

**Guide to the
Cape Girardeau Flood Photographs, 1922
April 21-22, 1922**

11 items

2001.051



Abstract:

Eleven b/w 3.5" x 5 3/8" photographic postcards of Mississippi River flooding scenes on the Cape Girardeau riverfront, showing the Frisco Passenger Station, the shoe factory, the buildings along Water Street, sandbagging efforts, and a train running on the flooded tracks, 1922.

Processed by: Dr. Lisa Speer

Special Collections and Archives
Kent Library
One University Plaza, MS 4600
Southeast Missouri State University
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
Phone: (573) 651-2245; Fax (573) 651-2666; Email: semoarchives@semo.edu

Descriptive Overview

Provenance: Unknown.

Citation: Cape Girardeau Flood Photographs, Special Collections and Archives, Southeast Missouri State University

Restrictions: None.

Other Descriptive Data: To order reproductions of the images or inquire about permissions, please contact Special Collections at semoarchives@semo.edu or (573) 651-2245.

Historical Note

Prior to the construction of the floodwall and earthen levee along the Mississippi riverfront in Cape Girardeau, flooding was a common annual occurrence. The most destructive floods occurred in 1927, 1943, 1944, 1947, and 1951. In 1922, the river crested at 38 feet, six feet above flood stage. Flooding threatened local riverfront businesses, forcing many merchants to close, often for extended periods of time, when sandbagging efforts failed to keep rising waters out of their stores. Floodwaters also covered the railroad tracks along the riverfront, occasionally halting transportation through the region. Construction of a floodwall and earthen levees extending 7,210 feet along the Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau began in 1956 and was completed in 1964 at a cost of \$4 million. The 4,000-foot floodwall is designed to hold back the river at a 54-foot flood stage.¹

Scope and Content Note

Eleven sepia photographic postcards (3.5" x 5 3/8") showing Mississippi river flood scenes in the downtown Cape Girardeau, Missouri area, with particular emphasis on the railroad, the Frisco depot, and riverfront businesses. Postcard scenes described on verso in unidentified hand and dated "Apr 1922." Two scenes credited to Kassel Studio, a commercial photographic studio in Cape Girardeau.

Rules or Conventions: Finding aid prepared using DACS

¹ *Images of the Past in the City of Roses*, (Cape Girardeau, Mo.: Southeast Missourian Newspaper, 1993): 197, 205.

Container List

Item	Description	Date
Item 001	View of Water Street taken from the Bald Eagle	1922 Apr [21-22]
Item 002	View taken from Main Street	1922 Apr [21-22]
Item 003	View taken from N.E. corner of Frisco Passenger Station	1922 Apr [21-22]
Item 004	View taken from a building on Independence Street	1922 Apr [21-22]
Item 005	View taken from courthouse	1922 Apr [21-22]
Item 006	View of shoe factory taken from railroad track	1922 Apr 21
Item 007	View taken from Main and Mill Streets	1922 Apr [21-22]
Item 008	View taken from Frisco freight depot	1922 Apr [21-22]
Item 009	Taken from the corner of Main and Independence Streets	1922 Apr [21-22]
Item 010	View of Water Street taken from railroad track	1922 Apr [21-22]
Item 011	View taken from Mississippi River near the old Frisco Passenger Station	1922 Apr 22