

## Information Sheet

**R Smith, E. Herbert, 1865-1956.**  
**184           Autobiography, 1954.**  
**One folder, photocopies.**

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 [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

This is a thirteen-page autobiography by a newspaper publisher and editor of southeastern Missouri. At one time or another during his sixty-year career, Smith was associated with the *Benton Record*, the *Charleston Democrat* and *Enterprise*, the *Sikeston Star*, and the *Clarkton News*.

E. Herbert Smith was born in Garrard County, Kentucky, in 1865. His father, Harry Ackerman Smith, was a teacher and Methodist minister who held pulpits in several southern states. He was also a veteran of the 21st Ohio Volunteer Infantry. His Civil War letters to his family are included in the holdings of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia. Harry A. Smith moved to Cape Girardeau in 1883, where his son secured his first newspaper employment as a printer's assistant with the *Cape Girardeau News*. With the exception of a few short gaps, it was the beginning of a newspaper career which lasted until his retirement in 1940.

Smith's autobiography, written in 1954, contains the chronological details of his career and anecdotes connected with it. He was proud of his newspapers, and considered them to be decent, respectable testimonials for the communities in which they were published. A strong temperance advocate, Smith fought against two local option campaigns in Scott and Mississippi counties. He commented in his autobiography on these campaigns, and on his policy of refusing to accept advertisements for alcoholic beverages in his newspapers.

Appended to the autobiography are two items concerning Smith which were added by the donor, Benjamin Bird Moore, who is Smith's grandson. The first is a testimonial to Smith given in 1948 at the Clarkton Methodist Fellowship by John H. James. Following it is a letter from Mrs. E. Herbert Smith at Charleston, Missouri, to Myrtle Goodin, written in 1915. The donor's typed introduction to Smith's autobiography includes notes on the individuals mentioned in the letter.

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31 January 1984

Benjamin Bird Moore

Gift

## Index Cards

Benton (Mo.)  
*Benton Record* (Mo.)  
Cape Girardeau (Mo.)  
Charleston (Mo.)  
*Charleston Democrat* (Mo.)  
*Charleston Enterprise-Courier* (Mo.)  
Clarkton (Mo.)  
*Clarkton News* (Mo.)  
Clinton (Ky.)  
Goodin, Myrtle  
Hafner, Phil  
James, John H.  
Kirksville (Ky.)  
Loebe, Simon  
Methodist Episcopal Church, South  
Mississippi County (Mo.)  
Mitchim, J. F.

Newspaper publishing—Missouri—Mississippi County

Newspaper publishing—Missouri—Scott County

Ogilvie, Irma

Scott County (Mo.)

Sikeston (Mo.)

*Sikeston Star* (Mo.)

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Smith, Harry Ackerman

Smith, Stella Rowe, -1922