

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid RG 151.01

Missouri School for the Deaf

Abstract: Records of students and general school operations, 1849-2010. Gaps in minutes, biennial reports and newspapers are noted.

Extent: 36 volumes and 3.4 cubic ft. (7 Hollinger boxes, 1 half Hollinger box, 1 oversize box).

Physical Description: Bound volumes, loose paper, and digital images.

Alternative Formats: Register of Pupils, Volume 1 is digitized and available on DVD in the Reference Room.

Location: Missouri State Archives.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: Proceedings and Minutes restricted due to RSMo 610.021. Register of Pupils Volume 3 restricted according to the Missouri School for the Deaf Access Guidelines: [MSB-MSD Access Guidelines.docx](#).

Publication Restrictions: Copyright is in the public domain. Items reproduced for online or physical publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [Date]; [Box and Folder] OR [Volume and Page]; [Series]; Missouri School for the Deaf, Record Group 151; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Agency transfer. Accession number 1992-0041.

Processing Information: Processing completed by Mary Stansfield on August 30, 2022.

Historical and Biographical Notes

The Missouri School for the Deaf was established on February 28, 1851 by an act of the Missouri legislature. The school was originally located in a frame farmhouse on the grounds of Lunatic Asylum No. 1 in Fulton. In 1853, the legislature appropriated funds to

build permanent buildings on the present site of the school in Fulton. The school was intended, and continues to be, a residential school, with day school options.

The name of the school changed several times, usually through legislative act but sometimes by school fiat. Laws, biennial reports, and other state documents often refer to the school by a free-flowing combination of asylum, institute or school. For instance, the 1881 Session Laws refer to the school as both the Deaf and Dumb Asylum and the Missouri Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb in the same act (An act to authorize the Board of Commissioners of the Missouri Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb to sell land).

The Missouri School for the Deaf received its first Black student, Sarah Nelson, in 1867. Integrated education continued until 1889. The Missouri School for the Deaf had resisted legislative pressure to segregate through the 1880s, but were forced by “An act to revise and amend article one, chapter 150 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri of 1879, entitled “Of Schools,” and all amendatory acts thereto.” This law required all public schools to be racially segregated.

Attempts were made to completely segregate the school and create a Black school for the deaf at Lincoln University. Administrators at the MSD fought strongly to keep all the deaf students together at Fulton. The school remained separate enough to meet the requirements until reintegration came in 1954 after the *Brown vs. Board of Education* Supreme Court case struck down legal segregation.

Timeline

Date	Activity
1851	“An act to establish an asylum for the deaf and dumb” approved on February 28, 1851 established the Missouri School for the Deaf as the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb.
1851	First student enrolled on November 3, 1851.
1861-1863	School closed and campus occupied by the Union Army.
1867	Sarah Nelson, the first Black student, enrolled.
1874	Name changed to Missouri Institution for the Deaf and Dumb by act of Missouri General Assembly entitled “An Act to change the name of the asylum for the education of the deaf and dumb...” approved February 2, 1874.
1889	“An act to define the eleemosynary institutions of the state...” makes MSD an eleemosynary institution. Effective August 22, 1889.
1889	The Revised Statutes of Missouri Section 5697 refers to MSD as the “Missouri School for the Deaf and Dumb.”
1889	“An act to revise and amend article one, chapter 150 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri of 1879, entitled “Of Schools,” and all amendatory acts thereto” forced racial segregation of the school. Effective August 22, 1889.
1889-1890	Official Manual of the State of Missouri refers to MSD as the Missouri Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb.

Date	Activity
1889-1890	Eighteenth Biennial Report refers to MSD as the Missouri School for the Deaf and Dumb.
1899-1900	Twenty-third Biennial Report refers to MSD as Missouri School for the Deaf.
1901-1902	Official Manual of the State of Missouri refers to MSD as the Missouri School for the Deaf.
1921	House Bill 519 removed MSD from the list of eleemosynary institutions to become an independent educational institution under the management of a Board of Managers appointed by the Governor. June 19, 1921.
1946	Senate Bill 428 directed the State Board of Education to establish a division of special education which included the Missouri School for the Deaf. Effective March 12, 1947.
1974	State Board of Education becomes the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education under the State Omnibus Reorganization Act. Effective May 2, 1974.

Additional Descriptive Information

Bibliography

Reed, Richard D. *Historic MSD: The Story of the Missouri School for the Deaf*. Fulton: Ovid Bell Press, 2000.

Related Material

The W.J. Cochran Construction Company Records (C4469), The State Historical Society of Missouri. This collection contains project files from the Missouri School for the Deaf, 1928.

Series

The records are organized into the following series:

Proceedings and Minutes, 1857-1980
 Record of Graduates, 1849-1891
 Register of Pupils, 1851-1946
 Newspapers, 1879-2010
 Publications, 1853-1991

Proceedings and Minutes, 1857-1874, 1886-1980

Extent: 26 volumes

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Official school records from Board of Governors/Managers meetings, covering fiscal and administrative matters regarding the organization and management of the school. Minutes from 1875-1885 are missing.

Restricted based on RSMo 610.021 due to possible personnel and student information.

Container List

Box	Contents
1	April 1857 – January 1, 1874
2	January 12, 1886 - June 2, 1891
2	June 2, 1891 - October 9, 1893
3	October 9, 1893 - April 7, 1896
3	April 7, 1896 - July 6, 1899
4	August 3, 1899 - May 30 1904
5	June 29, 1904 - December 27, 1906
5	February 7, 1907 - December 27, 1910
6	January 1, 1911 - December 31, 1914
6	February 10, 1915 - December 30, 1918
7	February 5, 1919 - December 28, 1922
7	February 8, 1923 - December 3, 1925
8	January 7, 1926 - December 27, 1928
8	February 14, 1929 - December 10, 1931
9	January 14, 1932 - December 6, 1935
10	January 9, 1936 - January 3, 1939
11	January 24, 1939 - December 11, 1942
11	January 8, 1943 - December 12, 1947
12	January 9, 1948 - January 14, 1952
12	March 6, 1952 - December 15, 1955
13	January 27, 1956 – December 6, 1959
13	January 1, 1960 - November 30, 1963
14	January 18, 1964 - December 15, 1967
14	January 12, 1968 - November 11, 1971
15	February 4, 1972 - November 30, 1975
15	February 20, 1976 - December 6, 1980

Record of Graduates, 1849-1891

Extent: 1 volume

Arrangement: Chronological by enrollment year

Scope and Content

Volume was compiled in 1892. Information may include name, address, year enrolled, age at enrollment, year the student left school, how they became deaf and at what age, what trade they were taught at the school, current occupation, if married, spouse's name, if spouse is deaf, how the spouse became deaf and at what age, spouse's deaf relatives, nationality of parents and grandparents.

Container List

Box	Contents
16	1849-1891

Register of Pupils, 1851-1946

Extent: .2 cubic ft. (1 half Hollinger box), 2 volumes

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Volume 1 is a handwritten register of pupils that has been disbound and is in a half Hollinger box. It also contains a cemetery plat and 6 unnumbered pages between page 68 and 70 of financial information. Pages 7, 8 and 210-299 are missing. Student information was transferred to Volume 2, presumably including information from the missing pages. Information in Volume 1 may contain student's name, date of enrollment, date and place of birth, age deafened, date of leaving the school. Indexed. Digitized and on DVD in the Reference Room.

Volumes 2 and 3 consist of ledger books.

Information in Volume 2 may include student number, name, residence, enrolled date, date of birth, age deafened, parents names, remarks. The remarks field may contain the date the student left the school. Not indexed.

Information in Volume 3 may include student number, name, date and place of birth, enrolled date, cause of hearing loss, age deafened, total or partially deaf, student's ability to read lips, student's ability to speak, medical history (rarely), education history, parents' names and address, family history of deafness. Not indexed.

Volume 3 is restricted according to the Missouri School for the Deaf Access Guidelines: [MSB-MSD Access Guidelines.docx](#).

Container List

Box	Volume	Dates
17	1	1851-1874
18	2	1851-1890
19	3	1890-1946

Newspapers, 1879-2010

Extent: 2 cubic f.t. (4 Hollinger boxes, 1 oversize box), 7 volumes

Arrangement: Chronological by date of first issue

Scope and Content

The Recordette was written by students at the Missouri School for the Deaf. *The Missouri Record* (all title variations) was written by school staff. *Notes and Notables* is the school's alumni newsletter. *The Deaf Apprentice* focuses on the school's vocational departments.

The Missouri Record is missing editions from 1916-1968, 2010-present.

The Deaf Apprentice is missing editions after 1912.

The Recordette is missing editions before 1958 and after 1965, and likely missing editions from 1958-1965.

Notes and Notables is missing editions before 1993 and after 1996.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
20		<i>Deaf-Mute Record</i> Vol. 1, No. 1 - Vol. 7, No. 37	1879-1885
20		<i>Missouri Deaf-Mute Record</i> Vol. 8, No. 2 - Vol. 12, No. 9	1885-1889
21		<i>Missouri Deaf-Mute Record</i> Vol. 12, No. 10 - Vol. 14, No. 38	1889-1892
22		<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 22, No. 1 - Vol. 24, No. 21	1899-1902
22		<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 27, No. 1 - Vol. 30, No. 16	1904-1908
23		<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 31, No. 1 - Vol. 34, No. 16	1908-1909
23		<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 35, No. 1 - Vol. 38, No. 16	1912-1916
24	1	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 91, No. 4-5	1968-1969
24	2	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 92, No. 3, 6	1969-1970
24	3	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 93, No. 1-8	1970-1971
24	4	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 94, No. 1-8	1971-1972
24	5	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 95, No. 1-8	1972-1973
24	6	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 96, No. 1-8	1973-1974
24	7	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 97, No. 1-8	1974-1975
24	8	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 98, No. 1-8	1975-1976
24	9	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 99, No. 1-8	1976-1977

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
25	1	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 100, No. 1-8	1977-1978
25	2	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 101, No. 1-5	1978-1979
25	3	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 102, No. 1-8	1979-1980
25	4	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 103, No. 1-8	1980-1981
25	5	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 104, No. 1-8	1981-1982
25	6	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 105, No. 1-8	1982-1983
25	7	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 106, No. 1-8	1983-1984
25	8	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 107, No. 1-7	1984-1985
25	9	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 108, No. 1-8	1985-1986
26	1	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 109, No. 1-4, 6-8	1986-1987
26	2	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 110, No. 1-4, 6-8	1987-1988
26	3	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 111, No. 1-6, 8	1988-1989
26	4	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 112, No. 1-6	1989-1990
26	5	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 113, No. 1-3, 5	1990-1991
26	6	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 114, No. 1-4	1991-1992
26	7	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 115, No. 1-5	1992-1993
26	8	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 116, No. 1-5	1993-1994
26	9	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 117, No. 1-5	1994-1995
26	10	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 118, No. 1-4	1995-1996
26	11	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 119, No. 1-3	1996-1997
26	12	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 120, No. 1-3	1997-1998
26	13	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 121, No. 1-3	1998-1999
26	14	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 122, No. 1-2	1999-2000
27	1	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 123, No. 1-3	2000-2001
27	2	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 124, No. 2	2001-2002
27	3	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 125, No. 1-2	2002-2003
27	4	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 126, No. 1-2	2003-2004
27	5	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 127, No. 1	2004-2005
27	6	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 128, No. 1-2	2005-2006
27	7	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 130, No. 1-2	2007-2008
27	8	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 131, No. 1-2	2008-2009
27	9	<i>The Missouri Record</i> Vol. 132, No. 1-2	2009-2010
28	1	<i>The Deaf Apprentice</i> Vol. 1, No. 1 [actually Vol. 2, No. 1]	October, 1911
28	2	<i>The Deaf Apprentice</i> Vol. 1, No. 2 [actually Vol. 2, No. 2]	October, 1911
28	3	<i>The Deaf Apprentice</i> Vol. 2, No. 3	November, 1911

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
28	4	<i>The Deaf Apprentice</i> Vol. 2, No. 4	November, 1911
28	5	<i>The Deaf Apprentice</i> Vol. 2, No. 5	December, 1911
28	6	<i>The Deaf Apprentice</i> Vol. 2, No. 7	January, 1912
28	7	<i>The Deaf Apprentice</i> Vol. 2, No. 8	January, 1912
28	8	<i>The Deaf Apprentice</i> Vol. 2, No. 9	February, 1912
28	9	<i>The Deaf Apprentice</i> Vol. 2, No. 11	March, 1912
28	10	<i>The Deaf Apprentice</i> Vol. 2, No. 13	April, 1912
28	11	<i>The Deaf Apprentice</i> Vol. 2, No. 14	April, 1912
28	12	<i>The Recordette</i>	November, 1958
28	13	<i>The Recordette</i>	December, 1958
28	14	<i>The Recordette</i>	March, 1959
28	15	<i>The Recordette</i>	November, 1963
28	16	<i>The Recordette</i>	January, 1964
28	17	<i>The Recordette</i>	February, 1964
28	18	<i>The Recordette</i>	March, 1964
28	19	<i>The Recordette</i>	April, 1964
28	20	<i>The Recordette</i>	[September], 1964
28	21	<i>The Recordette</i>	October, 1964
28	22	<i>The Recordette</i>	December, 1964
28	23	<i>The Recordette</i>	January, 1965
28	24	<i>The Recordette</i>	February, 1965
28	25	<i>The Recordette</i>	March, 1965
28	26	<i>The Recordette</i>	April, 1965
27	10	<i>Notes and Notables</i> Vol. 5, No. 3-4	1993-1994
27	11	<i>Notes and Notables</i> Vol. 6, No. 1-4	1994
27	12	<i>Notes and Notables</i> Vol. 7, No. 1-4	1995
27	13	<i>Notes and Notables</i> Vol. 8, No. 1	1996

Publications, 1853-1991

Extent: 1.2 cubic ft. (3 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

Biennial Reports, 1850-1934 are also available in the Senate Journal appendices. Missing 13th, 18th, 22nd Biennial Reports and any biennial reports published after 1944.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
29	1	1st Biennial Report	1853-1854
29	2	2nd Biennial Report	1855-1856
29	3	3rd Biennial Report	1857-1858
29	4	4th Biennial Report	1859-1860
29	5	5th Biennial Report	1863-1864
29	6	6th Biennial Report	1865-1866
29	7	7th Biennial Report	1867-1868
29	8	8th Biennial Report	1869-1870
29	9	9th Biennial Report	1871-1872
29	10	10th Biennial Report	1873-1874
29	11	11th Biennial Report	1875-1876
29	12	12th Biennial Report	1877-1878
29	13	14th Biennial Report	1881-1882
29	14	15th Biennial Report	1883-1884
29	15	16th Biennial Report	1885-1886
29	16	17th Biennial Report	1887-1888
29	17	19th Biennial Report	1891-1892
29	18	20th Biennial Report	1893-1894
29	19	21st Biennial Report	1895-1896
		23rd Biennial Report	1899-1900
29	20	24th Biennial Report	1901-1902
29	21	25th Biennial Report	1903-1904
29	22	26th Biennial Report	1905-1906
29	23	27th Biennial Report	1907-1908
29	24	28th Biennial Report	1909-1910
30	1	29th Biennial Report	1911-1912
30	2	30th Biennial Report	1913-1914
30	3	31st Biennial Report	1915-1916
30	4	32nd Biennial Report	1917-1918

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
30	5	33rd Biennial Report	1919-1920
30	6	34th Biennial Report	1921-1922
30	7	35th Biennial Report	1923-1924
30	8	36th Biennial Report	1925-1926
30	9	37th Biennial Report	1927-1928
30	10	38th Biennial Report	1929-1930
30	11	39th Biennial Report	1931-1932
30	12	40th Biennial Report	1933-1934
30	13	41st Biennial Report	1935-1936
30	14	42nd Biennial Report	1937-1938
30	15	43rd Biennial Report	1939-1940
30	16	44th Biennial Report	1941-1942
30	17	45th Biennial Report	1943-1944
31	1	1980 Track and Field Tryouts 4 th National World Games for the Deaf	1980
31	2	Course of Study Primary Department	ca. 1925- 1933
31	3	<i>Memories '80</i> [yearbook]	1979-1980
31	4	Missouri School for the Deaf [informational brochure]	ca. 1951- 1954
31	5	<i>MSD Images: A Celebration of the Centennial Reunion of the Missouri School for the Deaf Alumni Association</i>	1991
31	6	<i>"Show Me" Signs</i>	1982
31	7	<i>Special Report on Farm Operated by Missouri School for the Deaf</i>	1957