



*Archival and Manuscript Collections Finding Aid*

**ACCESSION No.:** HRHS-151

**COLLECTION TITLE:** J. Robert Swank Collection

**DATES:** 1878 - 1973

**SIZE:** 6 boxes (1 OV), 21 folders

**DONOR:** Ann MacKenzie Tew

**PROCESSED:** Processed July 16, 2015 by K. Craun

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

J. Robert Swank was a noted historian of the Singers Glen area, and he wrote a detailed book in 1973 about the history of Singers Glen titled *Singers Glen Community*. In 1972, he also wrote a book titled *Family Record of Acker, Beery, Donovan, Driver, Funk, Ralston, Showalter, Swank, Weller*. Both of these books are hand-written, but are bound in a hard cover. He also compiled many genealogical charts of families in Rockingham County.

J. Robert Swank's father was S. Henton Swank who opened the Swank Store and Post Office in Singers Glen in 1890 and eventually opened a store in the Mathias, WV area. The account books from the Swank store are available in this collection.

Another business in the Singers Glen community was the Singers Glen Carriage Works owned by George W. Shaffer, which was a wood working shop where he specialized in carriage bodies. The entire second floor of his operation was used for painting and trimming the carriages. He also built washing machines and chicken coops. The account books from this business are also available in this collection.

The Roller & Koiner account book was handed down through the Solomon Funk family and is an account book of the Koiner merchants at or near Waynesboro. Mrs. Solomon Funk was Elizabeth Koiner from Augusta County.

J. Robert Swank compiled many genealogical charts of families in Rockingham County which are available in this collection.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

This collection contains the genealogical books and family genealogical charts compiled by J. Robert Swank. Also included are the personal papers of the families of Singers Glen.

**COLLECTION INVENTORY:**

**Folder 1:** *Singers Glen Community*, book written by J. Robert Swank in 1973

**Folder 2:** Swank & Swank Ledger No. 1, Swank Store, Singers Glen, 1890 – 1892

**Folder 3:** S. Henton Swank account book, Swank Store, Singers Glen and Mathias, West Virginia, 1895 – 1899

**Folder 4:** S. Henton Swank account book, Swank Store, Mathias, West Virginia, 1897

**Folder 5:** S. Henton Swank account book, Swank Store, Mathias, West Virginia, 1898 – 1899

**Folder 6:** George W. Shaffer account book, Singers Glen Carriage Works, 1883 – 1886

**Folder 7:** George W. Shaffer account book, Singers Glen Carriage Works, 1887 – 1896

**Folder 8:** George W. Shaffer account book, Singers Glen Carriage Works, 1893-1902

**Folder 9:**

-George W. Shaffer, small memo book, 1892-1893

-Receipts for George W. Shaffer, 1890-1907

-Cancelled checks for George W. Shaffer, 1907-1908

-Bank book for George W. Shaffer from The Rockingham National Bank, 1907-1908

**Folder 10:**

-Receipts for John Shaffer, 1853-1877

-John Shaffer correspondence, 1870-1876

-Will of John Shaffer, January 28, 1901

-List of personal property of John Shaffer, September 25, 1906

-List of items at public sale for John Shaffer, November 24, 1906

**Folder 11:**

-Receipts for John Swank, 1839-1859

-Deed dated September 23, 1855 between John Swank and the Joseph Baxter Estate

-Plats of land purchased from Joseph Baxter Estate, 1855

-Deed dated January 17, 1877 between John Swank and George W. Dunavan

-Deed dated August 28, 1901 between George Donovan and Philip H. Donovan

-Deed dated October 3, 1944 between Charles H. Bridges and Warren A. Kratz

-Plats of C. H. Bridges Farm, Singers Glen, 1944

**Folder 12:**

Deeds/Indentures belonging to John Swank:

-Indenture dated June 22, 1795, between Abraham Branaman and Peter Acker

-Indenture dated June 19, 1804 for the Baxter family

-Indenture dated December 28, 1827 between Edward Conard and John Ludewich

-Indenture dated April 8, 1848 between Peter Driver and John Swank

-Deed dated April 1, 1856 between George Hefner and John Swank

-Deed dated January 28, 1859 between Jonathan Funk and John Swank

-Deed dated August 1, 1867 between John Swank and George Saufley

-Plat of land surveyed for John Swank, May 9, 1833

**Folder 13:**

-Article of Agreement dated October 21, 1843 between Daniel Swank and Abraham Haugh

-Article of Agreement dated August 25, 1852 between Daniel Swank and John Frank

Article of Agreement dated March 18, 1846 between Daniel Swank and Abraham Haugh

**Folder 14:**

-Receipts for Peter Swank, 1874-1876

- Letters to Peter Swank, 1874-1875
- List of Swank marriages
- Estate papers for Peter Swank, John Swank, Executor, 1875
- Receipts for Barbara Swank, 1875-1888

**Folder 15:**

Plat of land relating to the Joseph Swank estate

**Folder 16:**

- Receipts for Peter Acker, 1840-1873
- Receipts for Peter Acker's estate, 1871-1875
- Papers relating to the last will and testament of Peter Acker
- Descriptions of land owned by Peter Acker, 1795

**Folder 17:** Roller & Koiner account book from Waynesboro, Virginia, 1878-1879

**Folder 18:** Scrapbook from the Boyte-Funk home in Bedford, Virginia. An unidentified ledger with dates from 1809 – 1812 was used as a scrapbook with newspaper clippings. The date of the clippings is circa 1840 – 1850.

**Folder 19:** *Family Record of Acker, Beery, Donovan, Driver, Funk, Ralston, Showalter, Swank, Weller*, 1972, book by J. Robert Swank

**OV Box:**

**Folder 20:** 1904 Tax Table for Tracts of Lands in the Linville District in Rockingham County for White land owners only

**Folder 21:** Scrapbook pages pertaining to the Harrisonburg/Rockingham County area, 1940's through 1960's. Included is a 1951 Edom telephone directory.

**Atlas:** 1885 atlas of Rockingham County, published by D. J. Lake & Co., belonging to J. Robert Swank

**Rolled genealogy charts:**

- Family tree of Acker/Ocker/Aucker
- Family tree of Showalter/Funk/Driver/Swank/Acker
- Family tree of Showalter/Swank/Ralston/Hopkins/Dove
- Family tree of Rodeffer/Showalter
- Family tree of Beery Family
- Family tree of John S. Heatwole/Showalter/Swank
- Family tree of Driver/Acker/Zimmerman
- Family tree of Ralston/Berry
- Family tree of Joseph Cromer
- Family tree of Trissell/Showalter
- Family tree of John Landes/Catherine Miller
- Family tree of Ralston/Deavers
- Family tree of Charles Swank family
- Family tree of Craun/Swank family
- Family tree of the bible
- 1885 Map of Singers Glen
- 1885 Map of Singers Glen (brown paper)

Framed photograph of fifth annual Funk reunion, 1923

**Books to HRHS-150:**

Practical Lessons in the Use of English for Primary and Grammar Schools, 1899

Spelling and Letter Writing, 1902

McGuffey's Eclectic Spelling Book, 1896

Johnson's Third Reader, 1897