

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [998.306]

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Blind Boone Audio Recordings Collection

Abstract: DVD of John William “Blind” Boone’s piano rolls (7 songs) as well as a narrative of his life and music.

Extent: 1.11 GB

Physical Description: DVD

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: WAV, MP3, WMA

Access Restrictions: None

Publication Restrictions: None, with proper credit

Preferred Citation: [description of item], [date]; *Blind Boone Audio Recordings Collection*, Record Group 998.306; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift; Accession #2003-0204

Processing Information: Processing completed by EW on 06/12/2017. Updated by EW on 12/14/2020, 03/24/2021 and 04/13/2022.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

John William “Blind” Boone (1864-1927) was a noted musical prodigy, performer and composer. Boone contracted cerebral meningitis as an infant and as a result was blinded. Boone was able to play music by memory after only hearing a song once. Although he could play many instruments, the piano was his favorite. He performed all over the Midwest. In 1912-1913, he recorded ten or eleven songs on piano rolls with the QRS Company. Some of these rolls are what are reproduced on the DVD in this collection.

Boone's home in Columbia, Missouri is on the National Register of Historic Places. It serves as headquarters for an African American history trail in Columbia.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

Barile, Mary and Christine Montgomery, eds. (2012) Merit Not Sympathy Wins: The Life and Times of Blind Boone. Truman State University Press. Reference Room Call #781.64 B2394.

Batterson, Jack A. (1998) Blind Boone: Missouri's Ragtime Pioneer. University of Missouri Press. Reference Room Call #781.645 B3222.

Harrah, Madge. (2004) Blind Boone: Piano Prodigy. Carolrhoda Books. Reference Room Call #781.64 H2352.

"Merit, Not Sympathy, Wins: The Life and Times of Blind Boone." (18 April 2014) Missouri State Archives Speakers Series Presentation by Mary Barile and Christine Montgomery.
<http://sos.mo.gov/archives/presentations/default/blindboone>

RG110 Department of Natural Resources: National Register of Historic Places. Nomination form for the Blind Boone Home in Columbia, MO.
<https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/Boone%2C%20John%20William%20Blind%2C%20House.pdf>

RG115 Department of Health and Senior Services: Vital Statistics Death Certificates. Death certificate for John William "Blind" Boone, cert. no. 30770, dod 10/04/1927, Johnson County, MO. http://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1927/1927_00032127.pdf.

Additional External Resources

Boone Home: <https://blindboonehome.com/>.

The State Historical Society of Missouri finding aid for the Blind Boone Heritage Foundation Collection, CA6088, online here: <https://files.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/CA6088.pdf>.

The State Historical Society of Missouri finding aid for the Blind Boone Memorial Foundation, Inc., Papers, C3664, online here: <https://files.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/C3664.pdf>.

The State Historical Society of Missouri finding aid for the Boone John William "Blind" and Wesley Papers, C2883, online here: <https://files.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/C2883.pdf>.

AUDIO RECORDINGS, 1912-1913 & 2003

Extent: 1.11 GB

Arrangement: n/a

Scope and Content

These CDs were produced as fundraisers for Blind Boone Park in Warrensburg, Missouri. The original tracks were recorded as .aiff files. In 2017, the tracks were migrated to three new formats: .mp3, .wav, and .wma. The original CDs were combined into one DVD with both migrated and original formats burned in.

Merit, Not Sympathy, Wins:

Trebor Tichenor of the St. Louis area owned original QRS piano rolls recorded by J.W. "Blind" Boone in the 1910s. Rob DeLand of BluesTone Music Rolls made new transfer copies (year unknown). The new rolls were loaned to Helen and Smiley Wallace, who played them on their 1913 Aeolian player piano. Around [1994?], Rob Nold of radio station KTBG The Bridge 90.9 FM in Warrensburg recorded the Wallaces' piano playing Boone's tracks. Nold aired the recordings on his radio station.

In 2003, the radio station's Boone tracks were transferred to CD as .aiff audio files. The CDs were sold as a fundraiser for Blind Boone Park in Warrensburg, an effort led by Sandy Irle. That same year, Irle donated a copy of the CD to the Missouri State Archives.

Credits:

Produced by Mark and Sandy Irle

Piano Operation by Smiley Wallace

Song List Recorded by Helen Wallace

Engineered by Rob Nold

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Memories of Blind Boone:

This is a reader's theatre production directed and compiled by Eddie Osborne for radio station KTBG The Bridge 90.9 FM in Warrensburg. The production tells of the life and times of Blind Boone and includes some of his original music that is found on the Merit CD. From the liner notes: "This wonderful play is the result of the hard work and dedication of the author and actors who took part...Eddie got excited about the story of Mr. Boone and was compelled to share it on his radio program, 'Eclectic Café.' He studied the writings of Melissa Fuell-Cuther, who worked with the Blind Boone Music Company." A CD version of this radio program was created in 2003 and sold as a benefit for Blind Boone Park.

Credits:

Author/Narrator = Eddie Osborne

Recording Engineer = Bob Niffen

Chatammour Henderson (voice) as Melissa Fuell-Cuther

Dedrick Hooper (voice) as John William "Blind" Boone
Charles Briscoe (voice) as John Lange, Jr.
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Container List

Location	Disc	Drawer	Contents	Date
	Manuscript DVD #1	4/4	<u>Merit, Not Sympathy, Wins: Blind Boone's Strains from the Flat Branch:</u> Track 1: "Dixie," no date Track 2: "Nearer, My God to Thee," cNov. 1912 Track 3: "Gavotte Chromatic," no date Track 4: "Woodland Murmers [sic]," 1912-1913 Track 5: "Camp Meeting Medley #1," no date Track 6: "When You and I Were Young, Maggie," 1912-1913 Track 7: "Rag Medley #2," 1912	1912-1913; 2003
	Manuscript DVD #1	4/4	<u>Memories of Blind Boone: Blind Boone's Life and Times Reader's Theatre</u> <u>Run time = 31:54</u>	2003