

**University of Oklahoma Libraries  
Western History Collections**

**William M. Tilghman and Zoe A. Tilghman Collection**

**Tilghman, William Matthew (1854–1925). Papers, 1843–1960. 2 feet.**

Lawman. Correspondence (1901–1960) regarding the Tilghmans, as well as gangsters and outlaws, Communist infiltration of the Works Progress Administration in Oklahoma, and poets and writers of Oklahoma; Tilghman's personal financial records (n.d.); manuscripts and typescripts (n.d.), including the memoirs of Bill Tilghman and writings by Zoe Tilghman regarding the first Christmas in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Territory; publications (1843–1949) by the Poetry Society of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Authors Club, and the Women of '89 Club, including a mid-nineteenth century book on feminine etiquette; programs (1903–1934) of academic, social, charitable, and religious institutions and organizations; newspaper clippings regarding outlaws; and showbills (n.d.) for western-oriented motion pictures.

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**Box 1: Correspondence, Notes, and Forms**

**Correspondence: Zoe A. Tilghman**

**Folder:**

1. Adams, Russell (March 18, 1955). Letter to Zoe Tilghman, re: Caleb Brooks, William Tilghman, Oscar Halsell, Billy Raidler, Bill Doolin, and western writers.
2. Bolds, George W. (January 17, 1953). Letter to Zoe Tilghman, re: health and William Tilghman.
3. Carroll, Mrs. G.P. (January 28, 1930). Letter to Victor Harlow, re: poem by Zoe Tilghman.
4. Croy, Homer (Thanksgiving, 1954). Letter to Zoe Tilghman, re: Jesse James III.
5. Dies, Martin - U.S. Representative (June 10, 1938). Letter from Zoe Tilghman, re: alleged communist activities in Federal Writers Project in Oklahoma. Includes several statements, etc. Copy.
6. Graham, L.J. - Assistant U.S. Attorney-General.
  - a. (April 18, 1916). Letter to Zoe Tilghman, re: Al Jennings. Note by Zoe Tilghman attached.
  - b. (October 23, 1917). Letter from Zoe Tilghman, re: supporting William Tilghman's application for appointment as U.S. Marshal and protesting Sen. T.P. Gore's "fraud." Copy.
7. Harlow, Victor E. (February 17, 1938). Letter to Zoe Tilghman, re: proposed Oklahoma almanac.
8. James, Jesse, III (November 12, 1954). Letter to Zoe Tilghman, re: William Tilghman, Orrington "Red" Lucas, Jesse Woodson James, Bat Masterson, etc. Notes by Zoe

Tilghman.

9. Jarman, John - U.S. Representative (February 23, 1956). Constituent postcard.
10. Johnston, Henry S. - Governor of Oklahoma ( May 27, 1927). Letter to U.S. Attorney-General Edwin Dabney, re: prosecution of Lynn, acquitted of murder of William Tilghman, for participation in riot at Papoose. Copy.
11. Kilpatrick, John Jr. (May 3, 1961). Letter to Vincent Argondezzi, re: William Tilghman. Copy with note sent to Zoe Tilghman.
12. Lackey, R. Vinson (n.d.). Letter to Zoe Tilghman, re: George McElroy, J.C>W. Bland, and McElroy-Bland feud.
13. La Moore, Parker (July 7, 1926). Letter to Zoe Tilghman, re: letter sent to Gov. M.E. Trapp by Zoe Tilghman.
14. Lillard, Ross N. (October 10, 1923). Letter to Zoe Tilghman, re: William Tilghman running for sheriff.
15. Mason, R.C. (January 17, 21, 35, and 27, 1960). Letters to and from Zoe Tilghman, re: Elgin, Kansas, Bob Register, Ed Hays, Bill Choteau, etc. Includes sketch map of Elgin in 1897.
16. Northe, James Neil (June 17, 1953). Letters from Zoe Tilghman, re: history of Poetry Society of Oklahoma and of Oklahoma Writers. Copies.
17. Reeble, C.R. (September 26, 1955). Letter to Zoe Tilghman, re: brand inspectors.
18. Sampsel, Arthur (n.d.). Letter to Zoe Tilghman, re: Run of 1889 and work as a Western Union messenger.
- 18a. Tilgham, William. Handwritten letter to Zoe Agnes Stratton, who later became his wife, regarding his travels and expected participation in judging the Roping and Riding contests in Oklahoma City, February 8, 1903. Letter is written on personal stationery with the letterhead, "Wm. Tilgham, Sheriff, Lincoln County, O.T."
19. Traylor, Leslie (December 13, 1934). Letter to Zoe Tilghman, re: Belle Starr, William Stiles, Jim Reed, and James-Younger gangs.
20. Thompson, James M. (May 11, 1939). Letter to Henry G. Alsberg, re: new position in Federal Writers Project for Zoe Tilghman. Copy to Zoe Tilghman.
21. *True Magazine* (n.d.). Rejection slip.
22. Tumulty, Joseph - Secretary to President Woodrow Wilson (October 24, 1917). Letter from

Zoe Tilghman, re: William Tilghman's appointment as U.S. Marshal. Copy.

23. War Department (1944-45). Various forms, re: work of Zoe Tilghman at Tinker Field.
24. Weese, Inez (February 14, 1942). Letter to Zoe Tilghman, re: murder of William Tilghman.

**Correspondence: William Tilghman**

25. Brady, Tate (n.d.). Note of support to William Tilghman.
26. Burke, Wilburn H. (December 30, 1912). Letter to William Tilghman, re: payment of debt owed by Burke.
27. Halsell, C.D. (December 4, 1917). Letter to Woodrow Wilson, re: petition in support of William Tilghman as U.S. Marshal. Copy.
28. Owen, Robert L. - U.S. Senator (October 26, 1917). Letter from William Tilghman, re: why Sen. Gore failed to support William Tilghman for appointment as U.S. Marshal in 1913. Copy.
29. Risk, Irma (?) (May 15, 1919). Letter to William Tilghman, re: why she became an outlaw.
30. Welty, D.B. (December 13, 1917). Letter to Woodrow Wilson, re: recommending SMT's appointment as U.S. Marshal. Copy.
31. Wenner, Fred (September 14, 1901). Telegram to sheriff at Chandler, re: mourning for late president.
32. West, Charles (February 26, 1913). Letter to Attorney-General, re: supporting William Tilghman's application for appointment as U.S. Marshal.
33. Wilson, Woodrow - President of the United States (October 23, 1917). Letter from William Tilghman, re: application for appointment as U.S. Marshal. Gives brief synopsis of career. Rough draft.
34. , Ernie (February 8, 1913). Letter to William Tilghman, re: personal.

**Notes and Forms**

35. Description of prisoners who escaped from U.S. jail at Guthrie, July 5, 1896. Includes Walter McLain, Charley Montgomery, W.H. Jones, Le Killian, and "Dynamite Dick." Handwritten.
36. Expenses incurred in endeavoring to apprehend the murderer of the Ames Family, to date January 4, 1904. Handwritten.
37. Two account books of William Tilghman. Very fragile. Also on microfilm.

- 37a. Microfilm copies of an account book of William Tilghman. Copied from Microfilm B-76.
38. Warrant for the arrest of Kid Finley. Signed January 21, 1904, by Gov. T.B. Ferguson of the Oklahoma Territory.
39. Warrant authorizing William Tilghman to act as agent for Governor of Arkansas in apprehending Kid Finley. Signed January 11, 1904, by Gov. Jefferson Davis.
40. Data on Amanda Tilghman, mother of William Tilghman. Typewritten copy from Dodge City Daily Globe, February 8, 1915.
41. Data on Alphonso J. Jennings. Typewritten.
42. Notes found in University Anthology (1924).  
See also Box 3.
43. Certificate of stock in the Dodge City Driving-Park and Fair Association. Four shares in the name of Tilghman and Brown. Signed June 20, 1884.

**Box 2: Writings of William Tilghman. The memoirs of William Tilghman are not complete. They relate various incidents in his life, most of them when he was young. Evidently they were written toward the end of his life. One of the notebooks appears to be a rewriting by someone else of one of Tilghman's original tablets.**

**Folder:**

1. Memoirs of William Tilghman. Handwritten.
2. Typescript of memoirs in folder above.
3. Memoirs of William Tilghman. Handwritten.
4. Typescript of memoirs in folder above.
5. Memoirs of William Tilghman. Handwritten.
6. Typescript of memoirs in folder above.
7. Memoirs of William Tilghman. Handwritten.
8. Typescript of memoirs in folder above.
9. Memoirs of William Tilghman. Handwritten.
10. Typescript of memoirs in folder above.
11. "The story of Bill Doolin's Death, as Told by Bill Tilghman." by Fred E. Sutton. Typescript; appears incomplete. Five pages.

### **Box 3: Writings of Zoe Tilghman: Publications and Programs**

#### **Folder:**

1. "Oklahoma City's First Christmas." Typewritten. Three pages.
2. "The Making of a State - Oklahoma." Synopsis for motion picture. Typewritten on back of "William Tilghman for OKC Sheriff" stationery. Four pages; page 3 missing.
3. Table of Contents for *Stories of Oklahoma*.
4. "Early Days in the Cherokee Nation at Keystone and Tulsa." A.M. Morpew reminiscences. Typewritten with notes by Zoe Tilghman and message to "Gaston" (Litton?) from Zoe Tilghman. Three pages.
5. Writings on Buffalo origins and on origin of name "Wichita." In "Brief Communications," *American Anthropologist*, XLIII (1941), 487-489.
6. Poetry Society of Oklahoma. *Newsletters*.
  - a. June, 1955.
  - b. October, 1958. Contains biographical sketch of Zoe Tilghman and her poem "Apologium."
  - c. October, 1959. Mentions Zoe Tilghman's appearances in *Life*.
7. Poetry Society of Oklahoma. Program for 1937 Annual Meeting. Zoe Tilghman was president. Two copies.
8. Poetry Society of Oklahoma. Yearbooks for 1946-48, 1950-51. Two copies for 1948.
9. Poetry Society of Oklahoma. Chronicle of history, 1934-44.
10. Poetry Society of Oklahoma. Program for October, 1955.
11. Oklahoma Authors' Club. Yearbooks for 1915-20, 1922-25. Two copies for 1917-18 and 1924-25.
12. Oklahoma Authors' Club. Constitution and By-laws. Three copies.
13. Oklahoma Writers. Yearbooks for 1939-42.
14. Oklahoma State Writers. Yearbooks for 1942-43, 1946-48, 1950-51, and 1954-55.
15. Women of '89. Yearbooks for 1912-16, 1920-22, and 1924-25.
16. Women of '89. Constitution and By-laws.
17. The '89ers. yearbooks for 1927-28 and 1930-31.

18. The MacDowell Club of Allied Arts. Yearbook for 1922-23.
19. Miscellaneous Programs:
  - a. OU Baccalaureate, Sunday, May 31, 1903.
  - b. Two OU School of Music recitals.
  - c. First Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City. Four programs.
  - d. Oklahoma City Gridiron Club, 1934. Lyrics included.
  - e. Program in honor of French Commission to the U.S., May 6, 1917. "St. Louis, Missouri" written on cover.
20. *Arrow* (January and April, 1937). Poetry Quarterly. Includes works by Zoe Tilghman and Louis L'Amour.
21. *The Student Writer*. Volume I, numbers 8-12 (1916) and Volume II, numbers 105 (1917).
22. *Ben-Hur*. Publicity book for 1926 movie.
23. *The Story of the S-M-S Ranch*. Photographs for the most part. Some pages of text and photographs torn or missing.
24. *Ladies' Vase, or Polite Manual for Young Ladies*. By "An American Lady." Lowell, Massachusetts: N.L. Dayton, 1843. 191 pages. Front cover loose.
25. *The Absolute Truth*. Photographic presentation of the horrors of war. Note by Zoe Tilghman.
26. *Ton-A-En-Ko (Kicking Bird): Peace Chief of the Kiowas*--typescript.

#### **Box 4: Clippings and Miscellaneous**

##### **Folder:**

1. Campaign leaflet in support of SMT for Sheriff of Lincoln County, Oklahoma. Three copies.
2. "Tilghman Has Enviably Reputation as Sheriff." Campaign flyer written by R.P. Martin, 1907. Two copies.
3. Advertisements for "Passing of the Oklahoma Outlaws."
4. Miscellaneous clippings on William Tilghman.
5. William Tilghman and Joe Anderson and Lon Florence. Clipping.
6. William Tilghman and Thomas Calhoun. Clippings.

7. William Tilghman and William Cumberledge. Clippings.
8. William Tilghman, death, Robertsons, J.H. Essex, Eugene Rall, and miscellaneous. Clippings.
9. William Tilghman and Bill Doolin. Clippings.
10. Two columns on William Tilghman and Chris Madsen by C.L. Douglas in the Ft. Worth *Press*, July 16 and July 23, 1961. Clippings.
11. Article on William Tilghman by John E. Ingram in Tulsa (?) *Tribune*, November 1, 1961. Clipping.
12. Advertisement for U.S. Savings Bonds with picture and brief write-up on William Tilghman. Clipping.
13. Heck Thomas. Article by J. Walter Perry. Clipping.
14. William Dixon. Clipping.
15. Death of Frank James. Clipping.
16. Miscellaneous clippings.

### **Miscellaneous**

17. Advertisements for *Marshal of the Last Frontier* and *Quanah: Eagle of the Comanches*, by Zoe Tilghman.
18.
  - a. "America's 'Yalta' Sell-Out."
  - b. Gid Graham's "Indians' View of Heaven."
  - c. "The First Thanksgiving Proclamation" of George Washington.
  - d. "U.S. - Cancelled by Order of U.N."
19. Miscellaneous:
  - a. Ration books from World War II.
  - b. "Our Training Camps and Down with the Kaiser." Song.
20. Miscellaneous:
  - a. Telegraph forms from Mexico.
  - b. Passenger check.
  - c. OU Extension Division cards with Zoe Tilghman's class.
  - d. Delegate Ticket to Democratic National Convention, 1904.
  - e. Membership card of Zoe Tilghman in Oklahoma Council of Defense, 1918.
21. A pin showing the first administration building at the University of Oklahoma.

22. Miscellaneous brochures, card, claim check, envelope, etc.

**Box 5: Bible**

A Bible presented to Flora Tilghman by William Tilghman, January 1, 1890.

**Box 6: Outsized**

Folio of assorted sheet music. "Shepard" or "Stratton" written on sheets. Includes at least one Civil War tune - "General Sigel's Grand March" (1864).

**Certificates and Diplomas Collection:**

1. Handbill. Advertisement for the motion picture *The Passing of the Oklahoma Outlaws*.
2. Handbill. Larger example of No. 1. Two copies.
3. Poster reprint of 1916 page from the Oklahoma City *Daily Oklahoman* with an article on the capture of Bill Doolin.
4. Posters. Announcing the motion picture *Passing of the Oklahoma Outlaws*, starring Bill Tilghman. Four copies.
5. Large cloth-backed broadside advertising the movie *The Passing of the Oklahoma Outlaws*, the title spelled with bullets.