

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
K0087 (KA0164)
JAMES WILLIAM EARP 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 10 cubic feet

The collection includes correspondence, scrapbooks, military mementos, articles, short stories, plays, poetry, and other material by James William Earp. A number of his short stories, in published form, are included in the collection.

The papers in this collection have been organized in the following manner:

Folders 1-17: Correspondence, in chronological order.

Folders 18-29: World War I materials including correspondence, mementos, a scrapbook, some of Earp's writings and notes and other materials including maps related to Earp's service in France.

Folder 30: A general scrapbook of clippings and correspondence related to Earp's career with the Rock Island Railroad and to his career as an author.

Folders 31-49: Short articles, which Earp wrote regarding his view of short story writing, the nature of writing and publishing especially from the perspective as a "pulp" magazine author.

Folders 50-77: These folders contain short stories by Earp. Some of these short stories appeared as individual items in various magazines and some were parts of series Earp prepared for different magazines.

Folders 78-89: Boomer Jones. Stories in folders 78-85 appear to be complete, while those in 86-89 are incomplete.

Folders 90-114: Railroad short stories. Stories in these folders appear to be complete. On occasion, there may be several drafts of a story, or a part of the story, along with what appears to be the final draft.

Folders 115-219: Short stories on non-railroad topics. These stories are frequently about romance and heartbreak but stories on sports, boxing, and the Wild West are also included. These folders seem to contain complete manuscripts.

Folders 220-228: Military short stories. These stories seem to be complete.

Folders 229-232: The stories in these folders represent complete short stories with Earp's pseudonym indicated. He utilized the name A.N. Oldtimer, Jacques Girouard, and Joseph L. Gish.

Folders 233-245: Short plays, poetry, and short humorous pieces.

Folders 246-257: Partial or incomplete short stories about railroads. Some of the folders include nearly completed stories, while others include drafts of material, which represent attempts to develop characters, themes and plots.

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Folders 258-300: Partial or incomplete short stories, non-railroad themes and characters.

Folders 301-394: Articles and short stories on writing and publishing as well as railroad and non-railroad topics are included. The majority of the stories relate, however, to railroad themes.

Throughout the inventory, Earp's titles for the short stories have been used in the folder descriptions whenever possible. When titles have not been given, the name of a principal character has been used as a folder title. In a few cases, other folder titles have been assigned.

James W. Earp was born in Clarence, Missouri, on June 15, 1888. Earp began his career as a railroader in Clement, Oklahoma, in 1904, and later moved to Kansas City, Missouri, in 1914. He joined the Rock Island Railroad in 1912, and stayed with the company until his retirement 44 years later in 1956.

Earp's employment with Rock Island Railroad was interrupted by his World War I service when he was with Company C, 68th Engineers and later in the 58th Company Transportation Corps in France. While in the army, he wrote for the *Camp Garrett Camouflage* and worked briefly for *Stars and Stripes*.

In addition to his railroad career, Earp worked as an author of short stories throughout his life. He first ventured into writing at the age of fifteen by writing for his high school newspaper. His career as a published author began in 1916 when *Railroad Man's Magazine* accepted his short story, which then developed into a series.

While the range of topics for Earp's short stories was quite broad, he was especially successful in writing stories based on railroad themes. Earp also wrote anonymously for magazines such as *True Confessions* during the 1920s and 1930s, submitting stories about faltering romances and heartbreak. His many short stories also appeared in such magazines as *Railroad Man's Magazine*, *Railroad Stories*, *Argosy*, *Top Notch*, *Smart Set*, *American Boy*, *War Stories*, *Railroad Magazine*, and *Wayside Tales*.

After retiring from the Rock Island Railroad in 1956, Earp continued to write until his death in 1958 at age 70.

Donor Information

The collection was donated to the University of Missouri by James W. Earp on August 16, 1982 (Accession No. KA0164).

Copyright and Restrictions

The Donor has given and assigned to the University of Missouri 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.

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James William Earp Papers

Box List

Box 1

- f. 1 Biographical material, no date
- f. 2-17 Correspondence, 1910-1957
- f. 18-28 World War I, Correspondence, 1918-1919

Box 2

- f. 29 World War I, Scrapbook
- f. 30 Scrapbook, Earp's career with the railroad and his career as an author
- f. 31 "Olden Days not Golden Days"
- f. 32 "First Hand Information"
- f. 33 "The Future Magazine"
- f. 34 "Glossary of Railroad Terms"
- f. 35 "Boomer Jones" biography
- f. 36 Pulp novels and their influence
- f. 37 Suspended publications
- f. 38 "Helping the Would Be Writer"
- f. 39 Pulp writers
- f. 40 Character development
- f. 41 "The Awakening"
- f. 42 "Be Sure of Your facts"
- f. 43 Railroad stories, what not to do
- f. 44 How to write stories
- f. 45 "Rules Can't Write Short Stories"
- f. 46 How did I do it?
- f. 47 Critique of a story
- f. 48 Rules for short stories
- f. 49 Critique of a story
- f. 50-61 The Railroad Nomad
- f. 62-69 Switch Shanty Tales
- f. 70-73 Boomer's Luck
- f. 74-76 Book Manuscript
- f. 77-81 "Boomer Jones," By Morton Wishengrad
- f. 82-84 "Safety First"
- f. 85-89 Boomer retires
- f. 90 Conductor Jack
- f. 91 Brute Carson
- f. 92 Jimmy Harte
- f. 93 "The Dumb Brakie"
- f. 94 "The Man I Couldn't Place"
- f. 95 "The Fable of the Failure"
- f. 96 "The Unconquerable Failure"
- f. 97 "When You Overlook Your Hand"
- f. 98 "The Right of Way"

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- f. 99 "Blood Will Tell"
- f. 100 Old Copy
- f. 101 "No Escape from Love"
- f. 102 "The Fable of the Go-Getter"
- f. 103 "Billy Mooney, Go-Getter"
- f. 104 "On the Jitney's Trail"
- f. 105 "The Derelicts"
- f. 106 "A Ladder Loses a Lawsuit"
- f. 107 "No Hard Feelings"
- f. 108 Conductors business
- f. 109 "Sands and Simpletons"
- f. 110 "Via the Cut-off"
- f. 111 "Knowitall's Son"
- f. 112 James Ryan
- f. 113 "The Welding of the Clams"
- f. 114 "Bards of the Rail"
- f. 115 Trouble
- f. 116 Tommy Baird
- f. 117 "Beating Love and Money"
- f. 118 "A Dollar for a Dollar"
- f. 119 "Helpful Harry Plans an Elopement"
- f. 120 "Making His Fortune"
- f. 121 "Was It Luck or Pluck"
- f. 122 "Glass of Beer Man"
- f. 123 "Cupid and the Play"
- f. 124 "The Man Who Never Smiled"
- f. 125 Gerald Hartley
- f. 126 Opal Delap
- f. 127 Tony's Place
- f. 128 "The Brentwood's Babby"
- f. 129 "The Loveable Thief"
- f. 130 "The Lonesome God"
- f. 131 "The Sins of Others"
- f. 132 "My Friends, The Pebbles"
- f. 133 "That Miracle in Fish"
- f. 134 "The New Champion"
- f. 135 "Brown Derby Gag No. 2"
- f. 136 "The Turning Point"
- f. 137 "Silvertip," by James W. Earp and Hardwicke Grainger
- f. 138 "Bowers Boy, Expert Horseman," For related stories see folders 213-218
- f. 139 "His Fighting Face"
- f. 140 Championship fighter
- f. 141 "Love's Proxy"
- f. 142 "Bill Bolton's Boy"
- f. 143 "Always in America"
- f. 144 Baseball story

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- f. 145 Krazy Komedey Films
- f. 146 College life
- f. 147 "Cinnamon Bill's Bonanza"
- f. 148 "Costly Customers"
- f. 149 "A Recipe for Happiness"
- f. 150 "The Man Who Knew His Wife"
- f. 151 "The man Who Knew His Wife," a variation
- f. 152 "Spotty"
- f. 153 "Bail for Saint Joseph"
- f. 154 "The Cowboy Myth"
- f. 155 "Beyond the Veil"
- f. 156 "Taming the Terrible Terrace"
- f. 157 "The Lost Honeymoon"
- f. 158 "The Man Who Conquered Time"
- f. 159 "The Angel of the Trapeze"
- f. 160 "Third Time is the Charmed Time"
- f. 161 "The Waters of Life"
- f. 162 "Zenas Lynne's Silk Machine"
- f. 163 "In Kansas"
- f. 164 "Eight Pounds of Romance"
- f. 165 "The Feet in the Rock"
- f. 166 "Bill's Bumps"
- f. 167 "Marida of the Prairie"
- f. 168 "Nothing to See"
- f. 169 Lecture to journalism school, a short story
- f. 170 "Dandy Carson Pays a Debt"
- f. 171 Dickie Manning
- f. 172 "No Children"
- f. 173 "The Quitter"
- f. 174 Eddie Holmes
- f. 175 Kansas City and the anti-gambling bill
- f. 176 "The Regeneration of Happy"
- f. 177 "What Price Reputation?"

Box 3

- f. 178-179 "The Duchess of Darlington," "As told to James W. Earp"
- f. 180 "Coal Chute Charley"
- f. 181 "Uronia, the City of the Gods"
- f. 182 "Fat Ralston – Cupid"
- f. 183 "A Fool for Business"
- f. 184-187 "The Coldwater Kid"
- f. 188 "Cougars for Sale"
- f. 189 "Do Mothers Understand Their Sons?"
- f. 190 "Good in Everything"
- f. 191 "Unprinted Reviews"
- f. 192 "Jayburg's Celebrity"

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- f. 193 "Monologue"
- f. 194 John Harding
- f. 195 "Efficiency, Plus Horse Sense"
- f. 196 "The Taming of Theresa"
- f. 197 Emily Holden
- f. 198 "Wayfarers of Love"
- f. 199 Old Man manor
- f. 200 "What's the Use?"
- f. 201 "Love and Business"
- f. 202 "Satisfying the Jury"
- f. 203 Jack Vaughn
- f. 204 "The Pugs Love"
- f. 205 "The Racketeer Baby"
- f. 206 "Silver"
- f. 207 "A Fable of Efficiency"
- f. 208 "A Small Town Financier"
- f. 209-211 "On a Bat with Bat Nelson," "Retold by James W. Earp"
- f. 212 Journalism lecture, a short story
- f. 213-218 "Bowers Boy, Expert Horseman"
- f. 219 Sergeant Carney
- f. 220 "Jacques Birthday Gift"
- f. 221 "The Hush, Hush Cryptogram"
- f. 222 "Almost a Corporal" Brown
- f. 223 "An Executive in the Making"
- f. 224 "A.W.O.L."
- f. 225 "Bottled War Goods"
- f. 226 "Thirty Six Hours Leave"
- f. 227 "All This and the Military, Too"
- f. 228 "In the Making"
- f. 229 "How to Have an Unhappy Marriage," by A.N . Oldtimer
- f. 230 You Take it From Here," by Jacques Girouard. Includes a letter of rejection from
Fawcett Publications, Inc.
- f. 231 "They Made Him Railroad," by Jacques Girouard
- f. 232 "Bumming With Old Boomer Jones," by Jacques Girouard
- f. 233 "HAH Dollings Luck or Getting into the League"
- f. 234 "Peggy's Husband"
- f. 235 "False Colors"
- f. 236 "The Syndicate"
- f. 237 "The Maximum Judge"
- f. 238 "The Lucky Quarter"
- f. 239 "The Ball Game at Wild Horse"
- f. 240 "The Woman Named Fan," "As Robert W. Service or somebody else might do it"
- f. 241 "A Modern Marco"
- f. 242 Poetry I, Short poems, some are complete and titled and others are not
- f. 243 Poetry II
- f. 244 Poetry III

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- f. 245 Humor shorts
- f. 246 "The King of the Pasteboards"
- f. 247 Boomer Jones
- f. 248 Bill Bancroft
- f. 249-250 Bull Bascom
- f. 251 Eddie Murphy
- f. 252 Railroad servicemen
- f. 253 "Sir Galahad"
- f. 254 "Flying Box Cars"
- f. 225 Billy Jackson
- f. 256 Billy Thompson
- f. 257 False starts, Railroad
- f. 258 "Oklahoma's Derby Day"
- f. 259 "The Rebel Cinderella," Written by Marie R. Earp (either James W. Earp's pseudonym or actually written by his wife).
- f. 260 Jimmy Edwards
- f. 261 Dick Manning
- f. 262 J. Austin Fitzroberts
- f. 263 Jack Conrad
- f. 264 Sergeant Murphy
- f. 265 Carol Lydston
- f. 266 Tom Lutin
- f. 267 Sad Face
- f. 268 Smoke
- f. 269 Horse racing
- f. 270 "Happy's Christmas Eve"
- f. 271 Daphne Lambert
- f. 272 The Switchman
- f. 273 Eddie's divorce
- f. 274 Slippery Buck Anderson
- f. 275 Dickie Stanford
- f. 276 Catha Danforth and Richard Hardin
- f. 277 Carol Burton
- f. 278 "Old Man Percentage"
- f. 279 "No Sense of Humor"
- f. 280 "Desiree of the Boulevard"
- f. 281 "Heart Hunger"
- f. 282 "Grandmother and the End of the World"
- f. 283 Patterson Peerless Performers
- f. 284 Dick Fairman
- f. 285 "Entertaining Lord Galloway"
- f. 286 John Dulin
- f. 287 Mike McGraw
- f. 288 Tom and Daphne Lambert
- f. 289 Plays
- f. 290 Terry Carlson

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- f. 291 Daphne Morton
- f. 292 Jeremiah Wilson
- f. 293 George Woolworth
- f. 294 "Surething Steve Comes Through"
- f. 295 Pen Moffat
- f. 296 Bonnie Bea Barstow
- f. 297 Lora Hendron's Grave
- f. 298 Sam Payne
- f. 299 Theodore Hansen and Pam Martin
- f. 300 False starts, Non-Railroad
- f. 301 *Boomer Jones*, A copy of Earp's book of Boomer Jones stories
- f. 302 *The Editor*, 1917

Box 4

- f. 303-304 *Writer's Digest*, 1923
- f. 305-306 *The Author and Journalist*, 1927, 1936
- f. 307 *The Writer's Monthly*, February 1930
- f. 308 *Top Notch Magazine*, April 1, 1924
- f. 309 *War Stories*, 1927-1928
- f. 311-335 *Railroad man's Magazine*, 1916-1932

Box 5

- f. 336-366 *Railroad Stories*, 1936

Box 6

- f. 367-386 *Railroad Stories*, 1936-1951, 1972
- f. 387 *Wayside Tales*, no date
- f. 388 *10 Story Book*, September 1928
- f. 389 *Breezy Stories*, March 1931
- f. 390 *Sports Afield*, January 1921
- f. 391 *Sentimental Stories*, April 1927
- f. 392 *Foreign Service*, December 1932
- f. 393 *True Detective Mysteries*, January 1927
- f. 394 *The American Boy*, December 1927

Box 7

x.7-x.31 22 oversize illustrations by: G. Campbell Farren; J.E.; Stuart (Stewart)
Campbell, 1934-1939

Oversize Panoramic Photograph

f.1 Co. C. 68th Engineers, Camp Leach, Washington, D.C., July 1918

Box 008x3

Roll 1	War Map of Europe
Location	Europe
Designer	The Scarborough Company of Canada Limited Publishers
Date	1914

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Roll 2	Map to Illustrate the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, first, second, and last phases
Location	Unknown
Designer	Base Printing Plant, 29 th Engineers, U. S. Army
Date	1918
Roll 3	Map to Illustrate the Offensive of Saint-Mihiel Salient
Location	Unknown
Designer	Base Printing Plant, 29 th Engineers, U.S. Army
Date	1918
Roll 4	Map Showing Lateral Railroads as of 1918
Location	Unknown
Designer	Base Printing Plant, 29 th Engineers, U. S. Army
Date	1919
Roll 5	Map Showing Relation of Operations of the 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 26 th , 28 th , 32 nd , and 42 nd U. S. Division to the General Advance in the "Second Battle of the Marne"
Location	Unknown
Designer	Base Printing Plant, 29 th Engineers, U. S. Army
Date	1919