

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
Starkey School Collection**

Collection Description: Documents and photographs related to Roanoke County's Starkey School, Starkey School Reunions (2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015), and the Village of Starkey.

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Accession Number: 2023.06.20

Physical Characteristics: 1 document storage box

Donated by: Ralph C. Meador

Arrangement: Documents are arranged by topic and chronologically within folders.

Compiled by: Bill Hedrick & Elon Hopper Hedrick

Reproduction Restrictions: No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

Processor: Angela Stiefbold, January 17, 2024

Historical Note:

This information was collected by Bill Hedrick and Elon Hopper Hedrick, who helped organize Starkey School Reunions in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015.

The Starkey School was located in the Village of Starkey, which in the early twentieth century was centered around the Norfolk & Southern Railway's Starkey Station and served the local agricultural community. The village was named for Tazewell Merriman Starkey, who owned large amounts of land in the area, and the school was named for his son, Joseph Gale Starkey, on whose land the school was built. The first school building, constructed in 1894, was a one-room, frame building; in 1915 a brick structure was erected, with additions in 1928 and 1949. The school closed in 1961, as the county consolidated its school system. In 1962 Roanoke County opened a senior center in the building, and in 1986 the county sold the school to a private firm. In 1999 ownership transferred again, with the intent of renovating the building for use as a business office and event center.

The Starkey School Reunions began in 2008; about 200 people attended the first reunion, including former students and a teacher, Stella Hensley, and Margaret Starkey, whose family the village and school were named for. Former students donated photos, articles, and objects for display at the reunions; originals and copies are available in this collection.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of one document storage case. It holds information regarding the history of the Starkey School, Starkey Village, and material related to the Starkey School Reunions held in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015. Historical information includes copies of newspaper articles and book excerpts, the National Register nomination form for Starkey School, and historic photographs, largely of students and student activities, but also including images of other Starkey Village scenes.

School records in the collection include “School Term Reports,” which were completed by teachers at the end of each school year, spanning from 1894 through 1961. The reports include physical information about the school building as well as a listing of students attending the school, by grade in later years. The collection also includes information compiled about former students, teachers, and staff, including newspaper obituaries, mostly from the early 2000s.

Information used to organize the reunions, including mailing lists and advertising flyers, is included in the collection, as well as several newspaper articles announcing the reunions and reporting on them. One folder includes correspondence to the compilers about the reunions and about the history of the school and village.

One folder includes information about late twentieth century issues in Starkey: the sale of Crescent Heights Water Works (1987-1992); the opening of South County Library (2011-12), and the expansion of the Friendship Health facility (2016).

Container List:

Box 1

Folder 1: History of Starkey School – National Register Nomination (2001), copies of photographs of school building (n.d.), information on former teacher Edith Riley Gillespie, (n.d.), newspaper article with photo of teachers Myrtle Hudson, Jean Ferguson, and Betty Shelor (1951), list of teachers 1959/60-1961/62 (n.d.), flyers from school events (n.d.)

Folder 2: Starkey School Term Reports, 1893/94, 1896/797-1900, 1901/02, 1903/04-1925/26

Folder 3: Starkey School Term Reports, 1927/28-1945/46

Folder 4: Starkey School Term Reports, 1946/47-1953/54 and 1955/56-1960/61

Folder 5: Starkey School Reunions – Flyers for and newspaper announcements and articles about the Starkey School Reunions, (2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015).

Folder 6: Address Lists for Reunion Mailing (n.d.)

Folder 7: Starkey Reunion Correspondence, (n.d., July 2008 – July 2013)

Folder 8: Obituaries (n.d., 2006-2022) – Newspaper obituaries, funeral cards, similar. Names include: Ruby Helen Meador (2017), Aloma Argabright Meador (2015), Chrispean Geraldine Meador Glinski (2009), Charles William Meador (2021), William Henry Harvey Sr. (2015), Frankie Marie Meador Welcher (2012), John Curtis Beach Sr. (2015), James B. Beach Sr. (2012), Sandra Saunders Duff (2012), Emily Jean Riley McGrady (2016), Iris Maxine Benois Long (2014), James David Wilson (2008), Leo Stanford Meador (2013), Justine Overstreet McKee (2013), Charles Lowell Maxey (2011), Ruby Louise Overton Forrester (2012), Anita B.

Arnold (2014), Charles Michael Thacker (2013), Philip Monroe Hancock Sr. (2019), Arnold Elmore Keaton (2012), Justine M. McKee (2013), Ronald Blancher (2019), Robert Edward Brown Sr. (2014), Charlie Harvey (2017), Billie Jean Beamer (2017), Oden Thomas Angle Jr. (2017), Bobby Camper Guthrie (2020), Margaret Harvey Starkey (2016), Byron Oscar Beach (2015), James Stevens Robertson (2012), Nancy Sybil Downey (2017), Charles Richard Jennings (2015), Hallie Elizabeth Simpson (2022), Barbara Benois Guthrie (2022), Barbara Peery Meador (n.d.), James Everett Wilson (2006), Stella D. Hensley (2008).

Folder 9: History of Starkey Village – Photocopies of letters, newspaper articles, typescripts, and book sections, (n.d., 1938, 1953, 1960, 1967, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2011). Also inkjet prints of digital images of drag strip on Buck Mountain Rd., Starkey Speedway, and photocopies of images of various areas in Roanoke County, including where Tanglewood Mall was built.

Folder 10: Starkey Village Issues – Items related to three neighborhood issues: first, South County Library opening (2011-2012), including: copy of photograph of donation presentation by Benton Hopper of picture of Merriman Starkey; second, news articles and flyer about expansion of Friendship Health (2016); third, documents related to the sale of Crescent Heights Water Works to Roanoke County (1987-1992), including deeds and plats from 1926 and 1958.

Folder 11: Starkey Reunion Photographs, 2008 & 2011

Folder 12: Starkey Reunion Photographs, 2013 & 2015

Folder 13: Photographs: Students and Other Individuals (n.d., 1946, 1948, ca. 1956, 1957, 2013) – Includes school photos, family photos, informal photos, as well as photos of historic figures. See addendum for list of individuals identified in these photos.

Folder 14: Photographs: School Events and Groups (n.d., 1949, 1950) – Includes May Day celebration, class photos, rhythm band, baseball team. See addendum for list of individuals identified in these photos.

Folder 15: Photographs: Buildings, Etc. (n.d.) – Includes Starkey School, Starkey Station, Starkey grave marker, Roanoke Starkey Bus Line bus, pig iron and iron basin from Robert Harvey Furnace at Speedwell Starkey.

Folder 16: Digital Media – SanDisk drive containing many, but not all, of the documents and images in this collection and four CDs containing files for several images found in the collection.

Folder 17: Bus Tokens – Four bus tokens from the Roanoke Starkey Bus Line.

Addendum: Individuals Identified in Historic Photographs

Identified persons in individual photos (Folder 13):

Aldhizer, Buddy
Angle, O T
Atkins, David
Briggs, Annie
Briggs, Carl
Briggs, Florene
Briggs, Hal
Briggs, Jackie
Briggs, Jimmy
Briggs, Karla Ann
Briggs, Ruth
Briggs, Willie
Burwell, Nathaniel
Digges, Dudley
Flora, David Lee
Franklin, Stuart
Guthrie, Margaret
Hall, Barbara
Harris, Carol
Harris, David
Hartman, Daryl
Harvey, Robert
Hensley, Ruby
Hopper, Benton
Hopper, Elon
Hopper, Theresa
Jennings, Charles
Murphy, Betty
Musgrove, Ronnie
Musgrove, Shirley
Overfelt, Betty Murphy
Pascahl, Jerry
Peery, Sue
Quinn, Barbara Hall
Rickman, B J
Saunders, Bobby
Saunders, Nana
Saunders, Sandra
Short, Mr., postmaster
Sowder, Kenneth
Spangler, Janice
Spradlin, Buddy

Spradlin, Janette
Starkey, Joe
Starkey, Joseph G
Starkey, Margaret
Steele, Silas
Terry, Beulah
Williams, Mr., minister
Wiseman, Donald
Young, John

Identified persons in group photos (Folder 14):

Angle, Sonny
Arthur, Earnest
Arthur, Lyle
Atkins, Judy
Beach, Berkley
Beach, George
Beamer, Betty June
Beamer, Billy Jean
Beamer, Virginia Rose
Beckner, Christine
Beckner, Essie
Beckner, Gay
Beckner, Meredith
Beckner, Tomie
Benois, Barbara
Benois, Edward
Benois, Iris
Benois, Sybil
Briggs, Karla Ann
Brightwell, Carl
Brightwell, Virginia
Cunningham, Sylvia
Davis, Billy
Dority, Douglas
English, Mary Holt
Epperly, Nancy Jean
Goff, Milton
Goff, William
Good, Margaret
Good, Neil
Good, Ralph
Good, Ruth
Grubb, Lena
Guthrie, Beulah

Guthrie, Clarence
Guthrie, Robert
Haislip, Junior
Hancock, Dorothy
Hawley, Jimmy
Hopper, Elon
Hundley, John
Hunley, Pokey
Hunt, Betty
Hunt, Bobby
Jennings, Charles
Kingery, Willard
Mason, Margaret
Mason, Viola
Mason, Walter
Mason, Woodrow
McInturf, Irene
Meador, A R Jr
Meador, Bernice
Meador, Carl
Meador, Cecil
Meador, Clifton
Meador, Dicky
Meador, Hallie
Meador, Marie
Meador, Ollie May
Meador, Ruby
Meadow, Mary
Metts, Marcus
Metz, Violet
Minnix, ?
Mitchell, David
Murphy, Betty
Muse, J. W.
Musgrove, Edgar
Musgrove, Shirlie/Shirley
Overton, Joan
Pascal, Jerry
Paul, Virginia
Peery, Sue
Pugh, Shirley
Read, Randoulf
Robertson, Florence
Saunders, Jesse
Saunders, Ruth
Saunders, Sandra

Sledd, Ruby
Slovensky, John
Smith, Mr. Daris
Smith, Hazel
Starkey, Joe Gale
Stee. Arry Lutitia
Terry, Helen
Terry, Kermit
Terry, Lucile
Terry, Mabel
Terry, Stokley
Turner, Miss Mary
Turner, Miss Ruth
Walker, Ernest
Walker, Junior
Wimmer, Thurman
Wiseman, Emma
Wiseman, Ethelene
Wiseman, Helen
Wright, Jack
Young, Cecile
Young, Reda
Young, Reva