

K Elijah Milton McGee Papers, 1843-1950  
0471 0.07 cubic feet  
NSA

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri-Research Center, Kansas City](http://www.shsmo-kc.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsofmo-kc@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsofmo-kc@umsystem.edu).

#### INTRODUCTION

The papers consist of drafts for *Our Hero Was* by Elijah Milton McGee. *Our Hero* is an account of McGee's trip to California in 1843. Letters and other documents relating to McGee supplement the collection.

#### DONOR INFORMATION

The collection was donated to the University of Missouri as part of the collection of the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City on 7/17/1990 (Accession No. KA0590).

#### COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS

The donor, Native Sons of Greater Kansas City, 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.

#### HISTORICAL SKETCH

Elijah Milton McGee was born May 10, 1818. As told in his autobiography, McGee traveled to California in 1843 and returned to Kansas City to invest in 240 acres, extending the city further south. McGee served as mayor of Kansas City from 1870-1871.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers consist of multiple drafts of *Our Hero Was* by Elijah Milton McGee. The papers also include biographies of McGee's California travel companions, a short story by Eugene Whitmore, and correspondence concerning McGee. All notes on McGee's California travel companions as well as correspondences on McGee's life have duplicates.

#### PREFERRED CITATION

Specific item; box number; folder number; *Elijah Milton McGee Papers (K0471)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

#### FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Drafts of Elijah McGee's autobiography, 1843.
  - Draft of *Our Hero Was*, 1843 (photocopy)
  - Draft of *Our Hero Was*, n.d. (typed)
  - Draft of *Our Hero Was*, 1843 (original)
  - Envelope holding McGee's autobiography from 1843, n.d.

- f. 2            Account of Elijah McGee's autobiography and character notes, 1949, n.d.
- Manuscript of Elijah McGee's autobiography, n.d.
  - Notes on Samuel J. Hensley and John J. Myers, n.d. (copy 1)
  - Notes on Samuel J. Hensley and John J. Myers, n.d. (copy 2)
  - Notes from Prairie Schooner Detours by Irene Paden, 1949 (copy 1)
  - Notes from Prairie Schooner Detours by Irene Paden, 1949 (copy 2)
  - Draft (typed) of *Billion Dollar Handshake* by Eugene Whitmore, n.d. (copy 1)
  - Draft (typed) of *Billion Dollar Handshake* by Eugene Whitmore, n.d. (copy 2)
- f. 3            Correspondences on Elijah McGee, 1946-1950, n.d.
- Letter from Georgia W. Read to George Green, 1946
  - Letter to Georgia W. Read, 1946
  - Letter from Georgia W. Read to James Anderson, 1946
  - Letter to Georgia W. Read, 1946
  - Letter to Georgia W. Read, 1946
  - Letter to James Anderson from Georgia W. Read, 1947
  - Letter to Georgia Read, 1947
  - Letter to James Anderson from Ruth Gaines, 1947
  - Letter to James Anderson from Ruth Gaines, 1947
  - Letter to Ruth Gaines from James Anderson, 1947
  - Miscellaneous memorandum, n.d.
  - Letter to Kansas City Star Editor from Rosena Giles, 1950
  - Letter to Rosina Giles from James Anderson, 1950
  - Ephemera for Shasta Centennial Committee, 1950
  - Ephemera for Shasta Centennial Celebration, 1950
  - Letter to James Anderson from Rosena Giles, 1950
  - Letter to Irene Paden from James Anderson, 1950
  - Letter to James Anderson from Irene Paden, 1950

#### LOCATION NOTE

The papers are stored onsite.

#### SUBJECT TERMS

Autobiographies  
 Mayors – Missouri – Kansas City  
 McGee, Elijah M.