



Great Flood of 1951 Collection (K1375)

Collection Number: K1375

Collection Title: Great Flood of 1951 Collection

Dates: 1951

Creator: Wilson, Steven

Abstract: The Great Flood of 1951 Collection contains postcards, picture books, and a letter and envelope from the American Red Cross of the Kansas City and Jackson County Chapter.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot
(1 folder)

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](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Great Flood of 1951 Collection* (K1375); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Kansas City].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Steven Wilson on March 23, 2018 (Accession No. KA2405).

Processed by: Processed by Whitney Heinzmann and intern, Caitlin Lewis, May 2018

Historical Note:

In July 1951, heavy summer rains led to a significant rise in water levels in the Kansas and Missouri Rivers and surrounding tributaries. Eventually, the rivers crested and flooded the surrounding river bottoms, including the West Bottoms district in downtown Kansas City. The damage to the Kansas City area was extensive, costing an estimated \$1 billion displacing around 30,000 residents. Along with water damage, fires broke out because of oily water and fuel tank explosions caused by the flooding.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in one folder.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection features three pictorial records of the July 1951 flood that devastated areas in Kansas and Missouri: "Aftermath," "Flood Disaster: Kansas City, 1951," and "The 1951 Flood in Greater Kansas City." The collection also contains a set of postcards titled "Photo Story of a Flood," with pictures of the flood published by Warner Studio and features photographs taken by Warner J. Untersee of Kansas City, Missouri. Additionally, the collection contains a letter of thanks from the American Red Cross to Juanita Stevens.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 Flood Materials, 1951

Index:

| Index Term | Folder | Image |
|--------------------|--------|-------|
| American Red Cross | 1 | |
| Kansas City (Mo.) | 1 | Yes |
| Kansas City (Kan.) | 1 | Yes |
| Flood | 1 | Yes |