

**PRELIMINARY INVENTORY  
K0115 (KA0151, KA0230, KA2192)  
MARY BULLOCK AKER PAPERS**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City). If you would like more information, please contact us at [kansascity@shsmo.org](mailto:kansascity@shsmo.org).

### **Introduction**

The collection contains twenty-nine folders and oversize scrapbooks consisting of photocopies of short stories and newspaper and magazine articles written by Mary Bullock Aker. Her writings cover a variety of topics from the American Revolutionary War to household tips. Also included is Aker's autobiography, two World War II scrapbooks associated with Reginald B. Aker, and materials concerning historic houses in Parkville, Missouri, compiled by Barbara Ann Aker.

Mary Bullock Aker was born on May 19, 1892, in Clay County, Missouri, to William and Cora Chedester Bullock. In 1911, Aker married Ernest Given Aker in Parkville, Missouri. Aker began writing articles for the local newspapers around 1927. Interested in pursuing this work she attended courses in journalism, forums, writing workshops, and joined the Missouri and National Press Women's Association as well as the National League of Pen Women.

During the peak of her writing, Aker sold articles to many local and national newspapers and to adult and children's magazines. Aker earned numerous state and national awards for her work, including a Valley Forge Freedom Foundation Award for an essay entitled, "The American Way of Life." In 1967, Aker had compiled a booklet on the history of Parkville and Platte County, Missouri, which, was sold by the Parkville Business and Professional Women's Club.

Aker was active in a variety of organizations in Platte County, Missouri, during her lifetime. She served as an organizer and officer for the local PTA, the Red Cross, the Women's Association of the Parkville Community Church, the Missouri Press Women's Association, the Parkville Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Platte County Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons. Aker was also an ordained Deacon and Elder in the Parkville Community Church. She was a founder, past president, and executive secretary for the Platte County Historical Society. Aker received a number of awards and recognition for her extensive community work.

Aker died in January 1985, and is buried at the Walnut Grove Cemetery, in Parkville, Missouri.

### **Donor Information**

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Mary B. Aker on June 29, 1982 (Accession No. KA0151). An addition was made on February 16, 1984 by Vera H. Eldridge (Accession No. KA230). An addition was made on February 17, 2014 by Barbara Ann Aker (Accession No. KA2192).

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**Copyright and Restrictions**

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**Related Collections**

*Parkville Presbyterian Church Records (K0134)*

**Location Note**

The collection is stored offsite and will need to be retrieved before viewing.

**Box List**

**Box 1**

Biographies

- Thomas Asbury
- Katherine Lee Bates
- Thomas Coke
- Thomas Jefferson
- James Smithson
- Eleazure Williams
- Clara Barton
- Fanny Crosby
- Ben Holladay
- Helen Hunt Jackson
- Abraham Lincoln
- Manuel de Lisa
- Charles Peale
- Sequoyah
- George Washington
- Women

Tableau script recounting the lives of Pocahontas, Fanny Crosby, Carrie Jacobs-Bond, Dorothy Deemer Houghton, Mary Cassatt, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and Betsy Ross

Collectibles

Customs and traditions

The Flag

History

- Clay and Platte Counties
- Missouri River
- The West

Holidays, Christmas and Halloween

Indians

Organizations

Poems and prose

Telephone Companies

Tennessee

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Unknown Revolutionary Solider

WAACS

Autobiography

World War II, Reginald B. Aker, including clippings, selective service registration cards

Letter from Lt. R. F. Wallace, U.S.S. Idaho to Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Aker, Parkville,

Missouri, concerning his participation in downing Japanese planes off Okinawa,  
1945

“Historic houses and Buildings, Parkville, Missouri”, by Barbara Ann Aker, 1983

**Box 1x1**

Scrapbooks

Reginald B. Akers, World War II, 1943-1945

Clippings, Platte County, certificates, USO, and ephemera, 1942-1945