



## **Earl J. Reeves Papers (C4378)**

**Collection Number:** C4378

**Collection Title:** Earl J. Reeves Papers

**Dates:** 1933-2001

**Creator:** Reeves, Earl J., 1933-

**Abstract:** Correspondence (professional and personal), reports, newsletters, teaching material, diaries, education material, genealogical material (Reece and Reeves Families), military service, photographs, publications, scrapbooks, travel and newsletters of a former professor of Political Science, president of Missouri Valley College and co-director (with wife Bette Reeves) of Community Bible Study International (CBSI) for Asia.

**Collection Size:** 5.4 cubic feet  
(143 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English. Some material in Chinese.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is stored off site. Please provide us at least two days advance notice if you would like to research this collection. Call 573-882-1187 or e-mail us at [columbia@shsmo.org](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** Folders 3-12 require permission from donor to view until 2022. Researchers interested in the folders should contact staff for donor contact information.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Earl J. Reeves Papers* (C4378); 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 University of Missouri by Earl J. Reeves on April 5, 2002 (Accession No. CA5914).

**Processed by:** Processed by John Konzal, February, 11, 2019

**Historical Note:**

Earl James Reeves, Jr., was born on March 16, 1933, in Muskogee, Oklahoma, the son of Earl Reeves, Sr., and Bernice Elizabeth Reeves. He had one brother and two sisters. He spent most of his early years in and around Muskogee. During the summer of 1942, his father moved the family to Wichita, Kansas, seeking war production work.

Reeves attended Kansas State University from 1950-1951. While attending there he became involved in a group called Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. He later attended the Friends University, which is a private, non-denominational Christian University in Wichita, Kansas, and attended a number of Inter-Varsity conferences. He also helped create the Wichita Inter-Varsity group. Reeves eventually majored in Bible at Friends University. In his junior and senior years, Reeves attended Wichita University.

In 1954, Earl enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and went through basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. He also took training and later served as an instructor at Tech School at Kelley Air Force Base. In 1956 he was given an assignment at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska, working in Radio Traffic Analysis, and later took an assignment at a camp at Point Barrow, Alaska, and eventually St. Lawrence Island. He was honorably discharged from the Air Force on April 25, 1958. Reeves went back to school, attending the University of Kansas, where he eventually earned his Ph.D. in Political Science in October of 1962.

Reeves met his future wife, Wilma Reece, while attending an Inter-Varsity Fall Conference. The couple were married on August 30, 1959. In 1960 their daughter Barbara was born, followed by their son Greg in 1962. Another daughter, Carolyn, was born in 1964.

Reeves landed a teaching job at the University of Omaha and worked there from 1962-1964. During this time he became involved in civil rights issues and left to work at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. In the spring of 1966, he ran and won a seat on the city council in Berkeley, Missouri. In 1970 Reeves and his family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he got a job working at the University of Tulsa, and became active in the Presbyterian Church teaching Sunday school. Also at this time he ran for the local public school board but lost mainly over the issue of voluntary desegregation in the school system. He became a Director of an off-campus program called "Special Programs in Urban Studies" which was later incorporated into an on-campus undergraduate program.

For some time, Reeves had been interested in the possibility of becoming president of a college and had made applications to numerous colleges, but with no success. However, on August 1, 1983, he became president of Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri. He served in this position until 1984. Afterward, he served the college in various other capacities. He remained a chancellor at the college.

Earl Reeve's wife, Wilma, passed away in 1993, and Reeves remarried Bette Barnett Cochran in 1994. Earl retired from Missouri Valley College and Bette retired as teaching director for the Community Bible Study class in Columbia, Missouri.

Earl and Bette began travelling to Asia starting in November of 1995 doing mission work for an organization called Community Bible Study International (CBSI), becoming the Regional Directors for Asia. Among the countries they worked in are Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, India, and Cambodia. In September of 2001, they turned the leadership of the Asia region over to Peter and Mathilde Hanscamp of New Zealand.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following 14 series:

Autobiography  
Correspondence  
CBSI (Community Bible Study International)  
Diaries  
Educational Material  
Genealogical Material  
Military Service Material  
Photographs  
Reports  
School Board Election  
School Material  
Scrapbooks  
Travel  
Miscellaneous Material

**Scope and Content Note:****Autobiography**

This series consists of a formal autobiography by Earl J. Reeves, Jr., and a PowerPoint style slideshow composed of the autobiographical material. It covers Reeve's birth and early years growing up in Oklahoma; his college years; Air Force days in Texas and Alaska; marriage, family and career; St. Louis years; years in Tulsa; time as President of Missouri Valley College; death of his first wife Wilma and subsequent remarriage to Bette Cochran; retirement and becoming the Co-Director, with Bette of the CBSI (Community Bible Study International) for Asia. Years covered are 1933-1994.

**Correspondence**

This series consists of both personal and professional correspondence. The personal correspondence consists of letters between Earl Reeves and his first wife, Wilma, and between their children. The professional correspondence consists of letters between Earl Reeves and numerous members of CBSI. The years covered are 1947-2001.

**Please note that the personal correspondence is restricted. Please consult a staff member for further information.**

**CBSI**

This series contains Bible study guides; newsletters; instruction manuals; lectures; reports and updates; teaching material; challenges; correspondence; travel; notes; meetings; ministry guides and summaries; policy manuals; directors and class lists focusing on the work of the Community Bible Study International organization for Asia, 1990-2001.

**Diaries**

This series contains the diaries of Earl J. Reeves, Jr., and Frances Reece. Topics discussed are work, school, weather and social events, 1944-1980.

**Educational Material**

This series contains a University of Wichita 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement, 1954, and the Summer Commencement Program, 1959; Reeve's student assistant applications to the University of Kansas; assorted news clippings, with articles on Reeve's tenure as Director of Urban Studies at the University of Tulsa, including articles he wrote; his position as Dean of Chapel at the University of Tulsa; a guestbook from his inauguration as President of Missouri Valley College, along with copies of the *Viking News*, the Missouri Valley College newsletter. Also included is a copy of the *Gallery Report*, a special report submitted by the community relations commission regarding an incident involving the arrest of three black citizens in August of 1972. Reeves was an acting member of this commission while serving as Director of Urban Studies at the University of Tulsa. 1959-1993.

**Genealogical Material**

This series includes a scrapbook containing the birth records of Earl J. Reeves, Jr., along with cards and photographs up through his young adulthood; a hospital birth certificate; school awards and certificates; an autobiography of Bette Barnett Cochran Reeves, including photographs; baby book of Wilma Gale Reece, including birth certificate; birth records; listings of illnesses, and photographs of Wilma and Reece family. 1935-1949; Earl J. Reeves, Jr., Kiddie Club of Muskogee Daily Phoenix membership certificate; Wichita Elementary School Report to Parents, Wichita, Kansas; childhood art; membership in National Honor Society, Wichita High School; cards; elementary school exercises; letters to parents. 1939-1950; letters of Carolyn, Barbara and Greg Reeves to their father, Earl J. Reeves, Jr., written when they were children. Years covered are 1933-1998.

**Military Service Material**

This series covers Earl Reeve's service in the U.S. Air Force mainly while stationed in Alaska, working in Radio Traffic Analysis. Includes movement orders/communications; personnel rosters; special orders; Kelly Air Force Base Military Clearance; a copy of the *Sourdough Sentinel* newsletter, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska; A *Pocket Guide to Alaska*, prepared by the Office of Armed Forces Information and Education, Department of Defense, 1954; travel postcards; Air Force Airman insignia, and discharge orders from the Air Force Reserve, along with report of medical examination, 1954-1962.

## **Photographs**

This series contains photographs of Wilma Gail Reece, also including other members of the Reece family, friends and animals, and Earl J. Reeves, Jr., and Wilma's engagement picture, 1935-1959. The second portion of this series contains photographs of Bette, Earl's second wife, and Earl, along with various family members. 1998.

## **Reports**

This series consists mainly of reports and conference papers written by Reeves while he was the Associate Director of Community and Metropolitan Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Some book reviews and a few published items are also included. Also Tulsa Community Relations complaint reports and a Tulsa Police Department Special Report prepared at the request of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners. This later material was created when Reeve's was a member of the Tulsa Community Relations Commission, 1964-1981.

## **School Board Election**

This series contains studies and statements regarding the issue of desegregation in the Tulsa School District and statements by Dr. Reeves, Professor of Political Science and Director of Urban Studies at the University of Tulsa when he ran as candidate for the Tulsa School Board; League of Women Voters School Integration Plan. Also included are newspaper articles covering the election and magazine articles; community relations newsletters; handwritten notes; correspondence; publications regarding school district financing and improving school programs; a copy of *Impact* magazine, dealing with issues of concern to black Americans; a publication by the Educational Policy and Research Center, and a campaign volunteer handbook, 1972.

## **School Material**

This series consists of the elementary schoolwork, progress reports, workbooks and test results of Barbara, Carolyn and Greg Reeves, the children of Earl and Wilma Reeves. There is also some school work and grade reports of Wilma Reece-Reeves, 1941-1983.

## **Scrapbooks**

This series contains two scrapbooks with letters, cards, newspaper clippings and photographs of Wilma Reece and Earl Reeve's courtship and marriage, along with Wilma Reece's bridal shower, 1959.

## **Travel**

This series consists of the travel logs of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Reece, parents of Wilma Reece, describing their trips to Denver, Colorado, Lawrence, Kansas, the Ozarks, and California to see their children and new grandchildren and to visit with family, 1953-1968.

## **Miscellaneous Material**

This series includes assorted souvenir books; commencement programs; Barbara Reeves newspaper photos and clippings; Carolyn Reeves news photo; obituary of Earl J. Reeves, Sr.; desk calendars; poetry; application material for U.S. Civil Service position; paper art; newspaper

clippings; information material on various Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship conferences. Also included are photographs of members of the Missouri Boy's State for 1967. The remaining portion of this series consists of material dealing with the Presbyterian Church and various political groups and viewpoints contained in newsletters and programs, including the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade and the American Nazi Party. 1938-2000.

### Container List:

f. 1-2	Autobiography
Box 001 f. 1	Autobiography: Earl J. Reeves, My First 65 Years 1933-1998
f. 2	Autobiography: Earl J. Reeves, PowerPoint Version 1933-1999
f. 3-76	Correspondence
f. 3	Correspondence, Family and Friends 1947-1985
f. 4	Correspondence, Personal-Reeves and Reece Families 1959-1985
f. 5	Correspondence, Personal-Reeves and Reece Families 1963-1985
f. 6	Correspondence, Personal-Reeves Children 1969-1983
f. 7-10	Correspondence, Personal-Reeves Family 1976
f. 11	Correspondence, Personal-Reeves and Reece Families 1983-1987
f. 12	Correspondence, Personal-Reeves and Reece Families 1988, 1991
f. 13	Correspondence, Commissioned Lay Preachers 1992-1994
f. 14	Correspondence, Commissioned Lay Preachers 1994
f. 15	Correspondence, Commissioned Lay Preachers 1994-1995
f. 16	Correspondence, Missouri School of Religion 1995
f. 17	Correspondence, CBSI Japan 1980, 1998, Photos
f. 18	Correspondence, CBSI Singapore 1980, 1998-1999
f. 19	Correspondence, CBSI Reports, Notes 1995-1996
f. 20	Correspondence, CBSI Korea 1995-1997
f. 21	Correspondence, CBSI Singapore 1995-1997
f. 22	Correspondence, CBSI 1995-2001
f. 23	Correspondence, CBSI 1996
f. 24-25	Correspondence, CBSI 1996-1997
f. 26	Correspondence, CBSI Japan 1996-2000
f. 27	Correspondence, CBSI 1997
Box 002 f. 28	Correspondence, CBSI 1997, 1998
f. 29	Correspondence, CBSI China 1997, 1998
f. 30	Correspondence, CBSI Japan 1997-1998
f. 31	Correspondence, CBSI Taiwan 1997, 1998
f. 32	Correspondence, CBSI 1997-1999
f. 33	Correspondence, CBSI India 1997-1999
f. 34	Correspondence, CBSI Singapore, Lisa Snively, 1997-1999
f. 35	Correspondence, CBSI Cambodia, Photos 1997-2001
f. 36	Correspondence, CBSI Australia 1997-2001
f. 37	Correspondence, CBSI Expense Report, Meeting Minutes, Notes 1998
f. 38	Correspondence, CBSI China and Taiwan Lynn Hood 1998-1999
f. 39	Correspondence, CBSI Korea 1998-1999

	f. 40	Correspondence, CBSI Operations, Budgets, Reports, Fellowship Dinner 1998-1999
	f. 41	Correspondence, CBSI Singapore 1998-1999 Photo
	f. 42	Correspondence, CBSI China, Chang-Ding Hsiau 1998-2000
	f. 43	Correspondence, CBSI Japan 1998-2000 Photos
	f. 44	Correspondence, CBSI Katong President Timothy See, Henry Hong 1998-2000
	f. 45	Correspondence, CBSI Sabah, East Malaysia 1998-2000
	f. 46	Correspondence, CBSI Hema and Nelson, India 1998-2001
	f. 47	Correspondence, CBSI Hema and Nelson, India 1999
	f. 48	Correspondence, CBSI India 1999
	f. 49	Correspondence, CBSI Singapore, Ex-Pats 1999
	f. 50	Correspondence, CBSI Singapore 1999
	f. 51	Correspondence, CBSI Dr. K. Clement 1999-2000
	f. 52-53	Correspondence, CBSI India 1999-2000
	f. 54	Correspondence, CBSI Notes, Training 1999-2000
	f. 55	Correspondence, CBSI Pakistan 1999, 2000
	f. 56-57	Correspondence, CBSI Singapore 1999-2000
	f. 58-59	Correspondence, CBSI 1999-2001
	f. 60	Correspondence, CBSI China 1999-2001
Box 003	f. 61	Correspondence, CBSI Hong Kong 1999-2001 Photos
	f. 62	Correspondence, CBSI India 1999-2001 Photos
	f. 63	Correspondence, CBSI New Zealand 1999-2001
	f. 64	Correspondence, CBSI Philippines 1999-2001
	f. 65	Correspondence, CBSI Study Guide, Updates, Notes 1999-2001
	f. 66	Correspondence, CBSI Tammy Langley, India 2000
	f. 67	Correspondence, CBSI Singapore, Peter and Mathilde Hanscamp 2000-2001
	f. 68	Correspondence, CBSI Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, East Malaysia 2000-2001
	f. 69-71	Correspondence, CBSI 2000-2001
	f. 72	Correspondence, CBSI General 2000
	f. 73	Correspondence, CBSI Indonesia 2000
	f. 74	Correspondence, Malaysia, 2000
	f. 75	Correspondence, CBSI 2000-2001
	f. 76	Correspondence, CBSI 2001
f. 77-91		CBSI (Community Bible Study International)
	f. 77	CBSI, Bible Study Guides, Chinese 1990
	f. 78	CBSI, Lecture and Study Guides, 1992
	f. 79	CBSI, Financial Reports, Updates, Forms, Statement of Purpose, Brochures, 1993-2001
	f. 80	CBSI, Reports, Correspondence, Travel, Notes, Training 1993-2001
	f. 81	CBSI, Study Guides, Newsletter, Manual, Introduction, Organizational Chart, 1995
	f. 82	CBSI, Asia, Bette and Earl Reeves, Regional Directors 1995-2001
	f. 83	CBSI, Teaching Material, Notes, Budget, Travel, Policy 1998
	f. 84	CBSI, Reports, Meetings, Correspondence 1998-1999
	f. 85	CBSI, Newsletter 1999



	f. 86	CBSI, Study Guides-Galatians, Reports 1999
	f. 87	CBSI, Ministry Summaries, Meeting, Directors, Policy Manual 2000-2001
	f. 88	CBSI, Operations Manual, Reports, Conference Class Lists, Notes 2000-2001
	f. 89	CBSI, Teaching Material, Financial 2000-2001
	f. 90	CBSI, Updates, Reports 2000-2001
	f. 91	CBSI, Teaching Material, Challenges 2001
f. 92-95	Diaries	
Box 004	f. 92	Diaries, 1944-1948
	f. 93	Diaries, 1949-1953
	f. 94	Diaries, 1957-1967
	f. 95	Diaries, Reeves Family Genealogy, 1963-1980
f. 96-97	Educational Material	
	f. 96	Educational Material, Earl J. Reeves, 1954-1994
	f. 97	Educational Material, The Gallery Report, 1973-1975
f. 98-103	Genealogical Material	
	f. 98	Genealogical Material, Earl J. Reeves 1933-1950
	f. 99	Genealogical Material, , Earl J. Reeves, 1933-1954
	f. 100	Genealogical Material, Autobiography of Bette Barnett Cochran Reeves, 1933-1998
	f. 101	Genealogical Material, Wilma Gail Reece, Reece Family 1935-1949
	f. 102	Genealogical Material, Earl J. Reeves 1939-1950
	f. 103	Genealogical Material, Reeves Children, Cards 1980
f. 104-105	Military Service Material	
	f. 104	Military Service Material, Earl J. Reeves 1954-1958
	f. 105	Military Service Material, Earl J. Reeves 1954-1962
f. 106-107	Photographs	
	f. 106	Photographs, Wilma Gail Reece 1935-1959
	f. 107	Photographs, Bette and Earl Reeves, and Family 1998
f. 108-118	Reports	
	f. 108	Reports 1964
Box 005	f. 109	Reports, Book Reviews 1966
	f. 110	Reports 1967
	f. 111-112	Reports 1967-1970
	f. 113-114	Reports 1968-1969
	f. 115	Reports 1968-1971
	f. 116	Reports 1969-1981
	f. 117	Reports, Complaints, Tulsa Community Relations Commission 1972
	f. 118	Reports, Gallery Report 1973
f. 119-124	School Board Election	
	f. 119-124	School Board Election, Tulsa, Oklahoma 1972
f. 125-131	School Material	
	f. 125	School Material, Reeves Children 1941-1982
	f. 126	School Material, Reeves Children, Wilma Reece 1953-1983
	f. 127	School Material, Reeves Children 1953-1983
	f. 128	School Material, Reeves Children 1966
	f. 129	School Material, Reeves Children 1972-1981



f. 130-131	School Material, Reeves Children 1979-1980
f. 132-133	Scrapbooks
f. 132	Scrapbooks, Earl Reeves, Wilma Reece Wedding 1959
f. 133	Scrapbooks, Wilma Reece Bridal Shower 1959
f. 134	Travel
f. 134	Travel, Reeves, Reece Families 1959-1980
f. 135-143	Miscellaneous Material
Box 006 f. 135	Miscellaneous Material, Personal 1938-1980
f. 136	Miscellaneous Material, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship 1949-1953
f. 137	Miscellaneous Material, Political 1952-1983
f. 138	Miscellaneous Material 1955-2000
f. 139	Miscellaneous Material, Anti-Communism 1958-1964
f. 140	Miscellaneous Material, Personal, Photos 1959-1967
f. 141	Miscellaneous Material, Professional 1960, 1961, 1977
f. 142	Miscellaneous Material, Barbara Gail Reeves, Carolyn E. Reeves, Earl Reeves Sr. 1977-1979
f. 143	Miscellaneous Material, Presbyterian Church 1980-1983

**Index:**

Index Term	Folder	Image
Anti-Catholicism	139	
Anti-communism	139	
Christian Religious Education--Asia	13-91	
Christianity	13-91, 136, 143	
Community Bible Study International	17, 35, 41, 43, 61, 62	Yes
Community Bible Study International	17-91	
Education	96, 97, 125-131	
Evangelism	13-91	
Genealogy	1-12, 92-95, 98-103, 106, 107, 134, 142	
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship	136	
Missions--Asia	13-91	
Nazism	139	
Politics	1, 119-124, 137, 140	
Presbyterianism	1, 13-15, 138, 143	
Reece family	106	Yes
Reece family	3-5, 11, 12	
Reece, Wilma Gail, 1935-	1, 2, 106, 133	Yes
Reece, Wilma Gail, 1935-	1-12, 101, 106, 126, 132-134	
Reeves family	1, 2, 100	Yes

Reeves family	1-12, 95, 103, 125-131	
Reeves, Barbara Gail ( 1960- )	1, 103, 125-131, 142	
Reeves, Bette Barnett Cochran, 1933-	17, 43, 61, 96, 98, 100, 107	Yes
Reeves, Bette Barnett Cochran, 1933-	100, 107	
Reeves, Carolyn E. (1964- )	1, 103, 125-131, 142	
Reeves, Earl J., 1933-	1, 2, 17, 43, 61, 96, 98, 107, 121-124	Yes
Reeves, Earl J., 1933-	1-143	
Reeves, Gregory Alan (1962- )	1, 103, 125-131	