Archibald's death, Sarah moved to California, where she and many of her descendants established fresh roots.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following six series:

- Belchamber Family
- Fisher Family
- Warren Family
- Will Mayfield College
- Photographs, Postcards, and Documents
- Unidentified Individuals

Scope and Content Note:

The Belchamber Family Papers include photographs, correspondence, greeting and sympathy cards, funeral programs, and postcards relating to the Belchamber, Warren, and Fisher families of Bollinger and St. Louis counties. The bulk of this collection includes the family and branches of the families of James A. Belchamber Sr. and Sarah Ann Belchamber Warren. Other items of interest include materials relating to Will Mayfield College in Marble Hill, Missouri, photographs associated with the Iron Mountain Railway, and two rare photographs of downtown Bismarck, Missouri, before the business district was destroyed by a devastating fire in 1901.

Belchamber Family

This series contains items relating to the Belchamber family. Folders 1-11 contains personal albums and photographs from the Belchambers and the Kness family, a branch of the Belchamber family. Included in folder 9 are several photographs of Lula and Leona Belchamber, daughters of James Belchamber, Sr. and early students of Will Mayfield College in Marble Hill. Folders 12-19 contain documents associated with the Belchamber family; of particular interest is the postcard correspondence to Vinnie Belchamber from various members of the family, such as her daughters Lula Belchamber and Leona Belchamber, found in folder 14. Folder 18 contains

Vinnie and Lula Belchamber's personal autograph books. This series is arranged in chronological order.

Fisher Family

This series includes items relating to the Fisher family, Owen Fisher and Gail Belchamber Fisher. Folders 20-25 contain albums and photographs of the family's personal life, including photographs of the Fisher's activities at home and at Longwood Baptist Church in Lemay, Missouri, where Owen Fisher was a longtime minister. Also included in this series are photographs of the Fishers' family travels to destinations in the northern United States and Canada. Folders 25 and folders 27-30 contain various documents, cards, and correspondence belonging to Owen Fisher, Gail Fisher, and their sons, Robert and Andy Fisher. Included in folder 27 are Owen Fisher's fraternal membership cards and identification cards from his time as a police chaplain in St. Louis. This series is arranged in chronological order.

Warren Family

This series contains photographs from the Warren family, Sarah Ann Belchamber Warren and Archibald Warren. Folder 31 contains photographs of the Warren's children and grandchildren, many of which were taken at Sarah's home in Glendale, California. Folder 32 contains several individual photographs of Sarah and her granddaughter Barbara Perry. This series is arranged chronologically.

Will Mayfield College

This series includes items relating to Will Mayfield College in Marble Hill, Missouri. Folders 33-34 contain scrapbooks of Will Mayfield, most likely created by Lula or Leona Belchamber, who were students and faculty at the college in the 1900s-1920s. Folder 35 includes early photographs of students and faculty at the college. This folder also contains a photograph of Will Mayfield College's library, where Leona Belchamber was employed. Folder 36 includes a memory book with photographs of students and faculty along with messages from them to Leona from students at the college. Folder 37 contains a copy of Will Mayfield's campus newsletter, *The Monitor*, from October 1922. Folder 38 includes a college brochure from 1923 and a 1927 edition of the W.M.C. Faculty Dames group booklet, an organization to which Leona and Lula belonged. This series is arranged in chronological order.

Photographs, Postcards, and Documents

This series contains photographs, documents, and postcards. Folders 39-41 include photographs of steam locomotives and railway activity, such as a photograph of an Iron Mountain Railroad train, circa 1900. A photograph of James A. Belchamber Sr., who was a lifelong employee of the Iron Mountain Railroad can be found in folder 39. Folders 39-40 also feature independent photographs of various engines and regional train depots. Folder 41 contains photographs of train wrecks near Marquand, Allendale, Kimmswick, and Irondale, circa 1904-1914.

Folder 42-46 contain photographs of several buildings and private residences, both regional and national. Included in folder 42 are mid-20th century photographs of institutional buildings, such as Blue Mountain College (Blue Mountain, Mississippi), the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and the Government Hospital in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Folder 43 contains miscellaneous homes, including photographs of the Belchamber home and Sarah Warren's house in Glendale, California. Photographs of flooding in downtown Hannibal, Missouri (circa 1973), can be found in folder 45. Folder 46 contains photographs of Bismarck, Missouri, where the Belchamber family lived for a time. Included in this folder is a rare photograph of downtown Bismarck before a devastating fire destroyed it in 1901.

Folders 47-51 contain photographs of people and events. Of interest are several outdoor baptism photographs, likely from the early 20th century, which can be found in folder 47. Folder 49 includes photographs of identifiable individuals who, it seems, may be friends or extended relatives of the Belchamber, Fisher, or Warren families. Folders 53-54 contain souvenir postcards from cities and attractions around Missouri and the United States, many of which were printed in the 1930s and 1940s.

Folder 55 contains meeting records and personal information sheets from the Junior Union Leadership Conference during the 1940s. Folders 56-57 contain promotional brochures for the Southern Funeral Home in St. Louis and Mayfield Hospital in St. Louis, respectively.

This series is arranged first with photographs relating to transportation and infrastructure, followed by photographs of people and events, and concludes with written and printed materials.

Unidentified Photographs

This series, which encompasses folders 60-72, contains photographs of unidentified adults, children, couples, and groups. The majority of photographs in this series were taken in the early and mid-20th century. Of interest in this series are photographs of unidentified military servicemen, spanning from the World War I until the 1950s, which can be found in folder 61. This collection also includes eight unidentified tin type photographs contained in folder 72. This series is arranged chronologically.

Container List:

f. 1-19		Belchamber Family
Box 01	f. 1	Family photograph album, no date
	f. 2	Family photograph album, no date
	f. 3	Family photograph album loose items, no date
	f. 4	Family photograph album, 1921, no date
	f. 5	Family photograph album, 1933, no date
	f. 6	Belchamber and related family photo album, no date
	f. 7	Family photographs, circa 1900-1940s
Box 02	f. 8	Family photographs 1956-1957, no date
	f. 9	Lula and Leona Belchamber photographs, circa 1900-1961
	f. 10	Kness and Cass family photographs, 1942-1943, no date
	f. 11	Martha and Elizabeth Kness photographs, no date
	f. 12	Belchamber documents, 1872-1948, no date
	f. 13	Family correspondence and invitations, 1910-1949
	f. 14	Vinnie Belchamber family postcards, 1907-1952
	f. 15	James Belchamber postcard scrapbook, 1907-1916, no date
	f. 16	James Belchamber, Jr. death sympathy cards, 1957
	f. 17	Lula Belchamber get-well-soon cards, 1957, 1963
	f. 18	Vinnie and Lula Belchamber autograph books, circa 1887-1928
	f. 19	Lula and Leona Belchamber memorial books, circa 1971, 1976
f. 20-30		Fisher Family
	f. 20	Family photographs, 1937-1965, no date
	f. 21	Family photographs, 1959-1973, no date
	f. 22	Owen Fisher photographs, 1937-1965, no date
	f. 23	Robert and Andy Fisher photographs, 1956-1962, no date
Box 03	f. 24	Family scrapbook and loose items, 1909, 1943, 1954-55, 1960, no date
	f. 25	Family album loose items, 1924-1957, no date
	f. 26	Family album (oversized), 1947, no date

- f. 27 Fisher documents, 1929-1982, no date
- f. 28 Owen Fisher correspondence and invitations, 1944, 1962-1968
- f. 29 Owen Fisher family postcards, 1930-1980
- f. 30 Owen and Andrew Fisher autograph books, 1947-1957
- f. 31-32 Warren Family
 - f. 31 Family photographs, 1936-1972, no date
 - f. 32 Sarah Warren and Barbara Perry photographs, 1940, no date
- f. 33-38 Will Mayfield College
 - f. 33 Photograph album, no date
 - f. 34 Photograph albums, no date
 - f. 35 Photographs of students and library, no date
 - f. 36 Leona Belchamber memory book photograph album (oversized), 1917-1929, no date
 - f. 37 *The Monitor* newsletter, 1922
 - f. 38 Brochure and Faculty Dames program, 1923, 1927
- f. 39-53 Photographs, Postcards, and Documents
- Box 04
 - f. 39 Trains, no date
 - f. 40 Trains, 1887-1948, no date
 - f. 41 Train wrecks in Marquand and Allenville, 1904, 1911-1914
 - f. 42 Building and college photographs, 1890-1959, no date
 - f. 43 House photographs, 1908-1959, no date
 - f. 44 Church photographs, 1938-1976, no date
 - f. 45 Hannibal, Missouri, flood photographs, circa 1973
 - f. 46 Bismarck, Missouri, photographs, no date
 - f. 47 Baptism photographs, no date
 - f. 48 Pearl Holbert's photograph album, circa 1905
 - f. 49 Identified individuals, 1875-1982, no date
 - f. 50 Miscellaneous photographs, 1948-1958, no date
 - f. 51 Christmas Photographs, 1959, no date
 - f. 52 Miscellaneous items, 1907-1970, no date
 - f. 53 Missouri souvenir postcards, no date
 - f. 54 Miscellaneous souvenir postcards, 1939-1946, no date
 - f. 55 Junior Union Leadership Conference meeting records and information Sheets, 1944-1949
 - f. 56 Southern Funeral Home (St. Louis), circa 1945
 - f. 57 Mayfield Memorial Hospital (St. Louis), circa 1914
 - f. 58 Constitution of the International Association of Machinists, 1993
 - f. 59 Sheet music, 1898-1925, no date
- f. 60-72 Unidentified Individuals
 - f. 60 Unidentified couples photographs, no date
- Box 05
 - f. 61 Unidentified military photographs, circa 1917-1950
 - f. 62 Unidentified group organization photographs, 1934-1938, 1952, no date
 - f. 63 Unidentified individual children, 1949-1975, no date
 - f. 64 Unidentified children, 1937-1958, no date
 - f. 65 Unidentified individuals photographs, no date
 - f. 66 Unidentified individuals photographs, no date
 - f. 67 Unidentified individuals photographs, 1933, 1943, no date
 - f. 68 Individual unidentified adults, 1945-1975, no date
 - f. 69 Individual unidentified adults, 1945-1975, no date
- Box 06
 - f. 70 Unidentified adults and unidentified family photographs, 1932-1968, no

- date
 f. 71 Unidentified adults and unidentified family photographs, 1932-1968, no
 date
 f. 72 Tintype photographs, no date

Index Term	Folder	Image
Abernathy, Anne Peterson Allen	1, 6-7	Yes
Abernathy, Anne Peterson Allen	14	
Baptism--Baptists	2, 5, 47	Yes
Baptist church buildings	2, 44, 53, 54	Yes
Baptist church buildings	3, 12, 24-25, 27, 52, 52	
Belchamber family	1-19	Yes
Belchamber, Anna Marie	14	
Belchamber, Charles	12	
Belchamber, Dan, 1871-1937	4, 7-8, 20	Yes
Belchamber, Dan, 1871-1937	13	
Belchamber, Daniel, 1825-1873	12	
Belchamber, Etta Mae Pounds, 1873-1945	7, 13	Yes
Belchamber, Gayle	7	Yes
Belchamber, Hattie Schuler, 1887-1974	14-15	
Belchamber, Howard	15, 25	Yes
Belchamber, James A., Jr., 1885-1957	1, 8	Yes
Belchamber, James A., Jr., 1885-1957	15-16	
Belchamber, James A., Sr., 1856-1916	1-3, 5, 7-8, 14, 36, 39	Yes
Belchamber, James A., Sr., 1856-1916	13, 18	
Belchamber, John, 1863-1884	12	
Belchamber, Leona, 1896-1976	1-9, 34-36	Yes
Belchamber, Leona, 1896-1976	12-15, 17, 19, 25-27, 36, 52	
Belchamber, Louvenna "Vinnie" Elizabeth Peterson, 1861-1942	1-2, 5, 7-8, 14, 20, 34, 36	Yes
Belchamber, Louvenna "Vinnie" Elizabeth Peterson, 1861-1942	12-13, 15, 18, 29	
Belchamber, Lula, 1889-1971	1-9, 20, 34-36	Yes
Belchamber, Lula, 1889-1971	12, 14-19, 25-27, 29, 59	
Belchamber, Phoebe Ann Latour, 1835-1897	1, 12	Yes
Belchamber, William	12	
Bellchamber, James Albert	8	Yes
Bismarck (Mo.)	2, 14, 46	Yes
Bismarck (Mo.)	3, 13, 15	

Index Term	Folder	Image
Cass, Alfred, 1938-2011	10	Yes
Cass, Elizabeth Kness	2-5, 7-8, 10-11, 34	Yes
Cass, Elizabeth Kness	14	
Cass, Janet, 1940-2010	10	Yes
Cass, Marvin	10	Yes
Dailey, Della Warren, 1903-1991	2, 30, 31	Yes
Dailey, Joanne	30	
Dailey, Smelker "Cree", Jr.	30, 31	Yes
Fisher family	20-30	Yes
Fisher, Andy	20-21, 23-24, 26, 51	Yes
Fisher, Andy	19, 27, 29-30	
Fisher, Barbara Jean Lanus	21	
Fisher, Carol	21, 23	Yes
Fisher, Carol	19	
Fisher, Gail Belchamber, 1899-1993	2-8, 14, 20-21, 24, 34	Yes
Fisher, Gail Belchamber, 1899-1993	3, 12, 14-15, 17, 19, 27, 29-30	
Fisher, Heather Ann	21, 27	Yes
Fisher, Melinda Kay	21, 27-28	Yes
Fisher, Owen, 1907-1973	20, 22, 26-27, 40	Yes
Fisher, Owen, 1907-1973	14, 24, 27-30	
Fisher, Robert, 1938-2007	20-21, 23-24, 26, 40, 51	Yes
Fisher, Robert, 1938-2007	12, 14, 17, 27, 29	
Glen Allen (Mo.)	13-15, 18, 19	
Hancock High School (St. Louis, Mo.)	24, 26	
Hannibal (Mo.)	45	
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers	58	
Kness, Debbie	10	Yes
Kness, Jacob Ira, 1868-1947	2, 5, 10, 14	Yes
Kness, James Ira, 1921-1985	2-3, 5, 7, 10, 36	Yes
Kness, James Ira, 1921-1985	14, 17, 19	
Kness, Marie Meyer, 1916-2013	10	Yes
Kness, Marie Meyer, 1916-2013	17, 19, 29	
Kness, Martha	2-3, 5, 7-8, 10-11, 14, 34	Yes
Kness, Martha	14	
Kness, Mary Emily "Emma" Belchamber, 1882-1970	1-2, 5, 7-8, 10, 14	Yes
Kness, Mary Emily "Emma" Belchamber, 1882-1970	3, 18, 27, 59	
Kness, Walker, 1912-1997	2-3, 5, 8, 10, 20, 34	Yes

Index Term	Folder	Image
Kness, Walker, 1912-1997	12, 14, 19, 29, 51	
Longwood Baptist Church (Lemay, Mo.)	24, 52	Yes
Longwood Baptist Church (Lemay, Mo.)	14, 26-27	
Marble Hill (Mo.)	12, 13-14, 25	
Mayfield Memorial Hospital	57	
Military	2, 5, 8, 10, 24, 50, 61, 63, 65, 71	Yes
Montgomery, Agnes Warren	2, 31	Yes
Montgomery, Agnes Warren	18, 27	
Montgomery, Elmer	2	Yes
Montgomery, Jack	31	Yes
Montgomery, Natalie Snow	31	Yes
Montgomery, Richard E. III	31	Yes
Montgomery, Richard E. Jr.	31	Yes
Montgomery, Robert S.	31	Yes
Mooney, Florine	31	Yes
Mooney, Myra	31	Yes
Mooney, Myron	31	Yes
Mooney, Thelma Hinch Warren	31	Yes
Perry, Barbara, 1926-2014	31-32	Yes
Rosenhauer, Leona "Rhoda" Belchamber	31	
Rowe, Grace Belchamber	6	Yes
Rowe, Grace Belchamber	16-17	
Rowe, Roy	17	
Solberg, George	20, 23	Yes
Railroads	2, 5, 14-15, 39-41	Yes
Railroads	12, 36	
Tripp, Lester	11	Yes
Universities and College--Missouri--Marble Hill	4-5, 33-36	Yes
Universities and College--Missouri--Marble Hill	13, 25, 37, 38	
Warren family	31-32	Yes
Warren, Arla Jean	23, 31	Yes
Warren, Arlie, 1892-1959	31	Yes
Warren, Arlie, 1892-1959	13, 18, 30	
Warren, Lee Sr.	31	Yes
Warren, Lena Perry	31	Yes
Warren, Marjorie	31	Yes
Warren, Perry	31	Yes
Warren, Rupert	31	Yes
Warren, Rupert	13	

Index Term	Folder	Image
Warren, Sarah Belchamber, 1868-1947	5-6, 8, 14-15, 31-32, 36	Yes
Warren, Sarah Belchamber, 1868-1947	13, 15, 18	
Warren, Vera	30	
Will Mayfield College (Marble Hill, Mo.)	4-5, 33-36	Yes
Will Mayfield College (Marble Hill, Mo.)	13, 25, 37, 38	
Wings Over Jordan (Musical group)	24	Yes
World War, 1939-1945	12	