



## William A. Gearon Photographs (P0253)

**Collection Number:** P0253

**Collection Title:** William A. Gearon Photographs

**Dates:** 1927

**Creator:** Gearon, William A., 1882-1964

**Abstract:** Series of 33 digital photographs documenting the destruction following the St. Louis tornado of September 29, 1927. The photographs were scanned from glass plate negatives. Also included are printed proof sheets of the images.

**Collection Size:** 0.02 cubic feet, 624 MB of digital files  
(1 folder, 33 tifs)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. 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](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *William A. Gearon Photographs* (P0253); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** The photographs were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Glennon J. Kullman in October 2003 (Accession No. PA0253).

**Alternate Forms Available:** The photographs can be accessed online in SHSMO's [Born Digital Repository](#). The photographs are also available as print copies.

**Existence and Location of Originals:** The original glass plate negatives are held by the family.

**Processed by:** Elizabeth Engel, February 19, 2026.

**Historical Note:**

William Anthony Gearon was born in Patterson, New Jersey, on April 6, 1882, to Michael and Margaret (McCormack) Gearon. He married Margaret (Paulet) Tourigny in Salina, Kansas, on August 18, 1917. The couple settled in St. Louis where Gearon worked as a photographer. In addition to Margaret's children from her previous marriage (Gabrielle, Fernand, and Maurice), the couple also had together Margaret, Anna, Mary, Martha, and William Jr. William Gearon, Sr. died on August 12, 1964, in St. Louis and is buried in Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been maintained in its original order.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The collection consists of 33 digital photographs that were scanned from original glass plate negatives. The photographs document the destruction following the St. Louis tornado of September 29, 1927. Also included are printed proof sheets of the images.

**Container List:**

- f. 1 Printed proof sheets of glass plate negative scans
- b.d.f. 1 Photographs of tornado damage in St. Louis, 1927

**Index:**

| Index Terms                            | Born Digital Folder | Image |
|--|---------------------|-------|
| Tornadoes--Missouri--Saint Louis, 1927 | b.d.f. 1            | Yes   |