

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [998.238]

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Missouri Mule History Collection

Abstract: This is a collection of interviews made by Duane Dailey and Melvin Bradley for their history project *Recollections of Missouri Mules*, sponsored by the University of Missouri Agricultural Extension and the Missouri Mule Skinners Society. The collection includes typed transcripts as well as original audio cassettes of the interviews made primarily from 1982-1983 and 1990.

Extent: 2.5 Cubic Feet

Physical Description: Paper; Audio cassettes; Microfilm

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks; Vault

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: None

Access Restrictions: None

Publication Restrictions: Standard copyright rules apply

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [date]; *Missouri Mule History Collection*, Record Group 998.238; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Accession #1993-0038

Processing Information: Finding aid completed by EW on 12/23/2020.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

In 1982, University of Missouri-Columbia professors Melvin Bradley (animal science) and Duane Dailey (photojournalism) began a research project on the history of the Missouri mule. They traveled the state interviewing and photographing people involved in the mule trade as well as farmers, loggers, miners, the military, etc. who used mules for labor.

To help fund the project, a private group called Missouri Mule Skinners Society was formed in 1983 at the urging of Larry Harper, editor of *Missouri Ruralist* magazine. Dues to the Society were \$25 and they went toward Bradley and Dailey's project. They succeeded in reaching their \$10,000 goal, and the pair continued to travel the state amassing a voluminous history on Missouri mules.

Over the next eight years, the interviews were transcribed and issued as an eight-volume set *Recollections of Missouri Mules* published by the University of Missouri-Columbia Extension Division in 1991. Two years after that, Bradley published a two-volume book *The Missouri Mule: His Origins and Times* that included stories from the oral history project as well as many of Dailey's photographs.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

Bradley, Melvin. (1993) *The Missouri Mule: His Origin and Times*. Extension Division University of Missouri-Columbia in cooperation with The Missouri Mule Skinners Society. Available in the Archives Reference Room, call no. 636.18 B7287.

Painter, Allyson and Irving Dilliard. (1951) *"I'm from Missouri!": Where Man and Mule Shaped the Heart of a Nation*. Hastings House. Available in the Archives Reference Room, call no. 917.78 P1662.

Additional External Resources

Ashton, John. (August 1924) "History of Jack Stock and Mules in Missouri." *The Missouri State Board of Agriculture Monthly Bulletin*. XXII(VIII), 1-62.

Ashton, John, Duane Dailey and Melvin Bradley. (1987) *Jack Stock and Mules in Missouri*. University of Missouri-Columbia in cooperation with The Missouri Mule Skinners Society.

Essin, Emmett M. (1997) *Shavetails and Bell Sharps: The History of the U.S. Army Mule*. University of Nebraska Press.

The University of Missouri School of Journalism's McDougall Center displayed Duane Dailey's mule photographs in a 2020 exhibit titled "Missouri Mules and Men." See <http://mcdougallcenter.missouri.edu/index.php/2020/10/03/current-exhibit-missouri-mules-and-men-by-duane-dailey/>.

RECOLLECTIONS OF MISSOURI MULES (1970-1991)

Extent: 2.5 Cubic Feet

Arrangement: By format, then alphabetical by interviewee surname

Scope and Content

Recollections of Missouri Mules was a nine-year project documenting an oral history of the mule industry in Missouri. University of Missouri-Columbia professors Melvin Bradley (animal science) and Duane Dailey (photojournalism) spearheaded the research project. They traveled the state interviewing and photographing people involved in the mule trade as well as farmers, loggers, miners, the military, etc. who used mules for labor.

Some transcripts contain a first draft and a final draft. Additional interviewers were Bob Taber, Dow Jenkins, R.B. George and Cindy Elliott. Other states represented are Kansas, Indiana, New Mexico, Oregon and Virginia, those being military-related mule interviews.

Container List

Microfilm:

Location	Reel	Description	Date
	M223	<i>Mule Industry of Missouri Remembered: A Key to Transcripts from 130 Interviews Contained in Volumes One through Eight of Recollections of Missouri Mules by Melvin Bradley.</i>	1991
	M223	<i>Recollections of Missouri Mules</i> by Melvin Bradley, Volumes I-VIII (see "Paper transcripts" and "Audio cassettes" below for a detailed listing of contents)	1991

Paper transcripts:

Location	Box	Folder	Description	Date
	286	1	Vol. I Front matter plus Adams-Baiotto (pp. 1-99)	1991
	286	2	Vol. I Barnitz-Bayne (pp. 100-217)	1991
	286	3	Vol. I Boydston-Burns (pp. 218-317) plus Missouri Mule Skinners Society Membership List after p. 317	1991
	286	4	Vol. II Front matter plus Canaday-Colvin (pp. 318-424)	1991
	286	5	Vol. II Colvin-Davis (pp. 425-539)	1991
	286	6	Vol. II Doherty-Elliott (pp. 540-635) plus Missouri Mule Skinners Society Membership List after p. 635	1991
	286	7	Vol. III Front matter plus Fagin-George (pp. 636-747)	1991
	286	8	Vol. III Glenn-Harness (pp. 748-874)	1991
	287	1	Vol. III Harrington-Hutchison (pp. 875-1013) plus Missouri Mule Skinners Society Membership List after p. 1013	1991
	287	2	Vol. IV Front matter plus Johnston-Jump (pp. 1014-1155)	1991
	287	3	Vol. IV Keen-Knox (pp. 1156-1274)	1991
	287	4	Vol. IV Kohl-Long (pp. 1275-1336) plus Missouri Mule	1991

			Skinnners Society Membership List after the Long appendix	
	287	5	Vol. V Front matter plus McDaniel-Monsees (pp. 1337-1432 with the Monsees article following p. 1432)	1991
	287	6	Vol. V Muylar-Pyatt (pp. 1433-1530) plus Missouri Mule Skinnners Society Membership List after p. 1530	1991
	287	7	Vol. VI Front matter plus Ramsey-Reed (pp. 1531-1645)	1991
	288	1	Vol. VI Richards-Rogers (pp. 1646-1746)	1991
	288	2	Vol. VI Rose-Ryan (pp. 1747-1822) plus Missouri Mule Skinnners Society Membership List after p. 1822	1991
	288	3	Vol. VII Front matter plus Sanstrom-Sims (pp. 1823-1913)	1991
	288	4	Vol. VII Spencer-Talburtt (pp. 1914-2006)	1991
	288	5	Vol. VII Taylor-Thomlinson (pp. 2007-2069)	1991
	288	6	Vol. VII Turner-Van Dyke (pp. 2070-2166) plus Missouri Mule Skinnners Society Membership List after p. 2166	1991
	288	7	Vol. VIII Front matter plus Wade-Wesley (pp. 2167-2393)	1991
	288	8	Vol. VIII White-Wilt (pp. 2394-2399)	1991
	288	9	Vol. VIII Woodruff-Wyatt (pp. 2400-2486) plus Missouri Mule Skinnners Society Membership List after p. 2486	1991

Audio cassettes:

Vault Location	Box	Tape #	Description	Date
	1	1-3	Adams, Claude O. Jr. and Mrs. [no first name] Adams. Lamar, Barton County. Three cassettes. (2 copies)	07/13/1982
	1	4	Alexander, Lilian and Ben. Columbia, Boone County. One cassette. (2 copies)	01/14/1983
	1	5-6	Avery, Arline. New Madrid County. Two cassettes. (Side two of the second cassette is an interview with Wallace E. "Scott" Waters.) (2 copies)	03/14/1983
	1	7	Baiotto, William. Kirksville, Adair County. One cassette. (2 copies)	01/07/1985
	1	8	Barnitz, George A. and Elizabeth. Lake Spring, Dent County. One cassette. (2 copies)	03/02/1983
	1	9	Baugh, Dave. Carthage, Jasper County. One cassette. (2 copies)	11/17/1982
	1	10	Baumli, Leo F. Barnard, Nodaway County. One cassette. (2 copies)	10/08/1982
	1	11-12	Baurichter, L. Edwin. Columbia, Boone County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	05/04/1983
	1	13	Bayne, Leroy W. Hazelwood, St. Louis County. One cassette. (2 copies)	04/27/1983
	1	14-16	Boydston, John C. "Jake." Gladstone, Clay County. Three cassettes. (Side one of the first cassette is an interview with Guyton Carkener.) (2 copies)	08/18/1982
	1	17-20	Brokaw, Leonard R. LaPlata, Macon County. Four cassettes. (2 copies)	01/03/1985
	1	21	Burns, Lee. Camdenton, Camden County. One cassette. (2 copies)	11/10/1982

	1	22-23	Canaday, Mrs. Mary Hussey. Lathrop, Clinton County. Two cassettes. (Side two of the second cassette is an interview with Judge Gorard Cross.) (2 copies)	07/07/1982
	1	24	Carkener, Guyton. Shawnee Mission, Johnson County, Kansas. One cassette. (2 copies) See also the Boydston, John C. cassette for additional material.	08/17/1982
	1	25	Chipman, Gene. Perry, Ralls County. One cassette. (2 copies)	n.d.
	1	26	Chipman, John Roy. Perry, Ralls County. One cassette. (2 copies)	n.d.
	1	27-28	Clayton, R.D. Sikeston, Scott County. Two cassettes. (2 copies) (Side two of the second cassette is an interview with Wallace E. "Scott" Waters.)	09/23/1982
	1	29	Colvin, Randy. Ellisville, St. Louis County. One cassette. (2 copies)	02/21/1990
	1	30	Cook, William B. "Dick." Columbia, Boone County. One cassette. (2 copies)	04/02/1983
	1	31	Cooley, Raymond. Mountain View, Texas County. One cassette. (2 copies)	11/09/1982
			<i>Cross, Judge Gorard (see Canaday, Mrs. Mary Hussey)</i>	
	1	32	Czeschin, Ben. Pleasant Hill, Cass County. One cassette. (2 copies)	08/19/1982
	1	33-34	Dagley, Lee R. Joplin, Newton County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	04/21/1986
	2	35-36	Davis, Jim and Mable. Fulton, Callaway County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	09/14/1982
	2	37	Doherty, Mary Lee and Virginia B. Doherty. St. Joseph, Buchanan County. One cassette. (2 copies)	09/02/1982
	2	38	Dooley, E.H. Paris, Monroe County. One cassette. (2 copies)	11/19/1982
	2	39-40	Douglas, G.C. "Clint." Lathrop, Clinton County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	06/14/1983
	2	41	Elliott, Reo T. Lathrop, Clinton County. One cassette. (2 copies)	07/07/1982
	2	42-43	Fagin, Douglas. Lathrop, Clinton County. Two cassettes. (2 copies) (Side two of the second cassette is an interview with John E. Harrington.)	07/08/1982
	2	44	Fewell, Clifton. Calhoun, Henry County. One cassette. (2 copies)	08/04/1982
	2	45	Finley, Hayes. Warrensburg, Johnson County. One cassette. (2 copies)	10/13/1982
	2	46	Frazer, L.L. Columbia, Boone County. One cassette. (2 copies)	12/13/1982
	2	47	Garrett, Jack. West Plains, Howell County. One cassette. (2 copies) Back side is labeled, "Wild Sound – Pendorgrass Side II."	09/09/1982
	2	48-49	George, R.B. Fayette, Howard County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	11/11/1982
	2	50	Glenn, Frank. Columbia, Boone County. One cassette. (2 copies)	05/20/1983

	2	51	Graham, Frank. Rocheport, Boone County. One cassette. (2 copies)	09/28/1982
	2	52	Hackethorn, Jack. Columbia, Boone County. One cassette. (2 copies)	08/03/1982
	2	53	Haden, David. Auxvasse, Callaway County. One cassette. (2 copies) (Tinsley Haden begins on side two)	09/29/1982
	2	54-55	Haden, Tinsley. Auxvasse, Callaway County. Two cassettes. (2 copies) (Starts on side two of David Haden above)	09/29/1982
	2	56-58	Harness, Cecil E., Dora Frances (Wells) Harness and Sam Harness. Middletown, Pike County. Three cassettes. (2 copies)	04/05/1983
	2	59-60	Harrington, John E. Lathrop, Clinton County. Two cassettes. (2 copies) (see also Fagin, Douglas)	07/08/1982
	2	61-62	Harris, Elmer G. rural Boonville, Howard County. Two cassettes. (2 copies) (Side two of the second cassette is an interview with the Wilt brothers.)	09/15/1982
	2	63	Harris, Elwood G. New Franklin, Howard County. One cassette. (2 copies)	03/26/1983
	2	64	Heagerty, "Hoss." Sheldon, Vernon County. One cassette. (2 copies)	07/13/1982
	2	65-67	Heath, Charles W. King City, Gentry County. Three cassettes. (2 copies)	08/01/1982
	2	68	Hutchison, Omega. Versailles, Morgan County. One cassette. (2 copies)	12/07/1982
	3	69	Johnston, Roy G. Raymore, Cass County. One cassette. (2 copies)	08/18/1982
	3	70	Jones, Calvin. Lamar, Barton County. One cassette. (2 copies)	11/17/1982
	3	71-72	Jones, Floyd. Clinton, Henry County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	08/04/1982 and 01/18/1983
	3	73	Jones, Keith. Warrensburg, Johnson County. One cassette. (2 copies)	10/13/1982
	3	74-75	Jones, Viryl. Clinton, Henry County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	01/18/1983
	3	76	Jump, Ron. Bolivar, Polk County. One cassette. (2 copies)	11/16/1983
	3	77	Keen, Jack. Raymore, Cass County. One cassette. (2 copies)	08/19/1982
	3	78-79	Knell, Ed. Carthage, Jasper County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	01/17/1980 and 07/14/1982
	3	80	Knipmeyer, Richard E. Higginsville, Lafayette County. One cassette. (2 copies)	03/23/1983
	3	81-82	Knox, Carroll W. Jackson, Cape Girardeau. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	09/24/1982
	3	83	Kohl, Richard. Vandalia, Audrain and Ralls Counties. One cassette. (2 copies) (see also Potter, Russell) (Side two of the second cassette is an interview with Russell)	11/04/1981

			Potter.)	
	3	84	Larason, Lloyd. Mercer, Mercer County. One cassette. (2 copies)	07/11/1983
	3	85	Liddy, Meridith W. "Pete." Keystone, Indiana. One cassette. (2 copies)	01/08/1988
	3	86	Long, Delbert E. Fort Sumner, New Mexico. One cassette. (2 copies) His transcript includes a photocopy of a <i>The New Yorker</i> article "Nine Hundred Mules" dated 11/27/1954 and photocopies of photographs of Delbert Long and others.	04/11/1990
	3	87	McDaniel, Alexander "Alec." Platte City, Platte County. One cassette. (2 copies)	10/20/1983
	3	88	McNabb, Coy. Columbia, Boone County. One cassette. (2 copies)	09/29/1982
	3	89-90	Miles, Nelson "Bud" Jr. Carrollton, Carroll County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	01/26/1983
	3	91	Miller, Rue. Clinton, Henry County. One cassette. (2 copies)	12/18/1982
	3	92-93	Monsees, Kalo. Smithton, Pettis County. Two cassettes. (2 copies) His transcript includes an essay by high schooler Gregory A. Grupe on Louis Martin Monsees.	09/06 or 09/1981
	3	94	Muylar, John. One cassette. (2 copies)	10/09/1990
	3	95	Pendergrass, Roy. Bakersfield, Howell County. One cassette. (2 copies) (see also Garrett, Jack and Thomlinson, H.M. "Roy")	09/09/1982
	3	96	Plymell, Rick. Bethany, Harrison County. One cassette. (2 copies)	11/06/1983
	3	97	Potter, Russell. Palmyra, Marion County. One cassette. (2 copies) (see also Kohl, Richard) (Side two is an interview with Richard Kohl.)	10/27/1982
	3	98-99	Potter, Virginia Harrington. Lathrop, Clinton County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	07/08/1982
			<i>Pratte, H. "Doc" and Paul B. Pratte. Bonne Terre, St. Francois County. Notes in the transcript state that these tapes failed to record. No tapes. See transcript for notes.</i>	
	3	100	Pyatt, Lloyd and Mary. Fredericktown, Madison County. One cassette. (2 copies)	11/30/1982
	3	101	Pyatt, Newton. Boss, Dent County. One cassette. (2 copies)	11/30/1982
	3	102	Ramsey, Lt. Col. Edwin P. Los Angeles, California. One cassette. (2 copies)	02/26/1987
	4	103	Randall, Mildred (Frazier). Harrisonville, Cass County. One cassette. (2 copies)	09/28/1983
	4	104	Rankin, Robert. Tarkio, Atchison County. One cassette. (2 copies)	11/23/1982
	4	105	Ratchford, C. Brice. Columbia, Boone County. One cassette. (2 copies)	04/13/1990
	4	106-107	Reed, Marion T. Sr. St. Charles, St. Charles County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	04/06/1983
	4	108	Richards, Clarence. New Madrid, New Madrid County.	09/23/1982

			One cassette. (2 copies)	
			<i>Rogers, Earl. Kirksville, Adair County. Found in transcript, but no tape. Possibly it's on one of the other Rogers tapes. See Harold Rogers.</i>	03/24/1983
	4	109	Rogers, F.E. "Jack." Columbia, Boone County. One cassette. (2 copies)	03/16/1983
	4	110	Rogers, Harold. Kirksville, Adair County. One cassette. (2 copies) Beginning of transcript also refers to the interviewee as "Earl."	03/24/1983
	4	111	Rogers, Hubert E. Kirksville, Adair County. One cassette. (2 copies)	03/24/1983
	4	112	Rogers, Ralph R. Columbia, Boone County. One cassette. (2 copies)	03/15/1983
	4	113	Rose, W.B. Richmond, Ray County. One cassette. (2 copies)	08/31/1982
	4	114-115	Russell, Carl. Galt, Grundy County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	10/17/1989
	4	116-117	Ryan, Maurice. Tarkio, Atchison County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	05/06/1988
	4	118	Sanstrom, Charles. Novinger, Adair County. One cassette. (2 copies)	01/03/1985
	4	119	Sartain, Howard. Fayette, Howard County. One cassette. (2 copies)	09/15/1982
	4	120	Shaffner, Sam T. Lathrop, Clinton County. One cassette. (2 copies)	07/08/1982
	4	121-122	Sims, James R. Centralia, Boone County. Two cassettes. (2 copies) Includes a photocopy of a handwritten letter by Sims.	03/09/1983
	4	123	Spencer, George A. Columbia, Boone County. One cassette. (2 copies)	12/15/1983
	4	124-125	Stark, Paul C. Jr. Louisiana, Pike County. Two cassettes. (It's possible these are incorrectly labeled as Part 1 and Part 2 and that these are two copies of a single cassette.)	11/10/1983
	4	126	Swackhamer, O.C. St. Joseph, Buchanan County. One cassette. (2 copies)	08/31/1982
	4	127	Taber, Bob W. Mountain View, Howell County. One cassette. (2 copies)	10/08/1982
	4	128	Talbur, Pat. Branson, Taney County. One cassette. (2 copies)	10/15/1982
	4	129-130	Taylor, Fannie L. Springfield, Greene County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	11/16/1982
			<i>Thompson, Finas. No tape. Appears in transcript between Taylor and Thomlinson, unnumbered pages.</i>	01/21/1983
	4	131-132	Thomlinson, H.M. "Red." Willow Springs, Howell County. Three cassettes. (2 copies of #131, 4 copies of #132) (Side two of cassette #132 is an interview with Roy Pendergrass.)	09/08/1982
	4	133	Turner, E.C. "Bill." Columbia, Boone County. One cassette. (2 copies)	03/10/1983
	4	134	Van, Booker T. Portageville, New Madrid County. One	09/23/1982

			cassette. (2 copies)	
	4	135-136	Van Buren, C.L. "Louie." Plattsburg, Clinton County. Two cassettes. (2 copies) (Side 1 of cassette #136 also has the name Cheryl White)	09/15/1970
	5	137-138	Van Buren, Mrs. C.L. "Louie." Plattsburg, Clinton County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	07/06/1982
	5	139-140	Van Dyke, Frank. Smithton, Pettis County. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	08/16/1983
			<i>Wade, Edward A. Nyssa, Oregon. Wade submitted written material. Appears in transcript only.</i>	
			<i>Waters, Wallace E. "Scott" and Vivian Waters. Sikeston, Scott County. See Avery, Arline and Clayton, R.D.</i>	09/23/1982
	5	141-142	Watson, Douglas F. Blacksburg, Virginia. Two cassettes. (2 copies)	04/12/1990
	5	143	Wells, Lennie A. Jr. Middletown, Pike County. One cassette. (2 copies)	04/05/1983
	5	144	Wesley, George. Brentwood, St. Louis County. One cassette. (2 copies)	04/27/1983
			<i>White, Cheryl. See Van Buren, C.L. "Louie."</i>	
	5	145	White, J. Olen. Amity, DeKalb County. One cassette. (2 copies)	11/23/1982
	5	146	White, Thomas C. Norborne, Carroll County. One cassette. (2 copies)	11/22/1982
	5	147-149	Willems, Donald J. Portland, Michigan. Three cassettes. (2 copies of #147, 4 copies of #148 & #149)	08/04/1985
	5	150-151	Wilt, Nelson, Billy Wilt and Ben Wilt. Shelbina, Shelby County. Two cassettes. (2 copies) See also Harris, Elmer G.	09/16/1982
	5	152-153	Woodruff, Willard Bennett "Woody" Jr. Decatur, Texas. Two cassettes. (2 copies) Interview transcript includes supplementary material	12/29/1988
	5	154	Wyatt, Joie. Novinger, Adair County. One cassette. (2 copies)	01/03/1985