

C Bootheel Project, Records, 1993-1997
3928 3.2 linear feet, 161 audio cassettes, 9 records, 2 video cassettes

RESTRICTED

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The records of the Bootheel Project document the art, culture and heritage of the Missouri Bootheel. The records include photographs, color slides, audio cassettes, transcripts, and video cassettes of interviews with Bootheel residents. Sound recordings, planning documents, field workers' notes, and miscellaneous items collected throughout the project are also included.

RESTRICTIONS

Consult the reference staff about the restriction on this collection.

DONOR INFORMATION

Please consult the reference staff about donor information for this collection.

PROJECT SKETCH

The Bootheel Underserved Arts Communities Project, undertaken in 1993 and 1994, was organized by the Missouri Folk Arts Program, a unit of the Museum of Art and Archaeology at the University of Missouri-Columbia in co-sponsorship with the State Historical Society of Missouri. The project received grant funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Missouri Arts Council. The goals of the project were to encourage local creativity, elevate public awareness, and promote appreciation for local and regional art.

The Missouri Bootheel, consisting of several counties in the southernmost region of the state, was visited by a team of researchers in the spring of 1994. This research team included oral historians, folklorists, an ethnomusicologist, and graduate student interns. The largest period of field research was conducted March 12-20, 1994. Subsequent visits to the field took place in April, July, and August 1994. While in the field the team conducted informal taped interviews with local artists and key community members who were encouraged to summarize their personal histories and self-evaluate their work and experiences. Researchers also documented public and private performances, events, and displays with audio cassette recording, photography, and field notes. Ephemeral material was also collected during the survey.

The project culminated in a gathering of interested artists, local historians, scholars, and citizens in Portageville, Missouri, on 27 August 1994 for Bootheel Art and Heritage Day.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Bootheel Project Records contain photographs, slides, taped interviews, and miscellaneous materials gathered during field research in the Missouri Bootheel in the southeast region of the state. These records are arranged into six series: **Subject Files**, **Field Notes**, **Reports and Transcripts**, **Logs**, **Photographs and Slides**, and **Audio/Visual Materials**.

The **Subject Files** series contains background information on the Bootheel region, publicity about the project, and items collected during the project. The Missouri Arts Council grant application and questionnaires sent out prior to the visit to identify artists in the area are also included in this series. This series is arranged alphabetically by topic.

The **Field Notes** series contains the field notes of project workers which help to document the physical characteristics of the region and provide information about the setting of the interview and the individual being interviewed. This series is arranged alphabetically by field worker name.

The **Reports and Transcripts** series contains interview reports, which provide basic background information on the interviewee, and transcripts from three of the interviews. The transcripts are arranged by tape number and the interview reports are arranged alphabetically by field worker name.

The **Logs** series consists of audio, photograph, and slide logs produced from the interviews and visits. These logs provide a detailed description of the topics discussed and photographs taken during the interviews. The logs are arranged alphabetically by the field worker's initials.

The **Photographs and Slides** series contains the photographs, contact sheets of the photographs, and slides taken during the project. They include images of people, towns, and arts and crafts produced by the people of the Bootheel. They are arranged first by type of material, then alphabetically by field worker name.

The **Audio/Visual Materials** series consists of the audio cassettes, records, and video cassettes collected during the project. Included are the recordings of the interviews, arranged alphabetically by field worker name, sampler tapes with selected pieces of interviews used for presentations on the Bootheel, and pre-recorded audio cassettes of musicians from the region. This series also contains several 45 RPM records of area artists singing blues, gospel, and rockabilly.

Two video cassettes are included in this series. One contains interviews with Charles Baker, a long time resident of Dunklin County, Missouri and Ray Brassieur, Bootheel Project Coordinator. These interviews were conducted by Rosemary Burcham and appeared on a local cable access channel. The second video cassette was taken at the Wednesday Federated Music Club in Kennett, Missouri, and depicts two music programs put on by this group. A copy of the published resource guide *Art and Heritage of the Missouri Bootheel* follows this inventory.

NOTE ON CATALOGING OF PHOTOGRAPHS, SLIDES, AND AUDIO/VISUAL MATERIALS

The slides, photographs, and audio cassettes have been assigned two numbering systems to help in the identification and retrieval of those items. The first number, which will be referred to as the field accession number, was used by the field workers.

An example is BH94-RB2-CT2. The "BH94" designates the project code (Bootheel) and the year of the interview or photograph, 1994.

"RB2" contains the initials of the field worker and the cardinal number of the interview recorded by that field worker. This item is from the second interview done by Ray Brassieur.

"CT2" refers to the format (cassette tape) and ordinal number of the cassette recorded during each interview. This cassette is the second tape of Ray Brassieur's second interview of the Bootheel Project in 1994.

An example using photographs would be BH94-RF7-BW4. This item would be the fourth black and white print from Robin Fanslow's seventh roll of film taken during the Bootheel Project in 1994.

Abbreviations used in this system are CT- cassette tape, CS- color slide, BW- black and white print, and CP- color print.

The second system of numbering applied to the cassettes and photographs was done while processing the collection at WHMC. This system uses simple numerical ordering for each cassette, photograph, and sleeve of slides. Example: a.c. 3 is the third audio cassette in the collection. The slides were arranged alphabetically according to field worker name and put into sleeves that held 20 slides.

The field accession number will direct the researcher to the audio and photograph logs and the WHMC number directs the researcher to the actual item. A chart showing how the two numbers correspond to each other is included at the end of this inventory.

NOTE: Throughout the project records workers are identified by their initials. In the alphabetical arrangement of the records David Whitman (DW) would be listed before Erica Mair (EM).

MISSING CASSETTES

Six audio cassettes which appear in the published guide are not included in this collection. Tapes 53, 54, 77, 78 were never turned in to the project coordinator. Tapes 97 and 98 are not included because the University was not able to obtain release forms from the participants.

FOLDER LIST

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- f. 2 Art and Heritage Day
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- f. 10 Calling Cards
- f. 11 Charleston, Missouri
- f. 12 Charleston—Sesquicentennial
- f. 13 Correspondence, February-March, 1994
- f. 14 Correspondence, August 1994-September 1995
- f. 15 Cotton Culture
- f. 16 Deering
- f. 17-19 Development—Grant application
- f. 20 Dexter, Missouri
- f. 21 Felts, Narvel
- f. 22 Final Report
- f. 23 Foodways
- f. 24 Hornersville, Missouri
- f. 25 Kennett, Missouri
- f. 26 Kennett- *Sentimental Journey*, August, September, Fall Issues, 1996
- f. 27 Kennett- *Sentimental Journey*, October, December Issues, 1996
- f. 28 Kennett- *Sentimental Journey*, January, February Issues, 1997
- f. 29 Malden, Missouri
- f. 30 Master Contact List—Artists
- f. 31 Miscellaneous Regional Information
- f. 32 Monument of Delivery
- f. 33 New Madrid, Missouri
- f. 34 Poplar Bluff, Missouri
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- f. 36 Publicity, 1995-1996
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- f. 38 Quilt Patterns
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- f. 44 LC Field Notes
- f. 45 RB Field Notes, 1993
- f. 46 RB Field Notes, 1994

- f. 47 RB Field Notes, 1994
- f. 48 RB Field Notes, 1994
- f. 48a RF Field Notes, 1994

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- f. 49 Transcript, a.c. 61-62, Flem Bronner
- f. 50 Transcript, a.c. 106-107, Maxwell Williams
- f. 50a Transcript, a.c. 114-115, Kent Freeman
- f. 50b Transcript, a.c. 116, Phil Pfuehler
- f. 51 Transcript, a.c. 117, Barry McFarland
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- f. 59 JC Audio Logs
- f. 60 JD Audio Logs
- f. 61 JG Audio Logs
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- f. 65 KK Audio Logs
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- f. 69 RF Audio Logs
- f. 70 SR Audio Logs
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- f. 72 CP Photo Logs
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- f. 74 EM Photo Logs
- f. 75 JC Photo Logs
- f. 76 JN Photo Logs
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- f. 79 RB Photo Logs
- f. 80 RF Photo Logs
- f. 81 DB Slide Logs
- f. 82 DEB Slide Logs

f. 83 DW Slide Logs
f. 84 EM Slide Logs
f. 85 JC Slide Logs
f. 86 JN Slide Logs
f. 87 JS Slide Logs
f. 88 RB Slide Logs
f. 89 RF Slide Logs
f. 90 TC Slide Logs
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f. 114 EM1-5 Slides
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f. 117 JS1-2 Slides
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f. 119 BH94 RB4-9 Slides
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a.c. 5 Slicer Street Church of Christ, Kennett, Missouri
a.c. 6 Burcham, Britt
a.c. 7-8 James, W.F.
a.c. 9 Jones, Harold and W.F. James
a.c. 10 McColloch, Si
a.c. 11 Cooper, Roy, Jr.
a.c. 12 Hobbs, Daisy
a.c. 13 Brown, Tina
a.c. 14 First General Baptist Church Easter Pageant, Malden, Missouri
a.c. 15-16 Cooper, Alex
a.c. 17 New Bethel Baptist Church, Portageville, Missouri
a.c. 18 Cooper Family Reunion
a.c. 19-20 Monument of Deliverance Church, Hayti, Missouri
a.c. 21-23 Bootheel Project Orientation Meeting
a.c. 24 Monument of Deliverance Church, Hayti, Missouri
a.c. 25 Nalen, Alma
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a.c. 50 Hager, Bessie Thelma
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a.c. 57 Whitehorn, Mildred and James

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a.c. 93 Frailey, Fred and Norma
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a.c. 96 Windshield Survey, Portageville to Poplar Bluff, Missouri
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- a.c. 151 James, W.F. [Part III of interview with Debbie Bailey- see a.c. 7-8]
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- rec. 5 The Kentucky Headhunters
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Side B- Celina Tennessee

- rec. 6 The Kentucky Headhunters
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Cotton picking	16,57,60,61,64	a.c. 10,16,37,76,113, 117	
Cotton picking machinery	54	a.c. 7,8	
Cotton picking machinery	33		y

Subject	Folders	Other	Image
Country music			
Covington Michael	117,122		y
Covington, Michael	59,77,87	a.c. 55,56,59,105	
Crosby family--Genealogy	71	a.c. 152	
Crosby, Pansy	71	a.c. 152	
Currin, Helen	12		
Curtis, Betty Jo	52,58		
Danforth, Lewis William	12		
Daniels, Bernice	52,62	a.c. 80	
Decoys (Hunting)	73,79,88	a.c. 116	
Decoys (Hunting)	98,99,118		y
Deforestation--Missouri, Bootheel	54	a.c. 9	
DeJournett, Shirley	14,42,52,57,74	a.c. 47	
DeJournett, Shirley	96,122		y
DeLisle family--Genealogy	79	a.c. 110	
DeLisle Funeral Home, Portageville, Missouri	79	a.c. 110	
DeLisle, Joseph Alphonse	52	a.c. 110	
Delmo Housing Corporation	5,54,66	a.c. 3,4,11,26,101	
Dexter Hospital Auxiliary Quilting Group	57	a.c. 49	
Dexter Senior Center	20		
Dial, Marshall	52,53	a.c. 1,2	
Dixie Theatre, New Madrid	73		
Dogwood/Azalea Festival, Charleston, Missouri	108		y
Dogwood-Azalea Festival, Charleston, Missouri	11,81		
Dowell, Pinky	52, 73		
Dressmaking		a.c. 52	
Drinkwater family	12		
Driskill, Beryl	73, 80, 83, 96	a.c. 126-128	
Driskill, Beryl	111		y
Driskill, Linda	80	a.c. 126-128	
Duck calls	24, 51, 73, 79, 88	a.c. 114, 115	
Duck calls	94, 98, 99, 111, 119, 122		y
Dukes, James A.	52, 73	a.c. 29	
Dunklin County Museum, Kennett, Missouri	25, 84, 88		
Dunklin County Museum, Kennett, Missouri	25, 114, 118		y
Eadie, Willie	49, 52	a.c. 17, 62, 104, 112	
Eadie, Willie	99		y

Subject	Folders	Other	Image
Easter--Drama	81	a.c. 14	
Easter--Drama	107		y
Eastside Spiritual Church, Hayti, Missouri	73, 75, 83		
Eastside Spiritual Church, Hayti, Missouri	110		y
Eastside Spiritual Church, Hayti, Missouri--Choir	59, 75	a.c. 55, 63, 64	
Echoes of Joy	63, 75, 76, 82	a.c. 30, 91	
Echoes of Joy	96, 97, 109, 122		y
Edmonds, Reepie	121		y
Elections--Missouri, New Madrid County, 1994	10		
Ellis, Joe, Sr.	12		
Ellsworth, Sam	2, 82		
Ellsworth, Sam	109		y
Emancipation Day			
Epidemics, 1918	70	a.c. 133	
Eugene Field School, Charleston, Missouri	12		
Ezell Family Singers	1, 63	a.c. 92	
Ezell Family Singers	1		y
Falkoff, Richard	80	a.c. 130	
Family history			
Farm life--Missouri, Bootheel	57, 64, 66, 70, 71, 73	a.c. 45, 101, 135, 152, 154-156	
Farm management	67	a.c. 106	
Farm tenancy	4, 5, 41, 50, 54, 64, 66-68, 73, 79	a.c. 7, 8, 11, 15, 26, 101, 107, 121, 151	
Farmer, Jesse R.	12		
Federal aid			
Felts, Narvel	21, 63	a.c. 94, 142, 160, 161; rec. 2	
Felts, Narvel	21		y
Fendler, Oscar	80	a.c. 129	
Festival of Missouri Women in the Arts, 1974	14		
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Fiddle tunes	63	a.c. 87, 88	
First Baptist Church, Gideon, Missouri	73		
First General Baptist Church, Malden, Missouri	29, 81	a.c. 14	
First United Methodist Church Quilting Ladies, New Madrid, Missouri	42, 57, 74, 84	a.c. 34-36, 45	
First United Pentecostal Church, Kennett, Missouri	63, 74, 88	a.c. 82-84	

Subject	Folders	Other	Image
First United Pentecostal Church, Kennett, Missouri	118		y
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Fisher, Thomas E.	46, 52, 73, 79, 83, 88	a.c. 113	
Fisher, Thomas E.	118, 119		y
Fishing		a.c. 116-118	
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Floods--Missouri, 1937	8, 11, 67, 70, 73	a.c. 107, 133	
Floods--Missouri, 1953	70	a.c. 134	
Floods--Missouri, 1973	70	a.c. 134	
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Folk art--Missouri, Bootheel	38, 94, 96-99, 107, 108, 111-119, 121, 122		y
Folk medicine	57, 60	a.c. 37, 76	
Folk songs	4, 63, 76, 86	a.c. 81, 87-90, 93, 159	
Ford, Billy Joe	52, 69, 75, 80	a.c. 131	
Ford, Billy Joe	99		y
Four Kings of Harmony	68	a.c. 121	
Fox, Curly	63	a.c. 88	
Frailey family	63, 76	a.c. 89, 90, 93, 159	
Frailey, Fred	97, 122		y
Frailey, Norma	97, 122		y
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Freeman, Kent	52, 79, 88	a.c. 114, 115	
Freeman, Kent	119		y
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Full Gospel Evangelist Church, Hayti Heights, Missouri	117		y
Full Gospel Evangelist Church, Hayti Heights, Missouri--Choir	59	a.c. 55, 58-60, 106	
Full Gospel Evangelist Church, Hayti Heights,	97		y

Subject	Folders	Other	Image
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Full Gospel True Holiness Church, Cottonwood Point, Missouri	59, 73	a.c. 68-70	
Gaines, Gordon	52, 62	a.c. 79	
Gallivan, Thomas	73, 83		
Gallivan, Thomas	95, 112, 122		y
Garner, Ermer J.	122		y
Garner, Ermer J.	63, 76	a.c. 88	
Garner, Margaret	42, 52, 57, 74	a.c. 49	
Gee, E. B.	79	a.c. 104	
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German Americans--Missouri, Bootheel	54	a.c. 12	
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Gillespie, Nellice	31		
Gingham Square, Malden, Missouri	14		
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Glover, Lucy	42, 52, 57, 73, 83, 84	a.c. 37	
Glover, Lucy	99, 112, 114, 122		y
Gospel music	49, 59, 63, 68, 73, 75, 76, 82	a.c. 3, 4, 17, 19, 20, 28-30, 55-69, 71-74, 82-86, 89-91, 93, 99, 100, 105, 109, 112, 121	
Graham, Clara	12		
Great New Madrid Media Quake, 1990	33		y
Hager, Bessie Thelma	42, 52, 57, 74	a.c. 50	
Hager, Bessie Thelma	96, 122		y
Halter, Michael Henry	12		
Handcox, John L. (1904-1992)	4, 41		
Hansen, Grace	5		
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Harper, Edna	42, 52, 57, 74	a.c. 49	
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Harris, Becky	107		y
Haw, James Moore	12		
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Subject	Folders	Other	Image
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Henry family--Genealogy	70	a.c. 133-135	
Henry, Mattie	12		
Henry, Mildred	42, 52, 57, 70, 74, 84	a.c. 45, 46, 104, 133-135	
Henry, Mildred	114		y
Henry, Whitson	70	a.c. 134, 135	
Hickson family	57	a.c. 48	
Hickson, Georgia	42, 52, 57, 74	a.c. 48	
Higgerson family--Genealogy	60	a.c. 75, 76	
Higgerson, Lorene	42, 52, 57, 60	a.c. 75, 76, 137	
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Hobbs, Daisy	54, 73, 83	a.c. 12	
Hobbs, Daisy	111		y
Hobbs, Luella	54	a.c. 12	
Hogan, Pee Wee	23		
Holland, Durie	52		
Horrell, Aaron	14, 37, 94, 95		
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Houses--Missouri, Charleston	11		y
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Houses--Missouri, New Madrid	70, 79	a.c. 135	
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Hunter Dawson House, New Madrid, Missouri	70	a.c. 135	
Hunter family--Genealogy	70	a.c. 134, 135	
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Subject	Folders	Other	Image
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Indian burial grounds--Missouri, Bootheel	117, 118		y
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James Bayou Catfish Cookers	108		y
James family--Genealogy	54	a.c. 7-9	
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Johnson, Kathryn	52, 65		
Jones, Eugene	52, 73	a.c. 28	
Jones, Harold	54	a.c. 9	
Jones, Irma	52, 90	a.c. 52	
Jones, Irma	121		y
Joslyn, O. W.	12		
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Kahn's Department Store, Kennett, Missouri	120		y
KBOA Radio Station, Kennett, Missouri	63	a.c. 94	
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Kennett Sound Studio, Kennett, Missouri	63, 76	a.c. 94	
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Kincaid, Charley L.	3		y
Kincaid, Robert	3		y
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Kinder, Helen	52, 62	a.c. 79	
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King family--Genealogy	57	a.c. 44	
King, B. B.		a.c. 28	
King, Lara Mae	42, 52, 57, 84	a.c. 44, 104	
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KMIS Radio Station, Portageville, Missouri	98		y
KMIS Radio Station, Portageville, Missouri	79	a.c. 112	
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Marshall, William T.	12		
Martin, D. W.	79		
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McCutchen, Zetty	12		
McDowell, Jerry	79		
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McGruder family	118		y
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McGruder, Priscilla	63, 88	a.c. 82-84	
Menus	23		
Mercy Seat Baptist Church, Charleston, Missouri	75, 76	a.c. 109	
Miller, F. M.	99		y
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Missouri, Mississippi County	11		
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Missouri, New Madrid	33, 57, 60, 70, 83	a.c. 35, 75, 133, 135	
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Oral history	53	a.c. 1, 2	
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Reclamation of land	54, 67, 71	a.c. 9, 15, 106, 153	
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Subject	Folders	Other	Image
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Ruff, Lila	42, 52, 57, 74, 84	a.c. 41	
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Sajadian, Morteza	82	a.c. 33	
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Sewing	15, 81	a.c. 13, 52	
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