



## Fancher Family Papers (C4768)

**Collection Number:** C4768

**Collection Title:** Fancher Family Papers

**Dates:** 1910s, 1930s-2005

**Creator:** Fancher family

**Abstract:** The Fancher Family Papers contains genealogical records of the Fancher family as well as the Grempp von Freudenstein (later von Grempp) family who married into the Fancher family in 1933. It also contains documents related to the Mountain Meadow Massacre in 1857.

**Collection Size:** 0.4 cubic foot  
(5 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are primarily in English as well as German.

**Repository:** The State Historical of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. 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](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The donor has given and assigned to the State Historical Society of Missouri all rights of copyright, which the donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number *Fancher Family Papers* (C4768); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia.

**Donor Information:** The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Sally S. Fancher on April 7, 2010.

**Processed by:** Processed by Jonathan Phillips, October 17, 2025.

**Historical Note:**

The earliest record of the Fancher family comes from the book of the same title published in 1947 by William Hoyt Fancher (1886-1943), and lists the oldest known Fancher as Catherine Fancher, born sometime in the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Fancher's are believed to have originated from France before moving to the New World, specifically Connecticut, prior to Catherine Fancher's birth. Ever since this time, the Fancher's spread to the states of Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Texas. The Missouri line of the family currently lives in Columbia, Missouri, and one member, Donald W. Fancher, worked various administrative roles with the University of Missouri Office of Extension from 1962 to 1999, when he retired as Vice Provost of the University Extension.

By 1933, a member of the Grempp von Freudenstein (later shortened to von Grempp) family, Vivian von Grempp, married into the Missouri line of the Fancher Family, to John Preston Fancher. The von Grempp family can trace their lineage back to 1425, and while the one branch of the family lived in Gelnhausen, Germany since 1425, the male line there died out in 1853 and the family name continued with Louis (Ludwig) Grempp von Freudenstein, who moved to Vienna, Missouri, in 1850. The family persisted from this point in the Vienna and Iberia areas of Missouri.

The Fancher family was also involved in the Mountain Meadow Massacre of 1857, in which a caravan of roughly 150 people, led by Captain Alexander Fancher, traveled from Arkansas to California to take part in the gold rush. After stopping in Utah, this caravan was attacked several times by the local Native American tribe in the area, until a local member of the Mormon's stepped in and stated that they would help negotiate their safe passing. After the caravan gave up their arms for this safe passage, a mixture of Native Americans and Mormons set upon them and killed all but 17 children, who were abducted by the Mormons. These children were eventually returned to Arkansas years later and, in the 1990s, the members of the Fancher Family and family members of the Mormon man who ordered the massacre, John Lee, met together to construct a new monument to the massacre to replace the original one from 1932.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into one series:

Papers

**Scope and Content Note:****Papers**

The Papers relate to the Grempp von Freudenstein (von Grempp) family, who married into the Fancher Family when Vivian von Grempp married John Preston Fancher in 1933, including genealogy records, photos, certificates, letters, and miscellaneous materials detailing the history of the von Grempp family and related family trees. It also includes a crest found within a heraldry book and a legend around the family's involvement with Frederick Barbarossa.

Also included are documents pertaining to the Mountain Meadow Massacre of 1857, which contains personal accounts, historical notes, newspapers, photos, newsletters, and journal articles related to the event itself and the more recent actions of the families involved regarding the modern monument commemorating the event.

The third section is a photocopy of the book titled *The Fancher Family* by William Hoyt Fancher, who passed prior to the book's publication in 1947. This book pertains to the lineage of the Fancher family up to the fifth generation after Catherine Fancher, the earliest mentioned family member.

Finally, the papers consist of genealogy records, photos, letters, certificates, newspapers, and correspondence of a specific line of the Fancher family whose members currently reside in Columbia, Missouri. This serves as an extension of the genealogical record laid out in "The Fancher Family," and indirectly continues the von Grempp record as well.

**Container List:**

- f. 1 Grempp von Freudenstein Family
- f. 2 Mountain Meadow Massacre
- f. 3 *The Fancher Family*, 1947
- f. 4 The Fancher Generations Part 1
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