



Commodore Perry Hill Collection (R0125)

Collection Number: R0125

Collection Title: Commodore Perry Hill Collection

Dates: 1885-1982

Creator: Hill, Commodore Perry, Jr., 1901-1983

Abstract: The Commodore Perry Hill Collection contains newspaper clippings, maps, miscellaneous items, and photographs pertaining to lead mining and related railroad development in the Old Lead Belt, principally of Saint Francois and Madison counties in southeastern Missouri. The collection is a result of a thirty-year avocational interest in the history of the Old Lead Belt by Commodore Perry Hill, Jr.

Collection Size: 2.5 cubic feet
(106 folders, 91 photographs, 3 volumes)

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. 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] *Commodore Perry Hill Collection* (R0125); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The collection was donated to the University of Missouri by Commodore Perry Hill, Jr. on September 14, 1982 (Accession No. RA0140). An addition was made on December 10, 1983 by Woodrow Hill (Accession No. RA0204).

Other Finding Aid: A name index for the Biographical Files series, folders 70-89, is available in the collections administration folder.

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Commodore Perry Hill Collection can be found in the following collections:

St. Joe Minerals Corporation Collection (R0048)

St. Joseph Lead Company, "Lead Mining in Southeast Missouri" Collection (R0393)

Federal Lead Company, Mining Department Letterbook Collection (R0520)

Federal Lead Company, Mining Department Records (R0540)

Missouri Historic Mining Photograph Collection (R0620)

John Laurance Sullivan Collection (C3771)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, October 29, 1982. Revised by John Bradbury, February 3, 1984. Revised by Kathleen Seale, April 28, 2020.

Biographical Note:

Commodore Perry Hill, Jr., was a native of southeastern Missouri. He was born in November 1901 to Commodore P. and Lydia Hill. He married Maida Poston. He was employed for many years by the St. Joseph Lead Company. He did extensive research into the history of the Old Lead Belt region of Missouri. In his later years, he was a frequent correspondent and arbiter of historical details for area newspapers. He died at Bonne Terre, Missouri, on August 31, 1983.

Arrangement:

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

Topical Files

- Mining and Mining Companies
- Accidents and Fatalities
- Railroad Development
- Saint Francois County, Missouri

Biographical Files

Printed Materials

Photographs

Mining Company Records

Scope and Content Note:

Topical Files

This series contains newspaper clippings, maps, and miscellaneous notes. The series is arranged into four subseries; mining and mining companies, accidents and fatalities, railroad development, and Saint Francois County, Missouri. The mining and mining companies' subseries contains newspaper clippings, maps, and miscellaneous records pertaining to southeast Missouri mining companies. The accidents and fatalities subseries contains newspaper clippings regarding accidents and fatalities that occurred at mining and railroad companies. The railroad development subseries contains materials pertaining to railroads in southeastern Missouri. The Saint Francois, Missouri subseries contains newspaper articles, maps, and research notes on various local history topics. Each subseries is arranged chronologically.

Biographical Files

This series consists of newspaper clippings of obituaries, wedding announcements, and notes on many residents of Saint Francois County, Missouri. A name index is available in the administration folder. The series is arranged alphabetically by surname.

Printed Materials

This series contains materials pertaining mostly to the St. Joseph Lead Company and its subsidiaries. There are parts lists for Sullivan drills, St. Joe shovels, and Goodman locomotives, all of which were widely used in the Lead Belt. There are also agreements between mining and railroad companies and operating locals of labor unions, office manuals, and railroad rulebooks and timetables.

Photographs

This series contains ninety-one black and white prints of mining scenes and equipment. Many are original prints, and negatives accompany most. Many are views made by Robert Arnoldi of Flat River, who apparently made most of the well-known photographs of the area at turn-of-the century. Only about a quarter are dated, but Hill provided identifications for most of them. There are views of underground and surface operations from several different mines and featuring different types of equipment. Operations of the Doe Run Lead Company, the Federal Lead Company, and the St. Joseph Lead Company are represented in the photograph collection. An inventory of photographs is available in the appendix.

Mining Company Records

This series consists of records for the Missouri Metal Corporation and St. Joe Mineral Corporation. These records include a time book, financial records, and equipment inventory. This series is arranged by company.

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	f. 11 Herculaneum, Missouri smelter, 1910-1933
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- f. 16-17 St. Joseph Lead Company, 1883-1930
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Appendix:

The Appendix consists of descriptions and dates when available of images in the photograph series, folders 104-106. Descriptions are from descriptions available on the print.

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104	1	National Lead Company, mill and shaft No. 1	no date
104	2	Doe Run Lead Company, shaft No. 4	no date
104	3	View toward rear of the St. Joseph Lead Company mill at Bonne Terre. Shows the carpenter shack, Congregational Church, and other buildings	no date
104	4	Desloge Lead Company mines	no date
104	5	Group of miners with sunshine torches and lunch boxes	no date
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