



**William L. Crotty Papers
(K0293)**

Collection Number: K0293

Collection Title: William L. Crotty Papers

Dates: 1959-1992

Creator: Crotty, William L., 1896-1991

Abstract: Collection primarily consists of the published and unpublished articles Crotty wrote regarding the local history of Jackson County, Missouri. His interests focused mainly on Dallas, Missouri, the Watts Mill area, and the New Santa Fe Trail. In addition there are some newspaper articles not written by Crotty that give background on these topics, as well as some biographical information on Crotty, and his travels.

Collection Size: 0.5 cubic foot
(11 folders, 2 oversize folders)

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-Kansas City](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@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] *William L. Crotty Papers* (K0293); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by William Crotty, Jr. on March 16, 1992 (Accession No. KA0674).

Separated Material: Items in this collection have been removed and can be found in the following collection:

Dallas, Missouri, School Board Record Book (K0487)

Processed by: Processed by Mimi Loran, January 2018

Historical Note:

William Lee Crotty was born January 6, 1896, in Rosedale, Kansas. In 1915, he moved to Dallas, Missouri, later called Watts Mill, where he would stay for the rest of his life. The following year, Crotty married Elsie, and together they had two children.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Grandview, Missouri, and was installed as Master of the Lodge in 1950 by President Harry S. Truman. In 1990, he was made Honorary Mayor of the Watts Mill area. In 1983, Elsie passed away, and he followed in September 1991.

Although Crotty was a master welder by trade, local history was his passion. His main interest was the Watts Mill neighborhood in which he lived, but he also researched the Santa Fe Trail, State Line Road, and other points of interest around Jackson County, Missouri. Much of his work was published locally.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following three series and one subseries. The items within the collection have been arranged chronologically:

- Personal
- History Articles
 - Dallas, Missouri
- Oversize

Scope and Content Note:

Personal

This series contains biographical material related to William Crotty. Included is an autobiographical account of a trip Crotty and his wife took in the 1920's, some genealogical research Crotty did on his mother's adoptive family, and newspaper clippings about Crotty just before and directly after his passing. In addition, there are some research notes regarding the Leawood area.

History Articles

This series, which makes up the majority of the collection, consists of the published and unpublished non-scholarly articles Crotty wrote about the local history of the Kansas City area. Included in this series are short articles on the New Santa Fe Trail, the history of State Line Road, and Martin City. Of particular interest is the subseries on Dallas, Missouri, which was the focus of Crotty's research. Included in this subseries are short articles on the history of the Watts Mill itself, and Dallas, Missouri.

Oversize

This series contains newspaper articles written by other authors regarding the historical topics in which Crotty was interested. There is also an article regarding Dallas, Missouri, written by Crotty published as three-part article in a local newsletter.

Container List:

f. 1-2		Personal
Box 001	f. 1	Biographical, 1985
	f. 2	Newspaper Clippings, 1985-1992
	f. 3	Research Notes, no date
f. 4-11		History Articles
	f. 4-6	Dallas, Missouri
	f. 4	Jim Bridger and Dallas, Missouri, no date
	f. 5	The Old Watts Mill, 1985
	f. 6	Short History of Dallas, Missouri, no date
	f. 7	George Caleb Bingham and Order No. 11, no date
	f. 8	Herman Voigts, no date
	f. 9	Martin City, no date
	f. 10	Santa Fe Trail, no date
	f. 11	State Line Road, no date
f. 12-13		Oversize
Box 002	f. 12	Dallas, Missouri, and Watts Mill, no date
	f. 13	Miscellaneous Newspapers, 1959-1985

Index:

Index Term	Folder
Automobile Travel	1
Bingham, George Caleb, 1811-1879	7
Missouri--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	7
Neighborhoods--Missouri--Kansas City--History	4-13
Red Bridge (Kansas City, Mo.)	10
Santa Fe National Historic Trail	10