

S0577 Greenwood Cemetery Records, 1904-2004

62 Folders, 503 Photographs, 1 DVD, 8 VHS tapes, 2 Audiocassettes, 1 Roll Microfilm

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

Greenwood Cemetery, the St. Louis area's oldest nonsectarian commercial cemetery for African-American burials, was founded by Herman Krueger in 1874. An estimated 50,000 individuals were buried in the cemetery, including many notables in the community. The National Register of Historic Places listed the site in 2004.

Krueger's son-in-law and his family owned and maintained the property until the 1980s when they sold it to a local politician, Solomon Rooks. Unable to operate it profitably, Rooks allowed the cemetery's condition to deteriorate. A not-for-profit group, Friends of Greenwood Cemetery, organized cleanup efforts and led a successful attempt to have ownership transferred first to St. Louis County and then to the Friends organization itself.

Researcher and author Kevin Belford recovered the historic cemetery records in Mr. Rooks' possession On June 21, 1997. An additional donation was made on February 2, 2012 by the Glenn Black Laboratory Archaeology.

This collection contains copies of existing burial records and minutes of the board of directors, newspaper clippings and legal documents discussing the property transfer, and research materials added by individuals who participated in the efforts to preserve the property. Collection includes oral histories with individuals who observed burials at Greenwood.

Custodial History: The Greenwood Cemetery Records were originally recorded under additional collection number S1077. In 2022 the collections' records were incorporated into S0577 and the physical materials were processed together.

Processed by: Processed by WHMC Staff, date unknown. Finding aid updated by Erin Purdy, April 2022.

Alternate Forms Available: Images from this collection are available online at the State Historical Society of Missouri Digital Collections: <https://digital.shsmo.org>.

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Box 001	f. 1	Map copies of Public Grounds, Family Lots, Cremains Gardens and Monuments, 1893- 1976 and Deed, 1996
	f. 2	News clippings and court records regarding Solomon Rooks' ownership of Greenwood Cemetery
	f. 3	Printouts from microfilm: Volume 2, Financial Ledger, 1951-1961
	f. 4	Printouts from microfilm: Volume 3, Greenwood Cemetery Record Book, 1940-1966
	f. 5	Printouts from microfilm: Volume 4, Greenwood Cemetery Record Book, 1967-1992

	f. 6	Printouts from microfilm: Volume 5, Burials Book, 1971
	f. 7	Printouts from microfilm: Volume 6, Funeral Records Book, 1986-1989
	f. 8	"Greenwood Cemetery - An Uneasy Resting Place" - research paper by Ray Nichols, 2000
	f. 9	Greenwood Notes from Margaret Archambault
f. 1		Oral Histories, 1997
	f. 1, T-577	T-577.1a & T577.1b - Margaret Archambault 5-577.2 - Barbara Prater. Oral histories conducted by Ann Morris of WHMC with individuals who grew up in homes adjacent to the cemetery
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African American Cemeteries
Cemeteries
Rooks, Solomon