

C Donnelly, Robert T., Papers, 1924-1999
4246 2.0 cubic feet (41 folders), 2 oversize items

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The Robert T. Donnelly papers document the life of Robert Donnelly, who served as an infantryman in World War II, and a Supreme Court Justice in Missouri for twenty years. The collection contains the letters, postcards, and newspapers he sent home during the war as well as numerous documents, newspapers, and letters from his Supreme Court days. The collection also features pictures and books about his regiment and Supreme Court Cases.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Papers were donated to the University of Missouri on 13 December 1999 by Susie (Wanda Sue) Donnelly (Accession No. 5827).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Robert T. Donnelly was born August 31, 1924, in Lebanon, Missouri, to Tom and Sybil Justine Donnelly. When he was two, his family moved to Oklahoma where he graduated from Tulsa Central in 1942. He joined the army in 1943 and fought in France and Germany with the 405th Infantry Regiment of the 102nd Division as a Staff Sergeant. After returning home he married Susie Oates in 1946, and they moved to Columbia, Missouri. He graduated from The University of Missouri Law School in the summer of 1949 and worked in Greenfield until he was offered a job with MFA Mutual in January 1951. He worked there until 1965. In 1965 Robert was appointed to the Supreme Court of Missouri where he was elected Chief Justice twice in 1972 and 1981. He served as a justice until January 1, 1989, and lived with his wife until his death on June 16, 1999.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers have been divided into the following three series:

World War II
Court
Oversize

The **World War II** series contains the letters, postcards, and newspapers he sent home from 1943 to 1949. It has been arranged chronologically. The **Court** series contains the court documents from his law career, including case reports for cases he worked on as an attorney and as a Supreme Court justice. It also contains correspondence, speeches Donnelly authored, numerous newspaper articles and photographs. The **Oversize** series contains resolutions from the Missouri Bar Association and the Senate honoring Donnelly for his service.

FOLDER LIST

World War II Series

- f. 1 Correspondence, May-June, 1943
- f. 2 Correspondence, July-Sep., 1943
- f. 3 Correspondence, Oct.-Dec., 1943
- f. 4 Correspondence, Jan.-Mar., 1944
- f. 5 Correspondence, Apr.-May, 1944
- f. 6 Correspondence, June-Sep., 1944
- f. 7 Correspondence, Oct.-Dec., 1944
- f. 8 Correspondence, Jan.-Feb., 1945
- f. 9 Correspondence, Mar.-May, 1945
- f. 10 Correspondence, June-July, 1945
- f. 11 Correspondence, Aug.-Sep., 1945
- f. 12 Correspondence, Oct.-Nov., 1945, May 1949
- f. 13 Correspondence, Undated
- f. 14 Postcards, Mar. 1943-May, 1945
- f. 15 Newspaper Clips and Misc.
- f. 16 *With the 102d Infantry Division Through Germany*, by Major Allan Mick

Court Series

- f. 17 Supreme Court papers, 1960-69
- f. 18 Supreme Court papers, 1970-76
- f. 19 Supreme Court papers, 1976-79
- f. 20 Supreme Court papers, 1980
- f. 21 Supreme Court papers, 1981
- f. 22 Supreme Court papers, Jan., 1982
- f. 23 Supreme Court papers, Feb.-Mar., 1982
- f. 24 Supreme Court papers, Apr.-May 1982
- f. 25 Supreme Court papers, June-Sep., 1982
- f. 26 Supreme Court papers, Oct.-Dec., 1982
- f. 27 Supreme Court papers, 1983
- f. 28 Supreme Court papers, 1984
- f. 29 Supreme Court papers, 1985-86
- f. 30 Supreme Court papers, 1987
- f. 31 Supreme Court papers, 1988
- f. 32 Supreme Court papers, 1989
- f. 33 Supreme Court papers, 1990-92
- f. 34 Supreme Court papers, 1993-2000
- f. 35 Supreme Court papers, Undated
- f. 36 Supreme Court papers, Misc.
- f. 37 Photos
- f. 38 Court Cases, 1956-60
- f. 39 Court Cases, 1965-1985
- f. 40 *The First Twenty Years* – Donnelly's 20th Anniversary on the court

f. 41 *West's Missouri Cases* – Presentation of Portrait for Donnelly

Oversize series Location B-5

Item 1 Senate Resolution, November 20, 2000

Item 2 Missouri Bar Resolution, July 29, 1988

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