



## **Renshaw and McLin Family Papers (SP0087)**

**Collection Number:** SP0087

**Collection Title:** Renshaw and McLin Family Papers

**Dates:** 1845-2000

**Creator:** Renshaw and McLin families

**Abstract:** The Renshaw and McLin Family Papers contain the personal papers of the Renshaw and McLin families of Cave Spring, Missouri, including correspondence, photographs, diaries, and genealogical material. The collection also consists of records related to Mount Zion Presbyterian Church located in Cave Spring.

**Collection Size:** 4 cubic feet  
(61 folders, 3 volumes, 1 oversize box)

**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.

**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] *Renshaw and McLin Family Papers* (SP0087); 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 Sheila McLin Endres on August 2, 2023 (Accession No. SPA0121).

**Processed by:** Processed by Haley Frizzle-Green, August 28, 2023

### **Historical Note:**

Cave Spring, located in Greene County, Missouri, was named for the large spring flowing from nearby Asher Creek. Mount Zion Presbyterian Church, known today as Cave Spring Memorial

Church, was first organized on October 19, 1839, at the Renshaw family home. One of the first ministers was E. P. Noel, followed by G. A. M. Renshaw. The first church building was erected in 1845 and a new church building was built in 1869. The church is known to be the first regularly organized Presbyterian church west of St. Louis. The last church service was held in 1968 before the congregation merged with the Presbyterian church in Willard, Missouri. Today, Cave Spring Memorial Church is listed as a Greene County Historic Site.

George Alexander Milton Renshaw was born in Knox County, Tennessee, on January 18, 1816, to Moses Milton and Jane (Stowell) Renshaw. G. A. M. Renshaw studied theology at Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee, at the bequest of the school's founder Reverend Isaac L. Anderson. Renshaw graduated in 1841 and was ordained at Bethel Presbyterian Church in Kingston, Tennessee. In the same year, he married Emily McCroskey and the couple moved to Cave Spring, Missouri, where Renshaw's mother and brother Joseph were already settled. Renshaw ministered at Mount Zion Presbyterian Church in Cave Spring until his death. G. A. M. and Emily Renshaw had five children: Elizabeth "Lavinia" Jane Renshaw (1843-1931); Albert Barnes Renshaw (1844-1864); Amanda Sophrenia Renshaw (1849-1939); William Eagleton Renshaw (1851-1923); Addison Alexander Renshaw (1854-1928). G. A. M. Renshaw died in Cave Spring on April 25, 1857, followed by his wife Emily who died on January 13, 1881.

Addison Alexander Renshaw, son of G. A. M. and Emily Renshaw, was born on July 10, 1854, in Cave Spring, Missouri. Along with his brother William, A. A. Renshaw was one of the first graduates of Drury College, now Drury University, in Springfield. He was the editor of the *Springfield Express* newspaper for 45 years and was a member of the Missouri Press Association. A. A. Renshaw died on August 3, 1928.

Elizabeth "Lavinia" Jane Renshaw, daughter of G. A. M. and Emily Renshaw, was born on March 22, 1842, in Cave Spring, Missouri. She married James Anderson Thompson on March 11, 1858. The couple had seven children, including Mary Louella "Ella" Thompson. Ella Thompson was born on September 7, 1866, in Cave Spring. She married William Richard McLin in 1886. The couple had six children: Clara Winnifred "Winnie" McLin (1888-1973); Carl Whitfield McLin (1889-1978); William Richard McLin Jr., (1891-1989); Guy Waterson McLin (1894-1975); Francis "Frank" Blair McLin (1897-1966); and Eleanor "Nell" Lavinia McLin (1900-1979). William Richard McLin died on February 18, 1911, in Willard, Missouri. Mary Louella McLin died on December 21, 1954, in Springfield, Missouri.

Carl Whitfield McLin was born on September 6, 1889, in Cave Spring, Missouri. In 1908, McLin worked as a depot agent for the Leaky Roof Railroad, later purchased by the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company, in Urich, Missouri. He married Minnie Lee Billings on December 24, 1911, and the couple had three children: Paul Edward McLin (1917-1998); Ruth Ina McLin (1919-2002); and Dorothy Mae McLin (1923-). Carl continued to work for the railroad after the family settled in Geneseo, Kansas. After he retired, Carl and Minnie moved to Sylmar, California, where they would live the rest of their lives. Minnie McLin died on November 2, 1966, followed by Carl who died on August 5, 1978.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following six series with three subseries:

Renshaw Family  
Addison A. Renshaw

**McLin Family**

Carl W. McLin  
Correspondence

Photographs

Publications

Genealogy

Oversize

**Scope and Content Note:****Renshaw Family**

This series contains materials related to the Renshaw family of Cave Spring, Missouri. Items include correspondence, postcards, and financial records. This series also contains the writings of Addison Alexander Renshaw and his transcriptions of literary works such as Virgil's *Aeneid* and Cicero's *Oratio in Catilinam Prima in Senatu Habita*. Of particular note, are sermons belonging to George Alexander Milton Renshaw, Reverend of Mount Zion Presbyterian Church, written between 1845 and 1848. This series is arranged by subject and then chronologically.

**McLin Family**

This series consists of materials pertaining to the McLin family of Cave Spring, Missouri. Items include graduation, marriage, and death announcements, as well as poems written by Mary Louella "Ella" McLin. Other items include financial records, employee identification cards, and schoolbooks belonging to Frank McLin. This series is arranged by subject and then chronologically.

The Carl McLin subseries contains a cash book and family history, compiled by Carl McLin, in addition to his diaries. This subseries is arranged by subject and then chronologically. The correspondence subseries consists of letters and postcards sent to and from McLin family members. This subseries is arranged by the recipient's name and then chronologically.

**Photographs**

This series contains photographs of Renshaw family members, as well as Mount Zion Presbyterian Church and a class picture of Cave Spring School dated 1901. The bulk of this series is made up of McLin family photographs from the early 1900s to the late 1990s. Images of Missouri towns such as Urich, Pearl, Raymore, and Springfield can also be found within this series. This series is arranged by subject and then chronologically.

**Publications**

This series consists of publications such as advertisements, religious booklets, and newspaper articles. The advertisement folder includes flyers for McCleary Hospital located in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, Pacific Southwest Airlines, and Jenkins Music Company. The religious booklets include *Monday Morning: A Magazine for Pastors*, published in 1938, and *The Prism*, published in 1953 by Lohmeyer-Windle Funeral Home in Springfield, Missouri. The newspaper articles contain stories related to the Renshaw and McLin families, as well as Cave Spring, Missouri. This series is arranged by subject and then chronologically.

## Genealogy

This series contains genealogical records related to the Renshaw, McLin, and Billings families. The research was compiled by Sheila McLin Endres for her book, *Memories of Our Fathers, Our Mothers, and Our Favorite Relatives: McLin, Blair, Renshaw, Thompson, Cannon, Billings, and other related families*. This series is arranged by family name. The materials within the folders have been left in their original order.

## Oversize

This series consists of oversize material including a photograph of the 1934 senior class at Geneseo High School, located in Geneseo, Kansas. This series also contains three volumes of McLin correspondence, with the majority being written by Carl McLin to his relatives. This series is arranged by format. The correspondence within the three volumes are arranged in their original order.

## Container List:

f. 1-10	Renshaw Family
Box 001	f. 1 George A. M. Renshaw correspondence, 1855-1868
	f. 2 George A. M. Renshaw sermons, 1845-1848
	f. 3-7 Addison A. Renshaw
	f. 3-4 Correspondence, 1872-1928
	f. 5 Financial records, 1879-1927
	f. 6 Personal papers, 1870-1893
	f. 7 Writings, 1870-1886, no date
	f. 8 William E. Renshaw personal papers, 1908
	f. 9 Elizabeth "Lavinia" J. Thompson personal papers, 1872-1930
	f. 10 James A. Thompson personal papers, 1872-1912
f. 11-45	McLin Family
	f. 11 Announcements, 1910-1966
	f. 12-22 Carl W. McLin
	f. 12 Cash book, 1959-1961
	f. 13 Family history, 1942-1978
	f. 14-22 Diaries, 1960-1965, 1967-1969
Box 002	f. 23-42 Correspondence
	f. 23 Alberta J. McLin, 1941-1942
	f. 24 Carl W. McLin, 1909-1953
	f. 25 Carl W. McLin, 1960-1972
	f. 26 Eleanor "Nell" L. McLin, 1909-1965
	f. 27 Francis "Frank" B. McLin, 1908-1963
	f. 28 Guy W. McLin, 1910-1961
	f. 29-33 Mary Louella "Ella" McLin, 1909-66
Box 003	f. 34 Paul E. McLin, 1934-1966
	f. 35 William "Bill" R. McLin, Jr., 1887-1913
	f. 36-40 Clara Winnifred "Winnie" McLin, 1901-1966
	f. 41 Unidentified, 1910-1965, no date
	f. 42 Blank postcards, no date
	f. 43 Francis "Frank" B. McLin school books, 1896-1898
	f. 44 Mary Louella "Ella" McLin writings, no date

	f. 45	McLin family papers, 1911-1966
f. 46-54		Photographs
	f. 46	Cave Spring, circa 1900, 200
	f. 47	Renshaw family, 1900, 1915
	f. 48-54	McLin family, 1900-1990, no date
f. 55-57		Publications
	f. 55	Advertisements, 1922-1952, no date
	f. 56	Booklets, 1938-1953
	f. 57	Newspaper articles, 1912-1979
f. 58-60		Genealogy
	f. 58	Renshaw family, 1998-2000, no date
	f. 59	McLin family, 1981-2000, no date
	f. 60	Billings family, 2000, no date
f. 61, v. 1-3		Oversize
Box 004	f. 61	Geneseo High School photograph, 1934
	v. 1	McLin family correspondence, 1941-1972
	v. 2	McLin family correspondence, 1958-1959
	v. 3	McLin family correspondence, 1966-1970

**Index:**

Index Term	Folder	Medium	Image
Asher Creek (Greene County, Mo.)	49		Yes
Baldwin Theatre (Springfield, Mo.)	36		Yes
Billings family	48, 58		Yes
Billings, Alfred A., 1851-1910	58		
Billings, Lydia Kazara Cannon, 1856-1927	48, 58		Yes
Bolivar (Mo.)	26		Yes
Camp Pike (Ark.)	37		Yes
Cannon family	48, 58		Yes
Cave Spring (Mo.)	1-6, 9, 35-40, 43, 46, 49, 52, 57, 60		Yes
Cave Spring School (Cave Spring, Mo.)	43, 46, 60		Yes
Cave Spring Memorial Church (Cave Spring, Mo.)	46		Yes
Christian Church (Nevada, Mo.)	28		Yes
Churches--Missouri	1-2, 28, 36, 46, 48, 57, 60		Yes
Cicero, Marcus Tullius. Works. English	7		
Clay County (Mo.)	29, 35, 55		Yes
Cumberland Presbyterian Church (Springfield, Mo.)	36		Yes
Diaries	14-22		
Doling Park (Springfield, Mo.)	27, 37		Yes
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Index Term	Folder	Medium	Image
Endres, Sheila McLin	54, 58-60		Yes
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Geneseo High School (Geneseo, Kan.)	61		Yes
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Henry County (Mo.)	49		Yes
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McCleary Clinic and Hospital (Excelsior Springs, Mo.)	29, 35, 55		Yes
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McLin, Carl Whitfield, 1889-1978	12-22, 24-25, 45, 49-54, 59	v. 1-3	Yes
McLin, Clara Winnifred, 1888-1973	13, 36-40, 48-52, 59	v. 1-3	Yes
McLin, Dorothy Mae, 1923-	13, 45, 49-54, 59	v. 1-3	Yes
McLin, family	11-45, 48-54, 57, 58-60, 61	v. 1-3	Yes
McLin, Francis Blair, 1897-1979	11, 13, 27, 29-33, 43, 49-54, 57, 59	v. 1-3	Yes
McLin, Guy Waterson, 1894-1975	13, 23, 28, 49-53, 59	v. 1-3	Yes
McLin, Margaret Caroline Seehorn, 1835-1880	59		
McLin, Mary Louella Thompson, 1866-1954	11, 13, 29-33, 44, 48-52, 59	v. 1-3	Yes
McLin, Minnie Lee Billings, 1891-1966	11, 13, 45, 49-53, 58-59	v. 1-3	Yes
McLin, Paul Edward, 1917-1998	13, 34, 49-54, 59	v. 1-3	Yes
McLin, Robert Alexander, 1832-1895	59		
McLin, Ruth Ina, 1919-2002	13, 45, 49-54, 59	v. 1-3	Yes
McLin, William Richard, 1857-1911	13, 35, 50, 59	v. 1-3	
McLin, William Richard, 1891-1989	13, 48-52, 59	v. 1-3	Yes
Missouri Pacific Railroad Company	45		
Missouri Press Association	6		
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Index Term	Folder	Medium	Image
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Virgil. Works. English	7		
Wagons	49		Yes
Willard High School (Springfield, Mo.)	54		Yes
Willis Wood Theatre (Kansas City, Mo.)	9		Yes