



## John Andrew Nooney Papers

**Collection Number:** S0166

**Collection Title:** John Andrew Nooney Papers

**Dates:** 1882-1939

**Creator:** Nooney, John Andrew, 1871-1935

**Abstract:** The collection contains correspondence, daybooks, photographs, and photographs documenting John Nooney's career as a patrolman for the St. Louis Police Department.

**Collection Size:** 0.2 cubic feet  
(3 folders, 2 daybooks, and 16 photographs)

**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-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [stlouis@shsmo.org](mailto:stlouis@shsmo.org).

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *John Andrew Nooney Papers* (S0166); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Gregory John on September 29, 1983 (Accession No. SA2565).

**Related Material:** Additional materials related to the John Andrew Nooney Papers can be found in the following collection:

*Gregory Nooney Papers (S0168)*

**Processed by:** Processed by Kenn Thomas, April 1984; revised by AJ Medlock, March 2023.

**Biographical Note:**

John Andrew Nooney was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on January 27, 1871, to Irish immigrants John Nooney and Bridget Ford Nooney. In 1875, the Nooney family moved to Montgomery City, Missouri, where John Nooney Sr. found work with the Wabash Railroad. John Andrew Nooney spent his early adult years in the 1880s and 90s working in various manufacturing jobs until he returned to St. Louis and joined the St. Louis Police Department on August 21, 1899. He subsequently married Mary Dalton on June 5, 1901; they had three children: Gregory Nooney (1903-1993), John Andrew Nooney Jr. (1908-1983), and Vincent Nooney (1912-1950).

Nooney spent his entire career with the St. Louis Police Department (1899-1933), first serving as a probationary patrol officer and then being promoted to the position of special plainclothes officer in 1903. During the 1904 World's Fair, Nooney served as a detective, monitoring all the major social functions for nearly six months. Except for his brief stint at the World's Fair, Nooney spent the bulk of his career as a plainclothes police officer patrolling the sixth district at 9<sup>th</sup> and Angelica Streets with one partner, Michael W. Kelly. However, in 1926, the St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners returned Nooney to uniform duty. Nooney blamed this demotion on the Republican Board of Police Commissioners, who held anti-Catholic and pro-Klu Klux Klan sentiments. He would spend the remainder of his career as a desk Sergeant in the 6<sup>th</sup> district.

John Andrew Nooney retired from the St. Louis Police Department in 1933. Less than two years later, on March 2, 1935, suffered a heart attack; he died three days later on March 5, 1935.

**Arrangement:**

Manuscripts  
Oversize

**Scope and Content Note:****Manuscripts**

This series consists of correspondence, a Knights of Columbus withdrawal card, and photographs chronicling John Andrew Nooney's private life and career with the St. Louis Police Department. Materials of interest include photographs of John Nooney, Mary Dalton Nooney, and Nooney's partner Michael W. Kelly. Included in the correspondence are letters from police informants providing Nooney with tips about possible fraud in the area. The materials in this series date from 1882 to 1930 and are arranged chronologically.

**Oversize**

This series contains two daybooks and a scrapbook documenting John Andrew Nooney's career in the St. Louis Police Department and his subsequent death. The daybooks (1912-1913, 1919-1922) contain Nooney's handwritten entries chronicling his daily investigations and arrests in the sixth district. They reflect the extent to which neighborhood police of the era were familiar with the personal activities of private citizens. Also included is a scrapbook regarding Nooney's death, containing letters of condolence, sympathy cards, and a biographical essay Gregory Nooney wrote about his father in 1939. The materials in this series date from 1912 to 1939 and are arranged chronologically.

**Container List:**

f. 1-3	Manuscripts
Box 001	f. 1 Correspondence, 1919-1921
	f. 2 Knights of Columbus, withdrawal card, 1919
	f. 3 Photographs, 1882-1930
Items	Oversize
	Items 1-2 Daybooks, volumes 1-2, 1912-1913, 1919-1922
	Item 3 Scrapbook, 1935-1939

**Index:**

Index Terms	Folders	Image
Assault and battery--Missouri--Saint Louis	Item 1	
Automobile theft--Missouri--Saint Louis	Item 2	
Black Hand (United States)	Items 1-2	
Burglary—Missouri--Saint Louis	Items 1-2	
Check fraud--Missouri--Saint Louis	Item 2	
Crime--Missouri--Saint Louis	1, items 1-2	
Criminals--Missouri--Saint Louis	1, items 1-2	
Extortion--Missouri--Saint Louis	Items 1-2	
Forgery--Missouri--Saint Louis	Item 2	
Gambling--Missouri--Saint Louis	Item 2	
Irish Americans--Missouri--Saint Louis	1-3, items 1-3	Yes
Knights of Columbus	2	
Kelly, Michael W.	3, items 1-2	Yes
Larceny--Missouri--Saint Louis	Items 1-2	
Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1904 : Saint Louis, Mo.)	Item 3	
Nooney, Gregory Joseph, 1903-1992	Item 3	
Nooney, John Andrew, 1871-1935	1-3, items 1-3	Yes
Nooney, Mary Theresa Dalton	1, 3, item 3	Yes
O'Brien, Martin J., 1867-1928	1	
Police--Missouri--Saint Louis	1, 3, items 1-3	
Police--Pensions--Missouri--Saint Louis	Item 3	
Police Retirement System of St. Louis	Item 3	
Prohibition--Missouri--Saint Louis	Item 2	
Robbery--Missouri--Saint Louis	Items 1-2	
St. Louis (Mo.). Board of Police Commissioners	Item 3	
Saint Louis (Mo.) Metropolitan Police Department	1, items 1-3	
Saint Louis (Mo.)--Politics and Government	Item 3	
World War, 1914-1918	1	