



Warren R. Dalton Jr. Papers (C4785)

Collection Number: C4785

Collection Title: Warren R. Dalton Jr. Papers

Dates: 1929-2012

Creator: Dalton, Warren R., 1917-2018

Abstract: The papers of Warren Dalton consist of research for the columns he wrote for the *Columbia Daily Tribune*, research for his published books, transcriptions of his published books, and personal papers that consist of correspondence between his father William W. Dalton and multiple people in his family and in his professional life.

Collection Size: 1.0 cubic feet
(30 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has given and assigned to the State Historical Society of Missouri all rights of copyright, which the donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Warren R. Dalton Jr. Papers* (C4785); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Warren R. Dalton on June 9, 2014 (Accession No. CA6379).

Processed by: Processed by Isabelle Urbina, February 13, 2026

Historical Note:

Warren R. Dalton Jr. was born in Wentzville, Missouri, on June 30, 1917, and died on October 31, 2018. He was the first born in his family and was followed by nine brothers and sisters. He attended the University of Missouri in 1935 and graduated in 1939 with a degree in geography and a minor in business. After graduating college, Warren decided not to follow in his father's footsteps to law school but to stay on managing Harzfeld's. He and his family then moved to Marshall, Missouri, where they managed a woman's ready-to-wear store. In 1943, Warren Dalton Jr. enlisted in the U.S Navy and became a communications officer serving on an LST with the 7th Fleet in the South Pacific. In 1946 the family moved to Columbia, Missouri, where they started their business, Suzanne's, which became known as "Columbia's Smartest Shop for Women."

Dalton immersed himself in the Columbia community and became a member of the Jaycees, the Lions Club, the Elks Club, the Tiger Shrine, the Quarterback Club, and the Columbia Country Club. He was also a member of United Methodist Church. He became president of the Jaycees in 1949, and president of the Quarterback Club in 1954. In 1959 he was elected District Governor of Lions International and helped start the Columbia Lions Eye Tissue Bank in 1960. He was an active member of the Boone County Historical Society, the State Historical Society of Missouri, and the University of Missouri Jefferson Club. He also invested in downtown property and was involved in the day-to-day operations of the Dalton and Booth buildings on Broadway. He also enjoyed teaching at the Osher Learning Center and attended their weekly get togethers.

Warren Dalton Jr. is widely known for his bi-weekly column in the *Columbia Daily Tribune* where he wrote about the history of Columbia and Boone County. He started this column on August 6, 2004, and his last article was published on June 28, 2015. He also published his autobiography "A Time of Life" in 2004, and "It is Never Too Late: My lessons for Living" in 2008. He collaborated with David James on the "History of Downtown Columbia" and "Between the Columns" in 2010. He wrote "Between the Columns Volume Two" in 2013, and "The Life and Writings of North Todd Gentry" in 2011. Because of his extensive research and writing about Columbia, he was inducted into the Boone County Historical Society Hall of Fame in 2014.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 3 series:

Transcriptions
Research
Personal Papers

Scope and Content Note:

Transcriptions

The transcriptions are of his book, "The Writings of North Todd Gentry" that he wrote in 2011 with David James. There is also another transcription titled "From the Sale of Guitar Street Lots to Dr. James H. Bennett in 1833 to The Beginning of Christian College in 1851," that is unpublished by Warren Dalton Jr. and David James.

Research

This series consists of materials pertaining to research done by Warren Dalton Jr. for his bi-weekly column in the *Columbia Daily Tribune* between 2006 and 2012. There is research here that is for already published columns and for future columns. He did research on Missouri as well as Boone County. Most of these records are articles or emails with information about each subject.

The research records for future columns contains information on Columbia people and their stories, WWII veterans, Prewitt family, and restaurants in Columbia. There is also information about Columbia utilities, businesses in Columbia, historic walkways, Commercial Club history, and the Paquin family. Most of these records are articles or newspaper clippings about each subject. There is also research on Robert Hunter Dalton that consists of his writing about their personal lives and his stories.

This series also contains research for his book that he published. These mainly contain research on the Gentry family and their heritage in Missouri. The records mostly contain stories about the Gentry family and a historical article written about them.

Personal Papers

This series contains correspondence between William (Bill) Dalton and other lawyers who he was working with at the time. Most of the correspondence is about meetings and future positions. There is also correspondence between the fraternity that he was working with and other colleges in Missouri. In this series there is also correspondence between William (Bill) Dalton and his wife Margaret Dalton. These letters mostly contained updates about their daily lives since they lived in two different states between the years 1941 and 1943. This series also contains letters from his brother John Dalton, family friends, Christmas cards, and wedding invitations.

In these records there are also notes and papers from a class Warren Dalton taught titled, "An Early History of Missouri, Boone County and Columbia" at the MU Osher Learning Center. This series also contains a miscellaneous folder containing newspaper clippings, William (Bill) Dalton business cards, cartoon drawings, and an article from *The Seattle Mail and Herald* by W. R. Inge Dalton.

Container List:

Transcriptions

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- f. 3 Sale of Guitar Street Lots

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Personal Papers

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