



Turner Family Papers (SP0041)

Collection Number: SP0041

Collection Title: Turner Family Papers

Dates: 1894-1925

Creator: Turner, Thirza Smeardon, 1877-1958

Abstract: The Turner Family Papers consists of correspondence between Thirza Smerdon Turner, her daughter Leona Turner, and other family and friends. The letters discuss travel, social interactions, and local gossip.

Collection Size: 0.9 cubic foot
(9 folders)

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-Springfield](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at springfield@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] *Turner Family Papers* (SP0041); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Springfield].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by The Power's Museum on November 1, 2018 (Accession No. SPA0048).

Processed by: Processed by Erin Smither, February 21, 2018

Biographical Note:

Thirza Smerdon was born June 12, 1877, in England, the daughter of William Smerdon and Emily Pitts. She was the final child of six, one of whom died in infancy. Her mother, Emily, died in 1878, when Thirza was an infant. Her parents had been married for twelve years. William Smerdon and two of his children, John and Thirza, boarded the ship Aurania, and arrived in New York, City in September 1894. In the 1900 census they were living in Pierce City, Missouri. Thirza married James "Sam" Turner on November 1, 1900. The couple remained in Pierce City and by 1910 had three children: Leona, Ralph, and Walter. Thirza cared for her children and helped her husband run the family farm. Thirza passed away on October 10, 1958, at the age of 81. Sam lived eleven more years, passing away on September 18, 1969, at the age of 90. They are buried in the Pierce City Cemetery in Pierce City, Missouri.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in chronological order.

Scope and Content Note:

The Turner Family Papers consist of correspondence between Thirza Smerdon Turner, her daughter Leona Turner, and other family and friends. The correspondence covers the time period from 1894 when Thirza was living with her family in England to their immigration to the United States and settlement in Pierce City, Missouri. The letters of Thirza's daughter Leona are included and cease in 1925. The correspondence describes their personal experiences, relationships with neighbors and friends, and activities in which they participated. The papers have been organized chronologically.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1-9 Correspondence, 1894-1925

Index:

Index Term	Folder
Lawrence County (Mo.)	1-9
Pierce City (Mo.)	1-9
Turner, James Sam, 1878-1969	1-9
Turner, Leona, 1903-2001	4-9
Turner, Thirza Smerdon, 1877-1958	1-9