



**John E. Lamy Collection
(C4356)**

Collection Number: C4356

Collection Title: John E. Lamy Collection

Dates: 1916-2000

Creator: Lamy, John E., 1911-1993

Abstract: Memoir, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous material related to a Missouri physician captured in the Philippines by the Japanese during World War II. Also World War I scrapbook created by John E. Lamy's mother, Marie Elsie Lamy.

Collection Size: 0.2 cubic feet
(5 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 research@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] *John E. Lamy Collection* (C4356); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the University of Missouri by Celeste Noel Drain on July 28, 2001 (Accession No.5890).

Processed by: John Konzal, April 20, 2018

Historical Note:

John Ernest Lamy was born in Sedalia, Missouri, on January 23, 1911, the youngest child of James Augustus and Elise Waddell Lamy. Educated at the Jesuit school in St. Mary's, Kansas, he went on to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and medical school at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. After serving a residency in Vancouver, British Columbia, he studied at the Royal College of Surgeons in London, England.

With Adolph Hitler on the move in Europe, John sailed home on the "Empress of Britain," which was sunk later on in the war. He joined the U.S. Army Medical Corps and was stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. John married Mary Alice Messerly in Sedalia on July 4, 1941. By October he was posted to the Philippines and stationed at Fort Stotsenberg, which was adjacent to Clark Field.

When the Japanese invaded the Philippines, John was taken prisoner along with other American, British and Filipino personnel. Although John managed to survive the camps, he rarely spoke of it in later life. After the war, John continued practice as a medical doctor in Sedalia, Missouri. He died on January 1, 1993, and was buried in Calvary Cemetery in Sedalia, Missouri.

Arrangement:

This collection has been arranged into one series.

Scope and Content:

This series contains a memoir, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous material related to a Missouri physician captured in the Philippines by the Japanese during World War II. Also World War I scrapbook created by John E. Lamy's mother, Marie Elsie Lamy.

Container List:

- f. 1 Background information on John Lamy's recollections of time as POW of the Japanese in World War II in the Philippines. Written by niece, Celeste Noel Drain.
- f. 2 Correspondence: Letter from Ralph (?) to Alice (Mary Alice Lamy-wife of John Lamy) informing her of seeing John during the war and also after the Japanese surrender, May 1, 1945; letter from John E. Lamy, M.D. to Mrs. Kathryn Taylor and Mrs. Polly Swafford, English faculty advisors, Indian Hills Junior High School, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, regarding suggestions on the student conducted interviews, including his own.
- f. 3 Photocopied photographs: John Lamy prior to war; wedding to Mary Alice Messerly; arrival of John back in U.S.; receiving Silver Star; John and Mary Alice; newspaper articles: describing trip across the Atlantic; article on memories of war 30 years later; death notice of Mary Alice Lamy; National Geographic article on American soldiers fleeing Japanese in Philippines; article on former POWs who survived Allied sinking of Japanese ship celebrating 8th and last reunion; Britain to

- compensate soldiers held by Japanese, and article by lawmaker stating U.S. forced start of WWII, 1936-1946, 1975, 1984, 2000-2001.
- f. 4 Transcribed interview of John E. Lamy's recollections as Japanese POW in the Philippines in WW II, as interviewed by Martha Singleton, a young cousin of John's wife, as a classroom history exercise, Indian Hills Junior High School, Shawnee Mission, Kansas. 1984.
- f. 5 World War I scrapbook made by John Lamy's Mother, Marie Elsie Lamy. Scrapbook contains newspaper articles covering the war in Europe, with many images of prominent individuals, many in uniform, also post-war military parade in the U.S. and peace conference, 1916-1922.

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