



Poplar Bluff Municipal Library Collection CG0042

Collection Number: CG0042

Collection Title: Poplar Bluff Municipal Library Collection

Dates: 1791-1957

Creator: Griffin, Shon L.

Abstract: The Poplar Bluff Municipal Library Collection includes title records, court documents, and other papers primarily from Butler County, Missouri. This collection also contains register books from the Edgewood Home for Children in Poplar Bluff and personal items belonging to William B. Adams, such as farm workers' time schedules and a divorce memorandum journal.

Collection Size: 2.0 cubic feet
(30 folders, 2 boxes)

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](https://www.shsmo.org/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] *Poplar Bluff Municipal Library Collection* (CG0042); 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 Shon L. Griffin on January 15, 2020 (Accession No. CGA0043). Additional material was donated by Joshua Lamb on October 28, 2020 (Accession No. CGA0043.1)

Processed by: Processed by Aaron Schmidt, March 3, 2020. Updated by Garret B. Kremer-Wright, October 28, 2020.

Biographical Note:

The Edgewood Home for Children was located in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. The organization began operating at the beginning of the twentieth century as the Butler County Detention Home. As a local organization, the Edgewood Home provided children in Butler County a temporary place to live when parental custody was no longer an option. After nearly eighty years of service, the Edgewood Home closed its doors in 2003.

Joseph and Mary Anne Coates were born in England at the end of the eighteenth century. The couple married in 1814 and had ten children, eight of whom survived to adulthood. In the early 1830s, the Coates family moved to Michigan and eventually established roots in Oakland County.

William B. Adams was born in Humphreys County, Tennessee, on May 7, 1854, to James T. and Amanda (Hooper) Adams. As a child, William moved with his family to Butler County, Missouri, where he spent most of his life. He became a farmer and raised a diversity of crops and livestock. Adams was married twice. He married his first wife, Carrie M. Leach (1861-1889) in September of 1881 and had one son, James Owen Adams (1882-1972). In 1889, Carrie died at the age of 27. He married his second wife, Ida V. Bedford in 1907, presumably divorcing her in 1921. Adams died on October 12, 1944 in the Poplar Bluff Hospital.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following three series:

Abstracts of Title and other papers
Edgewood Home for Children (Poplar Bluff)
William B. Adams farm

Scope and Content Note:**Abstracts of Title and other papers:**

This series, which encompasses folders 1-25, contains abstracts of title, deeds, court documents, letters, and family records. Folders 1-20 include Butler County, Missouri abstracts of title from 1881-1940. The Black River Land and Abstract Company and the Poplar Bluff Land and Abstract Company issued most of the titles in this series. Each folder lists the Section, Township, and Range of the property parcels. These records are arranged chronologically and feature rural parcels as well as municipal properties in Poplar Bluff. While most of the abstracts in this series describe real estate in Butler County, folder 2 contains one abstract from Wayne County that was prepared for James Maxey. There are several abstracts from Township 23 N-Range 5 E, Township 25 N-Range 6 E, and Township 25 N-Range 7 E in Butler County. Folder 21 encompasses Butler County deed and mortgage documents spanning from 1836-1928, and includes patent deeds, warranty deeds, and two chattel mortgages. Like the abstracts of title, these deeds and mortgages are arranged chronologically. This series also contains regional court records in folders 22-23. Folder 22 includes a list of Butler County court proceedings from 1901 and an annotation of tax suits from an unidentified county. Folder 23 contains documents from the Butler County circuit court and the Southeastern Division Eastern Judicial District of Missouri. Additionally, this series includes letters addressed to recipients in Butler County and a list of trustees from Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church (Poplar Bluff) in folder 24. Folder

25 contains genealogical information from the Coates family Bible, a family that has its roots in Oakland County, Michigan.

Edgewood Home for Children (Poplar Bluff)

This series contains register books from the Edgewood Home for Children in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. It includes attendance data and admittance registers from 1941-1957. The contents of this series are arranged chronologically.

William B. Adams Farm

This series consists farm workbooks and a divorce memorandum from the William B. Adams farm in Butler County. Folder 28 consists of an expense account book for the Ferguson Horseshoe Mercantile Company and 11 farm workers' time schedule books spanning from 1913-1916. Folder 29 includes farm workers' time schedule books and a memorandum journal from 1921 outlining events surrounding an impending divorce between William Adams and his second wife, Iva V. Adams. Of occupational interest in this collection are a series of farm workers' schedule books from the early twentieth century, which highlight the daily activities that took place on his farm. Also included in this collection is a memorandum journal from 1921, outlining events that surrounded the divorce between William Adams and his second wife, Ida Adams.

Container List:

f. 1-25	Abstracts of Title and other papers
Box 001	f. 1 Butler County, 1881-1890
	f. 2 Butler County and Wayne County, 1891-1895
	f. 3 Butler County, 1896-1897
	f. 4 Butler County, 1898-1900
	f. 5 Butler County, 1900-1901
	f. 6 Butler County, 1901
	f. 7 Butler County, 1901-1903
	f. 8 Butler County, 1903-1904
	f. 9 Butler County, 1905-1906
	f. 10 Butler County, 1909-1910
	f. 11 Butler County, 1911-1915
	f. 12 Butler County, 1916-1920
Box 002	f. 13 Butler County, 1920-1921
	f. 14 Butler County, 1921-1922
	f. 15 Butler County, 1922-1925
	f. 16 Butler County, 1925-1927
	f. 17 Butler County, 1927-1931
	f. 18 Butler County, 1931-1934
	f. 19 Butler County, 1934-1938
	f. 20 Butler County, 1938-1940
	f. 21 Deeds and mortgages, 1837-1928
	f. 22 Court proceedings and tax suits, 1901, 1904
	f. 23 Court documents, 1878-1924
	f. 24 Butler County Circuit Court bar docket booklets, 1944, 1959

- f. 25 Butler County letters and Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church trustees, 1896-1931, no date
- f. 26 Coates Family records, 1791-1894
- f. 27-28 Edgewood Home for Children (Poplar Bluff)
- f. 27 Attendance register, 1949-1957
- f. 28 Attendance and admittance registers, 1941-1948, 1942-1953
- f. 29-30 William B. Adams Farm
- f. 29 Workers' time schedule books, 1910, 1913-1916
- f. 30 Workers' time schedule books and memorandum, 1916-1919, 1921, 1923

Index:

Index Term	Folder
Abstracts of title	1-20
Adams, William B., 1854-1944	28-29
Adams, Ida (Bedford), 1856-1949	29
Agricultural laborers	28-29
Barrett, Thomas A.	24
Bittner, Paul	23
Carrigan, Susanna	21
Coates family	25
Coates, Joseph	25
Davis, Nannie L.	24
Edgewood Home for Children (Poplar Bluff, Mo.)	26-27
Ferguson-Horstman Mercantile Company (Poplar Bluff, Mo.)	28
Greer, Alfred W., 1874-1966	21
Lacks, E.C.	24
Liles, Charles	23
Pfifer, Elias	23
Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church (Poplar Bluff, Mo.)	24
Sandlin, Ezekiel	21
Spence, William A., 1848-1926	21
Tapp, Thomas J.	24