



Thomas Theodore Crittenden Papers (C0087)

Collection Number: C0087

Collection Title: Thomas Theodore Crittenden Papers

Dates: 1880-1950

Creator: Crittenden, Thomas Theodore, 1832-1909

Abstract: Correspondence, newspaper clippings, and papers of Thomas T. Crittenden, governor of Missouri, 1881-1885, and U.S. consul general in Mexico City, 1893-1897. Letter book kept while he was consul general in Mexico.

Collection Size: 0.4 cubic feet
(11 folders, 1 volumes)

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. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Thomas Theodore Crittenden Papers* (C0087); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Mrs. R.P. Stout on December 1, 1943 (Accession No. CA0065). An addition was made on May 1, 1952, by Walter V. Scholes (Accession No. CA3132).

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Historical Note:

Thomas T. Crittenden was born on January 1, 1832, near Shelbyville in Shelby County, Kentucky. His parents were Henry and Ann. M. Allen Crittenden. He attended school at Cloverport, Kentucky, and in 1852 entered Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. He graduated in 1855. In 1856, he studied law in Frankfort, was admitted to the bar, and served as registrar of Franklin County, Kentucky. On November 13, 1856, he married Caroline "Carrie" Wheeler Jackson. They moved to Missouri in 1857 and Crittenden set up a law office at Lexington in Lafayette County.

He served in the Union Army in the Civil War from 1862 to 1864 as a captain and later lieutenant colonel in the Missouri State Militia. He was wounded at the battle of Westport, Missouri, October 23, 1864. Honorably discharged as a colonel on April 7, 1865, he had already been appointed attorney general of Missouri by Governor Willard P. Hall.

Crittenden was elected to Congress from the Seventh District and served two terms, 1873-1875 and 1877-1879. He was elected to governor in 1880. Also that year, he helped found the Missouri Bar Association.

In 1885, Crittenden moved to Kansas City and practiced law. He served as United States consul general in Mexico City from 1893 to 1897. He then returned to Kansas City, serving as a referee in bankruptcy for the U.S. District Court from 1898 to 1909. He died in Kansas City on May 29, 1909 and is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into one series:

Personal Papers

Scope and Content Note:

The Crittenden Papers include correspondence, official reports, and a letter book relating service as U.S. consul general in Mexico, as well as newspaper clippings and genealogical data of Crittenden family. The collection also includes miscellaneous papers and newspaper clippings concerning Kansas City history, Jesse James, the Civil War Battle of Westport, and Joseph W. Folk's 1916 senatorial campaign. More detailed descriptions of the folder contents are in the folder list.

Container List:

- f. 1-2 Personal and business papers
 - f. 1 Papers concerning Crittenden's service as U.S. Consul General in Mexico. Include inventory of office, 1897, and report on Mexican mints, 1895. Biographical and autobiographical sketches and copies of two wills of Thomas Crittenden. Crittenden family genealogy.
 - f. 2 Correspondence and telegrams relating to Crittenden's service as U.S. Consul General in Mexico. Reference to Sandwich Island Mission, salary increase. Correspondence from J. Sterling Morton, W.Q. Gresham, John M. Harlan, correspondence concerning the painting "The Battle of Westport"; Missouri Fifth District Congressional election, 1926; and Missouri gubernatorial election, 1924.
- f. 3 Campaign cartoons relating to Kansas City politics by Earl Hurd, 1908. Synopsis of Kansas City election laws, 1934. Pamphlet by H.H. Crittenden, "Senator George G. Vest's Famous 'Dog Speech' and the Unpublished Story of his Employment in the Case", 1924. Kansas City precinct map, 1931, Miscellaneous certificates, invitations, and railroad passes.
- f. 4 Photographs: H.H. Crittenden; two unidentified homes; George C. Bingham's painting "General Order No. 11"; Confederate Veterans who fought at Westport Landing; Jesse James Café, Northfield Minnesota; Grave of Lt. John J. Crittenden on "Little Big Horn" Battlefield; Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- f. 5 Folk, Joseph W., Campaign Material, 1916. Material relating to Folk's candidacy for United States Senator, 1916. Includes statement by Joseph W. Folk released by Folk-for Senator Headquarters denouncing statement of opposition accusing Folk of not supporting W.S. Cowhead for Governor in 1906. Also Broadside against Folk for U.S. Senator.
- f. 6 Crittenden, John Dozier, Papers, 1918-1919. Miscellaneous papers, newspaper clippings and correspondence relating to Corporal John D. Crittenden, grandson of Thomas T. Crittenden, and his activities during World War I. Relate to travel pay, combat duty, army discharge, and commissions.
- f. 7 Essay, Jesse James. Essay by H.H. Crittenden concerning his father's (Governor Thomas T. Crittenden), actions in ridding Missouri of the James' band.
- f. 8 Civil War. Battle of Westport. Pamphlets, speeches, poems, and newspaper clippings concerning the Battle of Westport and the attempts to establish a national park on the site.
- f. 9-10 Newspaper clippings, 1913-1919. Concerning Thomas T. Crittenden and Crittenden family and Kansas City and Missouri politics. Feature articles concerning historical figures and events (Robert E. Lee, Henry Clay, Lincoln-Shields Duel, and William C. Ralston). Newspapers include:

- Kansas City *Post*; Kansas City *Star*; Sedalia *Democrat*, Warrensburg *Star Journal*, Louisville, Kentucky *Courier Journal*, and Saint Louis *Republic*.
- f. 11 Published article on Crittenden: "Mexico in 1896 as Viewed by an American Consul" by Walter V. Scholes. This article was published May 2, 1950 in *The Hispanic American Historical Review* and is based on the Crittenden letter book.
- v. 1 Letter book of Thomas T. Crittenden, United States consul-general in Mexico City, 1893-1895, 500 pages. Letters to people in the United States. Topics include: foreign economic intervention, opportunities for American Commercial enterprises, a sketch of American society in Mexico City, suggestions for improving United States-Mexican relations, and advice to young Americans who wanted to make their fortunes in Mexico.

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