



Gloria Simpson Collection (S1074)

Collection Number: S1074

Collection Title: Gloria Simpson Collection

Dates: 1868-1976, bulk 1913-1947

Creator: Simpson, Gloria Idalou Havlena, 1924-2013

Abstract: The Gloria Simpson Collection contains items related to Gloria Simpson's time working for sculptor and commercial photographer Frank Morgan White (1877-1956) during the 1930s and '40s. Photographs include images of St. Louis streetcars, the September 29, 1927 tornado, Soldan High School, and sculptures. Also included are White's official 1927 photographs of Charles Lindbergh's trophies.

Collection Size: 1 cubic foot
(8 folders, 178 photographs, 1 oversize scrapbook)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: One item has been restricted from viewing by both staff and researchers for cultural sensitivity reasons following federal guidelines and may not be reproduced or published without written permission from the affiliated tribes. All other items are 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.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Gloria Simpson Collection* (S1074); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor information: The Gloria Simpson Collection was donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by James C. Simpson in January 2012 (Accession No. SA4004).

Alternate Forms Available: Images from this collection are available online at the State Historical Society of Missouri Digital Collections: <https://digital.shsmo.org>.

Processed by: Processed by State Historical Society of Missouri staff, 2012. Finding aid updated by Erin Purdy, June 2022.

Historical Note:

Gloria Simpson accumulated this collection during the 1930s and 1940s when she worked for Frank Morgan White (1877-1956), a commercial photographer and sculptor in St. Louis. Gloria Idalou Havlena was born in St. Louis in 1924 and married Rayford G. Simpson (1925-2003). During World War II, Gloria was in a local drum corps and Ray was in the US Army. The couple lived in St. Louis their entire lives. Gloria died in 2013.

Frank M. White moved to St. Louis in 1913. He and his wife, Alma, operated a photography studio in the city from 1917 to 1947. Before moving to St. Louis, White studied sculpture under Charles Grafly (1862-1929) at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. White was the official photographer for the Missouri Historical Society (MHS) and was the first to photograph the Lindbergh Trophies. His photographs were used in the museum exhibit catalog in 1929. He also created sculptures of Charles Lindbergh for the MHS.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into a single series.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection consists of photographs and glass plate negatives, two publications, and a scrapbook. The 178 photographs and glass plate negatives date from 1868 to 1947, and include ones taken by Frank White, as well as ones taken by other St. Louis photographers like Emil Boehl. The subjects of the photographs include sculpture, St. Louis street scenes, buildings, streetcars, riverboats, Soldan High School orchestras, and actors and performers from various productions, including at the Municipal Park. A number of the photographs are of sculptures and medals made by Frank M. White. Additionally, there is a group of images showing damage resulting from the 1927 tornado outbreak, taken north of St. Louis' central business district on September 29, 1927. Some of the images are of Gloria Simpson's husband Ray, who also worked at Frank White's studio and who was in the army during WWII. There are also a few photographs of historical documents and paintings. The glass plate negatives include "Indian Burial Tree at Fort Laramie," taken by Alexander Gardner in 1868.

In addition to the photographs, there is a Missouri Historical Society exhibit catalog, *Decorations and Trophies of Charles Lindbergh* (1928), with photographs by Frank M. White. There are also two oversized World War II-era items: a scrapbook compiled by Gloria Simpson consisting of WWII-related newspaper clippings, and a *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* publication: *History of the War in Front Pages*.

Container List:

- f. 1 Photographs 1074.001-021
 f. 2 Photographs 1074.022-023, 025-049
 f. 3 Photographs 1074.050-076
 f. 4 Photographs 1074.077-138
 f. 5 Photographs 1074.139-168
 f. 6 Glass plate negatives 1074.169, 171-177
 f. 7 *Decorations and Trophies of Charles Lindbergh* exhibit catalog with photographs by Frank White, 1928
 f. 8 RESTRICTED: 1074.024 and 1074.170. This file contains two copies of an 1868 Andrew Gardner photograph showing American Indian tree burials near Fort Laramie, Wyoming. These images are restricted and may not be reproduced or published without written permission from the affiliated tribes.
- Oversize item 1 Photograph 1074.178
 Oversize item 2 *History of the War in Front Pages, St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, no date
 Oversize item 3 World War II scrapbook of newspaper clippings compiled by Gloria Simpson, 1941-1945

Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Ambulances	1	Yes
Art	1-8	Yes
Bands--Missouri	1-8	Yes
Camp Fannin (Tex.)	4	Yes
Caves--Missouri	2, 4	Yes
Churches	3	Yes
Drama	1-8	Yes
Horse railroads--Missouri	1-8	Yes
Horse-drawn vehicles--Missouri	1-8	Yes
Hospitals	2	Yes
Mechanical musical instruments	1	Yes
Missouri Historical Society	1-8	Yes
Music	1-8	Yes
Orchestras--Missouri	1-8	Yes
River boats--Missouri	4	Yes
Saint Louis (Mo.)	1-8	Yes
Schools	1-8	Yes
Sculpture	1-8	Yes
Simpson, Gloria	1-8	Yes
Simpson, Rayford	1-8	Yes
Street-railroads--Missouri	1-8	Yes
Tornado damage--Missouri	4	Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Image
White, Frank	1-8	Yes