



Homer Croy Papers (C2534)

Collection Number: C2534

Collection Title: Homer Croy Papers

Dates: 1905-1965

Creator: Croy, Homer, 1883-1965

Abstract: Homer Croy, a Missouri native, was the author of numerous books, short stories, plays and articles. The collection contains research and manuscripts for published and unpublished work, business and personal correspondence, financial records, contracts, photographs, and scrapbooks.

Collection Size: 10.25 cubic feet, 1 roll of microfilm
(765 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-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: 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] *Homer Croy Papers* (C2534); 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 Mae Savell Croy on January 13, 1968 (Accession No. CA3741). An addition was made by Mae Savell Croy on June 29, 1972 (Accession No. CA3900). Additional Homer Croy materials were transferred from the State Historical Society of Missouri's Manuscript Collection and combined on August 23, 1983 (Accession No. CA4525).

Existence and Location of Originals: The scrapbooks (volumes 1-4 and 6-7) were microfilmed for preservation purposes and the originals discarded.

Processed by: Processed by Sharon L. Fleming, August 1983-June 1984. Finding aid updated by Elizabeth Engel on June 9, 2022.

Historical Note:

Homer Croy was born on March 11, 1883, on a farm near Maryville, Missouri, the son of Amos and Susan Sewell Croy. He attended the University of Missouri from 1903 to 1907 but did not graduate after failing an English course his senior year. While attending college, Croy edited the University yearbook and wrote for the *Kansas City Star*. After leaving the University, Croy worked on the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and later for Theodore Dreiser in New York.

Croy's first literary success was the novel *West of the Water Tower*, published in 1923. A best-seller, it was later made into a movie. Other books include *Jesse James Was My Neighbor*, 1949; *Wheels West: The Story of the Donner Party*, 1955; and *Last of the Great Outlaws: The Story of Cole Younger*, 1956. Croy also wrote scenarios for Will Rogers' movies and numerous articles and short stories. In 1956 Croy received an honorary Doctor of Literature degree from the University of Missouri.

Croy married Mae Bell Savell in 1915 and the couple had one daughter, Carol, born in 1922. The family lived in New York City where Croy died on May 25, 1965.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following twelve series:

- Western Material
- Nonfiction Material
- Fiction Material
- Contracts
- Biographical Material
- Organizations
- Correspondence and Financial Records
- Miscellaneous Material
- Photographs
- Additional Research Material and Articles
- Photograph Album
- Scrapbooks

Scope and Content Note:

The value of the collection lies in the historical research materials and the presentation of writing style and technique as used by Croy.

Croy conducted much of his research by mail, frequently using the back of other letters or manuscript drafts for his carbon copy. Rarely dating his correspondence, Croy preferred to use descriptive dates such as "126 days to St. Swithin's Day." Therefore, arrangement is by subject matter. A cut-and-paste author, many of Croy's drafts are several layers thick. They are difficult to use or organize effectively.

Container List:

f. 1-278	Western Material
f. 1-34	Jesse James. Croy's research material for articles on James and the book, <i>Jesse James was My Neighbor</i> . Material consists of correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, information on books by Zerelda "Zee" James and Jesse James, Jr., articles by Croy, and ideas for a play. [See also f. 747- 760.]
f. 35-36	Judge Parker. Croy's research for a book on Isaac C. Parker of Arkansas and a copy of his magazine article, "He Hanged Them High."
f. 37-71	The Donner Party. Research, photographs, a manuscript of Croy's book, <i>Wheels West</i> , and a copy of his magazine article, "The Bloody Ordeal of the Doomed Donners."
f. 72-103	Cole Younger. Croy's research, correspondence, and photographs for the book, <i>Last of the Great Outlaws</i> . Information concerns all of the Younger family, the Northfield, Minnesota, robbery, Minnesota State Prison, and numerous outlaws associated with the Youngers. Material on Belle Starr and her family is located here.
f. 104-138	Lady Moon. Research, photographs, and a manuscript for <i>The Lady from Colorado</i> and material concerning the subsequent dramatization of the book.
f. 139-167	Chris Madsen. Research and photographs for <i>Trigger Marshal</i> . Material concerns numerous outlaws and marshals of the Old West.
f. 168-177	Rose of Cimarron. Research for articles by Croy on Rose Dunn, <i>The Rose of Cimarron</i> . Also concerns members of the Doolin-Dalton Gang and the marshals who enforced territorial justice
f. 178-183	Lucille Mulhall. Research for a possible book and copy of Croy's "Unhappy Loves of the First Cowgirl."
f. 184-186	The Daltons. Research, Croy's article, "The Girl and the Outlaw," and correspondence concerning a copyright infringement.
f. 187	Molly Brown Research
f. 188-192	Cimarron George. Notes from interviews and drafts of several articles by Croy.
f. 193-197	Boston Corbett. Research and drafts of several articles.
f. 198-200	Calamity Jane research
f. 201	Rowdy Kate research
f. 202	Curly Bill research
f. 203-204	Poker Alice research
f. 205	Dora Hand research
f. 206	Texas Jack research
f. 207	Bill Doolin research
f. 208	Billy the kid research
f. 209	Lame Johnny research
f. 210	Frenchy research
f. 211	Ed King research
f. 212	Cameo Kirby and Kate Fisher research

f. 213	Sitting Bull research
f. 214	Custer research
f. 215	Bill Carlisle and Jo Monaghan research
f. 216	Little Breeches research
f. 217	John Murrell research
f. 218	Wes Hardin research
f. 219	Frank Leslie research
f. 220	John Reno research
f. 221	Wyatt Earp research
f. 222	Bat Masterson research
f. 223	Wild Bill Hickok research
f. 224-225	Miscellaneous Westerners
f. 226	Other articles by Croy
f. 227-233	Roan Horse. Manuscripts of Croy's book <i>Brother Roan Horse</i> and copy of a magazine article
f. 234-241	The Buffalo Robe. Manuscript of Croy's Western novel <i>The Buffalo Robe</i> , and correspondence with publishers
f. 242-250	Wives Galore. Manuscript of Croy's Western novel, <i>Wives Galore</i>
f. 251-254	"Home on the Range." Research and account of an interview concerning who wrote "Home on the Range" and three subsequent articles by Croy.
f. 255-257	Western short stories. Copies of "Harlan, the Pig," "Green Corn Dance," and "I Wish I Could Have Been There" and some correspondence.
f. 258-278	Miscellaneous Western research. Correspondence, newspaper clippings, articles, and publications.
f. 279-452	Nonfiction Material
f. 279-348	Will Rogers. Research and photographs for Croy's book <i>Our Will Rogers</i> , rough drafts of several chapters, and copies of articles by Croy. Correspondence between Croy and Will Rogers is in folder 279.
f. 349-369	D.W. Griffith. Research on D.W. Griffith for <i>Star Maker</i> and two galley proofs of the book.
f. 370-413	Swiftwater Bill. Croy's research on William C. Gates for his book <i>Swiftwater Bill</i> , photographs, his original manuscript, and two subsequent manuscripts.
f. 414-421	Antonin Dvorak. Correspondence concerning a proposed play about Dvorak.
f. 422-424	Abraham Lincoln. Some research, an article by Croy on a Lincoln fingerprint, reviews of Croy's book "The Trial of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln," and correspondence concerning a play based on this book.
f. 425-426	Country Cured. Printed copy of Croy's autobiography.
f. 427-428	Wonderful Neighbor. Correspondence concerning a possible stage presentation of Croy's <i>Wonderful Neighbor</i> and a copy of his short story "The Furriners."
f. 429-439	The Croy Farm and Me. Copies of chapters and correspondence concerning the book.
f. 440	"Hometown Revisited"

- f. 441 "The Quiet Teacher"
- f. 442 "Finding an Easy Way to Write"
- f. 443 "He Ought to Had a Drum"
- f. 444 Research for article on Siamese twins
- f. 445-446 Articles based on the almanac
- f. 447-448 Articles
- f. 449-452 Published articles
- f. 453-619b **Fiction Material**
 - f. 453-496 Mr. Waterloo. Croy's original manuscript, several and some correspondence concerning a market.
 - f. 497-517 Uncle Brucie. Two manuscripts and some correspondence.
 - f. 518-528 Private Journal. Preliminary notes, outlines, and a manuscript. The same manuscript was also submitted as Right Must Rule and is markedly similar to Intruder by Night
 - f. 529-574 Nectarine Club. Four manuscripts.
 - f. 575-583 Live It Up, Son. Research on consumer credit, preliminary ideas and notes for a novel, and manuscripts of four chapters.
 - f. 584-585 Ridgerunner. Ideas for a novel and copy of the short story "Float Trip" which came out of the novel attempt.
 - f. 586-593 Right Must Rule. This material, a carbon of Private Journal (f. 518-528), has been removed from the collection. These folders are now empty.
 - f. 594-601 Intruder by Night. One carbon copy.
 - f. 602-608 The Last White Han. Preliminary ideas, notes, and one manuscript.
 - f. 609-614 Fiction ideas. Notes on ideas for stories and novels and newspaper clippings and articles containing ideas.
 - f. 615-619 Plays: Act III of Family Honeymoon and The Silver Cord.
 - f. 619a The Bugs and Betty.
 - f. 619b The So-So Stories. Three issues, 1914.
- f. 620 **Contracts** - Some of Croy's contracts and publication agreements dating from 1913 to 1961. [Additional information on contracts is in f. 665-669 and f. 673-681.]
- f. 621-624 **Biographical Material**
 - f. 621-623 Printed material about Croy. Newspaper clippings and articles dating from 1914 through 1964. Also see volumes 1-6.
 - f. 624 Biographical sketches of Croy written to be used in publicity.
- f. 625-640 **Organizational Material** - Publications and correspondence from Authors Guild, Western Writers of America, Society of the Silurians, Lambs Club, and Dutch Treat Club.
- f. 641-721 **Correspondence and Financial Records**
 - f. 641-641a Correspondence. Samples of stationery, envelopes, and signatures used by Croy.
 - f. 642-662 Correspondence. Arranged chronologically, 1920-1965
 - f. 663-672 Correspondence. Arranged by name of correspondent: Charles Beahan, Dale Carnegie, Roy James, Chic Sale, Lowell Thomas, and Cal Tinney.
 - f. 673-681 Correspondence concerning Hollywood.

- f. 682-687 Harper and Brothers. Correspondence and account slips concerning twelve of Croy's books published by Harper and Brothers, 1919-1941.
- f. 688 University of Missouri. Correspondence and newspaper clippings. Material includes information on honorary degree awarded in 1956 and speech at the Missouri Writers' Guild fiftieth anniversary in 1965.
- f. 689 Financial. List of annual income for 1911 to 1935 and an itemized list for 1915 to 1930.
- f. 690-705 Financial. Correspondence concerning farm near Maryville, Missouri, 1931-1941.
- f. 706-711 Financial. Material concerning banking, rent, and income tax.
- f. 712 Croy Family History. Correspondence, 1926-1939, concerning the Croy family history.
- f. 713-714 Byron Croy. Correspondence between Croy and his brother Byron, 1922-1931. The main topic is the Croy family farm near Maryville.
- f. 715 Phoebe Croy. Correspondence with and concerning Phoebe Croy, 1921-1940.
- f. 716-721 Carol Croy. Correspondence from Croy's daughter, 1927-1940.
- f. 722-734a **Miscellaneous Material**
- f. 722-729 Clippings. Newspaper and magazine clippings on a variety of topics.
- f. 730 Miscellaneous. Issue of "The Magazine Maker," 1911. Publication owned and edited by Croy.
- f. 731-734a Memorabilia. Includes cards, postcards, and humorous signatures used by Croy.
- f. 735-738a **Photographs** - Most photographs are of Croy or the farm at Maryville, Missouri. Few are clearly identified as to date, place, or people.
- f. 739-752 **Additional Research Material and Articles**
- f. 739-751 Correspondence. Pertains primarily to the Jesse James material. There are gaps in the dates; 1951 is missing and other years are very limited.
- f. 752 Miscellaneous. Contents include phone messages, notes, English Speaking Union pamphlets, 1957-1958, and two carbons of an unidentified play showing Croy as a cast member.
- f. 753 Jesse James Dime Novels. A facsimile reprint of D.W. Stevens' "The James Boys in No Man's Land: or, the Bandit King's Last Ride," The New York Detective Library, 18 April 1891. Also included are Vol. 10, June 1942, No. 117 and Vol. 16, August 1948, No. 191 of Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup which contain articles on the James Boys.
- f. 754 Jesse James articles. Typed excerpts of articles about Jesse and Frank James printed in journals and newspapers.
- f. 755 Jesse James manuscripts. Carbon drafts of "The Bandit's Bride," "James Brothers Had Ruse for Fooling Sheriff," "Fred Thompson Screens Life of Jesse James," and also found here, "Cumberland Furnace Story" and "The Story of Susan O. Hail."

- f. 756 Jesse James newspaper articles. Clippings about the James Brothers with emphasis on the 1948 claim that James was still alive.
- f. 757 Jesse James notes. Notes about James and an interview of Stella James, the wife of Jesse James, Jr.
- f. 758 Quantrill material. Carbon of an [article] about Quantrill; no name, no date. Handwritten excerpt from William Elsey Canneley's "Quantrill and the Border Wars." Also newspaper and journal clippings about Quantrill.
- f. 759-765 **Photograph Album** - For preservation purposes the photograph album (previously processed as volume 5) has been dismantled. Photocopies of the photographs have been included in sequence with the microfilmed volumes. These photographs document a trip to Asia in the 1910s. Very few of the photographs are clearly identified with date or place. Croy visited China, India, Egypt, and the Malay States, producing a travel film for Universal Pictures and articles for "Leslie's Illustrated." The articles can be found in volumes 1-4.
- v. 1-7 **Scrapbooks** (on microfilm) - Volumes 1-4 contain clippings of newspaper and magazine articles by or about Croy.
- v. 1 1905-1914
- v. 2 1910-1914
- v. 3 1918-1923
- v. 4 1915-1922
- v. 5 1910s - Photograph album which has been dismantled for preservation purposes. The photographs are located in folders 759-765. Photocopies have been placed here for continuity.
- v. 6 1900-1912. Clippings of newspaper and magazine articles.
- v. 7 Carbon copy of Corn Country manuscript with changes and corrections indicated. Includes index.

Index:

Subject	Folders	Volumes	Image
Actors and actresses	165a,183,197,317,335,336		Yes
Aeronautics--Accidents, 1935	335		Yes
Agee, Euphie	738a		Yes
Agricultural laborers, 1950s	736		
Agricultural machinery, 1950s	736		Yes
Alaska, Point Barrow	335		Yes
Anderson, Bill	4,75,83,86,91,92,224		
Anderson, Bill	103		Yes
Anloff, Edward A.	377,388		Yes
App, Leanna Donner	59		Yes
Appler, Augustus C.	85,86,88		
Architecture, Missouri	26,27,99,100,101,736,737		Yes
Architecture, Oklahoma	100,100a,102,102a,162,162a,163,163a,165,165a,173		Yes

Subject	Folders	Volumes	Image
Asia--Description and travel--Views, 1910s	759-765		Yes
Automobiles, 1910s	737		Yes
Barns	736		Yes
Beahan, Charles	642,644,663,686		
Bertillon System	99a		Yes
Bingham, George Caleb (1811-1879)	83,84		
Black cowhands	336		Yes
Black women	163a		Yes
Blake, Tulsa Jack	173		Yes
Bolds, George W. "Cimarron George"	139,188-192		
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Bonney, William H. (1859-1881)	165		Yes
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Calamity Jane (1852-1903)	198-200		
Calamity Jane (1852-1903)	200		Yes
Campbell, James	738a		Yes
Carnegie, Dale (1888-1955)	621,624,642,650-652,661,664,667,670		
Carriages and carts	28,58,122,122a,335		Yes
Cartoons and caricatures	122a		Yes
Cemeteries	100-102		Yes
Chadwell, Bill	100,101		Yes
Cheyenne	163a		Yes
Children, 1900s	738		Yes
Children's clothing, 1900s	163a,738		Yes
China--Description and travel--views, 1910s	759,765		
Civil War--Battle of Centralia	101		Yes
Civil War--Battle of Centralia	101		
Civil War--Battle of Newtonia, Missouri	81,88		
Civil War--Guerillas	100,103		
Civil War--Guerillas	100,103		Yes
Civil War--Pictorial works	102,102a		
Civil War--Pictorial works	102,102a		Yes
Clemens, Samuel Langhorne (1835-1910)	681,686,687		
Colorado--Description and travel--Views	28,122		Yes
Commercial art	183,389,734,736		Yes
Corbett, Thomas P.	193-197		
Costume	197,335		Yes

Subject	Folders	Volumes	Image
Costume, 1870s	122, 122a		
Costume, 1880s	100,101		Yes
Costume, 1890s	162-165a, 173, 389		
Costume, 1900s	162-164,335,738		Yes
Costume, 1910s	759-765		Yes
Cowhands, c. 1880s-1890s	100,122,122a,165,336		Yes
Cremation, Hindu, 1910s	763		Yes
Crittenden, T. T.	2,4-11,17,18,29-31		
Croy, Carol (1922-)	716,765		Yes
Croy, Homer (1883-1965)	1-765	v. 1-7	
Croy, Homer (1883-1965)	27,100a,101,122a,251,467, 735-738,759-765		Yes
Croy, Homer, "Jesse James Rides Again"	29		
Croy, Homer, "Jesse James Was My Neighbor"	29		
Croy, Homer, "Let's Not Libel Jesse James"	29		
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Croy, Homer, Brother Roan Horse	228-233		
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Croy, Homer, Fancy Lady	683-686		
Croy, Homer, Gas College	675		
Croy, Homer, Headed for Hollywood	624,663,669,684-686		
Croy, Homer, Lady From Colorado	104-138,624,658-660		
Croy, Homer, Lady Tubbs	624,647,667,674-677,686		
Croy, Homer, Last of the Great Outlaws	72-103		
Croy, Homer, Last Word	665-667,669,686		
Croy, Homer, Missouri Boy	665-667,685,686		
Croy, Homer, Our Will Rogers	280-346,622		
Croy, Homer, R.F. D. #3	682,683		
Croy, Homer, River Girl	624,645,663,673-675,681,683- 687		
Croy, Homer, Sixteen Hands	621,650,651,667,678- 681,687,697		
Croy, Homer, Star Maker	349-369,657		

Subject	Folders	Volumes	Image
Croy, Homer, State Highway	646,647,676,686,687		
Croy, Homer, Swiftwater Bill	370-413		
Croy, Homer, The Croy Farm and Me	429-439		
Croy, Homer, They Had To See Paris	622,624,644,645,649,663,668,669,673,674,682-686		
Croy, Homer, Trial of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln	418-420,424,624,656,658-660,662		
Croy, Homer, Trigger Marshal	139-170,629		
Croy, Homer, Turkey Bowman	624,682,683		
Croy, Homer, West of the Water Tower	624,642,644,647,654,664,674,677,682,683-686		
Croy, Homer, Wheels West, The Story of the Donner Party	37-71		
Croy, Homer, Wives Galore	242-250		
Croy, Homer, Wonderful Neighbor	427,428		
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Custer, George	213,214		
Dalton Gang Hideout, Meade, Kansas	184		Yes
Dalton, Emmett	142,184-186		
Dalton, Emmett	184		Yes
Dalton, J. Frank (alias Jesse James)	2-4,9,11-15,17,22,24,756		
Dalton, Robert	173		Yes
Dime Novel Club	739,753		
Dogs	58,122a,162,165		Yes
Donnell, Forrest C. (1884-1980)	704		
Donner Monument, Donner Lake, California	58, 59		Yes
Donner Party	37-71		
Donner Trail, Utah	46		Yes
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Doolin, Bill	173		Yes
Doolin-Dalton Gang, Composite	173		Yes
Dvorak, Antonin	414-421		
Egypt--Description and travel--Views, 1910s	759-765		Yes
Ellis, Elmer (1901-1989)	38, 688		
Ellwood, Lee J.	738		Yes
English, Earl Franklin (1905-)	688		
Farley, James	335		Yes
Fences	122a		Yes
Fire fighters	389		Yes

Subject	Folders	Volumes	Image
Firearms	28, 101, 102, 102a, 162a, 163, 165, 173		Yes
Fireplaces	101		Yes
Fishing	122a		Yes
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Ford, Charles	26		Yes
Ford, Robert (-1892)	26, 28		Yes
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France, Paris--Description and travel--Views	731		Yes
Funeral rites and ceremonies	28, 763		Yes
Furniture	101		Yes
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Gates, "Swiftwater Bill"	370-413		
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George, Beauford James, Sr. (1896-1975)	2, 72-76, 83, 84, 87, 95		
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Gordon, Alice	102a		Yes
Griffith, D. W.	349-369		
Grimes, Bill	163		Yes
Hail, Susan O.	755		
Hail, Susan O., Grave, Kenesaw, Nebraska	264		Yes
Haley, Robert	122a		Yes
Hall, Harry Younger	74-77, 84, 87, 96		
Hall, Henrietta Younger	99		Yes
Harnley, P. Caspar	27		Yes
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Hendrix and Royer Ranch, Arbuckle Mountains, Oklahoma	100		Yes
Hill, Turb	103		Yes
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Hoffman, Harvey C. "Harry"	77, 82, 91, 95, 100		
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Subject	Folders	Volumes	Image
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Hotels, Ohio	654		Yes
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India--Description and travel--Views, 1910s	759-765		Yes
Indian Territory, 1889	100, 100a, 102a, 165, 165a		Yes
Ireland, Ennisberry, County Wicklow	108		Yes
Ismert, Martin E.	1, 31, 74-76, 82, 85-88, 371		
James Farm, Excelsior Springs, Missouri	26, 27		Yes
James, Ann Ralston (1853-1944)	754		
James, Ann Ralston (1853-1944), Grave	27		Yes
James, Frank (1844-1915)	1-29, 72-77, 83, 95, 740-742, 747, 754-758		
James, Frank (1844-1915)	26, 27, 103		Yes
James, Jesse E.	2, 13, 14, 18, 26, 34, 77, 100, 742, 744-746, 751, 754, 755, 757		
James, Jesse E.	26, 100		Yes
James, Jesse Woodson (1847-1882)	1-34, 72, 73, 75, 93-95, 739-747, 754-758		
James, Jesse Woodson (1847-1882)	4, 9-15, 17-19, 21, 24, 26, 29, 100, 102, 102a, 103		Yes
James, Robert F.	739-745, 754		
James, Robert F.	27		Yes
James, Roy	665-667, 669, 681		
James, Stella	742, 744-746, 751, 757		
James, Zerelda Mimms	11, 15, 24, 30, 31, 73		
Kansas, Lawrence, 1860s	28, 100a, 102a		Yes
Kansas, Meade	184		Yes
Kemper Military School, Boonville, Missouri	282, 287, 293, 319		
Law enforcement	162-166, 173		Yes
Lee, J. Ellwood	738a		Yes
Lincoln, Abraham (1809-1865)	422-424		
Lindbergh, Charles A. (1902-1974)	335		Yes
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MacArthur, Arthur (1845-1912)	165		Yes
Madsen, Chris	139-174		
Madsen, Chris	162, 162a, 163, 164, 166, 173		Yes

Subject	Folders	Volumes	Image
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Malay States--Description and travel--Views, 1910s	762		Yes
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Minnesota, Northfield, Bank Robbery	99, 100, 100a		Yes
Minnesota. Prison	99a, 99b, 100		Yes
Missouri Writers Guild, 50th Anniversary	688		
Missouri, Centralia, 1860s	101		Yes
Missouri, Independence, 1920	100		Yes
Missouri, Kearney	26, 27		Yes
Missouri, Lee's Summit	99-101		Yes
Missouri, Liberty	27		Yes
Missouri, Maryville	440, 452, 621-624, 646, 651, 690-706, 736		
Missouri, Maryville	736, 737		Yes
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Moon, Catherine	122		Yes
Moon, Cecil Ernest	122		Yes
Mules	122, 737, 738		Yes
Mulhall, Lucille	178-183, 291, 292		
Mulhall, Lucille	183		Yes
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