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Creator
   Forsythe, James L., Ph.D.

Title
   Dr. James L. Forsythe Collection, 1809-1994.

Date
   1809-1994

Extent
   .42 linear feet (1 document box)

Language
   English

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Biographical/Historical Note

Dr. James L. Forsythe was born December 18, 1934 in Bransford, Texas. He married Sherrill Kay Zartman on August 10, 1956. They had three sons, James L. Forsythe, Jr., Garen David Forsythe, and Dana Sean Forsythe. Dr. Forsythe passed away
on December 16, 2011.

Dr. Forsythe received a Bachelor of Science Degree in History in 1960 and his Master's Degree in History with a minor in Economics in 1962. Both degrees were from North Texas State University. In 1971, he received his Ph.D. in History with a minor in Economics from the University of New Mexico.

In 1977, Dr. Forsythe wrote *The first 75 years: A History of Fort Hays State University*. In 2002, Dr. Forsythe published his second historical book about Fort Hays State University entitled *Lighthouse on the plains: Fort Hays State University, 1902-2002*.

Dr. Forsythe began his work at FHSU in 1963 as an Assistant Professor of History. In 1968, he became an Associate Professor and in 1971, a Professor. From 1975 to 1981 he served as Chair of the Department of History. He became the Dean of the Graduate School in 1981 and added the position of Vice Provost of Academic Affairs in 1993. He was also president of both the Western Social Science Association and the Kansas State Historical Society. Dr. Forsythe retired December 10, 1999.

**Abstract**

This collection consists of materials created by Dr. James L. Forsythe, noted Kansas historian, professor and chair of the History Department at Fort Hays State University, and former president of the Kansas State Historical Society. It includes audio cassette tapes of interviews, speeches, and chronicles; and copies of photographs from regional public, academic, and special collection libraries. There are also photographs possibly from a meeting with members of the Kansas State Historical Society.

**Scope and Content Note**

Dr. James L. Forsythe collection is housed in one archival document box dating from 1809 to 1994; and arranged into four series. The collection is comprised mainly of copies of black and white photographs from the Denver Public Library, Western History Department, Denver, Colorado; History Colorado, Denver, Colorado; Kansas Collection, University of Kansas Libraries, Lawrence, Kansas; Joseph J. Pennell Collection, Kansas Collection, University of Kansas Libraries, Lawrence, Kansas; and Wichita State University Special Collections, Wichita, Kansas.

There are also audio cassette tapes of interviews, speeches, and chronicles; papers of Dr. Forsythe’s mostly dealing with the annual spring meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society, May 21, 1983; photographs possibly from a meeting with officers and the executive committee of the Kansas State Historical Society; Dr. Forsythe’s Vita, 1994; and copies of the 1885 census of Graham County and Nicodemus Township, Kansas.
Arrangement of Materials

The Dr. James L. Forsythe Collection is arranged into four series:

I. Dr. James L. Forsythe’s papers and photographs
II. Census 1885: Graham County and Nicodemus Township, Kansas
III. Photographs: Ethnic Groups
IV. Audio Cassette Tapes: Interviews, Speeches, Chronicles

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Names(s)
- Denver Public Library
- Fort Hays State University
- History Colorado
- Kansas State Historical Society
- Kansas State University
- University of Kansas
- Wichita State University

Personal Names(s)
- Angelou, Maya
- Forsythe, James L.
- Walker, Alice, 1944-

Subject(s)
- Cathedral of the Plains (Victoria, Kan.)
- Ethnic groups
- Kansas--History
- Volga Germans

Container List / Contents

Kansas State Historical Society, President’s files, 1982-1983 Box 1, Folder 1
Photographs, black & white, ca. 1982 Box 1, Folder 2
Vita, James L. Forsythe, Ph.D., June 1, 1994 Box 1, Folder 3
Census records, Graham County, Nicodemus Township, 1885 Box 1, Folder 4
Photographs, Ethnic groups, black & white, Denver Public Library, Western Collection; History Colorado; Wichita State University, Special Collections, 1902, 1938, no date Box 1, Folder 5
Photographs, Ethnic groups, black & white, Kansas Collection University of Kansas Libraries, ca. 1920s, ca. 1940s, no date Box 1, Folder 6
Photographs, Ethnic groups, black & white, Joseph J. Pennell Collection, Kansas Collection, University of Kansas Libraries, 1809-1921, no date Box 1, Folder 7
Interviews, Speeches, Chronicles: Box 1, Folder 8
3. Jessie Avila, interview, Garden City, Kansas, August 1981. [possibly owned by Finney County Historical Society]
4. “Black Chronicle,” vol. 1 & 2 [Kansas State University], no date.
7. “What if I am a Women?” Kansas State University, [1977?]
9. “Blacks in the American Revolutionary War, Side A;
10. “Maya Angelou,” Side B.