



## Shirey Family Papers (SP0051)

**Collection Number:** SP0051

**Collection Title:** Shirey Family Papers

**Dates:** 1855-1959

**Creator:** Shirey, Etta Florence, 1871-1957

**Abstract:** The Shirey Family Papers contain documents belonging to Etta Shirey and her family, including letters and postcards addressed to Etta, two diaries she kept, and her childhood school notes. The collection also contains publications that the Shirey family saved.

**Collection Size:** 0.4 cubic foot  
(21 folders, 2 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-Springfield](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [springfield@shsmo.org](mailto:springfield@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Shirey Family Papers* (SP0051); 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 Harriet Manuel on May 16, 2019 (Accession No. SPA0058).

**Processed by:** Processed by Erin Smither and intern, May 17, 2019

**Biographical Note:**

Etta Florence Shirey was born in Elkhart, Indiana, on July 18, 1871, to Daniel Shirey and Mary Agnes Taylor Shirey. She was the eldest of four children. Her sister Emma died in 1893 when she was sixteen years old. She had two brothers, Raymond and Albert. Her family moved to Johnson Township in Polk County, Missouri, sometime before 1900, where her father and Raymond worked the family farm. After Daniel's death in 1909, Etta lived with her mother until 1920, when her mother passed away, after which Etta worked the farm on her own.

Etta's brother Albert met his wife, Kathleen Walker, after the family moved to Polk County and they were married on July 26, 1898. Not long after, Albert and Kathleen moved to Park County, Montana where they had a daughter, Ruby Jane Shirey, in 1899. Around 1903, the family moved to Cody, Wyoming where Albert owned his own company: A.S. Shirey, Baggage, Express and Freight Transfer. Albert and Kathleen had another daughter in 1906, Opal A. Shirey. Albert passed away the same year and was buried in Riverside Cemetery in Cody, Wyoming.

Etta's brother Raymond lived in Johnson, Missouri with his family. On November 23, 1913, he married Claudia M. Reaves and together they had a son, James Daniel Shirey, who was born January 12, 1916. Raymond died in 1956. Etta died the next year and was buried near her brother in Plum Grove Cemetery in Humansville, Missouri.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following five series:

- Correspondence
- Diaries
- Personal Documents
- Artwork
- Publications

**Scope and Content Note:****Correspondence**

This series consists of letters and postcards addressed to Etta Shirey from her friends and family. The bulk of the letters were written between 1903 and 1906, but several were written as late as 1944. Etta corresponded largely with friends and cousins, including her cousin Josie who always stamped her letters with a floral design, and chose decorative stationary that corresponded with the season. Burnetta Johnson, a friend from Hollister, California, also corresponded regularly with Etta. A gifted seamstress, Burnetta updated Etta on her sewing projects, often including scraps of the fabric she had recently used. Etta corresponded with two friends in Wyoming, Will and Nate, who kept her updated on her brother Albert and his family. The series also contains communication and receipts from the Sears, Roebuck and Co., two coffee ads and two ads for magazine subscriptions. One of the renewal notices, sent from St. Louis, Missouri in 1904, was

sent in a decorative envelope in honor of the St. Louis World's Fair. The letters have been arranged chronologically, and the postcards have been arranged by subject.

### **Diaries**

This series consists of the diaries of Etta Shirey. Etta kept the diaries from 1918 to 1923 and 1938 to 1943. Etta comments on her social interactions with friends and neighbors, as well as describing daily weather conditions, or purchases she made on shopping trips. She does not comment on world events, and her entries seem focused exclusively on her own experiences. The diaries are arranged chronologically.

### **Personal Documents**

This series consists of two of Etta's school notebooks from 1892, where she recorded class notes on topics like American History, chemistry, and moral philosophy as well as Albert's report card for the 1887 school year. There is also a perfect attendance certificate from April 18, 1919 addressed to Erma Fajem and a note of appraisal written May 28, 1880, which valued the Shirey family's property of 40 acres at \$1,000. The documents are arranged by subject.

### **Artwork**

This series consists of two prints. One is of Iohannes Baptista Homann's map of the Americas c. 1737. The other is a print of the painting "Boy with the Rabbit" by Henry Raeburn. It has been mounted on cardboard.

### **Publications**

This series consists of publications owned by the Shirey family. This series includes *Lydia E. Pinkham's Private Text-Book Upon Ailments Peculiar to Women*, a book published in the 1880s that gives women health advice, a Cow Brand Soda cookbook from 1900, and *Mitchell's Map of Virginia*. These items are located in folder 16. Periodicals in this series include a book of stories published by *The People's Handbook Series* in 1893, an issue of Fair Play, Missouri's newspaper *Fair Play Advocate* from February 27, 1903, and a copy of *The Penny Magazine* from July 1900. One section titled "What Next?" featuring reader-submitted ideas for inventions, includes a proposal to use wind power to generate electricity for farms. An Oversize copy of a 1926 issue of *Needlecraft Magazine* is located in folder 22 in Box 002. These publications have been arranged by subject.

### **Container List:**

f. 1-13		Correspondence
Box 001	f. 1	Correspondence, 1855
	f. 2	Correspondence, 1903
	f. 3	Correspondence, 1904
	f. 4	Correspondence, 1905
	f. 5	Correspondence, 1906

	f. 6	Correspondence, 1935
	f. 7	Correspondence, 1943
	f. 8	Correspondence, 1944
	f. 9	Business correspondence, no date
	f. 10	Missouri postcards, no date
	f. 11	Oklahoma postcards, no date
	f. 12	Travel postcards, no date
	f. 13	Illustrated postcards, no date
f. 14-15		Diaries
	f. 14	Etta Shirey diary, 1918-1923
	f. 15	Etta Shirey diary, 1938-1943
f. 16-17		Personal Documents
	f. 16	School papers, 1887-1919
	f. 17	Notice of appraisement, 1880
f. 18		Artwork
	f. 18	Visual materials, no date
f. 19-22		Books and Periodicals
	f. 19	Reference books, no date
	f. 20	Books, no date
	f. 21	Periodicals, 1900-1926
Box 002	f. 22	<i>Needlepoint Magazine</i> , 1926

**Index:**

Index Term	Folder
Bishop, Lula	13
Blackman, Rose	2
Bolivar Hotel (Bolivar, Mo.)	2
Bolivar (Mo.)	2
Brown, Ruby	4
Claremore (Okla.)	11, 13
Cowan, Ora	2, 4
Dearinger, Ethel	2
Dearinger, Roe	2
Doling Park (Springfield, Mo.)	10
Douglas, Alice	3-5
Dunnegan (Mo.)	2-4, 10, 11
Grant, Addie	2
Griffin, Arthur	2
Harris, Julie	10
Hoover, Herbert	20
Hunter, Bert, 1872-	3

<b>Index Term</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Hunter, Inola Vaneta, 1903-	3
Hunter, Nellie, 1872-	3
Jefferson City (Mo.)	10
Jeffries, H.	2
Johnson, Burnetta	2-5
Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1904: Saint Louis, Mo.)	3, 9
Martin, Vienna	3, 4
Pickering, Oda	2
Putnam, Mattie	3
Rector, Amanda D.	3
Rodgers, Letha	2, 3
Sampson, Grace	2, 10
Sears, Roebuck and Company	9
Shirey, Claudia	6, 12, 13
Shirey, Etta Florence, 1871-1957	2-8, 10-17
Shirey, Daniel, 1814-1909	1, 17
Shirey, Albert Sidney, 1873-1906	2, 16
Shirey, Raymond	13
Shirey, Whittie	10, 12, 13
Short, Josie	2, 3
Springfield (Mo.)	2-7, 10
Squibb, Charlie	2
Tulsa (Okla.)	11
White City (Springfield, Mo.)	10
Wiley, Lucy M.	4-5
World War, 1939-1945	7