

C Geiger, Louis G. (1913-2002), Papers, 1803-2002
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INTRODUCTION

The papers of a history professor who specialized in the subjects of higher education and local history. Geiger was a Fulbright lecturer to India, Finland, and the former Soviet Union. He corresponded with family and friends, and traveled extensively after his retirement.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Louis G. Geiger Papers were donated to the University of Missouri (Accession Numbers 5051, 5169, and 5286) from 5 July 1991 to 16 July 2003, the last accession being received from Mark Geiger, Louis Geiger's son.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Louis G. Geiger was born on March 21, 1913, in Boonville, Missouri, to George Victor Geiger and Dorothea Elizabeth Hoflander. He received a Bachelor of Science degree at Central Missouri State University in 1934 and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Missouri in 1940.

He was drafted into the army in the spring of 1942, and in December of that year was admitted to OCS (Officer Candidate School) Antiaircraft Artillery, Camp Davis, in Wilmington, North Carolina. He was promoted to First Lieutenant in March of 1945. While stationed in Florence, Italy, Geiger was assigned to the Fifth Army Historical Section and wrote Volume XI of the History of the Fifth Army, *From the Apennines to the Alps*. He was discharged from the army on May 24, 1946, and married Helen Margery Watson on December 20, 1946. They had one son, Mark.

Geiger was an Assistant professor of history at the University of North Dakota from 1946-1955, an Associate professor from 1955-1958, and full professor from 1958-1960. He was a visiting professor at the University of Missouri in 1960; Jadavpur University in India from 1963-1964, and a Fulbright lecturer at the University of Helsinki in Finland from 1954-1955, and at the University of Leningrad in the former Soviet Union from 1978-1979.

He became the president of the North Dakota Social Science Association from 1959-1960. From 1960-1970, he was Chairman for history at Iowa State University from 1972-1979, becoming Professor Emeritus in 1979.

Geiger wrote numerous articles and reviews, and authored a number of books, including *Joseph W. Folk of Missouri*, in 1953; *Higher Education in a Maturing Democracy*, 1963; And *Voluntary Accreditation: History of North Central Association*, 1970. He also wrote numerous papers and lectured extensively. Two of his papers included: *St. Johannes Deutsche Evangelische Kirche (St. John German Evangelical Church)*, Oak Grove, Billingsville, 1991, *In the Days of Prohibition, Cooper County 1919-1934*, 1992, and *The Jazz Age In Cooper County, Missouri, The 1920s*, 1993. He was the recipient of a research award from the Social Science Research Council in 1963;

a member of the Western Social Science Association, acting as vice-president from 1965-1966, and again in 1968-1969. He was a member of the American History Association, American Studies Association, and the History Education Society. Geiger was also an active Rotarian. In his later years, he traveled extensively throughout Europe and Asia. Geiger died on December 15, 2002.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Louis G. Geiger Papers consist of correspondence, diaries/journals, genealogical material, photographs, publications, travel, and World War II material. Geiger enjoyed an extensive career as a professor of history, and the material gives a detailed view of the changes occurring in the area of higher education, both in the United States, and in other countries. The papers are arranged into eight series:

Correspondence, Diaries/Journals, Genealogy/Local History, Papers and Publications, Photographs, School Material, Travel/Teaching, and Miscellaneous Material.

The **Correspondence** series consists of letters written during World War II from Helen Watson Geiger to her parents, and letters from her brother, Richard (Dick) Watson to parents. There are a large number of letters written to Helen Watson Geiger from her mother from the late 1950s through the 1960s. Helen Geiger also wrote a large number of letters to her family while living abroad in the 1950s and 1960s. Also included are letters written to Louis Geiger from colleagues at various universities, such as the University of North Dakota, Iowa State University, and Colorado College, also including Elmer Ellis at the University of Missouri. Correspondence in later years also comes from Mark Geiger, son of Louis and Helen, and Mark and his wife Marianna's family. The material is arranged chronologically.

The **Diaries/Journals** series consists of Helen Geiger's description of her activities covering her marriage to Louis in 1946, day-to-day home life, as well as her experiences in India, the former Soviet Union, and Finland, 1946-1985. Please note that the diaries and journals are arranged in two separate series, due to how they were created.

The **Genealogy/Local History** series consists of correspondence, family histories, cemetery lists, WWII photographs, newsletters, notes, greeting cards, newspaper articles, papers, and photographs of the Bierbaum, Friedrich, Geiger, Gerhardt, Grathwohl, Helmreich, Hoflander, McDonough, Mittelbach, Osten, Rentschler, Staebler, Stegner, Zimmerman, and Zschirpe families. This series also includes local histories of Billingsville and Boonville, Missouri, as well as surrounding areas. Heavy emphasis is placed on churches and schools. Years covered are 1803-2002. This series is arranged chronologically.

The **Papers and Publications** series consists largely of research material Geiger used for his papers on Prohibition and the Jazz Age, Billingsville, and St. John's Church, Missouri, and the subject of higher education, in the United States and other countries, 1850-2001. This series is arranged chronologically.

The **Photographs** series consists of Geiger's World War II service, Geiger, Grathwohl, Hoflander and related families; travel photographs of Australia, New Zealand, Normandy, France, India, China, Thailand, Russia, Mexico, and Arizona. The years covered are 1945 to 2001. Please note that there are additional miscellaneous

photographs scattered throughout the collection. This material is arranged chronologically.

The **School Material** series consists of papers, articles, correspondence and miscellaneous material for Helen Watson Geiger and Louis Geiger. The years covered are 1929-1983. The material is arranged chronologically.

The **Travel/Teaching** series consists of assorted travel memorabilia collected while Geiger was a Fulbright lecturer in the former Soviet Union and China. There is also material from various other trips to Greece and throughout Europe. The years covered are from 1954 to 1996. It is arranged chronologically.

The **Miscellaneous Material** series consists of clippings on Helen Watson Geiger's service in the WAVES, baby material, assorted articles on various subjects, (Bill Clinton, War, etc.) address books, menus, notes, receipts, invoices, etc. The material covers the years 1943 to 2001, and is arranged chronologically.

FOLDER LIST

Correspondence Series

- f. 1 Mrs. George Geiger, Mark Geiger to Helen and Louis Geiger, 1927, 1966-1978
- f. 2 Family letters to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1931-1965, n.d.
- f. 3 Family members to Helen Watson (Geiger), 1936-1946
- f. 4 World War II Letters, Helen Watson (Geiger), 1943-1944
- f. 5 Family letters, C.E. Watson and Richard (Dick) Watson) to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1943-1955
- f. 6-7 World War II Letters, Helen Watson (Geiger), 1944
- f. 8 World War II Letters, Helen Watson (Geiger), 1944-1945
- f. 9 World War II Letters, Helen Watson (Geiger), Adolph Hitler, Shirley Temple, 1945
- f. 10-11 World War II Letters, Helen Watson (Geiger), 1945-1946
- f. 12 Family Letters, C.E. Watson to Helen Watson Geiger, Helen to Parents, 1946-1953
- f. 13 Dick Watson to Helen Watson (Geiger), 1948-1956
- f. 14 Family Letters, Louis and Helen Geiger, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1972
- f. 15 Mrs. George and Charles Geiger to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1949-1960
- f. 16 Mrs. George Geiger and Family to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1949-1963
- f. 17 Mark Geiger, Mrs. George Geiger, Family and Friends, to Louis and Helen, 1949-1975
- f. 18 Family Letters, Louis and Helen Geiger, 1951-1953
- f. 19 Mr. and Mrs. George Geiger to Louis, Helen, and Mark Geiger, 1951-1959
- f. 20 Mrs. George Geiger and Wyatt, Marie and Tom, to Helen and Louis Geiger, 1951-1960
- f. 21 Mrs. George Geiger and Charles Geiger to Louis and Helen Geiger,

- 1951-1961
- f. 22 Mrs. George Geiger to Louis and Helen Geiger, Helen to Louis, and other Family, 1951-1967
 - f. 23 Family Letters, C.E. Watson to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1952-1955
 - f. 24 Family Letters, Louis Geiger to Parents, Finland, Letters Home to Parents, 1952-1955
 - f. 25 Mrs. George Geiger, Family and Friends to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1952-1958
 - f. 26 Family Letters, Louis and Helen Geiger, 1953
 - f. 27 Louis to Helen and Mark Geiger, Mark to Parents, 1953, 1954, 1977, 1978
 - f. 28 Family Letters, Louis and Helen Geiger, 1953-1955
 - f. 29 Family Letters, Louis and Helen to Parents, C.E. and D.V. Geiger, Finland, Rome, England, 1953-1970
 - f. 30 Family Letters, Finland, 1954
 - f. 31 Family Letters, Louis Geiger to Parents, G.V. and D.E. Geiger from Finland, Rome, Colorado, 1954
 - f. 32 Family Letters, Finland, Germany, 1954-1955
 - f. 33 Family Letters, Louis and Helen Geiger to Parents, 1954-1971
 - f. 34 Family Letters, Louis and Helen Geiger to Parents, 1954-1972
 - f. 35 Family Letters, Finland, 1955
 - f. 36 Helen Geiger, Sweden, Finland, and Louis Geiger, France, Portugal, Spain, 1955
 - f. 37 Family Letters, Dick Watson to Sister Helen Watson (Geiger), 1956-1959
 - f. 38 Family Letters, Dick Watson to Sister Helen Watson (Geiger), 1956-1965
 - f. 39 Mrs. C.E. Watson to Helen Watson (Geiger), 1958
 - f. 40-41 Mrs. C.E. Watson to Helen Watson (Geiger), 1959
 - f. 42 Family Letters, Helen and Louis Geiger to Son Mark, 1959
 - f. 43-44 Mrs. C.E. Watson to Helen Watson (Geiger), 1960
 - f. 45 Mrs. George Geiger and Charles Geiger to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1960-1962
 - f. 46 Family Letters to Helen Watson (Geiger) and Richard (Dick) Watson, 1960-1965
 - f. 47 Miscellaneous Family Correspondence, 1960-1989
 - f. 48 Mrs. George Geiger, Louis and Helen Geiger, Friends, 1961
 - f. 49-51 Mrs. C.E. Watson to Daughter Helen Watson (Geiger), 1961
 - f.52 Family Letters to Louis and Helen Geiger, mostly Mrs. George V. Geiger, 1961
 - f. 53 Mrs. C.E. Watson to Helen Watson (Geiger), 1961-1963
 - f. 54-55 Family Letters, Mrs. George Geiger and Friends to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1961-1963
 - f. 56 Family Letters to Louis and Helen Geiger, mostly from Mrs. George V. Geiger, Letters from Mark Geiger, 1962, 1968, 1969
 - f. 57 Richard (Dick) Watson to Helen, Louis, Mark Geiger, 1962-1977

- f. 58-59 Geiger Family, India, Letters to and from Louis Geiger, 1963
- f. 60 Louis, Mark, Helen Geiger, India, 1963-1964
- f. 61 Family Letters to Louis and Helen Geiger, mostly from Mrs. George V. Geiger, 1963-1966
- f. 62 Mark and Marianna Geiger and Friends, 1963-1987
- f. 63 Mrs. George Geiger and Family Friends to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1964-1967
- f. 64 Mrs. George and Charles Geiger to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1965, 1966
- f. 65 Richard (Dick) Watson to Helen and Louis Geiger, 1966-1968
- f. 66 Mrs. George Geiger to Louis and Helen Geiger, 1966-1968
- f. 67 Miscellaneous Family Letters, Genealogical Material, 1966-1983
- f. 68 Helen and Louis Geiger, Family, Friends, 1966-1997
- f. 69 Family Letters, Louis and Helen Geiger, 1967
- f. 70 Family Letters, Mark Geiger to Parents, 1967-1968
- f. 71 Richard (Dick) Watson to Helen and Louis Geiger, 1968-1970
- f. 72 Mark Geiger to Parents, 1968-1980
- f. 73 Family Letters, Louis and Helen to son Mark, England, 1969
- f. 74 Family Letters, Mark to Helen and Louis Geiger, 1969-1970
- f. 75 Family Letters, Mrs. George Geiger, Family Friends, 1969-1972
- f. 76 Richard (Dick) E. Watson, 1969-1976
- f. 77 Geiger Family, 1969-1984
- f. 78 Family Letters, Mark Geiger to Parents, 1970-1971
- f. 79 Family Letters, Mark Geiger to Parents, 1970-1972
- f. 80 History Dept. Chair, Iowa State, 1970-1978
- f. 81 Letters of Friends to Mark Geiger, c.1970-1987
- f. 82 Family Letters, Mark Geiger to Parents, 1971-1973
- f. 83 History Dept. Chair, Iowa State, 1971-1975
- f. 84 History Dept. Chair, Iowa State, 1971-1976
- f. 85 History Dept. Chair, Iowa State, 1972-1979
- f. 86 Family Letters, Geiger Family, 1972-2002
- f. 87 History Dept. Chair, Iowa State, 1973-1979
- f. 88 Family and Friends, 1973-1985
- f. 89 Family Letters, Mark and Marianna Geiger to Helen and Louis Geiger, 1974-1976
- f. 90 Geiger Family, Friends to Louis Geiger, Mark Geiger Family Photos, 1974-1987
- f. 91 Richard (Dick) Watson, Financial Records, 1976-1978
- f. 92 Letters to Mark and Marianna Geiger, 1976-1982
- f. 93 Arizona State University, University of New Mexico, Northern Arizona University, 1977
- f. 94 Louis Geiger Appointed Prof. Emeritus, Iowa State University, 1977, 1979
- f. 95 Geiger and Related Families, 1977-1992
- f. 96 Letters to Mark, Marianna and Louis Geiger, 1978-2002
- f. 97 Helen and Louis Geiger, Richard (Dick) Watson, 1979-1984

- f. 98 Miscellaneous Family Correspondence, 1980-1984
- f. 99 Geiger Family Friends to Louis Geiger, 1980-1986
- f. 100 Geiger Family, 1980-1992
- f. 101 Geiger Family and Friends to Louis Geiger, 1981-1984
- f. 102 Mark and Marianna, Geiger Family, 1981-1990
- f. 103 Geiger Family, Friends, Elmer Ellis, to Louis Geiger, 1982-1984
- f. 104 Geiger Family and Friends, Elmer Ellis to Louis Geiger, 1983, 1984
- f. 105 Veterans Administration of Columbia, Moving, 1983-1988
- f. 106 Geiger Family Friends to Helen and Louis Geiger, 1984-1986
- f. 107 Elmer Ellis, Roland "Smitty" Smith, Vico Salve, 1984-1987
- f. 108 Letters to Mark Geiger, Family, 1984-1990
- f. 109 Geiger Family, Friends to Louis Geiger, 1984-1993
- f. 110 Geiger Family Friends to Louis Geiger, 1984-1993
- f. 111 University of Missouri-Columbia, Honorary Degree, 1985
- f. 112-113 Geiger Family, Friends to Louis Geiger, 1986-1987
- f. 114 Geiger Family, Friends to Louis Geiger, 1986-1988
- f. 115 Letters, Jim Goodrich Letter, 1986-2000
- f. 116 S. Cooper Dawson, Jr., Camp Alleghany, 1988-1990
- f. 117 Geiger Family, Friends, Photo, 1988-1992
- f. 118 Geiger Family, Richard E. Watson Obit., 1988-1992
- f. 119 Geiger Family, Friends to Louis Geiger, 1989-1990
- f. 120 Louis Geiger and Family Friends, 1991-1995
- f. 121 Geiger Family and Friends, 1991-1996
- f. 122 Friends, General, 1991-2002
- f. 123 Geiger Family, Friends to Louis Geiger, 1992-1994
- f. 124-126 Letters of Condolences, Death of Helen Geiger, to Louis Geiger, 1993
- f. 127 Louis Geiger Christmas Letters, 1993-2001
- f. 128 Geiger Family and Friends, 1994-1996
- f. 129 Family Friends to Louis Geiger, 1997-1999
- f. 130 Family Friends to Louis Geiger, 1997-2000
- f. 131 Friends and Family to Louis Geiger, 2000-2002

Diaries/Journals Series

- f. 132 Helen Geiger, Volume 1, 1946-1949
- f. 133 Helen Geiger, Volume 2, 1949-1951
- f. 134 Helen Geiger, Volume 3, 1952-1953
- f. 135 Helen Geiger, Volume 4, 1953-1954
- f. 136 Helen Geiger, Volume 5, 1955-1958
- f. 137 Helen Geiger, Volume 6, 1958-1959
- f. 138 Helen Geiger, Volume 7, 1960-1962
- f. 139 Helen Geiger, Volume 8, 1962-1965
- f. 140 Helen Geiger, Volume 9, 1965-1968
- f. 141 Helen Geiger, Volume 10, 1968-1969
- f. 142 Helen Geiger, Volume 11, 1969-1975
- f. 143 Helen Geiger, Volume 12, 1976-1980

- f. 144 Helen Geiger, India, 1964
- f. 145 Helen Geiger, 1972
- f. 146 Helen Geiger, 1973
- f. 147 Helen Geiger, 1974
- f. 148 Helen Geiger, 1975
- f. 149 Helen Geiger, 1976
- f. 150 Helen Geiger, 1977
- f. 151 Helen Geiger, 1978
- f. 152 Helen Geiger, 1979
- f. 153 Helen Geiger, 1980
- f. 154 Helen Geiger, 1981
- f. 155 Helen Geiger, 1982
- f. 156-157 Helen Geiger, 1983
- f. 158-159 Helen Geiger, 1984
- f. 160 Helen Geiger, 1985

Genealogy/Local History Series

- f. 161 McDonough/Stegner Families, 1803, 1910, 1989, 1991
- f. 162 Hoflander and Related Families, 1806-1991
- f. 163 Geiger/Hoflander Genealogy, 1826-2001
- f. 164 Stegner/Hoflander Families, 1853-1989
- f. 165 Geiger/Grathwohl/Hoflander Families, 1854-1989
- f. 166 Bierbaum, Geiger, Gerhardt, Grathwohl, Hoflander Families, Elmer Ellis Obituary, Photographs, Louis Geiger, Helen Geiger, George T. Hoflander, Photographs, 1854-1994
- f. 167 Billingsville, Missouri, 1855-1930
- f. 168 Military Service, War Veterans Buried at St. John's Cemetery, Billingsville, Missouri, 1863-1994
- f. 169 Military Service, Photos, War Veterans Buried at St. John's Cemetery, Billingsville, Missouri, 1864-2002, Photos, 1942-1945
- f. 170 Dedication Marker, Battle of Wilkin's Bridge, Billingsville, Missouri, Cooper County Historical Society Photos, 1864, 1999-2002
- f. 171 Hoflander, Stegner Families, 1866-1989
- f. 172 St. John's United Church of Christ, Billingsville, Missouri, 1866-1991
- f. 173 Billingsville, Missouri, Grathwohl, Hoflander, Mittelbach, Stegner, Zimmerman, and Related Families, 1879-1989
- f. 174 Boonville, Central Missouri, 1880-1925
- f. 175 Billingsville, Boonville, Missouri, 1880-1930
- f. 176 Hoflander, Stegner Families, 1880-1991
- f. 177 Geiger, Hoflander, Stegner Families, 1907-1991
- f. 178 Helen Geiger, 1909-1946
- f. 179 Boonville, Bunceton, Missouri, Miscellaneous Clippings, 1909-

- 1992
- f. 180 Estate of George V. Geiger, Personal Effects, Oliver E. Geiger, 1910, 1935-1961
 - f. 181 Hoflander, Stegner Families, Memorials, 1916
 - f. 182 Billingsville, McDonough Family, Henry L. McDonough, 1916-1929, 1933-1936
 - f. 183 Billingsville Evangelical Church, Missouri, Odon Guitar Mansion, Geiger Awards, 1916, 1919, 1991, 1992
 - f. 184 Cooper County, Missouri, Miscellaneous Clippings, 1924-1934
 - f. 185 Helen Geiger, Oliver Geiger, 1942, 1946, 1991, 1993
 - f. 186 Helen, Louis, and Mark Geiger, 1946-1960
 - f. 187 Lena Grathwohl Memorial, 1947
 - f. 188 Oliver E. "Sonny" Geiger Memorial, 1947
 - f. 189 Geiger Family, Friends, Genealogical Correspondence, 1984-1994
 - f. 190 Geiger, McDonough, Stegner Families, Photos of Bank in Speed, Missouri, 1989-1992
 - f. 191 Newspapers, Various Obituaries, Ruth Ellis, 1993-2001

Papers and Publications Series

- f. 192 Billingsville, Road, School, Church, Store, Etc., 1850-1985, 1996
- f. 193 Billingsville, Missouri, 1853-1996
- f. 194-196 Billingsville Churches, Homes, 1854-1991
- f. 197 Battle of Wilkin's Bridge, 1864
- f. 198 Research Material for "At Century's Turn," 1877-1955, 1996
- f. 199 Denver High School Talk, 1870s-1910, 1966
- f. 200 "At Century's Turn," 1880-1930, 1993
- f. 201 "At Century's Turn," 1880s-1996
- f. 202 Research Material, 1881-1992, 1993
- f. 203 Research Material, and "The Jazz Age in Cooper County, Missouri," 1897-1938, 1993
- f. 204 "What I Remember About Billingsville, Missouri," 1916-1929, 1933-1936
- f. 205 Jazz Age Research Material, 1916, 1920s-1930s, 1993
- f. 206 "In the Days of Prohibition," Cooper County, Missouri, 1919-1934, 1992
- f. 207 Research Material, Prohibition, 1919-1934, 1992
- f. 208 Billingsville, Missouri, McDonough Family, 1923-1991
- f. 209 Helen Watson (Geiger), 1934-1935
- f. 210 Helen Watson (Geiger), University of Minnesota, 1940, 1942, 1943
- f. 211 "Four Years in the Army," Photos, Elmer Ellis, 1942-1946
- f. 212 Book Reviews, *Joseph W. Folk of Missouri*, 1953, 1960
- f. 213 Book Reviews, Various, 1954-1982

- f. 214-216 Publications, Various, 1954-1982
- f. 217 *The Nonpartisan League*, 1957
- f. 218 *University of the Northern Plains*, 1958
- f. 219 "Professor Macnie's Utopia," Helen Geiger, 1958
- f. 220-221 University of North Dakota, 75th Anniversary, 1958
- f. 222-223 *The University of the Northern Plains*, 1958, 1959
- f. 224 History of the University of North Dakota, 1958, 1962
- f. 225 University of North Dakota, 1959
- f. 226 Schools, Education, Segregation, 1959
- f. 227 Research Notes, Arizona, North Dakota, 1950s-1960s
- f. 228 "The Social Sciences in the Critical 1960s," 1961
- f. 229 Science Instructor's Talk, 1961, 1962
- f. 230 Professors Nevins, Filler, and Silver Talks, 1961, 1964, 1965
- f. 231 "Joseph W. Folk v. Edward Butler, St. Louis, 1902, "Reprints," 1962
- f. 232 Book Reviews, Articles, Southwest, 1962-1977
- f. 233 "Higher Education in a Maturing Democracy," 1962-1978
- f. 234 Jadavpur University Report, Calcutta, India, 1963, 1964
- f. 235 India Talks, 1964, 1965
- f. 236 Colorado College, Alumni Review, 1965
- f. 237 "Muckrakers" Reprints, "Journalism Quarterly," 1965-1968, 1973
- f. 238 Articles, Colorado College, University of North Dakota, 1965-1968, 1973
- f. 239 Founders Day, University of North Dakota, "Students and Their Universities. A Changing Relationship?" 1966
- f. 240 Reviews, 1966, 1967
- f. 241 "The Relevance of the Humanities," 1967
- f. 242 Indian Universities, India, 1967
- f. 243 *The Broadmoor Story, Zoo on the Mountain*, 1968
- f. 244 "Recruiting History Faculty-The Liberal Arts College," 1968
- f. 245 North Dakota Papers, 1968
- f. 246 Miscellaneous Talks, 1968
- f. 247 Remarks on Edgar Wesley Paper, 1968, 1969
- f. 248-250 Geiger Colleagues Reprints, 1968-2001
- f. 251 "Imperialism: The Threat to Existence," 1969, 1970
- f. 252-253 "Revolt Against Excellence," 1969-1971
- f. 254 Research Notes, Colorado, Montana, Utah, 1960s
- f. 255 Research Notes, History of North Dakota, Schools, 1960s
- f. 256 Research Notes, New Mexico, Wyoming, 1960s
- f. 257 "Voluntary Accreditation," "A History of the North Central Association," 1970
- f. 258 75th Anniversary of North Central Association, 1970
- f. 259 "Thomas Jefferson and Our Educational Heritage," 1971
- f. 260 "School and Society," 1971
- f. 261 "The University and Revolution," 1971

- f. 262 "Impending Crisis," 1971, 1972
- f. 263 "Academic Codes and Governance," 1971-1974
- f. 264 "The Impending Crisis of the Liberal Arts Colleges, " 1971, 1979
- f. 265 "Land Grant Universities and the Taming of the West," 1972
- f. 266 "Academic Codes and Governance," School Society, 1972, 1973
- f. 267 Conference Papers, Southwest, 1972-1978
- f. 268 Comment, Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, 1973
- f. 269 OAH, Organization of American Historians, 1973, 1974
- f. 270 Rocky Mountain Social Science Association, 1973, 1974
- f. 271 Orin G. Libby Manuscript Collection, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, 1973-1975
- f. 272 Mechanical Engineering Seminar, 1974
- f. 273 Fourth of July Talk, Ames, Iowa , Rotary Club, 1974-1976, 1981
- f. 274-275 Colleagues Reprints, Kennedy, McCarthy, 1974-1995
- f. 276 Northern Great Plains History Conference, 1975
- f. 277 Western Social Science Association, Arizona, 1976
- f. 278 University of North Dakota, 1976, 1977
- f. 279 "Liberal Education," 1976, 1977
- f. 280 University of Minnesota, University of North Dakota Reports, 1977
- f. 281 Kansas State University Conference, 1978
- f. 282 Research Notes, Sources, Arizona, Etc., 1970s
- f. 283 Helen Geiger, Illness, 1981-1993
- f. 284 Helen Geiger, Memorial Note, 1988-1993
- f. 285 "Don Ramon," Book of Bhutan Articles, 1988, 1997
- f. 286 St. John's Sanctuary, Memorials, 1989-1991
- f. 287-288 "At Century's Turn," 1993
- f. 289 "The Jazz Age in Cooper County, Missouri, The 1920s," 1993
- f. 290 Tom Reeves Literary Work, 1994-2001

Photographs Series

- f. 291 St. John's Billingsville Daily Vacation Bible School, Van Buren High School Graduates, Dinner, 1924, 1985, 1986, 1989
- f. 292 World War II, Louis Geiger, Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois, Italy, 1943-1945
- f. 293 World War II, Italy, Washington, D.C. , 1945-1946
- f. 294 Geiger Family, and Friends, 1954-1970, 1981
- f. 295 Geiger Family, Louis Geiger Normandy, France, Friends, 1968, 1970, 1999-2001
- f. 296 Helen, Mark and Mariana Geiger, 1970s-1980s
- f. 297 Mark Geiger and Family, Louis and Helen Geiger, 1981-1986
- f. 298 Mark Geiger and Family, Louis Geiger, 1987-1991
- f. 299 Hoflander Family House and Barn, 1989
- f. 300 Charles Henry Grathwohl Farm, 1992

- f. 301 India, Louis Geiger, 1996
- f. 302 India, Mexico, Arizona, Louis Geiger, 1996-1999
- f. 303 India, Russia, Switzerland, Arizona, Yosemite, Louis Geiger, 1996-1999
- f. 304-305 Russia, Louis Geiger, 1998
- f. 306 Arizona, California, 1999
- f. 307 Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Louis Geiger, 2000
- f. 308 Ayers Rock, Australia, Great Barrier Reef, Louis Geiger, 2000
- f. 309 Alice Springs to Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart, Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, 2000
- f. 310 Sydney, Australia, and New Zealand, 2000
- f. 311-313 China, Thailand, Louis Geiger, 2000
- f. 314 Mark Geiger and Family, Friends, Louis Geiger, 2001
- f. 315 World War II, Tour of Normandy, France, Louis Geiger, 2001

School Material Series

- f 316 Boonville H. S., Billingsville School, 1885, 1912, 1929, 1994
- f. 317-318 Helen Watson (Geiger) Dance Cards, 1920s, 1930s
- f. 319 Helen Watson (Geiger) Dance Cards, 1930s
- f. 320 University of Missouri Commencement, Final Exam Program for Dr. of Philosophy, 1941-1948
- f. 321 Exam Material, Miscellaneous, 1948, 1983
- f. 322-324 75th Anniversary of University of North Dakota, 1958
- f. 325-327 University of North Dakota, Centennial/Research Material, 1982, 1983

Travel/Teaching Series

- f. 328 Finland, 1954
- f. 329 Passports, Helen and Louis Geiger, 1968, 1974, 1978
- f. 330 Eastern Europe, 1969, 1970
- f. 331 Senegal-Ivory Coast, Ghana Dahomy, Ethiopia, 1972
- f. 332-334 Fulbright Lecturer, Soviet Union, 1977, 1978
- f. 335 Research Grants, Iowa State University, 1977, 1978
- f. 336 Soviet Union, 1978, 1979
- f. 337 Soviet Union, 1979
- f. 338 Athens, Greece, 1980
- f. 339 Germany, 1981
- f. 340 Application for Fulbright/China, 1981-1983
- f. 341 China, 1994
- f. 342 Italy, 1994
- f. 343 Europe, 1995
- f. 344 Europe-Greece, 1995
- f. 345 Greece, 1995
- f. 346-347 Spain, Morocco, Portugal, 1996

Miscellaneous Material Series

- f. 348 Navy WAVES, International Events/Issues, Travel, 1943-1993
 f. 349 Clippings, "Finito!, The Po Valley Campaign, 1945," 1947-2001
 f. 350 University of North Dakota Foundation, V.A. Letters, St. John's, Billingsville, Missouri, 1947, 1988
 f. 351 Helen Geiger, Baby Record, Death Certificate, Sketch of Cartoon Character Pogo, signed by artist Walt Kelly for son Mark Geiger, Etc., 1940s-1990s
 f. 352 C.E. Watson, Helen Watson (Geiger), 1940s-1990s
 f. 353 Lenoir Receipts, 1988-1990, 1992, 1997
 f. 354 Clippings, News Issues, 1994-1999
 f. 355 Wilkins Bridge Historical Marker, 1997, 1998

INDEX TERMS

Subject	Folders	Image
Australia	307-310	y
Bank of Speed, Speed, Missouri	190	y
Bierbaum Family	166	
Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado	243	
Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado	243	y
Civil War--Battle of Wilkins Bridge	170, 197, 355	
Civil War--Battle of Wilkins Bridge	170	y
Cote d' Ivoire	331	
Education	80, 83-85, 87, 93, 94, 111, 199, 210, 218-242, 244-282, 316-327, 335, 350	
Ellis, Elmer (1901-1989)	103, 104, 107, 166, 211	
Ellis, Elmer (1901-1989)	166	y
England	29, 73	
Ethiopia	331	
Europe	343, 344	
Europe, Eastern	330	
Finland	29, 30-32, 35, 36, 328	
France	36	
France	295	y
Geiger family	67, 95	
Geiger, George (-1960)	67	
Geiger, Helen Watson (1909-1993)	1-46, 48-58, 60-61, 63-66, 68-79, 82, 86, 89,	

Subject	Folders	Image
	97, 100, 124-126, 132-160, 178, 185, 186, 209, 210, 283, 284, 317-319, 351, 352	
Geiger, Helen Watson (1909-1993)	166, 296, 297, 329, 348	y
Geiger, Louis G. (1913-2002)	1-2, 5, 14-36, 42, 45, 47, 48, 52, 54-69, 71, 73-75, 80, 82-90, 93-103, 105, 106, 109-114, 117-131, 166, 186, 192, 194, 196-208, 211, 212, 218, 220-242, 244-247, 251-273, 276-289, 320, 322-326, 328, 330-335, 337-347, 350	
Geiger, Louis G. (1913-2002)	291, 292, 294, 295, 297, 298, 302-305, 307, 308, 311-313, 315, 322, 323, 325, 329, 336	y
Geiger, Mark (1949-)	1, 27, 70, 72, 74, 78, 79, 82, 89, 102	
Geiger, Mark (1949-)	296-298	y
Geiger, Oliver (1919-1947)	180, 185, 188	
Geiger, Oliver (1919-1947)	166	y
Gerhardt family	166	
Germany	32	
Ghana	331	
Goodrich, Jim (1939-2007)	115	
Grathwohl family	165, 166, 173	
Grathwohl family	300	y
Grathwohl, Lena (1868-1947)	187	
Guitar Mansion	183	
Hitler, Adloph (1889-1945)	9	
Hoflander family	162-166, 171, 173, 176, 177, 181	
Hoflander family	299	y
India	144, 234, 235	
India	301-303	y
International education	234, 235, 242, 304, 305, 328, 332-334, 336, 337, 340	
Italy	342	
Italy	293	y
Italy, Rome	29, 31	
McDonough family	161, 190, 208	
McDonough, Henry L. (1912-1992)	182	
Mexico	302	y
Missouri, Billingsville	193, 204	
Missouri, Billingsville--Billingsville Evangelical Church	183	
Missouri, Billingsville--St. Johns United	172	

Subject	Folders	Image
Church of Christ		
Missouri, Cooper County	184, 203, 206	
Missouri, Cooper County	184, 203, 206	
Missouri, Cooper County, 1920s	203	
Missouri, Speed--Bank of Speed	190	y
Mittelbach family	173	
Morocco	346, 347	
Nineteen twenties	205, 289	
Portugal	36, 346, 347	
Prohibition	207	
Prohibition, Missouri, Cooper County	206	
Russia	303	y
Smith, Rowland H. (1907-1991)	107	
Soviet Union	332-337	
Spain	36, 346, 347	
Stegner family	161, 164, 171, 173, 176, 177, 181, 190	
Temple, Shirley (1928-)	9	
Travel	29-36, 60, 73	
Vico salve	107	
Vico salve	107	y
World War, 1939-1945	4-11, 169, 211, 295, 315, 349	
World War, 1939-1945	292, 293	y
Zimmerman family	173	