

Information Sheet

R Birch, Emma Lawrence Sankey, 1888-1979.
351 Scrapbook, 1987.
One folder, photocopies.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

This is a scrapbook regarding Emma Lawrence Sankey Birch and her family. Birch was a native of Salem, Dent County, Missouri, and composer of the march, "The Missouri Girl." The scrapbook includes photographs and miscellaneous biographical material on Birch and her family, and a copy of the sheet music and an audio cassette recording of "The Missouri Girl."

Emma Lawrence Sankey was born on 6 May 1890 at Salem, Missouri. She was the daughter of Lawrence L. Sankey, originally of New Castle, Pennsylvania, and Emma A. Sachs of Salem. Her father and Eben B. Sankey, her uncle, came to Missouri in 1872 in connection with construction of the St. Louis, Salem & Little Rock Railroad, which was later operated as the Salem Branch of the St. Louis-San Francisco ("Frisco") Railway.

The Sankeys were noted singers at social and religious gatherings at Salem. Emma also demonstrated an early interest in music. In 1904 she composed "The Missouri Girl," a march or two-step, which was copyrighted and published by the Shattinger Piano and Music Company of St. Louis. There was considerable local interest in her accomplishment, but the amount of commercial success is not known. Emma married William J. Birch at Salem in 1914. She died in 1979.

The Sankey scrapbook was compiled in 1987 by family members in Ash Grove, Missouri, and Tulsa, Oklahoma. The book includes genealogical information on the Sankey and Birch families, newspaper articles regarding the Sankey family and Emma's authorship of "The Missouri Girl," the sheet music and a cassette recording of the composition, and photographs. The photographs, which have been copied on 35mm slide film, include views of Emma Sankey and her parents, and views of the railroad depot and steam locomotives at Salem.

r425 18 November 1988 Dent County Museum Loaned for photocopying

Index Cards

Birch, Emma Lawrence Sankey, 1888-1979.
Birch family [SEE Burch family].
Burch family.
Dent County (Mo.).
Popular music.
Quex Club (Salem, Mo.).
Salem (Mo.).
Sankey family
Women—Societies and clubs