



Ray Family Papers (R1356)

Collection Number: R1356

Collection Title: Ray Family Papers

Dates: 1900-2002

Creator: Ray, Wilda Irene Housden

Abstract: The collection of the Ray family contains genealogical information on the Ray and Housden families, photographs of the family and Licking, Missouri.

Collection Size: 6 cubic feet
(91 folders, 15 oversize)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research, but is partially stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center – Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Ray Family Papers* (R1356); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Linda Concoby and Debra Ray on September 15, 2016 (Accession No. RA1628).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Ray Family Papers can be found in the following collections:

Edna Haggard Housden Papers (R1379)

Processed by: Processed by Kathleen Seale, July 25, 2017. Revised by Kathleen Seale, January 19, 2018.

Historical Note:

Wilda Irene Housden Ray was born December 25, 1921, to Arthur H. Housden (1880-1943) and Roxa Skiles Housden (1886-1976) in Licking, Missouri. Wilda attended school in Texas County, graduating from Licking High School in 1938. She continued on to the Missouri Business School in St. Louis. Wilda worked as an assistant clerk stenographer for the Seventh Service Command quartermaster at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, from December 1941 to November 1942. She was present at Fort Leonard Wood when much of the fort was still under construction and resigned after marrying Alba Wilfred Ray Jr. on September 6, 1942. Wilda and Ray had three children, Linda Beth, Debra Sue, and Jan Richard. Wilda died March 18, 2002, in Springfield, Missouri.

Alba W. Ray Jr. was born July 21, 1920, at Oakwood Farm in Blooming Rose, (near Kinderpost) Texas County, Missouri. His parents were Alba W. Ray Sr. (1885-1955) and Rosella Williams Ray (1887-1988). He graduated from Licking High School, attended college at Southwest Missouri State University for one year before transferring to General Motors Chevrolet School in Kansas City, graduating in 1938. He then joined his father and uncle in the Ray Brothers Chevrolet dealership in Licking, Missouri. Alba enlisted in the Army Air Corp in October 1942 at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri and was stationed at Randolph Field, Texas. He served at Seguin, San Antonio, and Kwajalein, Marshal Islands before being honorably discharged in February 1946. Alba returned home to continue working at the families Chevrolet dealership becoming the sole owner in 1958 following his father's death and uncle's retirement.

Ray Chevrolet was originally located in downtown Licking, having taken over the old Ford Dealership by Sanford Ray and his son Alba Ray Sr. in 1928. In 1971, the downtown location burned and the new facility was built in 1973, at Highway 63 and BB south of Licking. Upon Alba Ray Jr.'s death on February 3, 1975, the family sold the business to Wesley Kissiar.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following eight series:

- Photo Albums
- Photographs
- Correspondence
- Journals
- Records and Source Material
- Family Information
- Oral History
- Scrapbooks

Scope and Content Note:

Photo Albums

This series contains photographs, correspondence, news clippings, and programs collected by Wilda Ray during the course of the years indicated in the folder list. The photograph albums

were disbound with the items taken from the pages for preservation purposes and maintained in their original order.

Photographs

These photographs contain images relating to the local area and activities near the Ray family. There are also images of family members, friends, and neighbors among the folders labeled as miscellaneous.

Correspondence

This series contains letters and correspondence to and between family members belonging the Ray family.

Journals

This series contains the handwritten journals written by Wilda I. Ray between 1991 and 2002. Wilda wrote of daily occurrences, health issues, family, and some of larger events.

Records and Source Material

These materials contain miscellaneous items collected by the Ray family in regards to family members, local history, theatre programs, and sporting programs.

Family Information

This series contains genealogical information. The series is organized by surnames; some folders include the first name of the individual as well.

Oral History

This series contains oral interviews dealing with the family history of the Ray, Housden, and Williams families.

Scrapbooks

These are scrapbooks created by members of the Ray family. These contain photographs, correspondence, news articles, and programs affixed to the pages of the scrapbooks. For conservation reasons the scrapbooks were disbound, interleaved with acid free paper and placed in flat storage boxes and are stored with the oversized materials.

Container List:

f. 1-27		Photograph Album
Box 001	f. 1-2	Skile Family
	f. 3-4	Odds and Ends, Wilde Irene Housden Ray
	f. 5-7	Housden (disbound)
	f. 8	Odds and Ends, Alba W. Ray Jr. Family
	f. 9	Odds and Ends, Alba W. Ray Jr., 1975
	f. 10	Odds and Ends, Alba W. Ray Jr.

- f. 11-12 William Ray Family
- f. 13 Purse picture album, 1961
- f. 14 Scrapbook, 1977-1980
- f. 15 Scrapbook, 1981-1983
- f. 16 Scrapbook, 1984
- f. 17 Scrapbook, 1985-1986
- f. 18 Scrapbook, 1987
- f. 19 Scrapbook, 1988-1989
- f. 20-21 Scrapbook, 1989-1991
- f. 22 Scrapbook, 1992-1994
- f. 23 Scrapbook, 1994-1995
- f. 24 Scrapbook, 1995-1997
- f. 25 Scrapbook, 1997-1998
- f. 26 Scrapbook, 1998-2000
- f. 27 Scrapbook, 2001
- f. 28-39 Photographs
 - f. 28 Big Spring State Park, Van Buren, MO
 - f. 29 Modern Woodmen of American, Licking, MO July 4, 1908 picnic
 - f. 30 Licking High School, 1916
 - f. 31 Baptist Ladies Aid, 1908
 - f. 32 Schools
 - f. 33 Parson family death portrait
 - f. 34 Bowman
 - f. 35 Housden
 - f. 36 Ray
 - f. 37 Williams
 - f. 38 Miscellaneous
 - f. 39 Miscellaneous unidentified
- f. 40-45 Correspondence
 - f. 40 Frost, Linda Ray
 - f. 41 House, Roxie (Roxa)
 - f. 42 Ray, Alba Jr.
 - f. 43 Haggard, Edna
 - f. 44 Elle
 - f. 45 Ray, Wilda I. Housden
- f. 46-53 Journals – Wilda I. Ray
 - f. 46 January 1991-September 1992
 - f. 47 September 1992-December 1993
 - f. 48 1994
 - f. 49 February 1995-September 1996
 - f. 50 September 1996-November 1998
 - f. 51 December 1998-March 2000
 - f. 52 November 2000-April 2001
 - f. 53 April 2001-January 2002
- f. 54-74 Records and Source Material
 - f. 54 Missouri Federation of Women’s Clubs convention program, 1954
 - f. 55 “Ozark National Scenic Riverways,” 1967
 - f. 56 American Theatre playbills, 1968

- f. 57 Municipal Opera Souvenir programs, 1969-1970
- f. 58 University of Missouri football programs, 1963
- f. 59 School Days book – Wilda I. Housden
- f. 60 Drummod Tobacco Co., St. Louis advertisement
- f. 61 Miss Missouri scholarship pageant program, 1969
- f. 62 Licking First Baptist Church history, 2004
- f. 63 Licking Schools
- f. 64 Licking, Missouri history
- f. 65 Historical map of Texas County, MO, 1930
- f. 66-68 Ray Chevrolet account book, 1971-1978
- f. 69 Frost, Linda Ray
- f. 70 Academic – Housden
- f. 71 Ray, Alba Jr.
- f. 72 Ray, Wilda I. Housden
- f. 73 Skiles, Hughes M.
- f. 74 News clippings
- f. 75-91 Family Information
 - f. 75 Bowman
 - f. 76 Bowman, Ellen
 - f. 77 Bowman, John and Catherine Sparling
 - f. 78 Click
 - f. 79 Coffey
 - f. 80 Housden
 - f. 81 Nichols
 - f. 82 Pickering, Sam
 - f. 83 Ray
 - f. 84 Ray, Alba W. Jr.
 - f. 85 Ray, Rosella ‘After the first snow flies’ by Linda Ray Frost, 1983
 - f. 86 Ray, Zulah Dawson
 - f. 87 Skyles
 - f. 88 Skiles
 - f. 89 Skiles/Skyles family bulletin, 1964
 - f. 90 Ware
 - f. 91 Williams
- CD 1-2 Oral History
 - CD 1 Oral interview with Wilda I. Housden Ray
 - CD 2 Ray/William Family history
- Box 1-15 Scrapbooks – Oversized
 - Box 1-2 Scrapbook, 1942-1953
 - Box 3-4 Scrapbook, 1954-1957
 - Box 5-6 Scrapbook, 1958-1960
 - Box 7-8 Scrapbook, 1961
 - Box 9 Scrapbook, 1962
 - Box 10 Scrapbook, 1963
 - Box 11 Scrapbook, 1964-1966

Box 12 Scrapbook, 19671-968
 Box 13-14 Scrapbook, 1969-1970
 Box 15 1971-1976

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image	Mediums
American Legion - Licking (Mo.)		Yes	Box 1-2
Baker Theater, Fort Leonard Wood (Mo.)			Box 13-14
Baptist Ladies Aid, 1908	31	Yes	
Beta Sigma Phi, Lareate Beta Nu Chapter	27	Yes	
Bethlehem School,	32	Yes	
Boy Scouts of America		Yes	Box 9
Branson (Mo.)	16	Yes	
Capt Bill's Hotel - Rockaway Beach, Missouri			Box 7-8
Central Stores 7th Corps Area Contractors (Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri) 1942	3-4	Yes	
Clark, John and Anne	8	Yes	
Concoby, Linda Ray	16, 83	Yes	Box 7-8
Cyclone - Licking, MO, 1917	5-7	Yes	
Ford Agency - Licking, MO, 1917	8, 10	Yes	
Forest Crop Law -- Missouri Conservation			Box 3-4
Fort Leonard Wood (Mo.)	3-4	Yes	Box 15
Freemason - St. Louis Chapter	8-10		
Haggard, Edna Housden (-2000)	43, 46-53		
Heer's - Springfield (Mo.)		Yes	Box 1-2
Housden Family		Yes	Box 1-2
Housden, Roxa Skiles (1884-1976)			Box 15
Houston Academy, 1889	32	Yes	
Ichord, Congressman Richard (Dick)	Box 15	Yes	
Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, MO	39	Yes	
Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, MO	8		
LHS Spotlight			Box 1-4, 7-9, 11
Licking (Mo.)	1-91	Yes	Box 1-15, CD 1-2
Licking High School	30	Yes	
Licking School Enterprise 1938	3-4		
Literary Gazette October 1990	20-21		
Missouri Conservation Commission - Forest Crop Land,	10	Yes	
Missouri Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc.		Yes	Box 11, 13-14

Index Term	Folder	Image	Mediums
Missouri Girls Town, Mountain Grove (Mo.)			Box 13-14
Modern Woodmen of American	29	Yes	
Montauk State Park		Yes	Box 1-2
Municipal Opera			Box 1, 13-14
New York Harbor	1-2	Yes	
Ozark Bus Line, Rolla to Cabool, Freeland Hotel, Houston, MO, 1922	5-7	Yes	
Parsons, Carney 'Carrie' (-1906)	33	Yes	
Poplar Bluff (Mo.)		Yes	Box 1-2
Randolph Air Force Base, TX, 1942	8, 10	Yes	
Ray Chevrolet--Licking, Missouri	8-10, 66-68, 83		Box 15
Ray Family - Genealogy	27		
Ray Jr. Alba W. (1920-1975)	1-91		Box 1-17, CD 1-2
Ray, Alba W. Sr. (1885-1955)			
Ray, Debra			Box 5-6
Ray, Roselle/a Williams (1887-1988)			
Ray, Wilda Irene Housden (1921-19)	1-91		Box 1-17, CD 1-2
Ray, Zulah (1888-1964)			Box 11
Rebekah Lodge No. 703 Licking, MO	5-7	Yes	
Saint Louis Union Station	20-21	Yes	
Salem (Mo.)		Yes	Box 5-6
Scholarship Pageant		Yes	Box 1, 13-14
School - Licking (Mo.)		Yes	Box 1-2, 7-8
Shepard of the Hills Marvel and Fairy Cave (Branson, Missouri)	3-4	Yes	
Skiles Family	19	Yes	Box 1-2
Skiles, Grover	1-2	Yes	
St. Louis (Mo.)	57		
St. Louis (Mo.)	20-21	Yes	
Steamboats	1-2	Yes	
Symington, Senator Stuart		Yes	Box 13-14
Texas County (Mo.)	83		Box 3-4
Trachoma Hospital Rolla, MO	8-10		
U.S. Navy	1-2	Yes	Box 1-2
U.S. Navy - Kwajaleir base		Yes	Box 1-2
United States Army	83, 86		
United States Army		Yes	Box 1-2
United States Army Air Corp, 1942	8-10	Yes	

Index Term	Folder	Image	Mediums
University of Missouri			Box 7-9, 13-14
USS Agamemnon	1-2	Yes	
Walnut Ridge School (Licking, Missouri)	83	Yes	Box 15
World War I, 1914-1918	1-2		
World War II, 1939-1945	8-10, 83, 86	Yes	Box 1-2