

CROWE, MILBOURN J.
(MILBOURN JAMES), 1933-2005.
Milbourn J. Crowe papers, 1889-2005

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Crowe, Milbourn J. (Milbourn James), 1933-2005.
Title: Milbourn J. Crowe papers, 1889-2005
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1084
Extent: 8 linear ft. (8 boxes), 4 oversized papers (OP), and 3 bound volumes (BV)
Abstract: Papers and collected material of Milbourn J. Crowe, including correspondence, memorabilia, photographs, and printed material, which relate to the history of Mound Bayou, Mississippi.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Separated Material

Books that arrived with this collection have been catalogued separately.

Source

Gift, 2008.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Milbourn J. Crowe papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Unprocessed collection.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note

Milbourn James Crowe (1933-2005) was born on March 15, 1933 to Altie and Henry Crowe of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. Crowe spent his childhood in Mound Bayou, but moved to Chicago, Illinois and attended Wilson College in the early 1950s. In 1953, Crowe joined the United States Air Force, where he trained in communications until he was honorably discharged in 1958. Crowe returned to Mound Bayou in 1962 and became the owner and operator of the Coffee Pot restaurant. After settling back in his hometown, Crowe became dedicated to preserving the history of Mound Bayou, an all-African American community founded by Isaiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green, former slaves of Joseph Davis, brother of Jefferson Davis. Crowe founded the Mound Bayou Historical Society and the Historic Mound Bayou Foundation, and served as an officer in the Mound Bayou Historic Preservation Committee. Crowe was also active in Mound Bayou's government, serving as City Clerk and Election Commissioner and Manager over the years. Crowe died in Mound Bayou on September 11, 2005.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of the papers and collected material of Milbourn J. Crowe, including correspondence, memorabilia, photographs, and printed material, all of which relate to the history of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. The bulk of the collection consists of photographs of Mound Bayou residents, many of which are unidentified, from the 1910s through 2005. Additional material includes community records and histories which document the establishment of the town by Isaiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green and its growth throughout the 20th century. Also included are legal records and local business ledgers, including those of P.R. McCarty's Store. Of particular interest are abstracts of land titles, which summarize the various legal actions that affected the ownership of land parcels in Mound Bayou, beginning in 1889. The collection also includes a small amount of correspondence addressed to Crowe, in addition to memorabilia, and a diary which Crowe began in the 1980s.

Arrangement Note

Unprocessed collection.

Container List

| Box | Folder | Content |
|------------|---------------|---|
| 1 | | Correspondence, community records and histories, clippings, and legal documents, 1899-2005 |
| 2 | | Correspondence, community records and histories, clippings, and legal documents, 1899-2005; Crowe's diary, 1985-1995 |
| BV1 | | Ledger book, P.R. McCarty's store, 1914-1927 |
| BV2 | | Ledger book, P.R. McCarty's store, 1928-1932 |
| BV3 | | Ledger book, P.R. McCarty's store, 1932-1938 |
| 3 | | Memorabilia |
| 4 | | Memorabilia |
| OP1 | | Photograph, framed |
| 5 | | Photographs [includes hand sewn cards and compact discs containing digital photos; also includes photograph of Joseph Davis's slaves in front of main house near Davis Bend, Mississippi] |
| 6 | | Photographs |
| 7 | | Photographs |
| 8 | | Photographs |
| OP2 | | Photographs |
| OP3 | | Printed material |
| OP4 | | Public records, Abstracts of Land Titles of Mount Bayou, Bolivar County, Mississippi, 1889- |
