

# *The* STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of* MISSOURI

## **R1316 James Foundation Papers, 1912—1980s 109 folders (4.5 cubic feet)**

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

### **DESCRIPTION**

The James Foundation was established in Missouri in 1941 by the New York Community Trust to administer grants from the Lucy Wortham James Memorial. The Foundation carries out philanthropic projects in Missouri in accordance with the will of Lucy Wortham James.

Lucy Wortham James was born in St. James in 1880 to Octavia Ann Bowles and Thomas James. She was a descendant of the iron-making family that established the Maramec Iron Works in 1826; William James, the last to make iron at Maramec, was her grandfather. The ironworks was bankrupt before Lucy's birth, but she lived in St. James as a child. Later she spent summers at Maramec Spring in the company of her grandmother, Lucy Ann Dun James, and developed a lifelong fondness for the picturesque and historic site. Lucy's grandmother was the sister of Robert G. Dun, prosperous owner of the mercantile reporting agency that bore his name. After the bankruptcy of William James in 1878, Dun supported the family. His grand niece, Lucy, was a favorite, and through his assistance she attended schools in Kansas City and New York, and studied music in Vienna. In 1903 she married United States diplomat Huntington Wilson in Baltimore and went with him to posts in Japan and Argentina, traveled to the Philippines, China and Turkey, and hosted State Department social events in Washington. The Wilsons divorced, childless, in 1915. Thereafter, she signed her name "Mrs. Lucy Wortham James."

Through her father, Lucy had inherited a portion of the sizeable estate of Robert G. Dun and would become the largest stockholder of Dun & Bradstreet, Inc. The money was enough for her to maintain a New York apartment, build a seaside home at Newport Rhode Island and spend long periods of time in Missouri at St. James and Maramec Spring, and pursue various philanthropic interests. Those include various projects advancing educational and women's health issues in New York and civic improvements in St. James including Trinity Episcopal church and public library. In the 1920s, she purchased nearly 1,300 acres in Phelps County including the former site of the Maramec Iron Works. She began conserving the site, and planned for its perpetual public use. During the early 1930s, she spent some years in residence at Maramec Spring and St. James.

Lucy Wortham James died 20 January 1938 in New York, leaving an estate of nearly two million dollars. She had begun estate planning as early as 1930, crafting her will so that her fortune would be used to further her various philanthropic interests. Those interests in Missouri included

her desire to maintain Maramec Spring as a private park open to the public and to carry out civic improvements in the town of St. James. Those wishes were contested in several courts, with litigation lasting into 1941. Ultimately her will was ruled valid. According to plan, the estate was administered through the New York Community Trust under the direction of Ralph Hayes of New York, and, later, his successor Herbert B. West. After an attempt to give Maramec Spring to the U. S. Government, the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri took charge of the property until 1946. In 1941, the Trust had established the James Foundation as a Missouri nonprofit corporation to oversee the work in that state. In 1946 the Foundation took charge of the property and began development of the park. Robert L. Elgin developed the first plans for historical preservation and natural conservation at the site. In St. James, Grace and Agnes Mueller, former friends of Lucy Wortham James, became the first librarians and were the Foundation's primary local contact with the community until her retirement. They were succeeded by Ford W. Hughes, who became the Foundation's regional manager and was elected to the Foundation's board of directors.

Maramec Spring Park, a privately held park encompassing nearly 1,800 acres, opened to the public in 1947. In St. James, the James Foundation built the James Memorial Library in 1952 and acquired 56 acres for a public park that opened in 1965, and built a swimming pool and fishing lake in 1966-1971. Other civic endeavors in St. James promoted by the Foundation included tree planting and beautification projects, assistance to the schools, grants to local churches, assistance to the Boy Scouts, and promotion of the annual Grape & Fall Festival. In recent years the Foundation has reduced its activity in St. James for a focus on operations at Maramec Spring Park. The City of St. James now operates the public library, pool and park.

The James Foundation papers consist of materials on file at the James Memorial Library before it was transferred to municipal control. The collection is arranged in five series. Series 1 consists of legal papers concerning the disposition of the estate of R. G. Dun in 1912, correspondence between Lucy Wortham James and officials of the New York Community Trust regarding her desires for her estate, probate matters including a contest to the will filed in Rhode Island, disposition of personal belongings and bequeathals through by the New York Community Trust, creation of the James Foundation as an operating entity for Missouri projects, real estate matters, conservation efforts including agreements with the Missouri Conservation Department, the opening of Maramec Spring Park in 1947, and subsequent operational matters. There is also correspondence from the Trust with Ina Chambers, Lucy Wortham James's private nurse and companion, Agnes and Grace Muller of St. James, both personal friends and the first librarians at St. James, and with the Foundation's on-site representatives Robert L. Elgin and Ford W. Hughes. There is also correspondence with Owen A. Sheffield, an officer of Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., with significant historical details on the Dun and James families. Series 2 and 3 concern individual projects and initiatives at Maramec Spring and St. James, respectively. The papers in Series 3 document the Foundation's development of the public library, park, swimming pool, and Lake Scioto, construction of a new city hall, and urban beautification projects at St. James. In connection with civic improvement, see especially the questionnaire and betterment plan for St. James in folders 22 and 53. Series 4 contains newspaper coverage concerning the James Foundation and its programs, mostly from Rolla and St. James papers. There are also promotional items published by the Foundation. Series 5 contains files on miscellaneous

projects; such as the annual Grape & Fall Festival and dedication of the new city hall. Many of the folders include photographs.

## **PROVENANCE**

The collection was donated on 16 April 2013 through Diana Jenkins, Librarian of the James Memorial Library at St. James, accession SHSMO-RA1580.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

These are papers, photographs, news items, and other materials concerning the estate of Lucy Wortham James, creation of the James Foundation in Missouri, administration of Maramec Spring Park, and community betterment projects in St. James, 1930-1980s.

## **COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS**

There are no restrictions upon use of the collection.

## **PREFERRED CITATION**

James Foundation papers, State Historical Society of Missouri

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## **INVENTORY**

### **Series 1**

Folders 1-31: Legal papers concerning the estate of R. G. Dun, correspondence between Lucy Wortham James and officials of the New York Community Trust regarding her desires for her estate, probate matters including a contest to the will filed in Rhode Island, final disposition of bequeathals and personal belongings, creation of the James Foundation as the operating entity for Missouri projects, real estate matters, conservation efforts, and operational strategies.

F 01: Historical data regarding the Dun Family and Lucy Wortham James, 1937-1973

F 02: Rhode Island Supreme Court, Estate of Lucy Wortham James, 1938-1940

F 03: Supreme Court, State of Rhode Island, Estate of Lucy Wortham James, exhibits

F 04: James Family history (2 photos) 1906, 1939-1940

- F 05: Historical data: Lucy Wortham James-James family-Dun family 1938-1968
- F 06: Historical data: Miss Ina Chambers (former companion to Mrs. Lucy Wortham James), 1959-1975
- F 07: R. G. Dun Trust Agreement showing division of estate, with photographs of Newport property, 1912
- F 08: Correspondence regarding reproduction of James family portraits, 1945
- F 09: Estate of Lucy Wortham James  
Correspondence, 1930-1946
- F 10: Estate of Lucy Wortham James, miscellaneous papers  
Opinion of Surrogate Delehanty, *N. Y. Law Journal*, 1938  
Memo of authorities prepared by Mr. Walter, 1939  
Memorandum in Behalf of the Executors, Surrogate's Court, County of New York (2 copies)  
Heirs of James Angus Dun, n.d.  
History of Maramec Iron Work and James family genealogy
- F 11: Application for Exemption of Real Estate in Phelps and Crawford County (Mo.).
- F 12A: Estate of Lucy Wortham James (**legal-sized papers are filed separately in Box 5**)  
Deed 3 Apr 1946 by William Scarlett  
Legal brief  
Woman's Clinic, Johns Hopkins Hospital, photographs, 1919  
Park Plan (obsolete)  
Map of the City of St. James and property of Lucy Wortham James estate, 1941  
James Foundation, maps and plans  
Safe Deposit Trust Company, 1 May 1930  
Tax returns 1937-1938
- F 12B: Estate of Lucy Wortham James, printed booklets:  
Court of Appeals of Maryland, Record No. 37, Robert Dun Douglass vs. Safe Deposit and Trust Co., Transcript of Record (2 copies); Brief for Appellee; and Brief on Behalf of Appellant, January 1930  
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Supreme Court, in the matter of the estate of Lucy Wortham James, Brief of the Fulton Trust Company, Ex. No. 8250, 12 April 1938.
- F 13: New York Community Trust, correspondence of Director Ralph Hayes and Lucy Wortham James, 1931-1932
- F 14: Opening Statement (pages 10-35)
- F 15: Timber Management, 1946-1953
- F 16: Maramec Springs as a National Park, correspondence with US Government, 1941-1947
- F 17: Papers regarding the inventory of Mrs. James's household furnishings, 1941-1947
- F 18: Missouri Conservation Commission—Song Bird agreement 1946
- F 19: Library Personnel—Grace and Agnes Muller, papers; 1944-1975
- F 20: Legal papers, R. W. Schlafly, Attorney, 1953-1971
- F 21: Foundation properties—correspondence, 1936-1945
- F 22: Frisco Railroad—Correspondence & questionnaire re: St. James Community Betterment Program, 1962-1963
- F 23: Ralph Hayes—Correspondence with Ford Hughes regarding operations of James Foundation, 1968
- F 24: General correspondence with James Foundation, 1975-1979
- F 25: Title data—Sewer line easement through James Foundation town property 1958
- F 26: Title data—Properties—James Foundation 1950-1973
- F 27: Title data—Right-of-Way Easement for electric power lines 1950
- F 28: Title Transfer—Mercantile Trust Company to James Foundation 1941-1954
- F 29: St. James Park—real estate purchased for parking lot, 1964-1968
- F 30: Title data: Mound Ridge—building of right-of-way road through Maramec property, 1957-1959
- F 31: Deluca Property —purchase of lots on Eldon Street (St. James, Mo.), 1968

## Series 2

Folders 32-50: Papers concerning projects at Maramec Springs, including correspondence, photographs, architectural plans, newspaper items, and other miscellaneous items. Notable projects included conservation measures (forestry and fish culture), preservation of the former residence of William James, and construction of the museum at Maramec Spring.

- F 32: Tree planting project—Tree Bank—Maramec Spring Park 1967-1978
- F 33: Condition Report: William James House, Maramec Spring Park, by Robert L. Elgin, 1959
- F 34: Historical Report: William James House, Maramec Spring Park, by Robert L. Elgin, 1959
- F 35: Museum at Maramec Park: plans, correspondence, blueprints, and photographs, 1969-1977
- F 36: Museum at Maramec Park: plans, correspondence, blueprints, and photographs, 1969-1977
- F 37: Maps, blueprints and plans for James Foundation properties: Maramec Spring Park, St. James Park, tree planting maps
- F 38: Maramec Spring dedicated as Natural Landmark, 24 March 1972
- F 39: Maramec Spring Park, new building at entrance, 1974
- F 40: Maramec Spring Park, Trout Fisherman Survey by Billie R. Cooper, 1973
- F 41: Maramec Spring Park, newspaper clippings, 1970-1977
- F 42: Maramec Museum, newspaper items 1971-1978
- F 43: Maramec Museum, newspaper items 1979-1981
- F 44: Maramec Spring Park—St. James Park—Pageant, newspaper items, 1974-1976
- F 45: Maramec Spring Trout Fishermen Association, news releases, 1974-1985
- F 46: Maramec Spring Park, newspaper items, 1975-1977
- F 47: Maramec Spring Park, newspaper items, 1978-1980
- F 48: Maramec Spring Park, newspaper items, 1981-1983
- F 49: Maramec Spring Park, newspaper items, 1984
- F 50: Maramec Spring Park, newspaper items, 1985

## Series 3

Folders 51-70: These are papers regarding projects undertaken or promoted by the James Foundation within the City of St. James, including construction and or development of the public library and city hall, public park, Lake Scioto, and swimming pool.

- F 51: Beautification Program in St. James—"Gardeners of Forest City" 1958-1973
- F 52: Projects— St. James City Hall (new), plans, 1967-1968 (plans)
- F 53: "The Future of St. James, Missouri," Comprehensive Plan, 1967
- F 54: Old City Hall building, St. James, 1965-1968
- F 55: St. James Fire Department—St. James Rural Fire Protection Association, 1965-1967.
- F 56: Tree program publicity, magazine and newspaper articles), 1958-1966
- F 57: Boy Scouts (St. James, Mo.), 1966
- F 58: St. James Park, 1968-1972
- F 59: James Foundation grants to St. James churches, 1968-1970
- F 60: Lake Scioto (St. James, Mo.), 1969-1974
- F 61: St. James Swimming Pool, newspaper items, 1970-1978
- F 62: St. James Swimming Pool, newspaper items, 1979-1982
- F 63: Lake Scioto and St. James Park, newspaper items, 1970-1978
- F 64: Library, newspaper items, 1972-1978
- F 65: Library, newspaper items, 1979-1982
- F 66: Lake Scioto and St. James Park, newspaper items, 1980-1982
- F 67: Animal pens, feasibility study, 1981

- F 68: St. James playground project, 1985
- F 69: Library extension and motel, feasibility study by Anderson & Associates, 1986
- F 70: Grape and Fall Festival (St. James, Mo.), awards booklets, 1951-2006

#### **Series 4**

Folders 71-97: Newspaper items, news releases and promotional items regarding the James Foundation's programs at Maramec Spring Park and within the City of St. James.

- F 71: "The Road from Maramec," newspaper articles & photos, 1957
- F 72: Publicity—James Foundation—newspaper articles and brochures 1956-1960
- F 73: Publicity—James Foundation—Articles (magazine and newspaper articles) 1961-1969
- F 74: Projects: National Museum of Transport (St. Louis, Mo.), 1962-1963
- F 75: Archaeological research news release, January 1958
- F 76: James Foundation, newspaper clippings from St. James *Leader Journal*, 1975-1976
- F 77: Maramec Dam, miscellaneous newspaper clippings, 1976-1977
- F 78: James Foundation, news releases, 1976-1979
- F 79: News releases, 1979-1984
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- F 81: Newspapers articles, 1986
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- F 87: Newspaper articles, 1989
- F 88: News releases, 1989
- F 89: James Foundation; *Rolla Daily News* articles and *Progress Edition*, 1953-1954
- F 90: James Foundation: *Rolla Daily News* articles and *Progress Edition*, 1955-1956
- F 91: *Rolla Daily News*, *Phelps County Centennial Edition*, 1957
- F 92: *Rolla Daily News*, *Progress Edition*, 1958-1959
- F 93: Maramec booklets published by James Foundation, 1957-1972
- F 94: St. James *Leader Journal* articles, 1962-1966
- F 95: St. James *Leader Journal* press clippings, 1969-1972
- F 96: Newspaper articles (duplicates)
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#### **Series 5**

Folders 98-109: Photographs and miscellaneous papers concerning various projects in St. James.

- F 98: Grape and Fall Festival (St. James, Mo.), photographs of parades and exhibits, 1953-1972
- F 99: St. James Library, photographs of original Jefferson Street location, 1930
- F 100: Lucy Wortham James Library photographs, 1952-1964
- F 101: Photographs: interior plans of various houses—Trinity Church in St. James—Maramec Spring Park
- F 102: Portrait photograph of unknown male subject in business suit [R. G. Dun?], n.d.
- F 103: Newspaper articles, St. James *Leader Journal*, 1983-1984
- F 104: "James Foundation Story"
- F 105: "Lucy's Playhouse," photographs featuring children and storyteller Grace Muller, 1952-1953
- F 106: "Lucy Wortham James Library, color photo 8x10, 1953

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F 107: Photographs of St. James projects: St. James flag design, 1963; St. James tree planting, 1958; St. James City Hall dedication, 1969

F 108: Miscellaneous photographs: Maramec Spring Park 1957-1972; Maramec Spring Park dedication, 1972

F 109: Pictures and postcards of Maramec Spring Park and iron furnace, 1930-1970

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