



Fennell Family Papers (S0174)

Collection Number: S0174

Collection Title: Fennell Family Papers

Dates: 1858-2014

Creator: Fennell family

Abstract: This collection contains photographs, correspondence, contract books, and a memoir pertaining to the Fennell, Carpenter, and Bland families of Maplewood, Missouri. Materials of interest include photographs of the Floyd Alonzo Fennell's landscaping business, as well as Nancy Fennell Hawkins' memoir: *I Remember When: Memories of Growing up in Maplewood, Missouri*.

Collection Size: 0.6 cubic foot
(12 folders, 2 volume, 160 photographs)

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

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Fennell Family Papers* (S0174); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Nancy Fennell Hawkins on July 20, 2020 (Accession No. SA4466).

Processed by: Processed by Zachary Palitzsch, August 2020.

Historical Note:

The Fennell family's history begins in Sunny Hill, England, with Jeannette Caroline Hakes, 1850-1926, and Robert Carpenter, 1846-1884. Together, Jeannette and Robert had six children: Robert William (Bill) (1873-1953); Agnes Jane (Nessie) (1876-1973); twins Percy John (1878-1950) and Julian Henry (Juke) (1878-1949); Katherine Evelyn (Kate) (1880-1963); and Jeannette Caroline (Janie) (1882-1973). Following Robert's death, Jeannette remarried Samuel Bland (1846-1923). They had one child together named Mietje (1889-1983). Together with Mietje and the rest of the Carpenter children, Jeannette and Samuel moved from England to Maplewood, Missouri in 1891.

After moving to Maplewood, Samuel Bland began working as a contractor for Maplewood Planing Mill and Stair Company, which was located on Sutton Boulevard between Hazel Avenue and Manchester Road. Samuel and Jeannette lived in Maplewood until their children were grown, then bought and moved to a farm Bismarck, Missouri with Mietje in 1919.

The rest of the family remained in the Maplewood and Webster Groves areas. Robert William (Bill) married Daisy Hall and they had one daughter named Daisy. Agnes Jane (Nessie) married Edwin Clark and had a son, Will, who died at age five. Percy John married Amelia Traub in 1904, and they had no children. Julian (Juke) did not marry. Jeannette Caroline (Janie) married Leo Moore in 1904, and had no children. Katherine (Kate) married Floyd Alonzo Fennel (1880-1923) in 1904, and they had five children: Jeannette (Jane); Floyd (Bud) (1907-1981); Robert William (1909-1986); Katie (1911-2006); and Evelyn (1914-1993). Mietje remained unmarried and stayed on the farm after Samuel and Jeannette died in 1926 and 1928, respectively.

All of the Carpenters' spouses died at a relatively young age. Following their spouses' deaths, most of them moved to Bismarck, Missouri to live with Mietje after Samuel and Jeannette Bland died. In the late 1920s, shortly following their mother's death, Juke, Bill, and Bill's daughter Daisy moved in with Mietje. Later, in the 1940s, Percy moved in with Mietje as well, while Nessie and Janie built a house near the Bland farmhouse in Bismarck. Kate's husband Floyd Alonzo Fennell also died relatively young in 1923, but Kate was the only Carpenter sibling to remain in Maplewood with her five children.

Before his death, Floyd Alonzo Fennell owned and operated F. A. Fennell Landscape and Gardener, a landscaping business in Maplewood, Missouri. The Fennells owned a large property in Maplewood located on Laclede Station Road and Rannels Road that served as their home and business front. Their house was on the northeast corner; the southeast corner was where they had their stables for the several horses and wagons they owned to haul equipment, sod, and plants for the landscaping business. F. A. Fennell also employed three African American workers named Speck, Jock, and Bishop. In addition to his landscaping business, Floyd was a deputy sheriff for St. Louis County. Kate's brother Percy John also owned a landscaping business named P. J. Carpenter Florist and Landscape Gardening and often worked with Floyd.

Kate remained on the property following Floyd's death in 1923. Jane married Julius (Jule) Wolf, Bud Married Ruth Bonzon, Robert married Dorothy Lane, Katie married James Wirick, and Evelyn married Henry Schall. Jane and Jule moved in with Kate and took care of her until she died in 1963.

Robert William Fennel married Dorothy Lane, 1910-2007, in 1931 and had four children: Robert F. (Bobby) (1932-1985); Nancy, (1936-); Diane, (1938-2015); and Sandy, (1943-1976). Robert

had several different jobs, many of them involving grocers in the Maplewood area including Kopman Grocery, Kramer Foods, and St. Louis Dairy. Robert followed in his father and uncle's footsteps and owned his own landscaping business named R. W. Fennel Landscaping, which he managed as a supplement to his other jobs. He was also a security guard for Emerson Electric and a Sergeant on the Maplewood Police Department. During his time as a police officer, he worked as a guard for Golde's Department Store. His final job was as an inspector for Cupples Aluminum Products on Hanley Road. Robert and Dorothy Fennell lived on Valley Avenue in Maplewood their entire married life. Their youngest daughter Sandy died in 1976 at the age of 33 and left behind four fatherless children, which Dorothy took in and raised. As of 2020, Nancy is the only living daughter of Robert and Dorothy Fennell. Nancy is married to Van Hawkins and lives in Kansas.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged chronologically into eleven folders, two volumes, and an oversized folder.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains a contractor's estimate book, correspondence, memoranda, a diary entry, a memoir, and photographs related to the history and genealogy of the Fennell family of Maplewood, Missouri. Included in the collection is Nancy Fennell Hawkins' autobiography *I Remember When: Memories of Growing up in Maplewood, Missouri*, as well as Samuel Bland's daily journal which Bland mostly used as a planner for his day-to-day actions on his farm in Bismarck, Missouri. Materials of note include correspondence to and from Samuel, Jeannette, and Mietje as well as a daily contractor journal from 1891 and 1892 that documents Samuel's contracting job in England. The journal also documents the family's departure from England, arrival in New York, and journey to St. Louis. Additionally, the family papers include photographs of Jeannette and Samuel Bland as well as the Carpenter and Fennell families. The photographs remain mostly undated, and some include notes from Nancy Fennell Hawkins describing the image and its subjects. The materials in this series date from 1858 to 2014 and are arranged chronologically.

Container List:

Box 001	f. 1	Correspondence and booklets, 1858-1949
	f. 2	Greeting cards, 1888-1940
	f. 3	Samuel Bland, contractor's estimate and handbook, 1907-1923
	f. 4	Newsletters and newspaper clippings, 1919-1944
	f. 5	Robert W. Fennell, correspondence, memoranda, and a diary entry, 1930-1974
	f. 6	<i>The Sign of a Good Town: Bismarck Centennial, Inc., 1868-1968</i> , 1968
	f. 7	<i>Maplewood: A Look at the Past</i> , 1983
f. 8-10	Photographs, 174.1-174.73, 1907-1985	
Box 002	f. 11	Photographs, 174.74-174.160, 1907-1985
	v. 1	Samuel Bland, contractor diary and daily journal, 1891-1892
	v. 2	<i>I Remember When: Memories of Growing up in Maplewood, Missouri</i> , by Nancy Fennell Hawkins, 2014

Oversize f. 12 Bland marriage certificate, Robert Fennell certificates and guard
row 11, operations, 1885, 1945-1951
cabinet 1,
drawer 4

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Bismarck (Mo.)	6, 8-11	Yes
Bland family--History	1-12, v. 1-2	Yes
Carpenter family--History	1-12, v. 1-2	Yes
Contractor's operations	3, v. 1	
Emerson Electric (Firm)	5, 12	
Fennell, Dorothy Edith Lane, 1910-2007	8, v. 2	Yes
Fennell family--History	1-12, v. 1-2	Yes
Hawkins, Nancy L.	8, v. 2	Yes
Landscape gardening	1, 8, 10	Yes
Landscaping industry	1, 8, 10	Yes
Maplewood (Mo.)	1-12, v. 1-2	Yes
Maplewood (Mo.)--History	7, v. 2	Yes