

CG Reynolds Family, Collection, 1875-1997  
7 2.6 cubic feet (45 folders), 9 film reels

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [research@shsmo.org](mailto:research@shsmo.org).

## INTRODUCTION

The collection of the Reynolds family of Morehouse, Missouri contains correspondence and papers, guest and autograph books, postcards, barbershop business ledgers, educational awards and diplomas, photographs, and films for John Clayborn, Louella (Harmon), Charles Baker, Thelma, and Nell Reynolds.

## DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by James Brewer on 9 April, 2014 (CGA0003).

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The Reynolds family, originally from Pope County, Illinois, relocated to Morehouse, Missouri prior to 1920. The patriarch, John Clayborn "Clabe" Reynolds, was born February 22, 1875, and died October 29, 1968. He married Louella (Harmon) Reynolds on October 23, 1904. She was born on February 5, 1878, and died on September 14, 1940 of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Four children were born to "Clabe" and "Lou". Charles "Baker" Reynolds was born on August 2, 1905, and died July 29, 1976. Thelma Reynolds was born December 13, 1906, and died February 2, 1988. Nell Reynolds was born January 29, 1909, and died May 12, 1997. Roy Reynolds died in infancy. He was born December 9, 1910, and died June 17, 1911. The Reynolds children have no heirs.

Clabe Reynolds operated a local barbershop adjacent to his home in Morehouse. By the 1940's, he was cultivating an expansive tulip garden on his property which drew local, and out of state, visitors. Some of these visitors are reflected in the guest books. His gardens are represented in the photographs and films in this collection.

Little is known of Lou. She is represented in photographs and there are newspaper clippings of her obituary, but there is little information of her daily life as the family's matriarch. She is buried at Memorial Park Cemetery in Sikeston, Missouri.

Charles "Baker" Reynolds attended schools in Illinois prior to relocating to Morehouse. He graduated from Morehouse High School. He served in the United States Army during World War II and was an active member in the Morehouse Masonic Lodge. He had no biological heirs, but his marriage to Barbara Tullock on September 9, 1961, gave him two step-daughters and a step-son. Baker is buried in Old Cavalry Cemetery in Farmington, Missouri.

Thelma and Nell Reynolds, though born in Illinois, became well-known in Morehouse, Missouri, as the "sister" teachers. Both were educated in the same schools as their brother, but chose to continue their education and become educators at the Morehouse elementary school. After high school, they enrolled in the teacher training program offered at Southeast Missouri State College in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Their teaching careers began after the program's completion and, when government mandates

for teachers dictated, received their college degrees in 1956. Thelma received her degree from Arizona State University, while Nell's was conferred at Southeast Missouri State University.

Neither sister married, but devoted their life to their students and membership in the Order of the Eastern Star. Each retired from teaching in the 1970s and were recognized by the school for their service with awards. Thelma and Nell remained in the family home until their deaths in 1988 and 1997, respectively. They are buried beside their father in Garden of Memories Cemetery in Sikeston, Missouri.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection has been arranged into the following 5 series:

##### **Correspondence and Papers**

##### **Personal**

##### **Business**

##### **Photographs**

##### **Audiovisual**

The **Correspondence and Papers** series contains letters, newspaper clippings, genealogy information, financial papers, event programs, report cards, and oversized certificates, diplomas, and awards.

The **Personal** series consists of autograph books, visitor guest books, family reunion attendees, and postcards.

The **Business** series contains business ledgers from the barbershop.

The **Photograph** series spans from the later decades of the 1800's to the 1990's. There are 894 photographs, 31 color slides, 39 color negatives, and 33 black and white negatives depicting family, business, activities, and the gardens.

The earliest photographs are believed to be of the Reynolds and Harmon families' ancestors with the remaining photographs depicting Clabe, Lou, Baker, Thelma, and Nell throughout their lives.

There are many yearly school photographs taken of Thelma and Nell as educators as they progress throughout their career culminating with their vacations to Hawaii after their retirement. Baker's military service, Masonic membership, and general activities are represented and reflect an emphasis on men's fashion as a young man.

The tulip gardens and family home have been preserved in yearly images of the blooming flowers.

The **Audiovisual** series contains 13 films, on 7 reels in 16mm format, representing the region's celebrations, the gardens, and family activities. Reels' 1 through 6 contents are identified. Reels 7 through 9 were originally donated on 3 ½" reels, but transferred to 7" reels before accession. The transfer sequence is unknown. The original boxes indicated footage of 1951 Cape Flood; 1952 Cotton Carnival, Basketball and Cheerleaders, Tulips, Shriner Parade; 1953 Rose Garden, Homecoming; 1957 Cotton Carnival; 1958 Tulips and Iris; n.d. College and Flood Water. The three reels will reflect all subjects listed. These subjects may, or may not, be found on a specific reel.

## FOLDER LIST

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| f. 1-11  | Correspondence and Papers, 1903-1996  |
| f. 1     | Letters and telegrams   |
| f. 2     | Newspaper clippings   |
| f. 3     | Family records  |
| f. 4     | Membership cards and papers   |
| f. 5     | Financials, deeds, and taxes  |
| f. 6     | Programs, announcements, and dedications  |
| f. 7     | Report cards  |
| f. 8     | Military service and civic organizations  |
| f. 9-10  | Certificates and papers   |
| f. 11    | Diplomas, certificates, and licenses (oversized box)  |
| f. 12-20 | Personal, 1888-1997   |
| f. 12    | Autograph books   |
| f. 13    | Funeral guest book  |
| f. 14-18 | Tulip gardens guest books   |
| f. 19    | Telephone directory   |
| f. 20    | Postcards   |
| f. 21-28 | Business, 1919-1953   |
| f. 21-28 | Barbershop ledgers  |
| f. 29-45 | Photographs, c.1875-1996  |
| f. 29-31 | Photographs, tintypes, and platinotype, pre-1900 (unidentified)   |
| f. 32-33 | Photographs, 1900-1919  |
| f. 34-36 | Photographs, 1920-1929  |
| f. 37    | Photographs, 1930-1939  |
| f. 38-39 | Photographs, 1940-1949  |
| f. 40    | Photographs, 1950-1959  |
| f. 41    | Photographs, 1960-1969  |
| f. 42    | Photographs, 1970-1979  |
| f. 43    | Photographs, 1980-1996  |
| f. 44    | Color slides, c. 1940   |
| f. 45    | Negatives   |
| r. 1-9   | Audiovisual, 16mm films, 1947-1958, n.d.  |
| r. 1     | Morehouse school, 1947  |
| r. 2     | School circus and Christmas parade, 1952  |
| r. 3     | Christmas parade, 1953  |
| r. 4     | Masonic temple, 1953  |
| r. 5     | Shrine parade, 1959   |
| r. 6     | Rodeo, n.d.   |
| r. 7-9   | Cape flood, Cotton carnival, Basketball and cheerleaders, Tulips, Shriner parade, Rose garden, Homecoming, Iris, College and flood water, 1951-n.d. |

## INDEX TERMS

| Subject   | Folders  | Other          | Image |
|---|--|----------------|-------|
| Arizona State College.                            | 11   |                |       |
| Bank of Morehouse.                                | 1, 5   |                |       |
| Illinois--Pope County.                            | 3, 7, 9, 11  |                |       |
| Kiwanis Club. Missouri-Arkansas District.         | 8  |                |       |
| Masonic Lodge No. 603.                            | 2, 6, 41   | reel 16mm film | y     |
| Mississippi River.                                |  | reel 16mm film |       |
| Missouri--Cape Girardeau.                         | 11   | reel 16mm film |       |
| Missouri--Cape Girardeau County.                  | 11   | reel 16mm film |       |
| Missouri--Farmington.                             | 3, 41  |                | y     |
| Missouri--Morehouse.                              | 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14-18, 20, 34, 37-42, 44 | reel 16mm film | y     |
| Missouri--New Madrid County.                      | 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14-18, 20, 34, 37-42, 44        | reel 16mm film | y     |
| Missouri--Scott County.                           | 38   |                |       |
| Missouri--Sikeston.                               | 3, 5, 9, 10, 11                                    |                |       |
| Missouri--St. Francois County                     | 3, 41  |                | y     |
| Order of the Eastern Star. Morehouse Chapter 450. | 2, 4, 42   |                | y     |
| Reynolds, Charles Baker (1905-1976).              | 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 20, 22, 23, 32-42, 45           |                | y     |
| Reynolds, John Clayborn "Clabe" (1875-1968).      | 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 14-18, 20-31, 33, 35-41, 45       |                | y     |
| Reynolds, Louella (Harmon) (1878-1940).           | 1-4, 11, 12, 20, 30, 33, 35-39                     |                | y     |
| Reynolds, Nell (1909-1997).                       | 1-7, 10, 11, 13, 20, 32, 33, 35-45                 |                | y     |
| Reynolds, Roy (1910-1911).                        | 3  |                | y     |
| Reynolds, Thelma (1906-1988).                     | 1-7, 9, 11, 19, 20, 32-45                          |                | y     |
| Southeast Missouri State Teachers College.        | 10   |                |       |
| Southeast Missouri State University.              | 6, 11  |                |       |
| United States. Army.                              | 1, 8, 39, 45                                       |                | y     |
| World War, 1939-1945.                             | 8, 39, 45  |                | y     |
| World War, 1939-1945—Correspondence.              | 1  |                |       |