



## **Ruth Capehart Collection (R0045)**

**Collection Number:** R0045

**Collection Title:** Ruth Capehart Collection

**Dates:** 1831-1833, 1903-1904

**Creator:** Capehart, Ruth

**Abstract:** The Ruth Capehart Collection contains two journals collected by Ruth Capehart. The first journal was written by J.W. Henderson regarding his trips from New York to the pottery manufacturing district in England. The second journal was written by Louisa Raff, a young girl living in Orange Grove, Mississippi.

**Collection Size:** 0.2 cubic foot  
(2 volumes)

**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-Rolla](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla). If you would like more information, please contact us at [rolla@shsmo.org](mailto:rolla@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Ruth Capehart Collection* (R0045); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** The collection was donated to the University of Missouri by Ruth Capehart on September 18, 1980 (Accession No. RA0040).

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Raff Family Papers can be found in the following collections:

*Raff Family Papers* (R0124)

**Processed by:** Processed by John F. Bradbury, February 2, 1981. Revised by Kathleen Seale, March 26, 2020.

### **Biographical Note:**

J.W. Henderson was born in Annan, Scotland. He emigrated from Scotland to New York in 1827. He worked in the pottery/ceramics industry in New York and made trips back to Great Britain to investigate the potteries there.

Louisa Raff was born in 1888 to Norman and Sarah Raff in Orange Grove, Mississippi. Her brother Archibald 'Archie' was born a few years later. Norman, Sarah, and Archie moved to Crawford County, Missouri in the 1910s. Louisa died in 1975 and is buried next to her brother in the Delhi Cemetery in Crawford County, Missouri.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

This collection consists of two journals kept by separate authors. Since the surname "Raff" appears in both volumes, there is probably a connection between the authors, but the exact relationship is not known. Volume 1 is the journal of a J. W. (or J. H.) Henderson. His journal began in New York harbor on August 16, 1831, just after he boarded a sailing ship bound for Liverpool, England. The daily entries for the relatively uneventful twenty-five day voyage contain information regarding Henderson's fellow cabin passengers. After his arrival in England, Henderson made his way to the "potteries" district in Staffordshire. He visited many establishments in the district. Eventually he contracted with a group of workers to accompany him back to the United States.

During his sojourn in Great Britain, Henderson visited friends and relatives in his hometown of Annan, Scotland, rode the new steam railway from Liverpool to Manchester, and did some sightseeing. He attended and described a concert by the Italian violin virtuoso Nicolo Paganini in Manchester, and some dramatic productions in Liverpool. With the contracted workers, his sister, and a gentleman friend along, Henderson embarked from Liverpool for New York on November 6, 1831. This section of the journal ended with the ship's arrival in New York harbor. The journal resumed on April 16, 1833, when Henderson once again sailed from New York, bound for Liverpool. This section ended with the sighting of the Irish coast. The purpose of this voyage was not stated. Henderson's journal also included two poems and notes on the chemical analysis of metallic ores. The entire volume has been type scripted for the convenience of researchers.

Volume 2 is the journal of Louisa Raff of Orange Grove, Mississippi. As indicated by a penciled note inside the front cover of the volume, Louisa began the journal when she was thirteen years old. The account was written in part in an 1886 cash book bearing the name "Alan Ross Raff" on the cover. Part of the journal was written on stationery bearing the same name, and the letterhead indicates that Alan Raff was a dealer of building supplies in Cincinnati, Ohio. Louisa began her diary on June 10, 1902, and continued it through July 1904. The latter part of the journal was written on loose-leaf paper. The diary concerns domestic occurrences, the plantings of various seeds, bulbs and flowers, and the weather.

**Container List:**

Box 001 v. 1 J.W. Henderson journal, 1831, 1833  
v. 2 Louisa Raff journal, 1902-1904

**Index:**

Index Term	Medium
Ceramic industries--Great Britain	v. 1
Great Britain--travel and description	v. 1
Henderson, J.W.	v. 1
Ocean travel	v. 1
Orange Grove (Miss.)	v. 2
Raff, Allan Ross, 1869-1947	v. 2
Raff, Archibald, 1892-1979	v. 2
Raff, Louisa, 1888-1975	v. 2
Voyages and travel	v. 1