

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [998.291]

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

“Walks in Water:” Steamboating on the Lower Missouri River Manuscript

Abstract: Draft manuscript by Lawrence Everett Giffen on steamboats in the Lower Missouri River; author died before completion.

Extent: 360 typed pages

Physical Description: Paper

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: None

Access Restrictions: None

Publication Restrictions: Standard copyright rules apply

Preferred Citation: Giffen, Lawrence Everett, 2001, [page]; “Walks in Water:” Steamboating on the Lower Missouri River Manuscript, Record Group 998.291; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift; Accession #2002-0030

Processing Information: Processing completed by EW on 05/18/2017.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

“This book combined three of the great loves of Larry Giffen’s life. First of all, Larry had an insatiable love of knowledge. Those who knew him, knew that his enthusiasm for learning had no bounds. He earned five degrees in his all-too-short life. At the time of his death on March 1, 1999, he was completing requirements for a sixth degree – a Ph.D. in history from the University of Missouri-Columbia. ‘Walks in Water:’ *Steamboating on the Lower Missouri River* was to have been Larry’s dissertation, the capstone of his doctoral work.

“Larry Giffen loved medicine. A practicing physician for more than a half-century, he brought a doctor’s perspective to the study of steamboat traffic on the Missouri River. Readers of this book will find Larry’s reporting on the spread of cholera by steamboat traffickers among the most fascinating elements of the story.

“Larry Giffen loved the Missouri River. As a young physician, he commuted along the river to his practice in Chamois, Missouri. In his later years, he lived on a bluff overlooking it. Indeed, the study in which he wrote the bulk of this book provided him with one of the most majestic views of the Missouri River anywhere.

“There is another love evidenced in this book: the love of Jere Giffen for her husband. Jere knew better than anyone how much this book meant to Larry. When Larry passed away with the book not yet finished, Jere resolved to complete the task. Readers of [the book] will be thankful that she did – it is a good book, by a good man.”

Quoted from the Foreword of the published version of Giffen’s book, Foreword by Gary R. Kremer, Professor of History, William Woods University, August 19, 2001

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

MS174 Huber Ledger Books (steamboat records)
MS180 Steamboat and Train Bills of Lading
MS385 Donald Carl Butzer Collection (steamboat images)
MS484 Edmund Jones Photo Album (steamboat images)
RG133 Missouri Adjutant General (for Mormon War, etc.)
RG325 Missouri State Board of Equalization Railroad Journals, 1872-1903 (unprocessed)

Giffen, Lawrence Everett. “Walks in Water:” Steamboating on the Lower Missouri River. Jefferson City, MO: Giffen Enterprises, 2001. Call No. 386 G457.

Additional External Resources

The State Historical Society, Missouri History Museum, Library of Congress, and many other institutions maintain steamboat collections.

[Lexington Wharfage Register](#) available online through Missouri Digital Heritage, courtesy of Battle of Lexington State Historic Site.

SERIES

Manuscript, c1999

Scope and Content

This is the draft manuscript by Lawrence Everett Giffen that was intended to be his dissertation at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Giffen died before completing his degree, and his wife Jerena East Giffen completed the manuscript and had it published. The Archives also has a copy of the published version in the Reference collection.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	96	20-22	Manuscript of <u>"Walks in Water: The Impact of Steamboating on the Lower Missouri River"</u>	c1999