Martin and Erwin Families Papers
(SP0173)

Collection Number: SP0173

Collection Title: Martin and Erwin Families Papers

Dates: 1860-1877, 1931

Creator: Martin and Erwin families

Abstract: The Martin and Erwin Families Papers contain James H. Martin's certificates for two fraternal organizations from 1860 to 1877 and a certificate of commission for the Missouri Milita dated 1865. The collection also includes a 1931 photograph of Carthage Marble Corporation employees in Carthage, Missouri. Among the employees pictured is Mark W. Erwin.

Collection Size: 0.5 cubic foot
(4 oversize items, 1 photograph)

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: The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Martin and Erwin Families Papers* (SP0173); 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 Kirk Martin on September 17, 2026 (Accession No. SPA071).

Processed by: Processed by Elayna Eastin, October 29, 2026

Historical Note:

James Henson Martin was born July 24, 1835, in Bartholomew County, Indiana, to William Perry Martin and Martha Patsy Quick. He married Rebecca Elizabeth Potter on September 6, 1853, in Greene County, Missouri, and they had four children. In 1860, he became a member of the Independent Order of Good Templars, Eureka Lodge No. 36 in Springfield, Missouri. On July 24, 1861, James enlisted into the Missouri Militia for the American Civil War and fought in Company H of the 24th Missouri Infantry, previously part of the Lyon Legion under General Nathaniel Lyon. On July 28, 1865, James was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant of the 19th Regiment Missouri Militia. He later commissioned over the Webster, Douglas, Wright, Texas, Ozark, and Howell counties of Missouri. James' second marriage was to Mary Louisa Cummins on December 23, 1866, in Greene County, Missouri, and the couple had nine children. From 1882 to 1887, he received three different commissions, assigning him as special agent from the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Mountain Dale Lodge No. 363 in Seymour, Missouri. James Henson Martin passed August 18, 1888, and is buried in Gentry Cemetery in Webster County, Missouri.

Mark Wilson Erwin was born on November 22, 1908, in Carthage, Missouri to James Bradford Alberter Erwin and Mary Edith Waddle. He married Opal Irene Gibson, and the couple had three children: Iris Mae Erwin Smith in 1928, Patricia Ann "Pat" Erwin Martin in 1933, and Arthur W. Martin in 1937. In 1931, Mark worked for the Carthage Marble Corporation in Carthage, Missouri, before he and his family moved to Inglewood, California. He later enlisted into the United States military to serve in World War II. After the war, he and his family moved to Salina, Kansas, where Mark worked as a baker. Mark Wilson Erwin passed June 8, 1987, and is buried in Park Cemetery in Carthage, Missouri.

Arrangement:

This collection has been arranged into 1 oversize box.

Scope and Content Note:

The Martin and Erwin Families Papers contain James H. Martin's 1860 membership certificate for Independent Order of Good Templars, Eureka Lodge No. 36, in Springfield, Missouri. Also included is Martin's certificates of commission from the Independent Order of Odd Fellows dated 1882 to 1887. Of particular note is his certificate of commission from the Missouri Militia during the Civil War which documents his promotion to 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant of the Webster, Douglas, Wright, Texas, Ozark, and Howell counties' regiments. The certificate was signed on September 7, 1865, by George Smith, acting Governor of the State of Missouri and Commander in Chief of the Militia.

The collection also includes a 1931 photograph of Carthage Marble Corporation employees in Carthage, Missouri. Among the employees pictured is Mark W. Erwin. On the back of the

photograph is an inscription mentioning the birth of his daughter Pat in 1933. The collection has been arranged chronologically into 1 oversize box.

Container List:

OS Box 001	Item #1	Independent Order of Good Templars, Certificate of Membership, 1860
	Item #2	Missouri Militia, Certificate of Commission, 1865
	Item #3	Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Certificates of Commission, 1882-1887
	Item #4	Photograph of Carthage Marble Corporation employees, Carthage, Missouri, 1931

Index:

Index Terms	Mediums	Image
Carthage (Mo.)	Item 4	Yes
Carthage Marble Corporation (Carthage, Mo.)	Item 4	Yes
Erwin family	Item 4	Yes
Erwin, Mark Wilson, 1908-1987	Item 4	Yes
Fraternal organizations	Item 1, 3	
Greene County (Mo.)	Item 1-2	
Independent Order of Good Templars. Eureka Lodge No. 36 (Springfield, Mo.)	Item 1	
Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Grand Lodge of Missouri.	Item 3	
Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mountain Dale Lodge No. 363 (Seymour, Mo.)	Item 3	
Jasper County (Mo.)	Item 4	Yes
Martin family	Item 1-3	
Martin, James Henson, 1835-1888	Item 1-4	
Martin, Patricia Ann “Pat” Erwin, 1933-2019	Item 4	
Missouri. Militia	Item 2	
Missouri. Militia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	Item 2	
Springfield (Mo.)	Item 1-2	
St. Louis (Mo.)	Item 3	
United States. Army--Officers--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	Item 2	