Robert S. Wiley Collection  
(R0521)

Collection Number: R0521

Collection Title: Robert S. Wiley Collection

Dates: 1869-2011

Creator: Wiley, Robert Stanley, 1942-2021

Abstract: The Robert S. Wiley Collection consists of legal documents, publications, promotional material, and ephemera related to Missouri, specifically Stone County, and to travel, tourism and recreation in the White River region of Missouri and Arkansas. The collection also contains material largely focused on Missouri State Representative Dewey Short and the Republican Party.

Collection Size: 8.5 cubic feet  
(177 folders, 639 photographs, 25 slides, 2 audio discs, 13 oversize folders)

Language: Collection is predominantly in English. Materials in German and Spanish are indicated at the folder level.

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-Rolla. If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See Rights & Reproductions on the Society’s website for more information and about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Robert S. Wiley Collection (R0521); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The collection was donated to the University of Missouri by Robert S. Wiley on February 8, 1995 (Accession No. RA0618). An addition was made on April 25, 1995, by Layne Merrill (Accession No. RA0627). An addition was made on September 26, 2000, by Robert S. Wiley (Accession No. RA0759). An addition was made on October 17, 2002, by Robert S. Wiley (Accession No. RA0895). An addition was made on November 22, 2021, by Elizabeth Exley (Accession No. SPA0093).
Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Robert S. Wiley Collection can be found in the following collections:

*Dewey Short Papers* (C4515)
*John Smith Phelps Receipt* (R0562)
*Missouri Broiler Festival and Barbecue, Crane, Missouri Collection* (R0667)
*Ozark Mountain Lakes and Rivers, Inc., “White River Lakes of the Ozarks”* (R0713)
*White River Boosters League Collection* (R0749)
*Roy Nelson Canning Company Records* (R1029)
*Missouri Pacific Railroad Company, White River Division Collection* (R1209)
*Lake Taneycomo and White River Valley County Brochure Collection* (R1447)
*Stone County, Missouri Records* (R1478)


Notes:

This collection contains magazines with racially insensitive wording and images. SHSMO archivists have retained these texts and images to preserve their historical context. For example, the *Arcadian* magazine from 1931 contains images of white performers in Blackface. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, Blackface was a popular subgenre of American theater, where white actors wore black makeup to portray caricatures of Black Americans. Blackface became increasingly socially unacceptable in the 1930s and 1940s; the practice is now associated with racial bigotry and intolerance.

The Dewey Short series contains anti-immigration publications with racially insensitive wording. In the interests of historical integrity, these materials have not been removed from the archival collection and their titles have not been altered.

Biographical Note:

Robert “Bob” Stanley Wiley was born at Hurley in Stone County, Missouri, in 1942, to Maurice and Roxabel Wiley. After graduating valedictorian from Hurley High School, he attended Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State University) in Springfield and received his law degree from Washington University in St. Louis. He married his wife Jeanelle in 1966, and they had two children, John Dale Wiley, who predeceased him in 2021 by less than three months, and Elizabeth (Wiley) Exley.

Shortly after marrying, Wiley served as part of the Military Police in Vietnam, earning a Bronze Star for his service. In 1969, he established a legal practice at Crane, Missouri, and from 1970 to 1973 was the prosecuting attorney for Stone County. In 1981, Wiley and his brother John purchased and restored the old Bank of Galena, which had previously served as congressman Dewey Short’s office after he purchased the building to preserve it, until Dewey’s death in 1979. In this building, Bob and John Wiley transformed the space into the Dewey Short Memorial Museum, which was in operation beginning in 1986 until it closed at an unknown date. In 2020, the building was converted into a café, The Bean Counter.
In 1985, Wiley published *Dewey Short, Orator of the Ozarks*, a biography of the long-time representative of the 7th Congressional District. During his career as a lawyer, until his retirement in 2018 for health reasons, he served as Prosecuting Attorney, Circuit Judge, and City Attorney. Robert Wiley died June 3, 2021.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following ten series and one subseries:

- Stone County, Missouri
  - Deeds and Property Records
- Greater Ozarks History
- Travel and Tourism Publications
- Political Papers
- Photographs
- Leonard J. Williams
- Dewey Short
- Railroad Publications
- Oversize
- Audio Disks

**Scope and Content Note:**

**Stone County, Missouri**

This series contains materials related to Stone County, Missouri, and includes records on county officials, municipal officers, and the towns of Crane, Galena, Hurley, Ponce de Leon, and Reeds Spring. This series consists of a 1930 yearbook for Crane High School, with tipped-in photographs of teachers and students, a script for the 1951 Stone County centennial pageant, and miscellaneous items concerning Fairy Cave/Spanish Cave/Wildcat Cave (now known as Talking Rocks Cavern), and the Stone County courthouse. Among the latter is a photocopy of a pass issued to witness the hanging of Roscoe "Red" Jackson at Galena in 1937. This series is arranged by towns within Stone County and subject.

The Deeds and Property Records subseries contains deeds and property ownership records for various properties in Stone County. The subseries is arranged by subject and alphabetically by last name.

**Greater Ozarks History**

This series includes publications, travel guides, property records, and local history materials related to other areas in Missouri, as well as Eureka Springs and Hot Springs, Arkansas. This section also includes unique items such as the yearbook for the 10th annual reunion of the 35th Infantry Division at Springfield (1928), and the dedication program for the Mississippi River bridge at Cape Girardeau (1928). This series is arranged by subject.

**Travel and Tourism Publications**

This series consists of magazines, travel guides, maps, and other printed material which might be classed as “Ozarkiana.” The development of the White River Lakes region (Table Rock Lake,
Lake Taneycomo, and Bull Shoals), circa 1950s-1970s, is well documented by brochures and other advertising items by lakeside tourist developments and hunting and fishing resorts. There is also a group of publications by local and state tourism associations from the 1960s.

Also included in this series are items such as Arcadian Life (1928) and Ozark Life (1928-1931) magazines, and regional guides such as Lon Scott’s Ozarks (1928), and Keith McCanse’s Where to Go in the Ozarks (1931-1932). The beginning of modern development of the tourism and recreation industries generally throughout the Ozarks is represented by a collection of regional magazines from the 1930s. The 1978 issue of Missouri Life features Forsyth and Taum Sauk, while the June 1959 issue of Outdoors features the Ozarks. This series is arranged by publication date.

**Political Papers**

This series contains correspondence, photographs, and publications related to politics and campaigning in Missouri and in the Republican Party. This series is arranged by subject.

**Photographs**

This series consists of original photographs and photocopies of Stone County at the turn of the century. The images include the Galena Blues baseball team; road or railroad construction southeast of Galena; an unidentified Stone County school group; construction of a railroad tunnel at Reeds Spring; a photo of a sinkhole near Reeds Spring; and a selection of 35mm slides of photographs, including views by postcard photographers George Hall, Fox, and Wright. Among the significant views are those of the canning factory at Hurley; a gigging party on the White River; the roundhouse and depot at Crane; and several views of Galena, Missouri. There are also two folders of unidentified photographs of individuals presumed to be Stone Countians. This collection is arranged by subject.

**Leonard J. Williams**

This series contains the papers and scrapbooks of Leonard J. Williams, a native of Crane and long-time school administrator in Stone County. Williams began writing on local history after his retirement in 1976. The scrapbooks contain clippings of historical items published by the Crane Chronicle and Stone County Republican, 1976-1983, in columns titled, "Much in a Basket" and "Weekly Local History Lesson." The columns featured items on the history of Crane and the communities of northern Stone County including Cape Fair, Curran, Hurley, Scholten, and Virgin Bluff. The scrapbooks include many of the columns and stories written by Williams, as well as other newspaper items of local interest. This series is arranged by subject and then chronologically.

**Dewey Short**

This series contains personal and political photographs, papers, and correspondence from Wiley’s collection on Missouri State Representative Dewey Jackson Short. Wiley formed and operated the Dewey Short Museum in Galena, Missouri, where he displayed much of the material in this series. This series is arranged by subject.

**Railroad Publications**
This series contains railroad publications, a training manual, and records collected by Robert Wiley’s mother, Roxabel (McHolland) Wiley, during and after her tenure as a Missouri Pacific depot agent at Hurley until its closure in 1962. The series is arranged by publication type.

**Oversize**

This series contains oversized photographs, certificates, artifacts, and plaques related to Robert S. Wiley, Stone County history, railroad memorabilia, Republican politics, and Dewey Short. The series is arranged by subject.

**Audio Discs**

This series contains two phonograph records advertising the 1956 Republican Congressional campaign. Known as “transcriptions,” these records were pre-recorded and sent to radio stations for local broadcast. These were included in the Dewey Short portion of Wiley’s collection, and accompanying the records are transcripts and copies of a letter to the candidate asking which radio stations to submit copies for his campaign. The series is arranged in its original order.

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