

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
K0043 (KA0040)
GOFF, WILLIAM A. (1908-1987) PAPERS, 1959-1983

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.

Introduction

Approximately 12 cubic feet

The papers of William A Goff include incoming and outgoing correspondence files, research materials and drafts of several of his written pieces, files on consultations he provided to other historians and historical groups, and files on various organizations in which he held membership and/or office.

The collection falls into several sections as follows:

Folders 1-57: Correspondence files which are arranged chronologically. These include some personal correspondence and considerable correspondence with fellow local historians around the state and nation. Goff's correspondence as editor of the *Westport Historical Quarterly* and as historian for the Westport Historical Society is included in this section. Folders 56 and 57 contain Goff's correspondence with Bob Bard of Baltimore concerning the carving of historically accurate miniature figures.

Folders 58-150: Research and writing files. This section includes a major section related to Goff's preparation of a manuscript on Reuben Smith for inclusion in LeRoy R. Hafen's *Mountain Men and the Fur Trade in the Far West*. His correspondence and manuscript drafts concerning Smith are included. Other topics covered in this section relate to Goff's preparation of *Old Westport* (1977) and other topics related to Westport, Missouri, the Santa Fe Trail and nineteenth century military history.

Folders 151-177: Consultations. This section includes Goff's correspondence with other historians as it related to special projects they undertook and in which Goff offers comments and/or critiques of their work. Included are draft copies of other authors' works, often annotated with Goff's handwritten comments in the margins.

Folders 178-208: Westport Historical Society. These materials include bylaws and minutes of meetings, correspondence, publications, and program announcements. Also included is a body of material related to the restoration of the Harris-Kearney House in Westport, Missouri, for which Goff served as a member of the restoration committee.

Folders 209-233: Other organizations. This section includes correspondence and publications of other organizations to which Goff belonged including the Civil War Roundtable and the Southern Skirmish Association as well as other local history organizations.

Cassette tapes: interview by Goff and Russell Bettis with Lester Medicus, son of police officer in Westport, Missouri in the 19th Century. Taped lecture by Thelma Christiansen concerning the mythical kingdom of Amerugia.

Biographical Statement

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William A. Goff was born in Sutherland, Johnson County, Missouri, on June 14, 1908. After moving from Missouri to Texas and then back to Missouri, Goff's family settled in Kansas City when he was six years old. He has resided in or near Kansas City ever since.

He was educated in the Kansas City, Missouri, and Kansas City, Kansas schools, graduating from Wyandotte High School in Kansas City, Kansas. After graduation he went to work for the Kansas City Southern and remained in the transportation business for forty-four years, working both for shippers and carriers.

Goff had an abiding interest in 19th century American History and in accuracy. His concern for accuracy and for history combined as he served as historian for the Westport Historical Society and as editor of its *Quarterly* from 1969 to 1975. During that same time, Goff contributed two essays to *Mountain Men and the Fur Trade in the Far West*, which LeRoy R. Hafen edited. Goff also prepared a number of other manuscripts for publication with emphasis on the history of Westport, Missouri.

Goff's interest in Westport history continued past his editorship of the *Westport Historical Quarterly*. He served as an historical consultant to a number of publishing projects related to Westport and the area and worked diligently to correct, through letters to the editors, what was erroneously accepted as fact about the community.

Donor Information

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by William A. Goff on August 27, 1980 (Accession No. KA0040). Subsequent additions were made by William A. Goff on February 17, 1981 (Accession No. KA0067); July 29, 1981 (Accession No. KA0101); November 10, 1982 (Accession No. KA0185); December 15, 1983 (Accession No. KA0224); July 27, 1984 (Accession No. KA0252); August 22, 1984 (Accession No. KA0253); September 12, 1984 (Accession No. KA0257); and March 18, 1985 (Accession No. KA0276).

Copyright and Restrictions

The Donor has given and assigned to the University of Missouri 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.

Location note:

The collection is stored offsite and will need to be retrieved before viewing.

Box List

BOX 001

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

f. 1-55 Correspondence, 1961-1983

RESEARCH AND WRITING

f. 56-57 Correspondence, Bob Bard, 1961-1969

f. 58-72 Correspondence, Reuben Smith, 1967-1969

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BOX 002

RESEARCH AND WRITING

- f. 73-85 Research, Reuben Smith
- f. 86-89 Manuscript drafts, Reuben Smith, 1968
- f. 90-92 Correspondence, Cimarron Crossing research
- f. 93-94 Research report, Cimarron Crossing
- f. 95-97 Manuscript, Cimarron Crossing
- f. 98 Research and draft manuscripts, Penn School
- f. 99-137 *Old Westport*
- f. 138 "The Phantom Lieutenant"
- f. 139 "Black Sunday in Jackson County, February 9, 1863"
- f. 140-141 Honing Errata, 1-47a
- f. 142-144 Manuscript, The Harris Family
- f. 145 Big Negro
- f. 146 Westport Land Transfers
- f. 147-150 Miscellaneous bibliographic notes

CONSULTATIONS

- f. 151 Manuscript, Gregory Franzwa, *The Oregon Trail Revisited*
- f. 152-162 Consultation, Gregory Franzwa, pp. 31-339, and bibliography
- f. 163 Consultation, *The Oregon Trail, A Potential Addition to the National Trails System*, 1974
- f. 164-167 Consultation, Don Draper
- f. 168 Manuscript, Madilyn Voights, *Kansas City*
- f. 169 Manuscript, William Strickland, *Quinine pills on the Missouri frontier between 1832 and 1862*
- f. 170 Manuscript, Neil Johnson, *Westport*
- f. 171 Correspondence, Patricia Miller, *Westport: Missouri's Port of Many Returns*
- f. 172-174 Manuscript, Patricia Miller manuscript
- f. 175-177 Consultation, Union Cemetery research notes and drafts

WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- f. 178-186 Westport Historical Society, 1967-1980

BOX 003

WESTPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- f. 187-188 Westport Historical Society, *Quarterly* articles
- f. 189-196 Westport Historical Society, Walking Tour
- f. 197-208 Westport Historical Society, Harris Kearney House, 1972-1980

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- f. 209-224 Civil War Roundtable, 1959-1978
- f. 225-231 Southern Skirmish Association, 1972-1973
- f. 232 Mid-America Heritage Council
- f. 233 Miscellaneous organizations

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BOX 004

MISCELLANEOUS

- f. 1 Henry Clay Pate, biographical information, court martial, military papers,
- f. 2 The Harris-Kearney House Story," handwritten draft
- f. 3 The Independence, Westport Road
- f. 4 Photograph Album, photos used for publication
- f. 5 George Ehrlich's book, errors
- f. 6 Harris book, introduction, prologue, drafts
- f. 7 Marc Simmons, Santa Fe Trail

Items 8-11 Index notecards (4 drawers)

BOOKS

Campaigns of the Civil War: Statistical Record, Antietam & Fredericksburg

BOX 005

MISCELLANEOUS

- f. 1 Ewing Papers (Ewing Bros.), Agents in Westport, Mo., 1845-1850

WESTPORT RESEARCH MATERIALS

- f. 2 Boone Store (Kelly's Tavern), Cemeteries, Churches
- f. 3 Harris Home clippings, Harris House Hotel
- f. 4 W.R. Nelson
- f. 5 Westport Town
- f. 6 United States District Courts
- f. 7 Roads, Tax Records from Sheriff Wm. Bott's Tax Book, 1857
- f. 8 Westport School Records
- f. 9 County Court Records
- f. 10 Westport Town Council Minutes and Tax Lists, 1869
- f. 11 Border Troubles
- f. 12 Mrs. M.G. Moore's correspondence with Gertrude Ragan
- f. 13 F. R. Berry letters
- f. 14 Mrs. Campbell correspondence
- f. 15 Miscellaneous papers
- f. 16 Bernard, William R.
- f. 17 Bogg's
- f. 18 Bridger, Jim
- f. 19 Dixon
- f. 20 Eckert
- f. 21 Kearney, C. E.
- f. 22 Lykins
- f. 23 McCoy
- f. 24 McGee
- f. 25 Parker/Richters
- f. 26 T. H. Rosser
- f. 27 Yeager

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LISTS

- f. 28 Kansas City Titles and Trust Co. property ownership records
- f. 29 1880 Business Directory
- f. 30 Kanas City Star List, March 26, 1933 (compiled in story by W. H. Harris)
- f. 31 1964 Centennial Landmark and Historical sites
- f. 32 1ST 1956 meeting
- f. 33 Solid men of Jackson Co., December 22, 1860
- f. 34 Road to Santa Fe

BIOGRAPHY-KANSAS CITY

- f. 35 Aubry
- f. 36 Chouteau's and Guinottes (Pioneer Fur Trade)
- f. 37 Andrew Davis
- f. 38 Gen. John W. Reid
- f. 39 Scarritt
- f. 40 Chick
- f. 41 Grand Louis
- f. 42 James Brice
- f. 43 Gilliss, William
- f. 44 Porter
- f. 45 Shelley
- f. 46 Wornall, Frank C.
- f. 47 Biography, Jackson County
- f. 48 Clippings
- f. 49 Biography, General
- f. 50 Chavez
- f. 51 Harrelson records
- f. 52 McLanahan, Josiah
- f. 53 Marmaduke, M. M.
- f. 54 Lt. Patrick H. Minor
- f. 55 Thomas Moseley, Jr.
- f. 56 Indian Agent by Robert E. Smith
- f. 57 Patterson, James
- f. 58 P. D. Papin

BOX 006

RESEARCH MATERIALS: KANSAS CITY and MISSOURI

- f. 1 Clippings
- f. 2 Borderland Books and Booklists
- f. 3 Flag
- f. 4 Fur Trade
- f. 5 GSA National Archives
- f. 6 Gold Rush
- f. 7 Indians
- f. 8 Independence, MO
- f. 9 Jackson County

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- f. 10 Larkin "Ha! Ha!" file
- f. 11 Johanna and Philip Kelly
- f. 12 Missouri History
- f. 13 Presidents
- f. 14 Railroads
- f. 15 Religion
- f. 16 Revolutionary War
- f. 17 St. Joseph
- f. 18 St. Louis
- f. 19 Santa Fe and Fur Trade
- f. 20 Scotland
- f. 21 Trails
- f. 22 Wells Fargo
- f. 23 Pony Express
- f. 24 The West

BOX 007

RESEARCH MATERIALS: KANSAS CITY and MISSOURI

Texas Panhandle #1 Scrapbook, Newspaper clippings, 1938, 1939
Texas Panhandle #2 Scrapbook, Golden Anniversary Edition, Amarillo Sunday News and
Globe, 1938
Three boxes research note cards
Steno notebook-research notes
Blacks-clips: "Black Minister Honored" by Wm. A. Goff
Rough notes
Deed records, Jackson County Historical Society Archives, 1835-1857
Personal recollections, John F. Darby
Boone Family Research Association
Casualties and losses in fur trade, records of A/C of United States Superintendence of
Indian Affairs, St. Louis, Mo.
Liberty Tribune, 1859
Kansas City Journal of Commerce
Border Star, 1858-1860
Kansa City Enterprise, 1850's
United States District Court records
Major Andrew Drips
American Fur Trade, 1833, miscellaneous correspondence

BOX 008

RESEARCH MATERIALS: KANSAS CITY and MISSOURI

Mounds to Mansions by Frances I. Flavill, copyright 1976; historical sites of the St.
Louis region
Stede Bonnet, "Gentleman Pirate" of the Carolina Coast by John G. Leland, copyright
1972

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Miscellaneous articles
Civil War and Missouri Militia
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Kansas City
Washington Township by Harvey Kemper
Better Than Burning, Frontier Marriage in Perspective by Edeen Martin
Kansas City Pioneer History by Dr. William Campbell
Creative writing class
Westport Quarterly, Decemeber 1972 and research note cards
Miscellaneous papers and articles written by William A. Goff
Miscellaneous maps and drawings
Photographs, border wars, phone log
Bureau of Indian Affairs, personal file
Obituaries, miscellaneous mementos, boxing
Battle of Westport by Abrahamson & Henninger
Battle of Westport, Capt. Wagone & Grinter farm fight
U.D.C. magazine clips, Story of Lone Jack
Lists and Roosters; Civil War
Guerrillas
Transcript of Civil War Letters

BOX 009

RESEARCH MATERIALS: KANSAS CITY and MISSOURI

Oversize photo, 61st reunion of Battle of Westport, 1925
Notecards
Drawing pad with sketches
Abstract of title, 500 Westport Road
"The American Soldier"
School notebook- for shop or woodworking class
"Order Book" scrapbook with clippings of pictures, uniforms, wildlife and animals
Honig errata, 1987
Transcriptions of materials in SHSMO-KC Snyder Collection (K0025): Wm. Gregg; Col.
B. Lazear; Jos. R. Simmons, Waddle/McCoy

Box 010x3

Roll 1	Gillham Road Plat Map
Location	Gillham Rd., Kansas City, Missouri
Designer	Unknown
Date	n.d.

Roll 2	Kansas City area plat maps showing Westport
Location	Kansas City, Missouri
Designer	Unknown
Date	n.d.

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Roll 3	Kansas City Quadrangle Missouri-Kansas, 7.5 Minute Series
Location	Kansas City, Missouri
Designer	United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey
Date	1957