



Rucker Family Papers (R1429)

Collection Number: R1429

Collection Title: Rucker Family Papers

Dates: 1886-2013

Creator: Rucker Family

Abstract: The Rucker Family Papers contain correspondence and newspapers relating to family history, significant events, and architecture in Rolla, Missouri's history.

Collection Size: 1 cubic foot
(20 folders, 1 oversize folder)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center - Rolla](http://www.shsmo.org). 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, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Rucker Family Papers* (R1429); 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 Jessie S. Rucker on August 19, 1983 (Accession No. RA0192). An addition was made on December 11, 2013 by Booker H. Rucker III (Accession No. RA1602).

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

Elgin, Robert L. Research Collection (R1261)

Orval L. Henderson Jr. (C4130)

Phelps County, Missouri Financial Statement (R0036)

State Historical Society of Missouri Oral History Project (C3963)

University of Missouri, School of Mines and Metallurgy Papers (C3110)

Processed by: Processed by Cindy Borch, May 31, 2018

Historical Note:

The Rucker Family papers contain the personal records of Jessie Stark Rucker (April 26, 1910-August 21, 1991) and her son Booker Hall Rucker III (October 29, 1939-January 5, 2016). The Rucker family arrived in Missouri in the mid-nineteenth century and their descendants rose to prominence throughout the state. Jessie Ball Stark was raised near Louisiana, Missouri. Jessie married Ray Southgate Rucker, a Rolla native, and had three children: Ray S. Rucker, Jr., Booker H. Rucker III, and Stark R. Rucker. Ray Southgate Rucker became an architect and was heavily involved in the design and building of the Rolla Municipal Swimming Pool. His father, Booker Hall Rucker, was an active member of the Phelps County Historical Society and served as President. Jessie Rucker was also active in the historical society. Love of architecture and history was passed down to Booker H. Rucker III.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following three series:

Jessie Rucker Papers
Correspondence
Newspapers

Scope and Content Note:

Jessie Rucker Papers

This series contains materials related to Jessie Rucker's activities in Rolla. She was active in the Phelps County Historical Society, Red Cross, and Christ Church (Episcopal). The bulk of her papers are bulletins from Christ Church. Jessie also donated a copy of the 1895, store journal from her grandfather, Booker Rucker. Her papers also contain bulletins, newspaper clippings, and other ephemera from her husband, Ray S. Rucker's activities as an architect in Rolla, and those of her brother, Douglas R. Stark. The series is organized by subject.

Correspondence

This series consists of the email correspondence and scanned photographs of Booker H. Rucker III, pertaining to the history of Rolla. The majority of the correspondence is anecdotal as Rucker reminisces about growing up in Rolla in the 1940s and early 1950s and attempts to identify buildings and houses found in scanned photographs. The series is organized chronologically.

Newspapers

This series contains six folders and one oversize folder of newspapers. The newspaper series contains the subseries of Rolla, Missouri history and Rucker family history. The Rolla history subseries contains newspapers pertaining to the various centennials of Rolla and Phelps County (1944, 1957, 1961), noteworthy architectural developments in Rolla, and the Rolla High School student strike in 1954, when Booker H. was a student. The majority of the newspapers are from

the *Rolla Daily News*. The miscellaneous subseries contains newspapers from the *Louisiana Press-Journal*, the *Rolla Daily New Era*, and the *Saint Louis Post-Dispatch*, among others. Jessie Rucker's family lived in Louisiana, Missouri, and many of the newspapers in this subcategory contain stories about family friends or relatives. Folder 20 is oversize and contains newspaper sections too fragile to be stored with the rest of the series. The series is organized by subject.

Container List:

f. 1-7	Jessie Rucker Papers
Box 1	f.1 Rucker store journal, 1895
	f. 2 Papers, 1941-1971
	f. 3 Christ Church (Episcopal) Bulletins, 1946-1988
	f. 4 Friends and Family, 1885-1985
	f. 5-6 Miscellaneous, 1918-1979
	f. 7 Rolla Municipal Swimming Pool, 1946, 1956, 1974
f. 8-12	Correspondence, 2010-2013
f. 13-20	Newspapers
	f. 13-17 Rolla history, 1944-1964
	f. 18-19 Miscellaneous, 1935-1986
	f. 20 Rolla articles, no date

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
American Red Cross	2, 10	Yes
Episcopal Church (Rolla, Mo.)	2-3, 6, 11	Yes
Missouri University of Science and Technology	8-19	Yes
Phelps County (Mo.)	2-19	
Rolla (Mo.)	2-19	Yes
Rolla Municipal Swimming Pool (Rolla, Mo.)	7	
Rucker III, Booker H.	2-19	
Rucker, Booker Hall	1, 4-5	
Rucker, Jessie Stark	2-12	
Rucker, Ray Southgate	2-12	