



William Henry Lynch Papers (R0202)

Collection Number: R0202

Collection Title: William Henry Lynch Papers

Dates: 1859-1905

Creator: Lynch, William Henry, 1839-1924

Abstract: The William Henry Lynch Papers contain microfilm copies of the diaries and personal papers of an educator in southern Missouri. Lynch was a native of Houston, Texas County, Missouri. He served in the 32nd Missouri Infantry during the Civil War, and was principal of schools in Steelville, St. James, Salem, West Plains, and Mountain Grove, Missouri, following the war.

Collection Size: (3 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. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *William Henry Lynch Papers* (R0202); 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 Christian County Library on October 26, 1984 (Accession No. RA0251).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the William Henry Lynch Papers can be found in the following collections:

William H. Lynch Diaries (C1153)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, November 28, 1984. Revised by Kathleen Seale, April 27, 2021.

Biographical Note:

William Henry Lynch was born in Houston, Texas County, Missouri on September 6, 1839. He was the son of David and Polly Ann (Fourt) Lynch, natives of Kentucky and early settlers in Texas County. William was sent to Boone County, Missouri, in 1856 for his education, first in the public schools, and then at Lathrop Academy. He returned home to teach school in Houston until the outbreak of the Civil War. He was appointed clerk of Texas County in 1862. He served until August 1862, when he enlisted in the 32nd Missouri Infantry. He was commissioned a field officer in 1863 and was appointed regimental quartermaster. He mustered out as a captain in 1865.

Lynch returned to Columbia following the war to complete his education at the University of Missouri. He graduated in 1868 to resume a teaching career in southern Missouri which spanned nearly sixty years. Lynch was a teacher and principal at the Steelville Academy, 1866-1872; a teacher at the St. James Academy, 1869; and principal of the Salem Academy, 1873-1884, the West Plains Academy, 1884-1887, and the Mountain Grove Academy, 1887-circa 1894. Lynch married Mary Emma Cook in 1871 in Crawford County. Mary contracted tuberculosis in 1898 not long after Lynch took over at the West Plains College. The couple went to South Carolina where Mary received treatment and Lynch sold his interest in the college. Mary died on April 12, 1898 in West Plains and was buried in Salem, Missouri. Lynch returned to his teaching career after her death later teaching in Ozark, Missouri. He was a field representative of the Southwest Missouri State Teachers' College from 1910 until his death in 1924.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following three series:

Lesson Book
Diaries
Personal Papers

Scope and Content Note:

Lesson Book

This series contains William Lynch's lesson book. This book contains compositions, mathematical exercises, and miscellaneous notes used during study at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Diaries

This series consists of materials pertaining to his post-war career as an educator. Unfortunately, Lynch was fairly circumspect in his later diaries. Many of the daily entries note only, "Taught school," or "Stayed at home." He was more forthcoming on the particulars of his vacation visits to his family home in Texas County and to his wife's homeplace at Cook's Station in Crawford County. Although the diary entries are generally sparse, there are many details of life in the various academies with which Lynch was connected. This series is arranged chronologically.

Personal Papers

This series contains newspaper clippings and miscellaneous papers concerning his post-war career as an educator. There is also a single folder of miscellaneous Civil War papers from his tenure as quartermaster of the 32nd Missouri Infantry. There were many newspaper clippings and notes enclosed within Lynch's diaries, most concerning the institutions where he was engaged. The enclosures, which were not in any apparent order, were removed, categorized by school or subject, and arranged in chronological order in folders 3-6. and 8. They include announcements of sessions and final examinations, notes on the academies, lists of students, payments of tuition, and personal notes concerning Professor Lynch. From newspapers throughout southern Missouri, the clippings are indispensable in tracing Lynch's career as an educator. They show him to have been a resourceful teacher whose presence was a community asset. His activities were followed by citizens in a wide area, and his services were sought after by many small towns eager to boost their municipal reputations. The discussions following Lynch's move from the West Plains Academy to the Mountain Grove Academy are a good example of the rivalry between small towns and show the high regard in which Lynch was held. The series is arranged in by subject and then in chronological order.

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	v. 12	Diary, Salem and West Plains academies, 1884
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	v. 14	Diary, West Plains Academy, 1886
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	v. 16	Diary, Mountain Grove Academy, 1888
f. 1-8		Personal Papers
Roll 3	f. 1	Christian County, Missouri papers, 1859-1896
	f. 2	Military papers, 1864
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	f. 4	Salem Academy, 1872-1884
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	f. 6	Mountain Grove Academy, 1887-1888
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	f. 8	Newspaper clippings, 1880-1905

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