



Marilyn Carnell Williams Papers (SP0139)

Collection Number: SP0139

Collection Title: Marilyn Carnell Williams Papers

Dates: 1848-2024

Creator: Williams, Marilyn Lee Carnell, 1940-

Abstract: The Marilyn Carnell Williams Papers contains materials related to the history of McDonald County, Missouri. The collection includes general history on McDonald County, McDonald County Historical Society meeting minutes, Pineville High School reunion records, and materials related to the filming of the 1939 film *Jesse James*. The collection also contains a diary detailing George Pointy's experience traveling the Overland Trail during the California gold rush.

Collection Size: 1 cubic foot
(29 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-Springfield](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at springfield@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] *Marilyn Carnell Williams Papers* (SP0139); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Springfield].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Marilyn Carnell Williams on August 20, 2026 (Accession No. SPA0169).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Marilyn Carnell Williams Papers can be found in the following collections:

[Duval Family Photographs](#) (SP0012)
[McDonald County Secession Papers](#) (SP0013)
[Ruby Rose Stauber Papers](#) (SP0015)
[James B. Tatum Papers](#) (SP0122)
[McDonald County Courthouse Directory and Buyers Guide Collection](#) (R0785)
[Riverside Inn, Elk Springs, Missouri, Brochure](#) (R0870)
[Shoal Creek Baptist Association Minutes](#) (R0906)
[McDonald County, Missouri, Superintendent of Schools](#) (R0914)
[Goldie Elliff Roark Photograph Collection](#) (P0748)
[James Snow Photographs](#) (P0749)

Processed by: Processed by Haley Frizzle-Green, October 28, 2026

Historical Note:

Marilyn Lee Carnell Williams was born in 1940 to Thomas Alton Carnell and Thelma Mae Bunch in Noel, Missouri. Her father was Superintendent of McDonald County public schools. Marilyn attended Pineville High School, followed by Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, and later graduated from the University of Missouri in 1962. Her first marriage was to Gerald Twogood and the couple had one child named Ben. After they divorced, she married Allen Williams and had two more children. Marilyn is the former mayor of Pineville and as of 2026 lives in Minnesota.

McDonald County was organized on March 3, 1849, and named for Revolutionary War soldier Alexander McDonald. The county seat was first located in Rutledge, now Elk Springs, before it moved to Pineville. Originally named Maryville, Pineville was incorporated in 1847. The historic Old McDonald County Courthouse is located in Pineville and serves as the McDonald County Historical Society Museum today. On May 1, 2012, the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places. In 1938, the motion picture *Jesse James* was filmed almost entirely in Pineville and many of the film's extras were McDonald County residents.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 4 series:

George Printy Diary
Jesse James
McDonald County
Publications

Scope and Content Note:

George Printy Diary

This series contains a diary believed to be written by George Printy. Although the diary owner's name is not listed, there is a section where George writes about himself in third person. The diary documents Printy's journey from St. Louis, Missouri, to the gold mines of Placerville, California, from late April to September of 1850. Printy describes notable locations and people, including Native Americans, Mormons of Salt Lake Valley, and other travelers along the Overland Trail.

The latter half of the diary is missing and in the final entry, which is cut-off mid-sentence, Printy describes the hanging of Richard Cronin in Placerville which took place in September of 1850. This series also contains 3 folders of diary transcripts and corresponding notes. The notes indicate that the diary was passed down through the Bunch family line, tracing it back to the Printy family of Jane, Missouri. This series is arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Jesse James

This series consists of materials related to the filming of the 1939 motion picture *Jesse James* in Pineville, Missouri. Items include two booklets about the film titled, "Fun & Games with Jesse James" written by Don Walker in 1976, and "The Filming of Jesse James at Pineville, Missouri," undated, written by *Pineville Democrat* staff. This series also includes a 1969 *Pineville News-Gazette* souvenir newspaper titled "Jesse James Days". Folder 7 contains correspondence from journalist Marjorie L. Hadlock thanking Marilyn Carnell Williams for showing her filming locations in Pineville. This folder also includes a letter from actor James Stewart to Hadlock recounting the filming of *Rose-Marie* in 1936. This series is arranged chronologically.

McDonald County

This series contains materials related to McDonald County, Missouri, including city directories, Pineville High School reunion and memory books, and transcripts from McDonald County Historical Society meetings. This series also includes a copy of "1849-1949: One Hundred Years of History and Progress", records of marriages performed by Reverend David Akehurst between 1902 to 1934, and King's Valley Church records from 1908 to 1914. The oral history transcript includes Pineville, Missouri, history as told by Clarice Hamilton. Folder 10 contains notes on McDonald County history written by Marilyn Carnell Williams. This series is organized by subject and then chronologically.

Publications

This series includes several publications with ties to McDonald County, Missouri. There are two true crime magazines featuring articles on crimes committed in Jane and Indian Springs, Missouri. Of particular note, are two booklets written by Vance Randolph: "Modern Philosophies" written in 1924 and "Confessions of a Ghost Writer" written in 1944 under Randolph's penname Peter Nemo. The Fiction subseries contains three books written by former McDonald County resident Newton Thornburg. The books are inspired by local people and events. This series is arranged by publication date.

Container List:

George Printy Diary Series

Box 001	f. 1	Diary, 1850
	f. 2	Transcript by Frieda Lines Royer, no date
	f. 3	Transcript and notes, 2001-2002, no date
	f. 4	Transcript and notes by Marilyn Carnell Williams, 2001

Jesse James Series

- f. 5 "Jesse James Days" souvenir newspaper, 1969
- f. 6 "Fun & Games with Jesse James," 1976
- f. 7 Marjorie L. Hadlock correspondence, 1996, 1998
- f. 8 "The Filming of Jesse James at Pineville, Missouri", no date

McDonald County Series

- f. 9 "1849-1949: One Hundred Years of History and Progress", 1949
- f. 10 Carnell miscellaneous papers, 2011-2013
- f. 11 Commissioners Records on the Old Courthouse (transcribed), 1867-1976
- f. 12 Directories, 2008, 2011
- f. 13 Directories, 2013-2014, 2016-2018
- f. 14 "Health Survey of McDonald County Residents" by SMSU Public Policy Research, 2005
- f. 15 King's Valley Church records, 1908-1914
- f. 16 McDonald County Historical Society meeting minutes, 1972
- f. 17 McDonald County Historical Society meeting minutes, 1973
- f. 18 McDonald County Historical Society meeting minutes, 1975
- f. 19 Pineville High School class of 1950 reunion papers, 1980
- f. 20 "Pineville High School Memory Book 1925-1966", 1997
- f. 21 Pineville oral history transcript, circa 1960
- f. 22 Reverend Akehurst marriage records, 1902-1934, 1939

Publications Series

- f. 23 "Modern Philosophies" by Vance Randolph, 1924
- f. 24 "Confessions of a Ghost Writer" by Peter Nemo, 1944
- f. 25 "Homicide Master Detective", August 1966
- f. 26 "Inside Detective", March 1968
- f. 27-29 Fiction
 - f. 27 *Cutter and Bone* by Newton Thornburg, 1976
 - f. 28 *Black Angus* by Newton Thornburg, 1978
 - f. 29 *Valhalla* by Newton Thornburg, 1980

Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Image
American authors--Missouri	23-24, 27-29	
Anonyms and pseudonyms	24	
Baptisms	15	
California National Historic Trail	1-4	
California--Gold discoveries	1-4	
Churches--Missouri	15, 16-17, 22	
Directories	12-13	
Farming	18	
Gold mines and mining	1-4	

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Indian Springs (Mo.)	9, 12-13, 17, 26	
Jane (Mo.)	2-4, 9, 12-13, 25	
Jesse James (Motion picture : 1939)	5-8	Yes
King's Valley Church (Powell, Mo.)	15	
Latter Day Saints	1-4	
Marriage records	22	
McDonald County (Mo.)	5-22, 25-26	Yes
McDonald County Historical Society	9, 16-18, 21	
Mormon Road	1-4	
Native Americans	1-4	
Noel (Mo.)	9, 17	
Old McDonald County Courthouse (Pineville, Mo.)	11	
Oregon National Historic Trail	1-4	
Overland Trails	1-4	
Physicians	18	
Pineville (Mo.)	5-14, 18-22	Yes
Pineville High School (Pineville, Mo.)	9, 19-20	Yes
Placerville (Calif.)	1-4	
Printy, George	1-4	
Randolph, Vance, 1892-1980	23-24	
Saint Joe Road	1-4	
Salt Lake Valley (Utah)	1-4	
Snow, Erastus Fairbanks, 1818-1888	1-4	
Southwest City (Mo.)	9, 16	
Springs	9, 17	
Stewart, James, 1908-1997	7	
Thornburg, Newton Kendall, 1929-2011	27-29	
Trail of Tears, 1838-1839	16	
True crime	25-26	
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	9, 16-17	
Williams, Marilyn Lee Carnell, 1940-	3-4, 7, 10, 20	