

12-7-2018

Strahm Family Collection (MSS 655)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives

Western Kentucky University, mssfa@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid



Part of the [Military History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Strahm Family Collection (MSS 655)" (2018). *MSS Finding Aids*. Paper 4529.
https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_mss_fin_aid/4529

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in MSS Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
Department of Library Special Collections
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 655 STRAHM Family Collection

1 box. 15 folders. 88 items. 1901-2007. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

SC2018.73.19

Related collection: MSS 27

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Victor Herbert Strahm (1897-1957) was born in Nashville, Tennessee, the son of Franz Joseph and Alice (Jones) Strahm. In 1910, the family moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky, where Victor's father joined the music faculty of the Western Kentucky State Normal School (now WKU). A native of Freiburg, Germany, Franz J. Strahm remained at WKU until his death on 26 June 1941.

Victor Strahm received his life teaching certificate in 1915 from WKU; continued his education at the University of Kentucky, majoring in engineering; and enlisted in the army in May 1917. He completed pilot training at Dayton, Ohio, received his commission as first lieutenant on 31 October 1917, and was sent to France. He was attached to the 91st Aero Squadron, U.S. Air Service, and promoted to the rank of captain. Strahm's duties were mainly surveillance and spotting, but he also was credited with downing five German planes.

Following his return to the United States in 1920, Strahm was discharged from the army. Planning to obtain his engineering degree, he entered the University of Wisconsin, but soon rejoined the army with his previous rank of first lieutenant. Strahm was stationed at various posts in the United States during the 1920s and 1930s. In 1942, he went to India and Egypt to assist in organizing the 9th Air Force. He was commissioned a brigadier general, and after World War II commanded several air bases before retiring in 1953. He died in San Antonio, Texas on 11 May 1957. Strahm was married twice. His first wife, Ruth A. Shultz, died on 16 March 1939. His second wife, Inez (Sneed) Strahm, survived him, as did his mother and sister Louise (Mrs. Carl E. Barber). Although Victor Strahm's first wife was buried at Arlington National Cemetery and a gravesite and monument was also reserved there for him, his second wife had his remains interred in Shreveport, Louisiana.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists of biographical data, clippings and other materials relating primarily to Franz J. Strahm and his son Victor Herbert Strahm. Also included is information

about other members of the Strahm and related families, and a collection of family photographs. An inventory is in Folder 1.

Folder 2 contains mostly birth and death information on members of the Strahm family. Also included are notes on Victor Strahm's military service and decorations.

Folder 3 contains two memorial tributes to Franz J. Strahm that include information about his musical career, his work at WKU, and his experience as a German-American at the outbreak of World War I.

Folder 4 contains the memorial book created at Franz J. Strahm's funeral held in Bowling Green, Kentucky on 28 June 1941.

Folder 5 contains newspaper clippings about Franz J. Strahm and Victor Strahm. Included are obituaries for both, and additional clippings relate to Victor Strahm's World War II military career and a 1956 surgery.

Folder 6 contains a copy of *History of the 91st Aero Squadron, 1917-1919*, the unit of the Army Air Service in which Victor Strahm served during World War I. The work includes illustrations and personnel lists. At the back is a list of military decorations awarded to Victor Strahm.

Folder 7 contains a letter to Franz Strahm's daughter Louise regarding materials about her father held in the University Archives at WKU in 1975; Louise's letter regarding her brother Victor's burial monument in Arlington National Cemetery; a letter to Louise from a relative of her husband's regarding the contents of a diary and autograph book of Franz J. Strahm's; and a booklet on music symbols by Louise's husband Carl E. Barber.

Folders 8-12 contain photographs: of Franz J. Strahm (Folder 8); Franz J. Strahm in groups and with family members (Folder 9); Victor Strahm, from boyhood through his World War II service (Folder 10); various members of the Strahm and Jones families, including Franz J. Strahm's father, sister and nephew, and his wife Alice's sister (Folder 11); and a few unidentified photographs (Folder 12).

Folder 13 contains miscellaneous material, including a letter to and travel diary relating to Roxie Lou Gibbs, who was evidently a student of Franz Strahm's and a friend of his daughter Louise.

Folder 14 contains two pages removed from an album with a few photographs made early in the 20th century in Bowling Green, Kentucky and along the Barren River. One photograph is marked "Our first home in Bowling Green, Ky." Photographs of individuals are unidentified.

Folder 15 contains a photograph album, probably created by Franz Strahm's daughter Louise (Strahm) Barber. Many photographs are not well identified, but they include members of the Strahm and Barber families as well as photographs taken in Washington, D.C. and several western states.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Strahm Family Collection	1901-2007	88 items
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Miscellaneous Strahm family data	1901-1963	8 items

Folder 3	Memorials for Franz J. Strahm	1941	2 items
Folder 4	Funeral book for Franz J. Strahm	1941	1 item
Folder 5	Clippings about Franz and Victor Strahm	1941-1957	9 items
Folder 6	History of the 91 st Aero Squadron, 1917-1919	n.d.	1 item
Folder 7	Louise (Strahm) Barber; Carl E. Barber	1975-1977	4 items
Folder 8	Franz Strahm – Photographs	1918-1920, n.d.	11 items
Folder 9	Franz Strahm and family – Photographs	1909-1940, n.d.	16 items
Folder 10	Victor Strahm – Photographs	n.d., 1947	16 items
Folder 11	Strahm and Jones family members – Photographs	n.d.	6 items
Folder 12	Miscellaneous photographs	n.d.	5 items
Folder 13	Miscellaneous papers	1949-2007	5 items
Folder 14	Scrapbook pages with photographs of Bowling Green and Barren River	n.d.	2 items
Folder 15	Photograph album	1928-1954	1 item

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS STRAHM Family Collection 1901-2007
655

Data, clippings and information about the Strahm family and related families. Most of the material relates to Franz J. Strahm, WKU music director from 1910-1941, and his son Victor H. Strahm's career in military service. Includes photographs of Franz, Victor, and other family members.

1 box. 15 folders. 88 items. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

SC2018.73.19

SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Barber, Carl Emerson, 1890-1975 B1,F7
 Barber, Carl Emerson, 1890-1975 – Photographs B1,F11,15
 Barber family – Photographs B1,F15
 Barber, Louise (Strahm), 1894-1982 – Correspondence B1,F7
 Barber, Louise (Strahm), 1894-1982 – Photographs B1,F9,15
 Barren River – Photographs B1,F14
 Conyers, Roxie Lou (Gibbs), 1914-2007 – Letter to B1,F13
 Conyers, Roxie Lou (Gibbs), 1914-2007 – Relating to B1,F13
 Daughters of the American Revolution, 1952 – Photograph B1,F13
 Eugene Gerard Company – Bowling Green – Relating to B1,F4
 Gordon, Esther (Kolodny), 1904-1949 – Relating to B1,F13
 Jews – Nashville, Tennessee, 1949 B1,F13
 Jones family – Photographs B1,F11
 Jones family – Relating to B1,F2
 Milliken, George Duncan, Jr., 1908-1995 – Photographs B1,F10
 Music and musicians B1,F5,7
 Ogden College – Bowling Green – Photograph B1,F14
 Oil wells – Warren County, 1920 – Photograph B1,F12
 Potter College – Bowling Green – Photograph B1,F14
 Spiller, Cora Jane (Morningstar), b. 1928 B1,F13
 Stickles, Arndt Mathis, 1872-1968 B1,F3
 Strahm, Alice Elizabeth (Jones), 1873-1963 – Photographs B1,F9,15
 Strahm, Alice Elizabeth (Jones), 1873-1963 – Relating to B1,F2
 Strahm family – Photographs B1,F11,15
 Strahm, Franz Joseph, 1867-1941 – Photographs B1,F8,9,15
 Strahm, Franz Joseph, 1867-1941 – Relating to B1,F2-5
 Strahm, Ruth Allen (Shultz), 1897-1939 – Photograph B1,F10
 Strahm, Ruth Allen (Shultz), 1897-1939 – Relating to B1,F2
 Strahm, Victor Herbert, 1897-1957 – Photographs B1,F9,10,15
 Strahm, Victor Herbert, 1897-1957 – Relating to B1,F2,5
 Woolsey, Laura Louise (Ankersheil), 1911-1993 B1,F3
 World War I, 1914-1918 – Pilots and pilotage B1,F6
 World War II, 1939-1945 – Relating to B1,F5,15

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 12/07/2018