



James A. Stevens Papers (R0192)

Collection Number: R0192

Collection Title: James A. Stevens Papers

Dates: 1878-1884

Creator: Stevens, James A., 1859-1897

Abstract: The James A. Stevens Papers contain photocopies of a journal of a missionary for the American Sunday School Union in southeast Missouri. Stevens promoted and organized Sunday school classes in Butler, Madison, St. Francois, and Wayne counties from a base in Fredericktown.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot
(1 folder)

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](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *James A. Stevens Papers* (R0192); 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 Lucile C. Kauffman on April 5, 1984 (Accession No. RA0215).

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, July 3, 1984. Revised by Kathleen Seale, April 6, 2021.

Biographical Note:

James A. Stevens was born in Warwickshire, England, on December 25, 1859. His family moved to the United States soon after the Civil War, and by 1878 were established in Edina, Knox County, Missouri. Several months after marrying Margaret Herriott of Knox County in 1881, Stevens was persuaded to become a missionary for the American Sunday School Union. The Union was a church-planting, home mission group founded at Philadelphia in 1817. It is still active today as the American Missionary Fellowship. Stevens was accepted by the Union and spent several years in southeastern Missouri pursuing its work. After leaving the mission field, Stevens moved his family to Rolla, where he operated a photographic studio. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1897 at Rolla.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

Stevens's journal begins with a few entries for 1878, which note events on the family farm at Edina. There are no further entries until his marriage to Maggie Herriott on February 6, 1881. Regular entries follow thereafter through March 1884, then continues with sporadic notes through November 1884.

Most of the entries in the journal are short, generally concerning his travels for the Union. Most of his time seems to have been spent seeking out "destitute parts" in which to plant Sunday schools. Usually, he would arrive days in advance at a rural school or church, leaving "appointments" which announced his speaking later. He had his best results in Madison and Wayne counties, where he established flourishing schools at Mine La Motte, Syenite, Patterson, Gads Hill, and Williamsville. Newspaper clippings, tipped-in at the front and rear of the journal, provide annual summaries of the work.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 James A. Stevens journal, 1878-1884

Index:

Index Term	Folder
American Missionary Fellowship	1
American Sunday School Union	1
Annapolis (Mo.)	1
Butler County (Mo.)	1
Edina (Mo.)	1
Fredericktown (Mo.)	1
Knox County (Mo.)	1
La Plant, Louis	1
Lewis County (Mo.)	1

Index Term	Folder
Macon County (Mo.)	1
Madison County (Mo.)	1
Missionaries--Missouri	1
Missions--Missouri	1
Saint Francois County (Mo.)	1
Stevens, James A., 1859-1897	1
Rauch, Margaret Herriott Stevens Battles, 1860-1943	1
Stevens, Margaret Isabella, 1883-	1
Sunday schools--Missouri	1
Wayne County (Mo.)	1
West Plains (Mo.)	1