

**PRELIMINARY INVENTORY**  
**SP0036 (SPA0043)**  
**RAY GENE AND BETTY RICHARDSON PAPERS**

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**Introduction**

Approximately 20 cubic feet

Ray Gene Richardson was born January 1, 1922 in Mount Vernon, Missouri to Hal Ray and Laura Jane (Butrick) Richardson. He graduated from the Mount Vernon High School in 1940 and went to work for the Carnation Company. Ray married Betty Jo Loe on October 5, 1942. Four days later Ray left for military service in the Army Air Force. He served as a T-4 during World War II in Europe and was also stationed in Washington, Utah, Iowa. While overseas he served as a truck mechanic and driver in North Africa and Italy, but also served in England and Germany.

Betty Jo Loe was born September 10, 1923 in Missouri to James A. and Alice E. (Coghill) Loe. Betty grew up in the coal mining community of Shibleys Point, Adair County, Missouri. Her family came to Mount Vernon following her fathers work as a construction foreman for Highway 174. She graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1942, marrying Ray that fall. During Ray's service overseas, Betty worked riveting wings for small planes at a plant in Wichita, Kansas. Together the couple had one child, Joe R. Richardson.

After the war Ray and Betty moved to Saint Louis where he worked on the expansion of the Lambert Air Field. He graduated from the Baily Radio & TV School after which he and Betty returned to Mount Vernon where they owned and operated Ray's Radio and TV. Later in life he worked for Carnation Milk Company and General Electric as an electrician until his retirement in 1984. Ray and Betty were active in local history research and historic preservation especially of cemeteries. Ray died on June 18, 2017 and is buried in Mount Vernon. Betty died on December 30, 2017 and is buried alongside Ray in Mount Vernon.

**Notes**

The collection contains materials created and collected by Ray Gene and Betty Richardson. Many of the papers are personal papers of the couple but there are additions of materials created by family members such as Cyrus Truitt of Novinger, Missouri.

**Donor Information**

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Katherine Richardson on July 27, 2018 (Accession No. SPA0043).

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**GENE AND BETTY RICHARDSON PAPERS**

**Box List**

**Box 1**

Newspapers  
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Photographs – veterans’ honor flight  
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Ray Richardson – military  
Ray Richardson – awards and recognition  
Historic preservation  
Correspondence – genealogy research  
Photographs – Dr. Hayward wedding  
Photographs – Ray and Betty Richardson  
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Photographs – Mount Vernon  
Photographs – Richardson family  
Photographs – Mount Vernon  
Photographs – unidentified  
Photographs - Butrick, Bowling, Merwin, Norton families  
Photographs – World War II (copies)  
Photographs – Hal Richardson family  
Photographs – unidentified  
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Photographs - Clinton Richardson  
Photographs  
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Ray Richardson - Photographs - Cemetery work  
Ray Richardson - Military - Photographs  
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**Box 3**

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Gotism Primitive Baptist Church constitution and minutes, 1890  
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Richardson family - notebook  
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Loe family - genealogical materials compiled by Pat Darrow  
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Coghill family - Susan Coghill estate, 1883  
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Coghill family  
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Richardson - Betty Richardson DAR documentation  
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Correspondence - miscellaneous, 1988  
Genealogy - Bradey, Herriford, Branaman, and Donaldson  
Branaman family - James A. Branamon, military records  
Genealogy - Branaman and Loe, compiled by Yolanda Branaman Kish  
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Interview - Hobson, Effie Mae, circa 1960  
Feather family  
Bowling family - Cheryl Grusendorf correspondence, 1999-2001  
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Mount Vernon - Schools  
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Lawrenceburg Mining Company Stock Certificate, 1892  
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Photographs - Mount Vernon, town square, 1950s  
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Miscellaneous Local History  
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Loe family - Lawrence Loe cemetery information  
Boy Scout, Bird House Photograph ID, 1931  
Genealogy - Leanne Cemetery, Barry County  
Mount Vernon - City Cemetery, unmarked graves  
Cemeteries in Barry, Lawrence, and Stone counties  
Neely Cemetery, Lawrence County  
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Mount Vernon - Toliver Cemetery  
Lawrence County - Goodspeed name list  
Southwest Missouri maps with notes  
Maps  
Green Cemeteries, Kay Book  
Ray Richardson - Tombstone Repair  
Directory - Southwest Missouri Amateur Radio Club, 1967  
Stone County - Death records list, 'B' surnames

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Richardson family - miscellaneous documents  
Richardson family - Randolph Richardson data, compiled by Patricia Lee  
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Richardson family - Byron Adams and Amanda Richardson  
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Correspondence - Ross Cameron, 2006  
Richardson family - Virginia  
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Genealogy - Correspondence - Connie Stevens on Gullet and Buttrick families  
Merwin family  
Richardson family - Correspondence - Patricia Lee, 2000-2004  
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Richardson family - Correspondence - Connie Ratcliff, 2001  
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Richardson family - Name list  
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Bowling family - notebook  
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Merwin family - Miles Merwin Association publications, 1982-1988  
Merwin family - biographies for family book  
Correspondence - Lynette Lewis - African Americans, Mount Vernon  
Richardson family - history and Ray Richardson family tree  
Richardson family - Correspondence - Larry Richardson, 2000-2002  
Richardson family - Correspondence - Gary Richardson on Leroy "Lee" Richardson,  
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Ray Richardson - World War II - book manuscript  
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Ray Richardson - World War II - 915th reunion group newsletter, 1961-2000  
Ray Richardson - World War II  
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Telephone directory, Northeast Missouri Rural Telephone Co., 1965  
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Genealogy - The Family of Coghill 1377 to 1879: With some Sketches of Their Maternal Ancestors, The Slingsbys, of Scriven Hall, 1135 to 1879 by James Henry Coghill, no date  
Genealogy - The Family of Coghill Continued by William Hawes Coghill, 1956  
Truitt - photographs, 1905-1941, no date  
Truitt - Cyrus Truitt - Novinger history, 1908-1971  
Truitt - Cyrus Truitt - Truitt family, 1888, 1909-1978  
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Photographs - Fox family, 1895-1930  
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Negatives - California trip, 1960  
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Richardson - Ray Richardson - Military - World War II images, 1941-1945  
Richardson - Ray Richardson - Military - Correspondence, 1944  
Richardson - Ray Richardson - Military - Memoir, 2010, no date  
Richardson - Ray Richardson - Personal Papers - awards, 1958-1980  
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Buttrick-Bowling - family group record  
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The University of Missouri - Rolla: Centennial Year, 1870-1970, commencement program, 1970  
Vehicles  
Richardson - Ray Richardson - Personal papers - National Parks brochures, 1959-1974  
Richardson - Ray Richardson - Personal papers - The Annual, Sedalia High School yearbook, 1922  
Butrick - "Buffalo Trail Plowed Under" The story of Enos Butrick, 1967  
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Genealogy - Research - Newspaper articles  
Genealogy - Research - Newspaper articles  
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Lawrence family - Addie Lillian Lawrence memorial book, 1966  
Lawrence family - John E. Lawrence memorial book, 1965  
Loe family - James Loe probate  
Truitt - Cyrus Truitt - Our Family History  
Genealogy - Resource - Heritage of the Hockers of Northeast Missouri, 1716-1974, 1975  
Genealogy - Lawrence and Abernathy family sheets  
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Truitt - Cyrus Truitt notebooks  
Truitt - Cyrus Truitt - History of Novinger draft  
Truitt - Cyrus Truitt - History of Novinger, 1972  
Mount Vernon - history, Founder's Day  
Mount Vernon - Alumni newsletter, 2009  
Photographs - Fox family  
"The Turner Richardson Family From Franklin County, Virginia," by Lee and Marshall,  
2003  
"The Amazing Story of the Loes in America," by Sharon Taylor, 1982  
Photographs - Henry C. Truitt store, 1908  
Maps - Mount Vernon, Missouri  
Genealogy - Crane Community Cemetery index, no date  
American Red Cross, First Aid textbook, 1940  
Ray Richardson - Military  
Ray Richardson - How to pamphlets, 1970s  
Ray Richardson - manuals, radios, 1942-1948

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Yearbooks - Mountaineer, 1965-1966  
Missouri, Drivers' Guide  
Ray Richardson - Memoirs of World War II, 2015

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Family videos - trips, 1985, 1992

**Box 16**

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**Box 17**

CDs - Family genealogy, family tree data

**Box 18**

CDs - Family genealogy, family tree data

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Oversize - Cyrus Truitt 48-star American flag  
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Oversize - Salem Cemetery burial map

**Box 21**

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Panorama – Missouri Boys State, 1946

Panorama – Annual Session Missouri Division of National Anti-Horse Thief Association,  
1926

Panorama – Camp Crowder, Area 19C, 1942