

C Barnes, Charles Merlin (1873-1966), Papers, 1892-1965
2802 8 linear feet

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INTRODUCTION

The Charles M. Barnes Papers consist of the diaries, correspondence, photographs, financial records, and miscellaneous material of a Marston, Missouri, businessman and University of Missouri graduate. The Barnes family owned and operated a series of successful business enterprises in southeastern Missouri during the early twentieth century.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Barnes Papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Charles, Seth, and Asa Barnes on 5 April 1967 (Accession No. 3708).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Charles Merlin Barnes was born in New Madrid, Missouri, on July 19, 1873, to Seth S. Barnes and Laura Marston Barnes, for whom Marston, Missouri, was named. He graduated from the University of Missouri in 1898 and served as a 1st Lieutenant with Company H of the 4th Missouri Volunteers during the Spanish-American War. The unit was largely composed of students from the University of Missouri. While the unit never left the states, Barnes remained an active member of the United Spanish-American War Veterans organization for much of his life. In 1899 he married Emma Atkins and they had three sons: Asa, Charles M., and Seth. The couple divorced in 1919 with Emma moving to Cape Girardeau with the boys. Though separated from his children, C.M. Barnes remained close to them. Two sons, Seth and Asa, became physicians, and Charles M. Barnes, Jr. was a successful businessman. All three served as officers in the European Theatre during World War II.

The Barnes family owned a series of successful businesses, including a cotton gin, railroad, lumberyard, and mercantile store, in Marston, Missouri, though by the 1920s they lost almost everything. C.M. Barnes assisted his father, Seth S. Barnes, for many years in the daily operation of the family enterprises.

Active in politics, he campaigned for the Progressive Party in Missouri during the 1910s, served on the State Board of Agriculture from 1911 to 1914, and ran for the state legislature in 1924. He also served one term as mayor and briefly as the postmaster for Marston. He also owned and operated a general store and gas station. In later years he worked as a notary public.

Barnes died on August 26, 1966, and is buried in the Mounds Cemetery in New Madrid, Missouri.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Barnes Papers document the life, both personal and professional, of a New Madrid County businessman and family. This collection is divided into ten series:

Diaries

Correspondence

Financial Records

Photographs
University Papers
Postcards
Notary Public
Genealogy
Historical Material
Business Records

FOLDER LIST

Diaries Series. This series is arranged chronologically and covers the years 1892-1965. The diaries, especially the later years, include detailed, daily entries on personal matters, family, business, and world and national events. In many instances, Barnes often recorded his personal life and thoughts, often mentioning his relationship with sons, ex-wife, friends, and members of the community. Some folders contain ticket stubs, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous items.

- f. 1-4 1892-1897. Miscellaneous notes kept while a student at the University of Missouri, Columbia. Includes book lists, course lists, study notes, and addresses.
- f. 5-8 1897-1900. Comments on volunteering for the Army, the Spanish-American War, return home, and marriage.
- f. 9 1904. Description of growth and development of Marston, publication of *Marston Bulletin*, organization of New Hope Cemetery Association, St. Louis Fair, operation of cotton gin and general store, and family affairs.
- f. 10-15 1905-1910. Operation of saw mill, hoop factory, Barnes Store Company; investing in cotton futures, financing and construction of school building, and family affairs.
- f. 16-18 1911-1913. Appointment to State Board of Agriculture, establishment of experimental cotton farm, Progressive Party politics, economic conditions, and family affairs.
- f. 19-23 1914-1918. Comments on: economic effects of World War I on agriculture, Liberty Bond fund raising, outbreak of smallpox and diphtheria, and family affairs.
- f. 24-25 1919-1920. Comments on: possibility of industrializing Marston, cotton futures investment, decline of market, flu epidemic, establishment of Marston High School, and family affairs.
- f. 26-29 1921-1925. Radio entertainment, agricultural depression, loss of lands, Ku Klux Klan activities, description of U.S. Naval Academy, student life at the University of Missouri, and family affairs.
- f. 30 1926-1927. Economic conditions in agriculture, attempts to sell land to potential immigrants, comments on flights to cities, description of Washington, D.C., flood in New Madrid, bank closings, and family affairs.
- f. 31-33 1928-1933. Discussion of causes of Depression, presidential election, student life in medical school, operation of general store, economic conditions, Red Cross

- relief, description of New Orleans, genealogical record of Barnes family, operation of newsstand and gas station, and family affairs.
- f. 34-35 1934-1937. Discussion of New Deal policies, Gold Reserve Act, operation of gas station, Reichstag fire, medical intern life, construction of school gymnasium, farm management, notary public work, floods, Philippine and Cuban policies, German rearmament, N.R.A., death of Walter Williams, invasion of Ethiopia, backward glance at World War I, presidential election, *U.S. vs. Butler*, flood control work, Spanish Civil War, Japan-China conflict, appointment of Hugo Black to the Supreme Court, Public Health Service, liberal religious philosophy, and family affairs.
- f. 36 1938-1939. Comments on: Axis Pact, German invasion of Austria, Sino-Japanese conflict, Missouri Public Health work, sharecropper's protest movement, *Missouri ex Rel. Gaines vs. Canada*, Spanish War veterans encampment, Russo-Finnish War, and family affairs. Folder includes a history of New Madrid and incomplete biography of Otto Rochtitzky.
- f. 37 1940-1941. Comments on: school lunch programs, state Republican politics, presidential election campaign, war in Europe, question of U.S. involvement in World War II, description of Detroit, Battle of Britain, New Deal policies, Missouri gubernatorial election, Defense Bond program, army life, coal strike, entrance of U.S. into war, and family affairs.
- f. 38 1942-1943. Comments on: race riot, World War II news, rationing, economic conditions and projections, coal strike, V-mail, Mississippi River flood, Spanish-American War veterans encampment, description of New York, Boston, Washington, D.C., and New Orleans, and Tehran Conference.
- f. 39 1944-1945. Comments on: Masonic work, allied invasion of Europe, Battle of the Bulge, German POWs in Marston, Dumbarton Oaks Conference, invasion of the Philippines, death of Roosevelt, organization of United Nations, V-E Day, Yalta and Potsdam Conferences, Atom Bomb, civil war in China, and description of Cincinnati.
- f. 40-41 1946-1948. Comments on: labor conflicts, Red Cross activities, United Nations, independence of the Philippines, polio epidemic in San Francisco, off-year elections, Truman Doctrine, Moscow Conference, Black-White relationships, television, inflation, Progressive Party, presidential election, Olympic Games, bus trip through the Southwest and Pacific Coast, and growth of the University of Missouri.
- f. 42 1949-1950. Comments on: Chinese civil war, NATO, Berlin blockade, automobile industry strike, U.S.-U.S.S.R. relationship, race relations, Truman's domestic policies, Korean War, and description of New Orleans and Atlantic City.
- f. 43 1951-1952. Comments on: progress of Korean War, Mexican farm labor, Kefauver Crime Commission, Mississippi floods, 22nd Amendment, presidential campaign, explosion of hydrogen bomb, and Masonic and Spanish-American War Veteran activities.
- f. 44-45 1953-1956. Comments on: death of Stalin, close of Korean War, power struggle in U.S.S.R., Harry Dexter case, urbanization, Joseph McCarthy, unification of AFL and CIO, appointment of Elmer Ellis as University of Missouri

- president, Salk vaccine, presidential election, Hungarian uprising, invasion of Suez Canal, Olympic games, and description of Cleveland, Ohio, and Yellowstone National Park.
- f. 46-47 1957-1961. Comments on: Suez Crisis, school integration, Russian space feats, U.S. space program, expansion of the University of Missouri-Columbia campus, entrance of Hawaii as 50th state, civil rights work, and condition of health.
- f. 48-49 1962-1965. Comments on: John Glenn's space mission, civil rights, assassination of John F. Kennedy, and Vietnam.

Correspondence Series. This series is arranged chronologically and consists of the personal and professional correspondence of Barnes. Correspondents include his three sons, business partners, and various Missouri politicians. As a member of the Progressive Party from 1912-1916, Barnes corresponded with national figures Gifford Pinchot and Harold L. Ickes on elections and the future of the party. Much of the material pertains to his involvement with the Scottish Rite Masonic Order, New Madrid Lodge #429, and the United Spanish-American War Veterans. The correspondence illustrates the strong relationship with his three sons and documents their lives, education, and careers. Of note is the extensive correspondence while all three served in the armed forces during World War II. Some folders may contain miscellaneous materials such as receipts, bills, and items collected during a given year. Additional correspondence from his time as a student at the University of Missouri can be found in folders 113-117.

- f. 49a-49h 1897-1915. Family news, Progressive Party information, and campaign literature.
- f. 49i 1916. Organization of the Progressive Party in Missouri and reflections on the election results.
- f. 49j-49k 1917-1918. Harold L. Ickes and the Progressive Party, family letters, and receipts.
- f. 49l-49m 1919. Gifford Pinchot and the future of the Progressive Party, Marston election notice, election of Marston schools superintendent, effect of Daylight Savings Time on farmers, proposal to erect a Memorial Tower at the University of Missouri, and Roosevelt Memorial Association fundraising drive.
- f. 49n-49o 1920. Sympathy letters at death of father, Harold L. Ickes on possibility of holding conference of Progressives, settlement of father's estate, discussion on Universal Military Training, invitation for membership in National Conservation Association, economic conditions in agriculture, and family news.
- f. 49p-49r 1921-1923. Request for support of Dr. W.S. Dearmont's retention at M.U., attempts to fill Marston's postmastership, paving the streets of Marston, crop reduction pledge, family news.
- f. 50-59 1923-1934. Financial and business affairs, Masonic activities, family affairs, Spanish War pension claim, student life at medical school, copy of speech given by Ralph Lozier on loans for relief of drainage districts, 1932 presidential election, corn prices, cotton farming, and family affairs.
- f. 60-65 1935-1939. Tenant farming, student life, Masonic activities, World War II and possible consequences for U.S., and family affairs.

- f. 66-73 1940-1945. Masonic and United Spanish War Veterans activities, educational reform, cotton culture, lynching incident, black education, construction of airfield in Marston, war news, gas rationing, economic conditions, description of English countryside, family genealogy, description of Rome, drought in southeast Missouri, state and national election (1944), tenant farming, Public Health in Missouri, black market, end of WWII, description of post-war Germany, and family affairs.
- f. 74-80 1946-1949. Coal strike, comments on General Patton, Red Cross blood program, 50th class reunion, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1948 presidential campaign and election, and family affairs.
- f. 81-92 1850-1964. Reasons for the need to expand the University of Missouri-Columbia Medical School, social security, request for rural mail service in Marston, cotton farming, Masonic and United Spanish War Veterans affairs, and family affairs.
- f. 93 Army discharge papers, notary public appointments, insurance agent appointment, roster, maps of New Madrid County, 1898 plat of New Madrid, and news clippings.

Financial Records Series. Included in the series are bank statements, tax returns, receipts, and a notary public record book.

- f. 94-99 Financial records, 1950-1964
- f. 100 Notary public record book, 1957-1961

Photographs Series. The series contain images of the University of Missouri, Spanish-American War troops and drills, towns in New Madrid County, and various members of the Barnes family. Many of the photos are not labeled or dated.

- f. 101-103n Photographs

University Series. The series include class lecture notes, school announcements, correspondence, and miscellaneous material compiled while a student at the University of Missouri, 1894-1898.

- f. 104-110 Lecture notes, 1894-1898. Classes included are Biology, Ethics, Sociology, Psychology, Finance, Religion, Astronomy, History of Education, and Latin.
- f. 111-112 School announcements and addresses for the class of 1898
- f. 113-117 Student correspondence, 1897-1898

Marston Area History and Geography Series. The series includes maps, historical sketches, New Madrid County funeral notices, directories for various Marston clubs and organizations, and miscellaneous material.

- f. 118 Marston-New Madrid Area School Petition, n.d.
- f. 119 Ladies Aid Society of Marston Record Book, 1907-1916
- f. 120 Homemaker's Club of Marston, secretary's book, 1914

- f. 121 Post Office record book, 1912-1914
- f. 122 Postal Carriers' Route Directory, 1916-1921
- f. 123 Funeral notices, New Madrid County, 1920-1956
- f. 124 History of New Madrid County Masonic Lodges
- f. 125 Historical sketch of Marston-Point Pleasant area and the arrival of Seth S. Barnes in Missouri
- f. 126 Map of portion of New Madrid County
- f. 127 Map of Little River Drainage District

Picture Postcard Series. This series consists of postcards bearing images from Missouri, the United States, and various counties, including Japan. Many of the postcards are blank with no correspondence.

- f. 128-130 Picture Postcard Collection

Notary Public Record Series. The series contains record books, driver license applications, and copies of papers that were notarized by Barnes, who worked as a notary public in Marston, Missouri.

- f. 131-133 Notary Public Record Books, 1947-1964
- f. 134 Copies of Chattel Mortgages, 1962-1964
- f. 135-136 Miscellaneous papers notarized by C.M. Barnes, 1951-1965
- f. 137-139 Drivers license applications and forms for Marston area residents
- f. 140 List of driver license names and numbers

Genealogy Series. Information on Marston area families is located in the series, arranged alphabetically by surname.

- f. 141 Genealogical material, surnames, A-B
- f. 142 Genealogical material, surnames, C
- f. 143 Genealogical material, surnames, D
- f. 144 Genealogical material, surnames, E-F
- f. 145 Genealogical material, surnames, G-H
- f. 146 Genealogical material, surnames, I-K
- f. 147 Genealogical material, surnames, L-P
- f. 148 Genealogical material, surnames, R-T
- f. 149 Genealogical material, surnames, U-W

Business Series. The series consists of legal documents, title abstracts, contracts, deeds, correspondence, receipts, financial statements, maps, and a brief history of the railroad. Much of the material pertains to the business dealings of C.M. Barnes and his father, Seth Barnes. Also included are the records of the St. Louis and Memphis Railroad, which was owned and operated by the Barnes family from 1899-1901.

- f. 150-161 St. Louis and Memphis Railroad, 1898-1904
- f. 162 Marston Telephone Company, n.d., 1901, 1913

- f. 163-166 Settlement of the estate of J.H. Stanley and Albert Maynard, 1900-1903
- f. 167 Blueprints for cotton gin, 1895, 1899, 1912
- f. 168-169 Continental Gin Company and miscellaneous, 1902
- f. 170-172 Fire insurance policies, 1912-1923
- f. 173 Corporate income tax forms, 1912, 1914-1917
- f. 174 Cotton Loan Fund, 1914
- f. 175-176 Inventories and affidavits, 1912, 1916-1918
- f. 177-183 Barnes Store Company, 1900-1925
- f. 184 Marston Building and Loan Association, 1913
- f. 185-193 Marston Realty Company, 1922-1928
- f. 194 Map, southeastern New Madrid County, n.d.
- f. 195 Map of Hayti, Missouri, and articles of agreement, 1913
- f. 196 Sharecropping contracts, 1917-1925
- f. 197 Land use notes and diagrams, 1925
- f. 198 Chattel Mortgage Agreements, 1944
- f. 199 Correspondence, loans and mortgages, 1924
- f. 200 Note Register, 1919-1922
- f. 201 Duplicate receipt book, 1944-1964
- f. 202-207 S.S. Barnes miscellaneous material, 1901-1933
- f. 208-216 S.S. Barnes and C.M. Barnes business correspondence, 1902-1903
- f. 217 Commodity market transactions, 1917-1919
- f. 218-222 *H.W. Baker, Jr. v. Barnes Store Company, et al.*, 1908
- f. 223 *Seth S. Barnes v. Laura M. Oates, et al.*, 1909
- f. 224 *Wilbur Lewis v. R.U. Kendall, Sarah C. Kendall, and Seth S. Barnes*, 1912
- f. 225 *State et rel C.R. Pierce v. Hayti Development Company, et al.*, 1913
- f. 226 Court Records, 1929
- f. 227 Court Records, 1949

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