Gilbert F. Esser Papers  
(R0527)

Collection Number: R0527

Collection Title: Gilbert F. Esser Papers

Dates: 1970-1972

Creator: Esser, Gilbert F., 1896-1979

Abstract: The Gilbert F. Esser Papers are booklets by Gilbert F. Esser, containing descriptions of the people, businesses, and buildings of Cole Camp in Benton County, Missouri.

Collection Size: 0.02 cubic foot  
(2 folders)

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-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] Gilbert F. Esser Papers (R0527); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were loaned for photocopying to the University of Missouri by Sandra K. Creek on March 26, 1991 (Accession No. RA0505).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Gilbert F. Esser Papers can be found in the following collections:

Cole Camp, Missouri Collection (R0530)  
Cole Camp, Missouri Sesquicentennial Collection (R1263)
Biographical Note:

A native of Cole Camp, born to Frank John Esser and Mary Martha Mahnken on July 10, 1896, Gilbert Francis Esser grew up in Benton County before leaving in 1911 to begin studies for the Catholic priesthood. He taught Greek and Latin at St. Joseph’s College in Rensselaer, Indiana, for nearly thirty years, and was a hospital chaplain in Detroit. He died in 1979 and is buried in Carthage, Mercer County, Ohio.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

After his retirement, Esser authored these two booklets on Cole Camp. They concern, respectively, the old village as it was before construction of the railroad through Cole Camp in the 1880s, and the new town which realigned itself along the tracks. The works consist of Father Esser’s reminiscences organized as an imagined walk, block by block, through Cole Camp. Principal buildings are noted, with genealogical and historical notes on the individuals, businesses, and activities associated with them.

Container List:

| Box 001 | f. 1 | “Locations In Old Cole Camp,” 1970 |
| Box 001 | f. 2 | “Landmarks in New Cole Camp,” 1972 |

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