



## William Recklein Papers (R0051)

**Collection Number:** R0051

**Collection Title:** William Recklein Papers

**Dates:** 1898-1903

**Creator:** Recklein, William, 1872-1962

**Abstract:** The William Recklein Papers contain copies and originals of family photographs and correspondence. Included in the correspondence are news of family, friends, and daily life.

**Collection Size:** 0.03 cubic foot  
(3 folders)

**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://www.shsmo.org). 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.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given and assigned to the University 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] *William Recklein Papers* (R0051); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Nettie Snyder on September 18, 1980 (Accession No. RA0054). An addition was loaned for copying on June 11, 2014 by the Crawford County Museum (Accession No. RA1607).

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

*Robert L. Elgin Photograph Collection* (R1015)  
*Bittersweet Collection* (R0669)

**Processed by:** Processed by John F. Bradbury, September 3, 1992. Revised by John F. Bradbury July 31, 2014. Revised by Kathleen Seale, March 30, 2020.

### **Biographical Note:**

William Recklein was born in 1874, to a St. Louis German family. He served in the First Missouri Infantry during the Spanish-American War before marrying another south side German, Ida S. Rau, in 1902. A banker, Recklein became an officer of the Bank of Cuba in Crawford County in 1906. He and Ida made their homes in Cuba for the remainder of their lives and were prominent in community affairs until Ida's death in 1955. Afterward, William became the town's most notable benefactor when he bought and donated for public use Cuba's historic public school buildings, including the fieldstone edifice that is now home of the Crawford County Historical Society. Recklein also funded a new library in Ida's memory, dedicated a few months after his own death in 1962.

The Reckleins were among the earliest urban family groups to vacation on the Gasconade in northern Pulaski County. Family members took part in the beginnings of the railroad-based vacation industry by participating in activities such as bathing, boating, fishing, and other recreational activities on the river. Many of the female family members took part in the river recreation and many were competent anglers. John Schlicht, proprietor of one of the vacation destinations frequented by the family, promoted his peaceful millponds as the ideal place for women to learn the art of fishing before venturing out on the wild Gasconade.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Correspondence  
Photograph Album

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

#### **Correspondence**

This series contains letters written during Recklein's service with the First Missouri Infantry at Chickamauga Park, Georgia in 1898. There are also letters written by Recklein to his future wife, Ida S. Rau of Saint Louis dated from 1900-1902. This series is arranged chronologically.

#### **Photograph Album**

This series consists of photograph albums that are digitized and are available on CDs. The photograph albums include family photographs, including an image of William Recklein in uniform. The albums contain photographs of home life and social activities in Saint Louis. Many feature William and Ida in recreational pursuits with Recklein's six sisters and in-laws. Those pursuits included the family's vacation at Schlicht on the Gasconade River in Pulaski County. The images show the family, more women than men bathing, fishing, and boating on the river. There are also images of the buildings, millponds, and spring at Schlicht. Perhaps the most singular photograph in the collection shows the Recklein party waiting for the return train at Schlicht 'station.' The view of the trackside passenger shelter is the only known photograph of

the simple structure that marked the beginning and end of hundreds of summer vacations at a once favored tourist destination in the Ozarks. The series is arranged chronologically.

**Container List:**

Box 001 f. 1 Correspondence, 1898-1902  
 f. 2-3 Photograph album, 1902-1903

**Index:**

Index Term	Folder	Image
Chickamauga Park (Ga.)	1	
Gasconade River (Mo.)	2-3	Yes
Recklein, Ida S. Rau, 1875-1955	1-3	Yes
Recklein, William, 1874-1962	1-3	Yes
Recreation areas--Missouri	2-3	Yes
Saint Charles (Mo.)	1-2	
Saint Louis (Mo.)	1	
Schlicht (Mo.)	2-3	Yes
Schlicht, John	2-3	Yes
United States. Missouri Infantry. Regiment, 1 <sup>st</sup>	1	