

Records of Mosier Valley



William Parker Family

History

Mosier Valley is the oldest African American community in Tarrant County. It is located in Northeast Tarrant County just south of the Hurst, Bedford, Euless area on the north bank of the Trinity River. The site was settled in the 1870s by the Robert Johnson family and ten other families, most of them former slaves on the Mosier plantation. The community established the Oak Grove Baptist Church in 1874. The congregation changed its name to the St. John Missionary Baptist Church in 1911. A school was established in 1884. Many Mosier Valley families owned farms. Others were employed in some of the surrounding white communities. Some residents established stores and other businesses to serve the community. At its peak in the 1930s Mosier Valley was a vibrant community of some 300 people. The community had a rich social life centering structured the church, school and other social organizations. The community went into decline after the Second World War as the surrounding cities expanded, and younger residents moved away.

When the Heritage Room collections were established in 1975, part of its mission was to collect material relating to the history of African Americans in Tarrant County. Vada Johnson, a descendent of one of the original Mosier Valley Settlers and a former school teacher in Mosier valley, cooperated with Duane Gage in documenting the history of Mosier Valley. Lenora Rolla, an African American political activist and journalist from Fort Worth, was also involved in the effort. Rolla was also a co-founder of the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society.

Provenance

The Records of Mosier Valley are part of the Heritage Room Archival Collections and are the property of the Tarrant County College District.

Scope and Description

The Records of Mosier Valley consist of photographs, monographs, family histories, oral histories, clipping files, biographical sketches, and miscellaneous genealogical records on the history of Mosier Valley from its founding in the 1870s to the 1970s. Most of this material was collected from 1975 to 1977. There are a few later additions. The collection is stored in 5 archival record boxes. Most of the documents and photographs are copies of originals.

The Mosier Valley material was originally stored in several different sections of the Heritage Room collections. The photographs were scattered throughout the general photograph collection: images of people were filed with People; images of homes with Houses; and so on. At some point a decision was made to gather the Mosier Valley images into a single binder. The monographs, oral histories, family histories and other bound material were in several different sections the Heritage Room Local History Manuscript Collection.

In 2010 the Heritage Room and its collections joined with the Department of Records Management to form the Department of Records Management and Archives. As part of a re-organization of the Heritage Room collections, it was decided that all of the information relating to Mosier Valley should be gathered into a single collection.

Box 1

Mosier Valley Research

Monographs, student papers, oral history interviews, and clipping files.

Folder

1. Andy Nelson of Mosier Valley Clipping file compiled for the Heritage Room 1975. Biographical information on Mosier Valley resident Andy Nelson. Nelson was a Mosier Valley pioneer, born in in slavery in 1862. BGS 10.14.13
2. The Shelton Family of Mosier Valley Student paper: Coffie, Loda 1975. Family history; Mosier Valley history. BGS 03.12.19
3. Interview of Juanita Oliver of Mosier Valley Student paper: Alenik, Marcia 1977. Narrative and biographical sketch based on an oral history interview. BGS 10.13.15
4. The Richard Johnson Family Monograph: Johnson, Vada 1975. Family history; Mosier Valley history. BGS 10.22.10
5. Andy and Bell Nelson of Mosier Valley Monograph: Johnson, Veda 1975. Biographical sketch. BGS 10.22.14
6. Ollie Parker Family History Monograph: Rogers, Mrs. Gladys Christian 1975. Family history. BGS 18.07.16
7. Beatrice Parker Green of Mosier Valley Student paper: Stam, Mary Alice 1975. Transcript of an oral history interview. Mosier Valley History; African American History. Includes photocopies of family documents and photographs; family group sheets. BGS 19.13.07

8. Interview with Maude I. Logan Oral History: Schmidt, Ruby 1975. Transcript of an interview. African American history; Mosier Valley history; African American education in Fort Worth and Tarrant County. Includes photocopies of documents and family photographs. BGS 19.18.12
9. Interview with Ollie Parker of Mosier Valley Student paper: Alexander, Dustin. Transcript of an oral history interview. BGS 01.04.09
10. The Settlers of Mosier Valley Student paper: Brigman, George 1975. Copied from a paper loaned by Gail Riley, sponsor, Central Junior High School Junior Historians, Eules TX. Pioneer families of Mosier Valley. MRV 02.07.13
11. Mosier Valley Elementary School, 1953-1963 Student paper: Bruner, Julie 1975. Research data. MRV 02.10.13
12. Historical Research on Mosier Valley Student project: Gilkey, Marlene 1975. A compilation of historical and genealogical data on various Mosier Valley families. MRV 07.13.08
13. Interview with Mr. Joe Woods and Callie Parker Student paper: Gilkey, Marlene 1975. Transcript of an oral history interview. MVR 07.13.13
14. Mosier Valley Community Center Clipping file of articles on Mosier Valley, 1975-1976; Mosier Valley Community Center Newsletter, Summer and Fall, 1975. MRV 13.22.03
15. Parker Family in Mosier Valley genealogical data on the Quannah Parker family and its relation to the Parkers of Mosier Valley.
16. Taylor and Deliah Blackburn Genealogical data on the Blackburn, Johnson, Parker and other Mosier Valley families.

Box 2

Bound volumes of photographs and research data

Folder

1. Photo Album of Beatrice Parker Green of Mosier Valley Student project: Stram, Mary Alice 1975. Mosier Valley history; African American history. Photocopy of a family photo album; includes some documents. BGS 19.13.33
2. Mosier Valley Notes and Clippings Research data: Johnson, Vada; Coffie, Loda 1975. A compilation of newspaper articles, oral history transcripts, genealogical data, obituaries, photographs, documents and other material on the village of Mosier Valley and its families. Contents are photocopies of originals. MRV 10.22.13

Box 3

Miscellaneous photographs and duplicate photographs

Photographs of Mosier Valley residents. Most represent early settler families, especially the Johnsons. These images can also be found in the Mosier Valley Photographs binder in Box 4. Most of these include some identifying text.

Folder

1. Duplicate prints on printer paper. These prints duplicate the contents of the binder in Box 4 and include identifying text on the back of each sheet. The quality of the images is poor, but they provide a useful guide to the contents of the binder.

2. Delia Wolf and family. 8X10 sepia toned print.
3. "Wife actor 'Buckwheat' who died in Fort Worth in 1967" 4 ½ X4 ½ black and white print.
4. Unidentified black girl 8X10 black and white print.
5. Richard Johnson in uniform, World War I.
6. Congregation gathered in front of St. John's Missionary Baptist Church 8X10 black and white print
7. Zack Blackman, early settler of Mosier Valley 8X10 black and white print
8. Wedding picture of Richard and Lottie Johnson 1917 8X10 black and white print
9. Robert Johnson and his grandchildren 8X10 black and white print
10. Robert and Sallie Johnson with their daughter. 5X7 black and white print
11. Arthur Johnson in uniform, WWII 8X10 black and white print
12. Parker family group photographs with names on a separate sheet. 8X10 black and white print
13. Mary Alice Stam, Mosier Valley researcher and contributor to the heritage Room. 8X10 black and white print.

Box 4

Mosier Valley Photograph Album

Three ring binder with 43 black and white prints. These photographs represent the families, institutions, and daily lives of the residents of Mosier Valley from the 1890s to the 1960s. With a few exceptions all are 8X10 black and white prints. All of these are copies of originals made with copy negatives.

Box 5

Newspapers

Portraits of Black History Fields, Valerie (Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Section E 1/19/1992)

2 copies. Two lengthy articles devoted Mosier Valley and the Heritage Room collections quote Vada Johnson, Duane Gage, Lenora Rolla and historian George Green.