



**Brightwell Family Papers
(SP0002)**

Collection Number: SP0002

Collection Title: Brightwell Family Papers

Dates: 1860-1996

Creator: Brightwell, Hillary, 1912-1999

Abstract: The papers consist of the personal papers and business ledgers of the Brightwell family, particularly those pertaining to the land deeds and business dealings of John Brightwell (1861-1950) from Taney County. Also included is genealogical information for the Brightwell family and family stories as told by Hillary Brightwell.

Collection Size: 1 cubic foot
(11 folders, 1 oversize, 12 slides)

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-Springfield](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at springfield@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] *Brightwell Family Papers* (SP0002); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Springfield].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Hillary Brightwell on March 25, 1991 (Accession No. SPA0002). An addition was made on March 27, 1995 (Accession No. SPA003). An addition was made on September 15, 1996 (Accession No. SPA0004).

Processed by: Processed by Erin Smither, April 15, 2015

Historical Note:

John Brightwell was born December 10, 1861, in Millville, Woodford County, Kentucky. He was the son of Thomas Brightwell and Mary Ann Tyre. He moved to Missouri in 1876 at the age of 19 and settled in Protem, Taney County, Missouri. He lived in the same place for seventy years, constructing every building with his own hands. He married Fannie Effie Clark in March 1894 and together they had ten children, seven boys and three girls. John Brightwell died September 16, 1950, and is buried in Protem Cemetery. John's son Hillary moved to Springfield where he was proprietor of Brightwell's filling station and the Rest Haven Court on Route 66. Rest Haven Court, looking much the same, remains an icon of Route 66.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into eleven folders including images, homestead claims, correspondence, genealogy, family stories, and business ledgers. The contents of the folders have been arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection consists of the personal papers and business ledgers belonging to the Brightwell family. It documents their businesses in Southwest Missouri including the Rest Haven Court, an icon of Route 66, which is still in operation. Also included are family histories and stories as compiled by Hillary Brightwell.

Container List:

Box 001	f. 1	Images of Route 66, no date
	f. 2	Homestead Claims, 1892-1907
	f. 3	Correspondence, 1931-1935
	f. 4	Genealogy, no date
	f. 5	Business Ledger, 1912
	f. 6	Family Photographs and Stories, no date
	f. 7-11	Business Ledger, 1893-1925

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Brightwell, Hillary, 1912-1999	1, 6	
Brightwell, John, 1861-1950	2-11	
Clark, Fannie Effie, 1873-1968	2, 4	
Greene County (Mo.)	1	Yes
Frontier and pioneer life	2	
Motels	1	Yes
Protem (Mo.)	2-11	
Taney County (Mo.)	2-11	
United States Highway 66	1	Yes