

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
K0043 (KA0040)
WILLIAM A. GOFF PAPERS

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City. If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org.

Introduction

Approximately 12 cubic feet

The papers of William A. Goff include incoming and outgoing correspondence files, research materials and drafts of several of his written pieces, files on consultations he provided to other historians and historical groups, and files on various organizations in which he held membership and/or office.

William A. Goff was born in Sutherland, Johnson County, Missouri, on June 14, 1908. After moving from Missouri to Texas and then back to Missouri, Goff's family settled in Kansas City when he was six years old.

He was educated in the Kansas City, Missouri, and Kansas City, Kansas, schools, graduating from Wyandotte High School in Kansas City, Kansas. After graduation, he went to work for the Kansas City Southern and remained in the transportation business for forty-four years, working for both shippers and carriers.

Goff had an interest in 19th century American History. He served as historian for the Westport Historical Society and as editor of its *Quarterly* from 1969 to 1975. During that same time, Goff contributed two essays to *Mountain Men and the Fur Trade in the Far West*, which LeRoy R. Hafen edited. Goff also prepared a number of other manuscripts for publication with emphasis on the history of Westport, Missouri.

Goff's interest in Westport history continued past his editorship of the *Westport Historical Quarterly*. He served as an historical consultant to a number of publishing projects related to Westport and the area and worked diligently to correct, through letters to the editors, what was erroneously accepted as fact about the community.

The collection falls into several sections as follows:

Folders 1-57 contain correspondence files which are arranged chronologically. These include some personal correspondence and considerable correspondence with fellow local historians around the state and country. Goff's correspondence as editor of the *Westport Historical Quarterly* and as historian for the Westport Historical Society is included in this section. Folders 56 and 57 contain Goff's correspondence with Bob Bard of Baltimore concerning the carving of historically accurate miniature figures.

Folders 58-150 include research and writing files. This section includes a major section related to Goff's preparation of a manuscript on Reuben Smith for inclusion in LeRoy R. Hafen's *Mountain Men and the Fur Trade in the Far West*. His correspondence and manuscript drafts concerning Smith are included. Other topics covered in this section relate to Goff's preparation of *Old Westport* (1977) and other topics related to Westport, Missouri, the Santa Fe Trail, and nineteenth century military history.

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Folders 151-177 contains information on consultations. This section includes Goff's correspondence with other historians as it related to special projects they undertook and in which Goff offers comments and/or critiques of their work. Included are draft copies of other authors' works, often annotated with Goff's handwritten comments in the margins.

Folders 178-208 includes information regarding the Westport Historical Society. These materials include bylaws and minutes of meetings, correspondence, publications, and program announcements. Also included is a body of material related to the restoration of the Harris-Kearney House in Westport, Missouri, for which Goff served as a member of the restoration committee.

Folders 209-233 concerns materials related to other organizations. This section includes correspondence and publications of other organizations to which Goff belonged including the Civil War Roundtable and the Southern Skirmish Association, as well as other local history organizations.

Cassette tapes includes an interview by Goff and Russell Bettis with Lester Medicus, son of police officer in Westport, Missouri in the 19th Century. Taped lecture by Thelma Christiansen concerning the mythical kingdom of Amerugia.

Donor Information

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by William A. Goff on August 27, 1980 (Accession No. KA0040). An addition was made on February 17, 1981 (Accession No. KA0067); July 29, 1981 (Accession No. KA0101); November 10, 1982 (Accession No. KA0185); December 15, 1983 (Accession No. KA0224); July 27, 1984 (Accession No. KA0252); August 22, 1984 (Accession No. KA0253); September 12, 1984 (Accession No. KA0257); and March 18, 1985 (Accession No. KA0276).

Copyright and Restrictions

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.

Location note:

The collection is stored offsite and will need to be retrieved before viewing.

Box List

Box 001

General Correspondence

f. 1-55 Correspondence, 1961-1983

Research and Writing

f. 56-57 Correspondence, Bob Bard, 1961-1969

f. 58-72 Correspondence, Reuben Smith, 1967-1969

Box 002

Research and Writing

f. 73-85 Research, Reuben Smith, no date

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- f. 86-89 Manuscript drafts, Reuben Smith, 1968
 - f. 90-92 Correspondence, Cimarron Crossing research, no date
 - f. 93-94 Research report, Cimarron Crossing, no date
 - f. 95-97 Manuscript, Cimarron Crossing, no date
 - f. 98 Research and draft manuscripts, Penn School, no date
 - f. 99-137 *Old Westport*, no date
 - f. 138 "The Phantom Lieutenant", no date
 - f. 139 "Black Sunday in Jackson County, February 9, 1863", no date
 - f. 140-141 Honing Errata, 1-47a, no date
 - f. 142-144 Manuscript, The Harris Family, no date
 - f. 145 Big Negro, no date
 - f. 146 Westport Land Transfers, no date
 - f. 147-150 Miscellaneous bibliographic notes, no date
- Consultations
- f. 151 Manuscript, Gregory Franzwa, *The Oregon Trail Revisited*
 - f. 152-162 Consultation, Gregory Franzwa, pp. 31-339, and bibliography
 - f. 163 Consultation, *The Oregon Trail, A Potential Addition to the National Trails System*, 1974
 - f. 164-167 Consultation, Don Draper
 - f. 168 Manuscript, Madilyn Voights, *Kansas City*
 - f. 169 Manuscript, William Strickland, *Quinine pills on the Missouri frontier between 1832 and 1862*
 - f. 170 Manuscript, Neil Johnson, *Westport*
 - f. 171 Correspondence, Patricia Miller, *Westport: Missouri's Port of Many Returns*
 - f. 172-174 Manuscript, Patricia Miller manuscript
 - f. 175-177 Consultation, Union Cemetery research notes and drafts
- Westport Historical Society
- f. 178-186 Westport Historical Society, 1967-1980

Box 003

- Westport Historical Society
- f. 187-188 Westport Historical Society, *Quarterly* articles, no date
 - f. 189-196 Westport Historical Society, Walking Tour, no date
 - f. 197-208 Westport Historical Society, Harris Kearney House, 1972-1980
- Other Organizations
- f. 209-224 Civil War Roundtable, 1959-1978
 - f. 225-231 Southern Skirmish Association, 1972-1973
 - f. 232 Mid-America Heritage Council, no date
 - f. 233 Miscellaneous organizations, no date

Box 004

- Miscellaneous
- f. 1 Henry Clay Pate, biographical information, court martial, military papers, no date
 - f. 2 The Harris-Kearney House Story," handwritten draft, no date

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- f. 3 The Independence, Westport Road, no date
- f. 4 Photograph Album, photos used for publication, no date
- f. 5 George Ehrlich's book, errors, no date
- f. 6 Harris book, introduction, prologue, drafts, no date
- f. 7 Marc Simmons, Santa Fe Trail, no date
- Items 8-11 Index notecards (4 drawers), no date

Books

- Campaigns of the Civil War: Statistical Record, Antietam & Fredericksburg, no date

BOX 005

Miscellaneous

- f. 1 Ewing Papers (Ewing Bros.), Agents in Westport, Missouri, 1845-1850

Westport Research Materials

- f. 2 Boone Store (Kelly's Tavern), Cemeteries, Churches, no date
- f. 3 Harris Home clippings, Harris House Hotel, no date
- f. 4 W.R. Nelson, no date
- f. 5 Westport Town, no date
- f. 6 United States District Courts, no date
- f. 7 Roads, Tax Records from Sheriff William Bott's Tax Book, 1857
- f. 8 Westport School Records, no date
- f. 9 County Court Records, no date
- f. 10 Westport Town Council Minutes and Tax Lists, 1869
- f. 11 Border Troubles, no date
- f. 12 Mrs. M.G. Moore's correspondence with Gertrude Ragan, no date
- f. 13 F. R. Berry letters, no date
- f. 14 Mrs. Campbell correspondence, no date
- f. 15 Miscellaneous papers, no date
- f. 16 Bernard, William R. , no date
- f. 17 Bogg's, no date
- f. 18 Bridger, Jim, no date
- f. 19 Dixon, no date
- f. 20 Eckert, no date
- f. 21 Kearney, C. E. , no date
- f. 22 Lykins, no date
- f. 23 McCoy, no date
- f. 24 McGee, no date
- f. 25 Parker/Richters, no date
- f. 26 T. H. Rosser, no date
- f. 27 Yeager, no date

Lists

- f. 28 Kansas City Titles and Trust Co. property ownership records, no date
- f. 29 1880 Business Directory, no date
- f. 30 *Kanas City Star* List, March 26, 1933
- f. 31 1964 Centennial Landmark and Historical sites, no date
- f. 32 1ST 1956 meeting, 1956

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- f. 33 Solid men of Jackson Company, December 22, 1860
- f. 34 Road to Santa Fe, no date
- Biography, Kansas City, no date
 - f. 35 Aubry
 - f. 36 Chouteau's and Guinottes (Pioneer Fur Trade)
 - f. 37 Andrew Davis
 - f. 38 Gen. John W. Reid
 - f. 39 Scarritt
 - f. 40 Chick
 - f. 41 Grand Louis
 - f. 42 James Brice
 - f. 43 Gilliss, William
 - f. 44 Porter
 - f. 45 Shelley
 - f. 46 Wornall, Frank C.
 - f. 47 Biography, Jackson County
 - f. 48 Clippings
 - f. 49 Biography, General
 - f. 50 Chavez
 - f. 51 Harrelson records
 - f. 52 McLanahan, Josiah
 - f. 53 Marmaduke, M. M.
 - f. 54 Lt. Patrick H. Minor
 - f. 55 Thomas Moseley, Jr.
 - f. 56 Indian Agent by Robert E. Smith
 - f. 57 Patterson, James
 - f. 58 P. D. Papin

Box 006

- Research Materials: Kansas City and Missouri, no date
- f. 1 Clippings
 - f. 2 Borderland Books and Booklists
 - f. 3 Flag
 - f. 4 Fur Trade
 - f. 5 GSA National Archives
 - f. 6 Gold Rush
 - f. 7 Indians
 - f. 8 Independence, Missouri
 - f. 9 Jackson County
 - f. 10 Larkin "Ha! Ha!" file
 - f. 11 Johanna and Philip Kelly
 - f. 12 Missouri History
 - f. 13 Presidents
 - f. 14 Railroads
 - f. 15 Religion
 - f. 16 Revolutionary War

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- f. 17 St. Joseph
- f. 18 St. Louis
- f. 19 Santa Fe and Fur Trade
- f. 20 Scotland
- f. 21 Trails
- f. 22 Wells Fargo
- f. 23 Pony Express
- f. 24 The West

Box 007

Research Materials: Kansas City and Missouri

- Texas Panhandle #1 Scrapbook, Newspaper clippings, 1938-1939
- Texas Panhandle #2 Scrapbook, Golden Anniversary Edition, Amarillo Sunday News and Globe, 1938
- Three boxes research note cards, no date
- Steno notebook, research notes, no date
- Blacks clips, "Black Minister Honored" by Wm. A. Goff, no date
- Rough notes, no date
- Deed records, Jackson County Historical Society Archives, 1835-1857
- Personal recollections, John F. Darby, no date
- Boone Family Research Association, no date
- Casualties and losses in fur trade, records of A/C of United States Superintendent of Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Missouri, no date
- Liberty Tribune, 1859
- Kansas City Journal of Commerce, no date
- Border Star, 1858-1860
- Kansa City Enterprise, 1850's
- United States District Court records, no date
- Major Andrew Drips, no date
- American Fur Trade, 1833

Box 008

RESEARCH MATERIALS: KANSAS CITY and MISSOURI

Research Materials: Kansas City and Missouri

- Mounds to Mansions by Frances I. Flavill, copyright 1976; historical sites of the St. Louis region, 1976
- Stede Bonnet, "Gentleman Pirate" of the Carolina Coast by John G. Leland, 1972
- Miscellaneous articles, no date
- Civil War and Missouri Militia, no date
- Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Kansas City, no date
- Washington Township by Harvey Kemper, no date
- Better than Burning, Frontier Marriage in Perspective by Edeen Martin, no date
- Kansas City Pioneer History by Dr. William Campbell, no date
- Creative writing class, no date
- Westport Quarterly, December 1972
- Miscellaneous papers and articles written by William A. Goff, no date

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Miscellaneous maps and drawings, no date
Photographs, border wars, phone log, no date
Bureau of Indian Affairs, personal file, no date
Obituaries, miscellaneous mementos, boxing, no date
Battle of Westport by Abrahamson and Henninger, no date
Battle of Westport, Captain Wagone and Grinter farm fight, no date
U.D.C. magazine clips, Story of Lone Jack, no date
Lists and Roosters; Civil War, no date
Guerrillas, no date
Transcript of Civil War Letters, no date

Box 009

Research Materials: Kansas City and Missouri

Oversize photo, 61st reunion of Battle of Westport, 1925
Notecards, no date
Drawing pad with sketches, no date
Abstract of title, 500 Westport Road, no date
“The American Soldier” , no date
School notebook- for shop or woodworking class, no date
“Order Book” scrapbook with clippings of pictures, uniforms, wildlife and animals, no date
Honig errata, 1987
Transcriptions of materials in SHSMO-KC Snyder Collection (K0025): Wm. Gregg; Col. B. Lazear; Jos. R. Simmons, Waddle/McCoy, no date

Box 010x3

Roll 1 Gillham Road Plat Map
Location Gillham Rd., Kansas City, Missouri
Designer Unknown
Date No date

Roll 2 Kansas City area plat maps showing Westport
Location Kansas City, Missouri
Designer Unknown
Date No date

Roll 3 Kansas City Quadrangle Missouri-Kansas, 7.5 Minute Series
Location Kansas City, Missouri
Designer United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey
Date 1957

Oversize

Westport Maps