K0293
1913-1991
12 folders

Research notes and writings of a local historian focused on the southern part of Kansas City and Jackson County, MO.

BIOGRAPHY:

William Lee Crotty was born January 6, 1896, in Rosedale, Kansas. He was raised and lived most of his life in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1915, Mr. Crotty moved to the Watts Mill area, then known as Dallas, Missouri. He lived in the same house until he passed away on September 19, 1991. Elsie, his wife of 67 years, died in 1983. After a brief time with the Missouri Pacific Railroad, his professional life was spent as a master welder. 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.

Mr. Crotty was known for his wit and knowledge of the history of the area. His main interest was the Watts Mill area and he wrote many stories about the original operators of the Mill. He also wrote about the Red Bridge area, Martin City, State Line, Jackson County, Missouri, and also Peculiar, Missouri. Much of this work was published locally.

PROVENANCE:

The papers were donated by William Crotty, Jr. as accession KA0674 on March 16, 1992. The Dallas, MO, School Board Minutes were removed to K0487.
COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS:

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PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; William Lee Crotty (1896-1991) Papers (K0293); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS:

Most of the items included are stories by Mr. Crotty both published and unpublished. There are also newspaper articles about him and his historic home, and articles about the subjects with which he was so familiar, such as Watts Mill and Red Bridge.

INVENTORY:

Folder 1. Published article about Dallas, Missouri and Watts Mill:
"The Unusual Tale of a Dallas You May Not Know, (Watts Mill)", July 1985; The first three issues of the 103rd Shopper about Watts Mill ca. 1983.

Folder 2. Article about Watts Mill:
"The Old Watts Mill, 1832-1942".

Folder 3. Articles about Dallas, Missouri:
"A Short History of Dallas, Missouri and The Old Watts Mill"; "Dallas, Missouri -- Watts Town, USA."; "Dallas"; "The Dallas School"; "Dallas Watts Town"; Untitled article about Dallas, Missouri; Chapter titled, "School".

Folder 4. Article about Wyatt family history.
Folder 5. Articles about the history of little known areas in greater Kansas City, Missouri:
"A Brief Sketch of the Early History of New Santa Fe, Santa Fe, or Little Sante Fe"; "History of Washington Township and Some of the Schools"; portion of untitled article on Oxford, Kansas.

Folder 6. Articles about Jim Bridger:
"Jim Bridger and Dallas, Mo."; "Jim Bridger"; "The unsolved mystery of Jim Bridger's headstone"; another article-"Jim Bridger".

Folder 7. Articles about Martin City, Missouri:
"Martin City"; "A Little Bit About Our Neighborhood"; other various pages about Martin City history.

Folder 8. Handwritten research notes.

Folder 9. Autobiographical article by William Crotty:
"Pioneering in the Early Twenties".

Folder 10. Unpublished articles:
"The State Line"; "Red Bridge"; "The Duck Road and How it Happened"; "Doctor Brainard"; "George Caleb Bingham and Order #11"; "How Did Peculiar Missouri Get Its Name, 1984"; "Herman Voigts".

Folder 11. Newspaper articles:

Folder 12. Articles about William Crotty: