



Slusher Family Papers (C4028)

Collection Number: C4028

Collection Title: Slusher Family Papers

Dates: 1874-1974

Creator: Slusher family

Abstract: The Slusher family papers consist of personal correspondence and account books of the Slushers of Lexington, Missouri, and their extended family who lived in Missouri and Virginia.

Collection Size: 1.7 cubic feet
(24 folders, 7 volumes)

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-Columbia](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center-columbia). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has relinquished all their rights in the papers and authorized their release to the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Slusher Family Papers* (C4028); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by James B. Slusher on May 9, 1996 (Accession No. CA3107).

Processed by: Processed by Alyson Boulton on December 10, 2009. Finding aid revised by Elizabeth Engel on March 16, 2022.

Biographical Note:

Victoria Alberta “Bird” Payne was born on 5 July 1859. She married James Monroe Slusher on 18 November 1879. They moved to the area around Dover, Missouri, and had three children, though only Elizabeth Lorene Slusher and James Alvin Slusher survived to adulthood.

On 7 July 1894 James, Sr. died while trying to save his young son from drowning. Soon afterward Bird and her children moved to Lexington, Missouri. There James, Jr. attended Wentworth Academy and Elizabeth married Pearl Ragland Smith, a local attorney, in 1901.

Elizabeth and Pearl had one daughter, Alberta Louise Smith, born in December 1902. In 1905, James left Lexington and moved around the country. He joined the Army in 1911 and was stationed in the American West, the Philippine Islands, and briefly in France at the end of World War I. After leaving the Army he moved to California, where he stayed until his death in 1933.

In 1915, Pearl died of tuberculosis and Elizabeth and Alberta moved in with Bird. Alberta married Benjamin Eaton Slusher in 1930, and in June 1931 they had their only child, James B. Slusher.

Bird Slusher died in July 1957, Alberta Slusher died in 1976, Elizabeth Smith died in 1977, and Benjamin Slusher died in 1982. All four lived in the same house until their deaths.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Personal
Business

Scope and Content Note:

The Slusher family papers consist of correspondence between the Slusher and Payne families in Missouri and Virginia and document their lives spanning one hundred years. Pearl Smith’s account books are also included.

The **Personal** series consists of correspondence arranged chronologically. Included are family letters and a few news clippings. Many of the letters were written by relatives in Virginia to Bird, Elizabeth, and Alberta; and James wrote home frequently during his military service in the 1910s. There are many references to agriculture, the economy, and local news.

The **Business** series is comprised of six of Pearl Smith’s account books, plus a farm ledger. Two of the ledgers include Smith’s notary records. The first four ledgers were numbered by Smith and are arranged chronologically.

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- f. 3 1906-1909
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- f. 12 1918
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- f. 14 1920-1925
- f. 15 1926-1929
- f. 16 1930-1933
- f. 17 1934-1939
- f. 18 1940s
- f. 19 1950-1955
- f. 20 1956-1957
- f. 21 1958-1959
- f. 22 1960-1968
- f. 23 1970-1974
- f. 24 Undated

Business Series

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- v. 2 Account Ledger and Notary Record, 1912
- v. 3 Account Ledger and Notary Record, 1912-1913
- v. 4 Account Ledger, 1913-1962
- v. 5 Account Ledger, 1901-1904
- v. 6 Account Ledger, 1911-1912; Journal, 1936-1965
- v. 7 Farming Ledger, 1883-1890

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