



Virginia M. Botts Collection (C4477)

Collection Number: C4477

Collection Title: Virginia M. Botts Collection

Dates: 1890-1992

Creator: Botts, Virginia M., 1904-1994

Abstract: Materials surrounding the involvement of Boone County genealogist Virginia M. Botts in local historical and preservation efforts as well as postcards, photographs, and genealogical research papers and correspondence.

Collection Size: 1.6 cubic feet
(47 folders, 3 oversize items)

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](#). 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 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] *Virginia M. Botts Collection* (C4477); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The collection was donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Virginia M. Botts on October 15, 1970 (Accession No. CA0720). Additions were made by the State Historical Society of Missouri on May 18, 1984 (Accession No. CA2526) and by Virginia M. Botts on October 25, 1984 (Accession No. CA2543), October 6, 1986 (Accession No. CA2619), July 1, 1987 (Accession No. CA2664), February 19, 1988 (Accession No. CA2685 and CA2686), February 26, 1933 (Accession No. CA2950), and June 30, 1993 (Accession No. CA2972).

Further additions were made by Thomas W. Botts on May 1, 1998 (Accession No. CA5762), by an unknown donor on January 28, 2014 (Accession No. CA2950.01), and by the State Historical Society of Missouri on June 29, 2015 (Accession No. CA2619.01).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Virginia M. Botts Collection can be found in the following collections:

[*Botts-Lewis Family Letters \(C0213\)*](#)

[*Daisy Botts Papers \(C2428\)*](#)

[*Thomas W. Botts Papers \(C2686\)*](#)

Processed by: Processed by Aleksandra Kinlen on February 22, 2022.

Historical Note:

Virginia Botts née Mullinax (1904-1994) grew up in Mercer County, Missouri, the eldest daughter of Charles I. Mullinax (1880-1927) and Lulu M. Girdner (1882-1954), with her younger sister Ruth M. (1911-1998). She attended Christian College, now Columbia College, and the University of Missouri before meeting husband Thomas (Tom) W. Botts (1904-1999) whom she married in 1929. From 1929-1941 she and husband Tom lived in Fort Scott, Kansas, where Virginia taught elementary and high school and Tom coached high school and junior college sports. They had a son, Thomas M., in 1941. The elder Tom was hired by the infamous Donald (Don) B. Faurot (1902-1995) to coach track at the University of Missouri-Columbia, which he did until 1972.

While in Columbia, Virginia made her own contributions to the community through her genealogical and conservation work. She was instrumental in preserving Maplewood, the 1877 home of prominent local physician Frank G. Nifong (1867-1955), helping get the home on the National Register of Historic Places. Notably, she was an avid genealogist and historian as well as an author, public speaker, and civic leader, founding the Genealogy Club of Columbia and participating in the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She was further involved with the Boone and Audrain County historical societies, the Missouri State Historical Society, the National Genealogy Society, the Missouri Heritage Trust, the Friends of the University of Missouri Library and the Missouri Library Association, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the PEO Sisterhood. She died in 1994.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following seven series:

Histories
Activities
Postcards
Genealogy
Correspondence
Other genealogical materials
Oversize

Scope and Content Note:

Histories

This series consists of research and histories written about local fraternities, including Phi Kappa Psi, Missouri Alpha chapter (est. 1869); Phi Delta Theta, Missouri Alpha chapter (est. 1870); and Beta Theta Pi, Zeta Phi chapter (est. 1890). Also included is information surrounding the beginning of the PEO Sisterhood, Alpha Zeta chapter (est. 1946). Of note is a PEO Sisterhood minutes book running from 1962-1973 in f. 5. Arranged by organization and then chronologically.

Activities

This series includes correspondence, minutes, programs, and research for the many historic and preservation-related activities that Virginia was involved in throughout her work as a local genealogy professional. She assisted in the restoration of the interior of the historic Lenoir home (known as Maplewood); she was a member of the Boone County Historical Society Board of Directors and the Columbia Public Library Board of Trustees; and she aided in the planning of the Boone County sesquicentennial (1970-1971) and American Revolution bicentennial (1975-1976) celebrations. She was also an advocate for the preservation, adaptation, and remembrance of historical structures. Arranged by organization or effort.

Postcards

This series consists of postcards of sites across Missouri that were collected by Virginia, mostly clustered in the north-central part of the state. Of note are postcards of various early campus buildings at the University of Missouri-Columbia in f. 17. Arranged alphabetically by county.

Genealogy

This series contains research findings, correspondence, and photographs related to Virginia's greater family tree. Almost all of the photographs in this series do have their subjects identified, making the index of this collection particularly useful for the Alley, Botts, Girdner, Jones, and Mullinax families. Arranged alphabetically by last name. *Note: Virginia Botts, née Mullinax, was the daughter of Charles I. Mullinax (1880-1927) and Lulu M. Girdner (1882-1954), granddaughter of Andrew M. Girdner (1848-1893) and Caroline M. Alley (1851-1888), and great-granddaughter of William Alley (1809-1871) and Lulu M. Jones (1814-1883).*

Correspondence

This series holds correspondence from the 1950s to the 1990s between Virginia and those interested in their own family genealogy who have asked for her help with research. These clients were often referred to Virginia by the State Historical Society of Missouri; however, not all queries are related directly to Missouri families. Arranged chronologically.

Other genealogical materials

This series includes genealogical materials not directly connected to genealogical research concerning Virginia's own family or correspondence she had with interested amateur

genealogists across the country. These other Missouri-related materials include images of George M. Bristow, (1855-1943), Eleanor M. Clark (1795-1859), Lawrence G. Hogan (1933-1998), and Robert I. Simpson (1892-1974), as well as of the Perry and Gentry families. Arranged alphabetically by last name.

Oversize

This series contains three photographs, one of a state PEO Sisterhood convention in Warrensburg (c. 1952); one of early members of the Zeta Phi chapter of Beta Theta Pi at the University of Missouri-Columbia (c. 1890); and one of the 2610 AAF base unit college training aircrew featuring Thomas M. Botts also at the university (1944). Maintained in their original order.

Container List:

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f. 3-4	Beta Theta Pi
f. 5-6	PEO Sisterhood
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f. 7	Maplewood home
f. 8	Boone County Historical Society
f. 9	Boone County sesquicentennial
f. 10	Daniel Boone Regional Library
f. 11	Missouri Historic Preservation
f. 12	First Presbyterian Church
f. 13	PAST (Preservation and Adaptation of Structural Tradition)
f. 14-15	American Revolution Bicentennial
f. 16-22	Postcards
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f. 17	Boone
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f. 19	Howard, Jackson, Johnson, Marion
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f. 21	Randolph, Saline, St. Charles, St. Clair
f. 22	St. Louis, Sullivan
f. 23-37	Genealogy
f. 23-25	Alley
f. 26-28	Botts
f. 29-32	Girdner
f. 33	Jones
f. 34-37	Mullinax
f. 38-45	Correspondence
f. 38	1956-1965
f. 39	1966
f. 40	1967
f. 41	1968-1969
f. 42	1970-1973
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f. 44	1979-1986
f. 45	1987-1992
f. 46-47	Other genealogical materials
f. 46	Bristow, Clark, Gentry
f. 47	Hogan, Perry, Simpson

Oversize

item 1	Missouri PEO Sisterhood convention at Central Missouri State College (now University of Central Missouri), c. 1952
item 2	Beta Theta Pi, Zeta Phi chapter, at the University of Missouri, c. 1890
item 3	2610 AAF base unit, college training aircrew, at the University of Missouri, June 3, 1944

Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Image	Mediums
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Alley, Doddridge, 1788-1869	25	yes	
Alley, Dora M., 1872-1932	25	yes	
Alley, Frances E., 1887-1973	25	yes	
Alley, Frank R., 1887-1959	25	yes	
Alley, Hadley J., Jr., 1889-1943	25	yes	
Alley, John M., 1836-1911	23		
Alley, John S., 1870-1899	25	yes	
Alley, Lena N., 1879-1900	25	yes	
Alley, Leo G., 1885-1966	25	yes	
Alley, Louis V., 1873-1954	23		
Alley, Mary J., 1834-1914	25	yes	
Alley, May E., 1894-1977	25	yes	
Alley, McLanson M., 1867-1940	25	yes	
Alley, Milton D., 1929-2017	25	yes	
Alley, Nancy L., 1805-1879	25	yes	
Alley, Ransom A., 1911-1972	23		
Alley, Samuel J., 1808-1875	25	yes	
Alley, Solomon D., 1836-1914	25	yes	
Alley, Taswell L., 1861-1937	25	yes	
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Botts, Green M., 1848-1917	26		
Botts, Mary H., 1895-1973	28	yes	
Botts, Samuel E., 1811-1882	26		
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Bristow, George M., 1855-1943	46	yes	
Callaway County (Mo.)	18		
Camden County (Mo.)	18		
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Index Terms	Folder	Image	Mediums
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Girdner, Helen C., 1906-1973	31	yes	
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Girdner, Lotto M., 1885-1957	30	yes	
Girdner, Louis L., 1871-1961	29		
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Girdner, Maude C., 1900-1974	31-33	yes	
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Girdner, Okey E., 1878-1949	30	yes	
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Girdner, Thomas O., 1883-1971	29		
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Index Terms	Folder	Image	Mediums
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Index Terms	Folder	Image	Mediums
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Index Terms	Folder	Image	Mediums
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