

Information Sheet

R Stevens, James A., 1859-1897.
192 Journal, 1878-1884.
One folder, photocopies.

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This is a journal of a missionary for the American Sunday School Union in southeastern Missouri. Stevens promoted and organized Sunday school classes in Butler, Madison, St. Francois, and Wayne counties from a base in Fredericktown.

James A. Stevens was born in Warwickshire, England, on Christmas Day, 1859. His family moved to the United States soon after the Civil War, and by 1878 were established in Edina, Knox County, Missouri. Several months after marrying Margaret Herriott of Knox County in 1881, Stevens was persuaded to become a missionary for the American Sunday School Union. The Union was a church-planting, home mission group founded at Philadelphia in 1817. It is still active today as the American Missionary Fellowship. Stevens was accepted by the Union and spent several years in southeastern Missouri pursuing its work. After leaving the mission field, Stevens moved his family to Rolla, where he operated a photographic studio. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1897 at Rolla.

Stevens's journal begins with a few entries for 1878 which note events on the family farm at Edina. There are no further entries until his marriage to Maggie Herriott on 6 February 1881. Regular entries follow thereafter through March 1884, then sporadic notes through November 1884.

Most of the entries in the journal are short, generally concerning his travels for the Union. Most of his time seems to have been spent seeking out "desitute parts" in which to plant Sunday schools. Usually he would arrive days in advance at a rural school or church, leaving "appointments" which announced his speaking at a later date. He had his best results in Madison and Wayne counties, where he established flourishing schools at Mine La Motte, Syenite, Patterson, Gads Hill, and Williamsville. Newspaper clippings, tipped-in at the front and rear of the journal, provide annual summaries of the work.

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Shelf List

This is a journal of a missionary for the American Sunday School Union in southeastern Missouri. Stevens promoted and organized Sunday school classes in Butler, Madison, St. Francois, and Wayne counties from a base in Fredericktown.

January 1878	Beginning of entries. Edina, Knox County, Missouri.
February 1881- November 1881	Edina, Knox County, Missouri. Marriage to Margaret Herriott, 6 February 1881.
December 1881- March 1882	Accepted as a missionary by the American Sunday School Union. Begins working in Knox, Macon, and Lewis counties in Missouri.
March 1882- July 1882	Begins missionary work in southeastern Missouri, based at Des Arc in Madison County.
July 1882- May 1884	Missionary work in Butler, Madison, St. Francois, and Wayne counties. Stevens's wife joined him in July 1882 and they moved to

Fredericktown.

June 1884

Attempt to relocate at West Plains. Unable to secure a house, they return to Fredericktown.

November 1884

Final entries.

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