



Clayton Abbott Collection (R0581)

Collection Number: R0581

Collection Title: Clayton Abbott Collection

Dates: 1958-1976

Creator: Abbott, German Clayton, 1900-1987

Abstract: The Clayton Abbott Collection contains research materials on Cedar County, Missouri, compiled by local Stockton historian and author Clayton Abbott. The material includes newspaper clippings, transcripts of letters and documents, and drafts of Abbott's writings.

Collection Size: 0.3 cubic foot
(20 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: This collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information and about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Clayton Abbott Collection* (R0581); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The collection was donated to the University of Missouri by Mildred K. Abbott on December 1, 1987 (Accession No. RA0397).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Clayton Abbott Collection can be found in the following collections:

[Cedar County, Missouri Photograph Collection](#) (R0282)
[Garrott Philpott Papers](#) (R0924)

[William Davidson Hoff Papers](#) (R1174)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, May 31, 1996. Revised by Niki Cox-Miniea, March 5, 2024.

Biographical Note:

German Clayton Abbott was born just east of Stockton, Missouri on March 9, 1900, to Virginia Francis Hudson and Benjamin Franklin Seth Abbott. Clayton completed the first six grades of school in the Alder District, then entered the seventh grade in Stockton, commuting daily from his home. After five years in the Stockton Schools and a stint in the United States Navy, he attended Southwest Missouri State College (now Missouri State University) at Springfield where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1924. He taught one year in the high school at Momence, Illinois, then enrolled in the University of Wisconsin at Madison and earned a Master of Arts degree in 1926. He later taught school three years in the Philippines and a year and a half in California.

Clayton was first married to Mimi Margelin in California in 1931, and before divorcing in 1946, the couple had three children: Stella, Mary, and James Julius. In 1935, Abbott accepted employment with the California State Employment Service as Supervisor of the Placement Division at Stockton, California. This was at the height of the great influx into California of refugees from the dust bowl areas of the central west, and Abbott directed these migrant workers to employers in the fruit and vegetable growing areas of the San Joaquin Valley.

When World War II began, he was transferred by the Department to Long Beach to the Center of National Defense Activities in the southern part of the state. There he supervised the distribution of war workers to defense jobs throughout the Pacific Coast. After retirement in 1962, Clayton returned to Cedar County and began pursuing his ambition of writing its history. In June of 1967, Clayton Abbott married Mildred Nova Kirkpatrick Nelson, a Stockton High School teacher. He died on October 5, 1987, and is buried at Stockton Cemetery in Stockton, Missouri.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged by subject.

Scope and Content Note:

This collections contains materials related to the history of Cedar County, Missouri, compiled by Clayton Abbott, a local historian and author from Stockton. The material, arranged topically, includes newspaper clippings, transcripts of letters and documents, and drafts of Abbott's writings. The topics include early settlement, churches, schools, the history of El Dorado Springs, stories of the Gold Rush and the Civil War, post offices, and driving tours of Cedar County.

Some of the material in the Abbott collection was used in his writings on local history. Abbott authored or collaborated in several works on Cedar County, including *Historical Sketches of Cedar County* (1967), *Missouri History in Cedar County* (1971) by Clayton Abbott and Lewis B. Hoff, and contributions to *Historical Tours of Cedar County, Missouri* (1977).

Container List:

Box 001	f. 1	Cedar County churches, 1971-1981
	f. 2	Civil War stories, no date
	f. 3	Early settlement, 1976, no date
	f. 4	El Dorado Springs history, no date
	f. 5	"On the Golden Trail," a Gold Rush memoir by Felix G. Coats in 1915, transcribed 1963
	f. 6	William Davidson Hoff, no date
	f. 7	Historical notes and quotations from original documents, 1969-1971, no date
	f. 8	Masonic Lodge, Knights of Pythias, 1939, 1967, no date
	f. 9	Virginia Olivia Ireson Montgomery biographical information, no date
	f. 10	Newspaper articles by Mary Huff Nance, 1960s-1976, no date
	f. 11	Post offices of Cedar County, no date
	f. 12	Schools and teachers' institutes, no date
	f. 13	"Seventy Years Ago This Week," from the <i>Cedar County Republican and Stockton Journal</i> , 1917, 1966
	f. 14	Tours: Crow's Mill on Bear Creek, Bovell House, Jericho, and White Hare, 1976, no date
	f. 15	Tours: Stockton, Dunnegan Mill, Owen's Mill, Arnica, Ivy, Cedar Mill, and Caplinger Mill, no date
	f. 16	Tours: Virgil City, Filley, Clintonville, Hackleman Cemetery, Pleasant View, Balm, El Dorado Springs, no date
	f. 17	Tours: Umber, Cane Hill, Bona, and Hartley, no date
	f. 18	Unpublished stories: Bruce-Decker mystery, Keet kidnapping, and "The South," no date
	f. 19	William Wells biographical information, no date
	f. 20	Jess Yancey murder, no date

Index:

Index Terms	Folder
Abbott, German Clayton, 1900-1987	1-20
Arnica (Mo.)	11, 15
Balm (Mo.)	14, 16
Bona (Mo.)	11, 17
Cane Hill (Mo.)	3, 11, 17
Caplinger Mills (Mo.)	11, 15
Cedar County (Mo.)	1-20
Cedar Mill (Mo.)	15
Churches--Missouri--Cedar County	1, 16
Clintonville (Mo.)	16
Coats, Felix Grundy, 1828-1916	5
Crisp, John, 1808-1876	3, 7
Crow's Mill (Mo.)	14

Index Terms	Folder
Dunnegan Mill (Mo.)	15
El Dorado Springs (Mo.)	4, 7, 11, 16
Filley (Mo.)	16
Gold mines and mining--Personal narratives	5, 7, 19
Hartley (Mo.)	16-17
Hoff, William Davidson, 1839-1914	6
Ivy (Mo.)	15
Jericho (Mo.)	7, 11, 13-14
Keet, Lloyd, 1915-1917	18
Livingston, Thomas R., 1820-1863	2
Missouri--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1-2, 4, 14-16, 19
Montevallo (Mo.)	2, 4
Montgomery, Virginia Olivia Ireson, 1898-1978	9
Nance, Mary Ann Huff, 1885-1976	4, 7, 10
Owen's Mill (Mo.)	11, 15
Pleasant View (Mo.)	11, 16
Postal service--Missouri--Cedar County	3, 11, 16-17
Sadler, Susanne M., 1930-1998	12
Schools--Missouri--Cedar County	4, 10, 12-13, 15-16
Stockton (Mo.)	3, 6-9, 11, 13-15, 18
Umber (Mo.)	3, 11, 17
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865	1-2, 4, 6-7, 14-16, 19
Vernon County (Mo.)	2, 4
Virgil City (Mo.)	4, 11, 16
Wells, William, 1824-1862	19
White Hare (Mo.)	11, 14
Yancey, Jesse Benton, 1879-1923	15, 20