

## Marriage Records Collection (AC85)

### ***Introduction:***

This collection contains many familial records from Missouri. It mostly contains marriage records from Missouri from the mid-1800s to 1920s. There is also an index of Civil War Claimant files from the Benecke Family Papers.

### ***Descriptive Summary:***

Creator: FIC

Title: Marriage Records Collection

Date Range: 1819-1922

Bulk Dates: 1865-1885, 1903-1921

Size: 0.96 linear feet (1 box)

Collection Number: AC85

### ***Donor Information:***

Found in Collection.

### ***Citation Note:***

Marriage Records Collection (AC85), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

### ***Related Collections:***

MAGIC Collection-AC81

Slave Bills of Sale Collection-AC42

### ***Administrative Information:***

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Access Restrictions: Unrestricted.

### ***Biographical Sketch:***

Marriage is an ancient human tradition. However, in the fledgling United States, slaves were not allowed to legally be married, as they were not seen as human. While they could have a “marriage”, that marriage could be destroyed on a whim if their master demanded it or sold one or both spouses.

However, that changed after the American Civil War. Union soldiers were ordered to formalize marriages among slaves in places they took from the Confederacy. Some of these marriage formalizations happened in Missouri, which is where the records from this collection focus on.

***Scope and Content Note:***

**Series 1: Missouri Familial Records**

This series contains records from families in Missouri during the 1800s through the 1920s. There are mostly marriage records, along with some death records and child birth records from different counties in Missouri.

**Series 2: Documents**

This series contains one manuscript. It contains genealogical information related to Black soldiers from the American Civil War, their former slaveowners, and their family members.

***Collection Inventory***

**Series 1: Missouri Marriage Records**

- f. 1 Marriages-Audrain County
- f. 2 Marriage Records-Boone County
- f. 3 Black Marriages-Callaway County
- f. 4 Black Marriages-Carroll County
- f. 5 Marriages-Cedar County
- f. 6 Marriages-Clay County
- f. 7 Marriages-Cooper County
- f. 8 Black Marriages-Crawford County
- f. 9 Marriages-Daviess County
- f. 10 Birth Records-Franklin County
- f. 11 Marriages-Howard County
- f. 12 Black Marriages-Jackson County
- f. 13 Marriages-Jefferson County
- f. 14 Register of Marriages-Lincoln County
- f. 15 Marriages-Moniteau County
- f. 16 Marriages-Monroe County

- f. 17 Marriages-Montgomery County
- f. 18 Marriages-Pettis County
- f. 19 Black Marriages-St. Francois County
- f. 20 Marriages-Washington County

**Series 2: Documents**

- f. 21 Index of Parties Named in Black Civil War Claimant Files Benecke Family Papers (1816-1989) (No. 3825)

**Processed by David Rocha, AmeriCorps VISTA, April 2024.**

**Sources:**

Washington, Reginald. "Sealing the Sacred Bonds of Holy Matrimony." National Archives and Records Administration, Spring 2005. Accessed April 17, 2024.  
<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2005/spring/freedman-marriage-recs.html#:~:text=Slave%20marriages%20had%20neither%20legal,sold%20at%20their%20master's%20will>.