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INTRODUCTION
The papers of a former journalist, educator, and author of several books on women in Missouri history.

DONOR INFORMATION
The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Jerena East Giffen on 27 August 2000 (Accession No. 5898).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
Jerena East attended high school in Rolla, Missouri, and became assistant editor of the school paper. Later she enrolled at Drury College and took over the editorship of the student newspaper. She also worked writing news for two radio stations and was a part-time reporter for the United Press in Springfield, Missouri. In her senior year, East transferred to the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Journalism, where she also worked for the United Press.

After graduation, East was hired in 1947 by United Press and sent to Dallas, Texas. In 1948 she was transferred to Jefferson City, Missouri, to cover the state legislative session. Two years later she became the first female bureau chief for a wire service in Jefferson City and held that position until 1957. During this period, she handled numerous events, such as the Missouri prison riots and the executions of Carl Austin Hall and Bonnie Brown Heady, who kidnapped and murdered Bobby Greenlease, the son of a wealthy Kansas City automobile dealership owner.

Following her marriage to Dr. Lawrence Giffen, a Jefferson City physician, Jerena East Giffen resigned her position with the UPI wire service.

In 1980, Giffen received her M.A. in Public Administration, and in 1989, a PhD in Political Science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She subsequently taught at the University of Missouri-Columbia and Rolla. In 1993, Giffen took a position as Adjunct Assistant Professor at Lincoln University.

Giffen published several books including, The House on Hobo Hill, Plus Two for Jay Hill, First Ladies of Missouri: Their Homes and Their Families, and finished a book her husband began before he passed away called Walks on Water: The Impact of Steamboats on the Lower Missouri River.

Over the years, Giffen won numerous awards and honors, along with a record of community involvement and public service.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers have been arranged into the following eight series:

- **Teaching Material**
- **Research Material**
- **Course Material**
- **Books**
- **Reporting**
- **Writing**
- **Speeches**
- **Miscellaneous Material**

The **Teaching Material** series consists of a format for a teacher’s television training session, lectures for political science courses, public policy tests/syllabus, student papers, business administration courses, and public administration.

The **Research Material** series consists of research material Giffen used for her book on Mary Whitney Phelps. This included material on John Smith Phelps, General Nathaniel Lyon, and the Civil War Battle of Wilson’s Creek. There is also research material on other topics, such as voting behavior, government, the Civil War Battle of Pea Ridge, and Andrew Taylor Still, M.D., founder of the first school of Osteopathic Medicine.

The **Course Material** series consists of the material Giffen used for the courses she took for her advanced degree/doctorate. They include material on Missouri government. The series includes papers on topics such as Media Impact, Public Information Effectiveness, Jefferson City, Public Opinion via the Media, and Giffen’s dissertation proposal.

The **Books** series contains a copy of Giffen’s book, *Mary, Mary, Quite... The Life and Times of Mary Whitney Phelps*, and material on the promotion of her book, *First Ladies of Missouri*.

The **Reporting** series consists of two reporter’s notebooks with notes on the execution of Carl Austin Hall and Bonnie Brown Heady, who were executed for the kidnapping and murder of Bobby Greenlease in 1953. Also included is an article she wrote about it. The other notebook covers the individuals involved in the Missouri Prison Riot in 1954.

The **Writing** series consists of biographies and articles Giffen wrote, including one on Carrie Francke, Assistant State Attorney General, running for Congress at age 29, and dying in an automobile accident in 1989.

The **Speeches** series covers topics such as the sesquicentennial celebration, history of schools in Jefferson City, Missouri, the reporting of the Hall/Heady execution, the book industry, legislative reporting, on the “Why of a Journalist,” and discussion of her book, *The House on Hobo Hill*.

The **Miscellaneous Material** series consists of a report of the Capitol Decoration Commission, 1917-1928; newspapers, articles, letters, 1959-2006; and Giffen’s University of Missouri-Columbia, Sesquicentennial Commencement in 1989.
FOLDER LIST

**Teaching Material** Series

- f. 1  Teacher TV, 1976-1991
- f. 2  1981-1986
- f. 3  1984
- f. 4  1985-1989
- f. 5  1986
- f. 7  Student Papers, 1987-1995
- f. 8-10 Public Policy, Tests/Syllabus, 1988-1991
- f. 11 Teacher TV, 1988-1991
- f. 13 TV Tape-Political Science, 1990, 1991
- f. 14 TV Tape-Political Science, Also 3 videocassettes, 1991
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- f. 16 Business Administration-571, 1994
- f. 17-26 Public Administration, Basic Course, 1994

**Research Material** Series

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- f. 30 Mary Phelps Montgomery, 1936-2006
- f. 31 Mary Phelps Montgomery, Phelps Family, 1943-2002
- f. 32 Voting Behavior, 1964-1989
- f. 33 Battle of Wilson’s Creek, General Nathaniel Lyon, 1975-2006
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f. 53 Public Opinion Via The Media, PS 407, 1983
f. 54 Will the Real Press Secretary Please Stand Up? PS 406, 1983
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f. 59 1984-1990
f. 60 Chronicity in the Media and Its Influence on Political Decisions, PS 419, 1985
f. 61 1985-1992
f. 62 Dissertation Proposal, Political Participation and Media Use, 1986
f. 63 1989-1993

Books Series

f. 64 First Ladies of Missouri, including photos of Mary Phelps Montgomery, Russell Montgomery, Mrs. Henry S. Caulfield and Mrs. Herbert S. Hadley, 1970-1971
f. 65 First Ladies of Missouri, including photos of Mrs. Park, Mrs. Sam A Baker, and book signing photo, 1970-1976
f. 66 Mary, Mary, Quite....The Life and Times of Mary Whitney Phelps, 1812-1878, 2008

Reporting Series

f. 67 Greenlease Kidnapping and Murder, Hall/Heady Execution, and Missouri Prison Riot, 1953-1954

Writing Series

f. 68 Biographies, Articles, 1970-1992
Speeches Series

f. 69  1964-1993

Miscellaneous Material Series

f. 70  Report of the Capitol Decoration Commission, 1917-1928
f. 71  Newspaper Articles, Letters, 1959-2006
f. 72  University of Missouri, Columbia Sesquicentennial Commencement, Jerena E. Giffen, 1989

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