

# The STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY of MISSOURI

## **R1317 Findley, Susan H., 1930-2010 Papers, 1953-2010 Fifty folders (3 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).

### **PROVENANCE**

Susan H. Findley donated her personal and family papers to the University of Missouri Western Historical Manuscript Collection in three accessions: SHSMO-RA0552 on 20 October 1992, SHSMO-RA0575 on 13 August 1993, and SHSMO-RA0651 on 26 May 1996.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

The principals in this collection are Susan Hancock Findley and Marshall E. Findley.

Susan Hancock Findley was born to James Thomas Hancock and Ruby Jane Hancock on June 17, 1930 in Okeechobee, Florida. Susan received a bachelor's degree from Agnes Scott College in Atlanta, and a master's degree from Emory University. She married Marshall E. Findley when he was a graduate student at the University of Florida at Gainesville. The Findleys came to Rolla, Missouri in 1965, where Marshall joined the faculty of the University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR or UM-Rolla, now Missouri University of Science and Technology). They had two children, James Eric Findley and Thomas Marshall Findley, both graduates of Rolla High School.

Susan was a world traveler and student of local cultures, particularly culinary habits. In 1970-71, Susan, Jim and Tom lived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, while Marshall worked in South Vietnam for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Her collection includes personal letters written during Marshall's assignment to South Vietnam and information relating to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, South Vietnam, the University of Missouri-Rolla, and friends back in Rolla.

Susan was a student of history and member of the Daughters of American Revolution. She became involved in local and national politics, was a delegate to the Democratic national mid-term convention in 1974, ran unsuccessfully for local office in 1980, and became a key member of the League of Women Voters and local women's Democratic chapter. She was a Rolla resident for over 30 years until moving to Florida in 1998. Susan H. Findley died July 30, 2010 in Tallahassee.

Marshall Ewing Findley was born October 13, 1927. After service in World War Two, he graduated from Texas A & M and attended the Institute of Paper Chemistry in Appleton, Wisconsin. He received a Ph.D. from the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he met and married Susan.

Findley became a member of the UM-Rolla faculty in 1965. His research interests included producing fresh water from salt water, wood gasification, tar sand pyrolysis, and separations of multi-component chemical and biochemical mixtures. He was author or co-author of many technical papers, and on October 17, 1989 was granted U.S. Patent No. 4,874,524 for "Separation of Adsorbed Components by Variable Temperature Desorption" in petrochemical, chemical and biotechnology industries. He was a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the American Chemical Society, was the advisor of the International Student Club at UM-Rolla, was active in international education, and had led a Fulbright Lecture in Egypt. Findley was a member of the UMR/USAID team, and was an advisor to the UNESCO Society in Uganda. Findley became professor emeritus of chemical engineering in 1990; he died March 27, 1991 in Rolla, Missouri.

## **DESCRIPTION**

The Findley papers consist of the correspondence and personal papers of Susan Hancock Findley and her husband, Marshall E. Findley. They include papers from Marshall Findley's years in Rolla as an associate professor of chemical engineering (1965-1991), and personal correspondence and papers from Marshall's time as a USAID guest professor in South Vietnam (January 1969-July 1971). Folders 1-23 include the personal papers and correspondence of the Findleys. Much of the correspondence reflects the time the Findleys spent in southeast Asia. There are letters to each other from Vietnam and Malaysia, and correspondence from family members, UM-Rolla faculty and their spouses, international students, and local political figures in Missouri. The Findleys wrote of living and traveling in Asia, working in the USAID program, politics, and the course of the war in Vietnam. Their correspondents passed on family news as well as local news from UM-Rolla, within the Chemical Engineering Department, and around Rolla.

Folders 24-50 include correspondence, newspaper items, professional papers, and photographs of the activities and interests of the Findleys. Of particular interest is the correspondence (Folder 27) between Dr. Findley and Mrs. Trinh Thuy Mai, his translator at the Vietnamese school. After the war, he vouched for her work record and helped her get into the United States. Findley also assisted the Nhan Family from Vietnam (Folder 33). Mr. Nhan and his wife had been Findley's students, and he was subsequently instrumental in getting them out of Vietnam and established in the United States. The papers include many newspaper clippings, magazines, and books that deal with the Vietnam War. Among other items are Dr. Findley's proposal for stabilizing South Vietnam published in the *New York Times*, July 13, 1966, and a June 1971 article in the *Rolla Daily News* about his work in Vietnam. There is also information related to Kuala

Lumpur, Malaysia, where Susan and the two Findley children lived while Marshall taught in Vietnam.

The Findleys were globally-minded people with international experience. They worked, resided or traveled in Vietnam, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, and Puerto Rico. In the United States, they were active in establishing organizations to facilitate international student exchange at UM-Rolla. Folders 28-32 and 34 contain material on student exchange and the Findleys' involvement with two local organizations, People to People and the International House. Folders 34-38 contain material regarding state and local politics and Susan's activity with the Democratic Party. Other political materials, including letters and communications from local, state and national party leaders, are interspersed with other personal correspondence in Folders 1-23.

Registers of the correspondence and other papers are filed with each folder.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

These are the personal papers of Susan H. Findley and her husband, Marshall E. Findley, a chemical engineer at the University of Missouri-Rolla and USAID teacher in South Vietnam. The papers include correspondence from South Vietnam and Malaysia, descriptions of southeast Asia, the Vietnam War and USAID program, family news, information regarding the Chemical Engineering Department and international student exchange at UM-Rolla, and papers from Susan's work with the Democratic Party in Phelps County, Missouri.

## **COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS**

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## **PREFERRED CITATION**

Susan H. Findley papers, State Historical Society of Missouri.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

The State Historical Society of Missouri  
Research Center-Rolla  
G-3 Library, Missouri University of Science and Technology  
400 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Rolla, MO 65409-1420  
(573) 341-4874

## **FOLDER INVENTORY**

**Folders 1-23 Personal correspondence, 1956-1994**

Rolla, Mo.; Saigon, S. Vietnam; Kuala Lumpur and Selangor, Malaysia; Singapore;  
Hong Kong

- Folder 01: 1956-1968
- Folder 02: Jan-Oct, 1969
- Folder 03: Nov-Dec 1969
- Folder 04: Jan-Feb 1970
- Folder 05: Mar-Apr 1970
- Folder 06: May-June 1970
- Folder 07: Jul-Sep 1970
- Folder 08: Oct-Dec 1970
- Folder 09: Jan-Mar 1971
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- Folder 20: undated
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- Folder 22: undated (newspaper clippings)
- Folder 23: special occasion and greetings cards, undated correspondence

**Folders 24-50 Miscellaneous papers, 1965-2010**

- Folder 24: information related to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 1970-71
- Folder 25: magazines pertaining to the Vietnam War, 1966-72
- Folder 26: papers related to chemical engineering, 1867-83
- Folder 27: papers concerning Mrs. Trinh Thuy Mai, 1972-83
- Folder 28: introductory material on Viet Nam, 1966-69
- Folder 29: People-to-People organization, 1968-73
- Folder 30: UM-Rolla student exchange program, 1973
- Folder 31: scientific publications co-authored by Marshall Findley
- Folder 32: International House (Rolla, Mo.), scrapbook and photo album, 1968-69
- Folder 33: Nhan family, papers, 1974-82
- Folder 34: International House (Rolla, Mo.), 1967-74
- Folder 35: printed materials from Susan Findley's political activities, Democratic Party Midterm National Conference, 1973-74
- Folder 36: papers concerning Susan Findley's political activities, 1953-91
- Folder 37: miscellaneous photocopies
- Folder 38: miscellaneous ribbons, buttons and audiotapes
- Folder 39: miscellaneous postcards and slides, 1940-84

- Folder 40: black and white and color photos of student groups and individuals, Vietnam
- Folder 41: black and white and color photos of students, student wives, faculty groups and individuals, labs, and vacation scenes; unknown subjects
- Folder 42: photographs, Vietnam and UM-Rolla, 1969-73
- Folder 43: black and white photos of Vietnamese student group and Dr. Ernest M. Spokes, Chief of Mission, Vietnam, 1969
- Folder 44: scrapbook presented to Professor Marshall E. Findley by his Chemical Engineering students, Phu Tho, Viet Nam, 1971
- Folder 45: Tet Year of the Tiger – includes five unidentified color photographs, 1974
- Folder 46: contains three envelopes of unidentified negatives and one envelope “student party in V.N.” (no date)
- Folder 47: includes programs, bulletins, and miscellaneous receipts, 1961-74
- Folder 48: Susan H. Findley biographical material including passport photographs, 1982; miscellaneous writings of Susan Hancock Findley, n.d.; obituary of Susan Hancock Findley, 2010
- Folder 49: passport, brief resume, death notice, and obituary for Marshall Findley
- Folder 50: miscellaneous family items, 1969-2005

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