



## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K1238

William Gillis (ca. 1797-1869) and Mary Ann Gillis Troost (1812-1872) Estate Records  
ca. 1869-1907  
.25 cubic feet

*Gillis, an Indian trader, was one of fourteen investors who platted the original Town of Kansas. Mary, his niece married to Dr. Benoist Troost, had an estate used to support the Gillis Home for Orphans. Includes tax bills, receipts, and legal documents used in the settlement of the estates.*

### BIOGRAPHY:

William Gillis (ca. 1797-1869), an Indian trader, was one of fourteen investors who platted the original Town of Kansas. Along with Dr. Benoist Troost, husband of his niece, Mary, Gillis built the Gillis House, one of the first hotels on the riverfront. After Gillis' death in 1869, several descendants from previously unknown marriages to Native American women came forward to claim part of his estate. Litigation to settle the William Gillis and Mary Troost estates continued for many years. After Mary's death in 1872, the Gillis Opera House was established using her part of the Gillis inheritance. Proceeds from the theater would then be used to maintain the Gillis Home for Orphans.

### PROVENANCE:

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Specific item; folder number; *William Gillis (ca. 1797-1869) and Mary Ann Gillis Troost (1812-1872) Estate Records (K1238)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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<http://shs.umsystem.edu/index.shtml>

DESCRIPTION:

This collection consists of tax bills, receipts, and legal documents used in the settlement of the Gillis and Troost estates.

INVENTORY:

**BOX 001**

- Folder 1: William Gillis
- Folder 2: Mary A. Troost, 1 of 6, contains bills, receipts, inventory of her personal estate, including real estate, appraisal of estate
- Folder 3: Mary A. Troost, 2 of 6, contains tax bills and receipts
- Folder 4: Mary A. Troost 3 of 6
- Folder 5: Mary A. Troost 4 of 6
- Folder 6: Mary A. Troost 5 of 6
- Folder 7: Mary A. Troost 6 of 6