

## ***The* STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of* MISSOURI**

### **R1296 Barnitz, George Alan (1936- ) Barnitz family photographs, ca. 1910-1980s Forty-three photographs (one folder)**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](#).  
If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

#### **PROVENANCE**

George Alan Barnitz of Lake Spring, Mo. loaned these family images for reproduction as accession SHSMO-RA1553 on 29 December 2011.

#### **BIOGRAPHY**

The Barnitz family has a long history in the Lake Spring area of northern Dent County. The community, midway on the road between Rolla and Salem, coalesced around holdings of Dr. John Hyer and the village of Laketon by the late 1850s. By 1856, the Lake Spring post office had been established (it remains open as of 2013) and the village was home to the short-lived Lake Spring Academy. Through the late nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth, it was the most significant community at the boundary between northern Dent County and southern Phelps County, along what is now Missouri Highway 72.

Franklin Hoke Barnitz (1836-1910) was the first to establish his family at Lake Spring. A native of a prosperous York County, Pennsylvania family involved in iron making, coal mining, and the law, he came to settle in Kansas before the Civil War, but had his business as a cabinetmaker cut short. By 1862 he was wagonmaster for the Union army at Rolla, where he was apparently acquainted with other Pennsylvanians, serving under several different army quartermasters in several theaters. Barnitz continued freighting following the war, hauling from the terminus of the Southwest Branch of the Pacific Railroad at Little Piney, later Arlington, from 1867 through 1869 to points in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, and Utah. He left the freight business in 1870 and settled on a thousand acres in Dent County near Lake Spring that he had purchased in 1868. He developed a successful stock farm and engaged in general merchandising and milling at Lake Spring, Lecoma, and Yancy Mill. Franklin Hoke Barnitz died in 1910. His papers have been previously microfilmed and are available as SHSMO-R0164.

The descendants of Franklin Hoke Barnitz have been active socially, civically and politically in both Dent and Phelps counties. His son, George Augustus Barnitz (1906-1977) continued in general farming and stock raising, becoming a breeder of registered Horned Herford cattle in 1920. He served on many county boards and committees, including 24 years on the MFA board and 18 years on the Intercounty Electric Board. George was the first farmer to win the Salem Post Cup for Community Service, received the Balanced Farming Award in 1951, and was president of the Dent County Cooperative Feeder Livestock sale from 1946 until 1977.

George Alan Barnitz (1936- ), son of George Augustus, and Franklin (Frank) Alan Barnitz (1968- ), son of George Alan, now operate the multi-generational Barnitz Farms, Inc. on 2500 acres near Lake Spring, raising several hundred head of commercial black and red Angus cattle. George Alan and his wife Elizabeth raised their 3 children – Laura Anne, Ellen Lea and Frank Alan – on the farm which they incorporated in 1976. George became a livestock agent for the University Extension Service, and was involved in many other civic and agricultural organizations including the Missouri Cooperative Livestock sales, MFA, 4-H, and the local school board. He has introduced many conservation practices on the Barnitz farm, including the creation of innovative large animal composting methods. In 1973, George and his family were named district Farm Family of the year.

Frank Barnitz is the fifth generation to manage the family farm, along with his wife and three daughters. He has served on the University of Missouri Wurdack Farm Advisory Board and has been a leader in the Farm Bureau, 4-H and various other agricultural, industrial and civic associations. In 1995, Frank and his family were named Farm Family of the Year of Dent County. Frank was also active politically, and in 2000 was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives, serving until 2005. In a special election in 2005, he was elected to the Missouri State Senate, in which position he served until 2011.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection consists of twenty-three black and white and twenty color photographs that were loaned for scanning. The photographs include agricultural activities and rural farm life from the early 1910s to 1980s in Phelps and Dent counties. The photographs include subjects such as cattle and hog raising, baling hay, showing livestock and the Lake Spring Homemaker's Club in 1953.

Scans of the images are available.

## **COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS**

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## **PREFERRED CITATION**

George Alan Barnitz family photographs, State Historical Society of Missouri

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