



Morrow and Skaggs Families Papers (R1520)

Collection Number: R1520

Collection Title: Morrow and Skaggs Families Papers

Dates: 1843-1995

Creator: Morrow, Lynn, 1946-

Abstract: The Morrow and Skaggs Families Papers contain materials related to the Morrow and Skaggs families predominantly of Miller County, Missouri. The bulk of the materials is an expansion of Joe Morrow's genealogical compilation, *Ancestors and Descendants* [sic] of *George & Ethel (Skaggs) Morrow*, privately printed, June 1980. The materials include correspondence, family trees, photographs, certificates, and personal documents.

Collection Size: 3 cubic feet
(109 folders, 1,139 photographs, 75 negatives, 5 tin types)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research, but is store offsite. 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: The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Morrow and Skaggs Families Papers* (R1520); 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 State Historical Society of Missouri by Lynn Morrow on August 26, 2019 (Accession No. RA1677).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Morrow and Skaggs Families Papers can be found in the following collections:

Lynn Morrow Papers (R1000)

Jerry Wayne Ponder Papers (R1260)

Processed by: Processed by Kathleen Seale, February 21, 2020

Biographical Note:

Gordon Churchwell Skaggs was born in 1852, to Freeman and Mary A. Harbison Skaggs. He married Mary E. Ponder in 1876, and together they had five children: Theodore, James M., Clyde, Ethel, and Herman. Gordon served as presiding judge in Miller County during the 1910s. In 1922, Gordon abruptly left his home in Iberia, Missouri prompting his family to report him as missing. Weeks later, a letter to his son Herman arrived from Colorado Springs, Colorado containing Gordon's last will and testament. Upon arriving in Colorado, Gordon's son-in-law, George Morrow, discovered authorities there had found a deceased hiker, on the day the letter was posted, on a trail leading up Pikes Peak. Herman identified the man as his father-in-law through the items recovered from the hiker's pockets. Gordon's body was exhumed and returned to Miller County for burial.

George B. Morrow was born in 1885, near Bray's Mill in Miller County, Missouri to William Wiley and Atha Groves Morrow. He married Ethel Skaggs in 1908. George and Ethel had five children: Jewell, Hazel, Jennings, Edith, and Johannas. In 1930, George sold the family farm in Miller County due to health reasons and moved the family to Texas. When his health did not improve, the family moved back to Missouri and settled just outside of Springfield, Missouri on Highway 66. George built a worm-rock building that served as a filling station, café, barbershop, and living quarters. The business operated on Route 66 through the 1930s.

Johannas 'Joe' Burton Morrow was born May 1, 1929, in Miller County, Missouri to George B. and Ethel Skaggs Morrow. Her served in the United States Navy during World War II, and then worked as a truck driver. He eventually owned his own trucking service based out of Springfield, Missouri. Joe married Leta in 1955, and together they had two children. He died on May 18, 1996 and is buried in Miller County, Missouri.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following eight series:

Ancestors and Descendents of George & Ethel (Skaggs) Morrow
Ponder Family
Groves Family
Skaggs Family
Morrow Family
Miller County, Missouri
Ledger
Panoramic Photographs

Scope and Content Note:

Ancestors and Descendents of George & Ethel (Skaggs) Morrow

This series contains materials related to Johannas 'Joe' Morrow's genealogical compilation, *Ancestors and Descendents* [sic] of George and Ethel (Skaggs) Morrow. The book contains

material from six Morrow families from the Bray's Mill and Iberia area in Miller County, Missouri. The series includes the published compilation, correspondence, photographs, certificates and genealogical information sent to Morrow as additions and corrections to the book. Original materials include the marriage certificate of George and Ethel, witnessed by Sat Morrow in folder 2 and the newspaper accounts and letter written by Gordon C. Skaggs in connection to his disappearance and subsequent death located in folder 3. This series is arranged chronologically.

Ponder Family

This series contains genealogical research, photographs, and correspondence pertaining to the Ponder family. Most of the materials were collected or sent to Joe Morrow after the publication of his family history book. Of interest, in this series are the mentions of a bank robbery that took place in 1958 and involved several distant cousins in the Ponder family. Folder 10 contains copies of Miller County newspapers that document the first several months of the robbery, arrest, and initial trial dates. This series is arranged chronologically.

Groves Family

This series contains correspondence, photographs, and genealogical research concerning the Groves family and their connection to the Morrow family. Most of the materials were collected or sent to Joe Morrow after the publication of his family history book. This series is arranged chronologically.

Skaggs Family

This series contains correspondence, photographs, genealogical research, and family newsletters. Most of the materials were collected or sent to Joe Morrow after the publication of his family history book. Some of the correspondence, such as the letters between Teresa Skaggs Jansa and Thomas Neal in folder 36 include information and research on other connecting family lines. These correspondences were then given to Joe Morrow to use in his book documenting the family history of the Morrow and Skaggs families. This series is arranged chronologically.

Morrow Family

This series consists of materials pertaining to the family history of the Morrow family of Miller County, Missouri. These materials include correspondence, photographs, family documents, and family sheets many of which were sent or given to Joe Morrow. There are additions of photographs and written biographies of some Morrow family members by Lynn Morrow. Of interest, in this series are Seldon Morrow's photographs. Seldon Morrow lived and worked for different farms and ranches in Kansas, Oregon, and Wyoming. He also worked for the Robinson Circus bringing water to the elephants. Photographs from the various places he worked can be found in folder 85 and 86. This series is arranged alphabetically by person and then chronologically.

Miller County, Missouri

This series contains correspondence, photographs, and historical research dealing with locations in Miller County, Missouri connected to the Morrow and Skaggs families. These locations include Iberia, Bray's Mill, and Raven's Bluff. This series is arranged chronologically.

Ledger

This series consists of a ledger with entries for George and Ethel Morrow's country store in Sudheimer, George Morrow's truck hauling business, the Morrow's Service Station and cabins on United States Highway 66, the Morrow farm on Tavern Creek, and for Ethel Morrow's home in Springfield, Missouri. The entries include financial and business information for the different entities.

Panoramic Photographs

This series contains two panoramic photographs. Folder 108 contains an image of the Rahe's Auto and Tractor School in Kansas City and the class of 1917. This series is arranged chronologically.

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