



## Henry C. Thompson Papers (R0047)

**Collection Number:** R0047

**Collection Title:** Henry C. Thompson Papers

**Dates:** 1884-1970

**Creator:** Thompson, Henry C., 1889-1974

**Abstract:** The Henry C. Thompson Papers contain the original and microfilm copy of papers of a trustee of the State Historical Society of Missouri, genealogist, and a historian of mining in St. Francois County and the operations of the St. Joseph Lead Company. The collection includes research notes and correspondence, and a group of lead company records, 1884-1902.

**Collection Size:** 2.25 cubic feet  
(89 folders, 4 rolls of microfilm)

**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-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [rolla@shsmo.org](mailto:rolla@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Henry C. Thompson Papers* (R0047); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** The papers were loaned for microfilming to the University of Missouri by the Bonne Terre Memorial Library on February 24, 1981 (Accession No. RA0060). An addition was loaned for microfilming on July 21, 1983 by the Bonne Terre Memorial Library (Accession No. RA0189). The originals and an addition were donated on August 6, 2019 by the Bonne Terre Memorial Library (Accession No. RA1693).

**Custodial History:** In accordance with his wishes, Thompson's papers and research materials were placed in the Bonne Terre Memorial Library following his death. Portions of his papers

were initially loaned to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection in 1981 and 1983 to be microfilmed. They were filmed in two separate installments. Many of his papers, including folders 30-89 not previously microfilmed, were donated by the Bonne Terre Memorial Library to the State Historical Society of Missouri in 2019.

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Henry C. Thompson Papers can be found in the following collections:

*St. Joseph Lead Company Annual Report* (R0046)

*Harry J. Cantwell Collection* (R0677)

*Ste. Genevieve, Missouri Archives Collection* (C3636)

**Processed by:** Processed by John F. Bradbury, July 31, 1981. Revised by John F. Bradbury, September 29, 1983. Revised by Kathleen Seale, September 22, 2021.

### **Biographical Note:**

Henry Clay Thompson was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1889. He was educated as an electrical engineer and spent most of his career employed by the St. Joseph Lead Company in its electrical and mechanical departments at Bonne Terre, Missouri. He retired in 1954 as supervisor of the electrical department. He was an active civic leader, serving as the executive secretary of the Unicity Chamber of Commerce and participating in Masonic and church activities. Thompson died at Bonne Terre in 1974.

A life member of the State Historical Society of Missouri, Thompson was well-known as a genealogist and historian of the lead belt of southeastern Missouri. He authored four books, most notably *Our Lead Belt Heritage* and *Sam Hildebrand*, a history of the St. Francois County Civil War guerrilla. As "The County Historian," he wrote numerous articles for various Lead Belt newspapers.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following six series with four subseries:

Correspondence

Research Files

St. Joseph Lead Company

Correspondence

Research Files

Subject Files

Publications

The County Historian

Historical Articles

Presentations

### **Scope and Content Note:**

#### **Correspondence**

This series consists of Henry Thompson's correspondence to and from multiple people concerning genealogies of local families such as the Cook, Terrill, McCormick, and Conover families. Folder 2 also contains typescript copies of the Desloge family letters supplied to Henry Thompson by Joseph Desloge, the son of Firmin Desloge, the original letters date from 1828 to 1851. This series is arranged in chronological order.

### **Research Files**

This series contains notes and research materials on various historical subjects. Folders 4-8 contain records and papers from the St. Joseph, Doe Run, Desloge, and other mining companies operating in the Lead Belt. There are several letters between Charles B. Parsons (1839-1910), the company's first superintendent at Bonne Terre, and officers of the company in New York. Several of the letters detail company financing and marketing policy. Folder 16 contains the typescript diary of A. L. Murphy documenting his overland trip to California in 1849. Folders 5, 7-9, 11, and 13-21 are only available on microfilm. This series is arranged in its original order.

### **St. Joseph Lead Company**

This series consists of correspondence and notes in connection with the history of the St. Joseph Lead Company. The Correspondence subseries contains communications between Thompson and Clinton H. Crane, Andrew Fletcher, treasurer George I. Brigden, and vice-presidents Irwin H. Cornell and Rene J. Mechin with the St. Joseph Lead Company. Registers of the correspondence have been filmed in front of their respective folders. The Research Files subseries contains Thompson's notes on various mining companies, including the Central Mining Company, Doe Run, Derby Lead Company, and Taylor Mining Company among others. The notes and research contain information on the companies' mine shafts, equipment, mine safety, and product output. Note folders 23-29 are only available on microfilm. The series is arranged in its original order.

### **Subject Files**

This series consists of research, correspondence, articles, and personal papers concerning Thompson's various historical interest. They include historical information about the Civil War in southeast Missouri, his proposed celebration of the bicentennial of Missouri mining, and other historic moments in southeast Missouri. Note this series is not available on microfilm. The series is arranged in alphabetical order.

### **Publications**

This series contains articles with historical focus, most written by Henry Thompson in his role as the Saint Francois 'County Historian' The County Historian writings contain historical articles for various counties including town development, early pioneers, mining operations, and other sketches pertaining to southeast Missouri counties. Written by Thompson the articles start in the 1930s and were published through the 1950s. The Historical Articles subseries contains more articles written by Thompson, but also other southeast Missouri historians. Note this series is not available on microfilm. This series is arranged in its original order.

### **Presentations**

This series contains the papers presented to various groups by Henry C. Thompson. The topics of the papers range from military research and genealogy to county and mining history. Note this series is not available on microfilm. The series is arranged in chronological order.

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f. 3-21		Research Files
f. 3		Desloge family genealogy, 1965
f. 4		Desloge Mining Company, no date
Roll 1 f. 5		St. Joseph Lead Company, land abstracts ledger, 1864-1887
Roll 2; f. 6		St. Joseph Lead Company papers, 1889-1902
Box 001		
f. 7		Doe Run Lead Company, miscellaneous papers, 1887-1912
Roll 3 f. 8		Mining company papers, 1871-1948
f. 9		St. Francois County Railroad Company report, 1912
Box 001 f. 10		Mine La Motte, Madison County, Missouri papers, 1937-1939, 1953
f. 11		Iron Mountain, Missouri history, 1954, no date
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f. 20		Lalumandiere and La Fleur families genealogy, 1960-1961
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- f. 34 Battle of Pilot Knob, 1947
- f. 35 Bicentennial of Missouri mining, 1954
- f. 36 "Bi-centennial Souvenir, 1735-1935: Ste. Genevieve, Missouri Le Vioux Village," 1935
- f. 37 "Biography of Eliza A. Carlton," by James Walter Morris, no date
- f. 38 Bonne Terre, Missouri history, 1940-1961
- f. 39 *Bonne Terre Register* articles, 1959, 1963
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- f. 42 DeSoto, Missouri sesquicentennial, 1953
- f. 43 Dooley-Harris feud research, 1952
- f. 44 "Fight For Industry" articles, 1959, no date
- f. 45 Floyd C. Shoemaker, retirement, 1960
- f. 46 Fredericktown history, 1928-1957
- Box 002 f. 47 Genealogy research, no date
- f. 48 Henry C. Thompson newspaper articles, 1952-1953, no date
- f. 49 Henry Rowe Schoolcraft research and notes, 1940, no date
- f. 50 "Letters From Germany," the *Lead Belt News*, 1959
- f. 51 Lead mining in Southeast Missouri articles, 1952, no date
- f. 52 Ledger pages, 1889-1894
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- f. 54 Madison County Historian articles, Clarice Andrews, no date
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