

The STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY of MISSOURI
Research Center - Rolla

R1327 Lay, J. Gilbert, 1906-1986
Scrapbooks, ca. 1960s-1980s
Six volumes (1 cubic foot)

PROVENANCE

The James Memorial Library in St. James, Missouri donated Gilbert Lay's scrapbooks to the State Historical Society of Missouri on 21 September 2010, SHSMO-RA1499.

DESCRIPTION

Jewell Gilbert Lay was born April 17, 1906 to Louis James Lay (1867-1944) and Lena Isetta Browne Lay (1875-1973) at Cook Station in Crawford County, Missouri. He was a lifelong resident of Cook Station and was widely known as Church of God minister. Lay began holding revivals while he was in his early twenties, and by the time he marked his fiftieth year as a minister in 1985 had conducted revivals in forty-five states, including ninety in Oklahoma, eighty-eight in Missouri, and forty-four in Ohio. He was also instrumental in new construction and repair of churches during his lengthy stays in other states. Lay had the distinction of having the greatest number of continuous years as an evangelist associated with the Church of God. Rev. Lay's full-time ministry ended in 1978, but he continued his ministry teaching Bible classes and holding weekend services at the nursing home where he resided.

Lay was an avid genealogist and family historian. Beginning about the 1960s, he began to collect death notices, obituaries and other news items regarding individuals around Cook Station and the neighboring communities of Benton Creek, Cherryville, Dillard, Hawkins Bank, Winkler Bank, and other locations in Crawford, Dent, and Phelps counties. In sum, the scrapbooks comprise biographical sketches of the communities along the Frisco railroad's Salem Branch. Lay held memberships in the St. James Lions Club, Missouri Genealogical Society and the St. James Library Society. He died June 17, 1986 at the Salem Memorial Hospital in Salem, Missouri. He is interred in Asher Cemetery in Phelps County. His own obituary and death notices may be seen in Volume 6, pages 6-8. There are also numerous pages in the same volume devoted to Lay's mother, Lena Isetta (Browne) Lay of the Benton Creek community in Crawford County.

A complete index to the scrapbooks is available, as is a list of cemeteries and burying grounds associated with the individuals represented in the scrapbooks.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Gilbert Lay scrapbook collection includes six volumes containing obituaries and death notices for individuals who lived in Cook Station in Crawford County, Missouri, and surrounding communities. Also included are clippings of Lay's poetry and writings, advertisements of his revivals, local history items, and miscellaneous news. The collection also includes the Lay family genealogy. Numerous pages in volume 6 are devoted to Mrs. Lena Lay of Benton Creek, mother of Rev. Lay, who died June 5, 1973 at the age of 98.

INVENTORY

- V.1: Scrapbook, ca. 1960s-1974
(71 pages)
- V.2: Scrapbook, ca. 1960s-1970
(96 pages)
- V.3: Scrapbook, ca. 1960s-1978
(89 pages)
- V.4: Scrapbook, ca. 1960s-1980
(52 pages)
- V.5: Scrapbook, ca. 1960s-1988
(265 pages)
- V.6: Scrapbook, ca. 1960s-1986
(363 pages)

COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS

The State Historical Society of Missouri holds any copyright to the collections. There may be some restrictions.

PREFERRED CITATION

J. Gilbert Lay scrapbooks, 1960s-1986. The State Historical Society of Missouri

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Historical Society of Missouri
Research Center-Rolla
G-3 Library, Missouri University of Science and Technology
400 W. 14th Street
Rolla, MO 65409-1420
(573) 341-4871
shsresearch@umsystem.edu

INDEX TERMS

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