



The Wittliff Collections

Guide to the Elizabeth Crook Papers 1984-2000

Collection SWWC-060

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Crook, Elizabeth, 1959-
Title:	Guide to the Elizabeth Crook Papers
Dates:	1984-2000
Abstract:	Research notes, annotated typescripts, correspondence, photographs, and newsclippings make up the Elizabeth Crook papers, and relate mainly to Crook's novels of historical fiction, <i>Raven's Bride</i> (1991), and <i>Promised Lands: A Novel of the Texas Rebellion</i> (1994).
Identification:	SWWC-060
Extent:	19 Linear Feet, 31 boxes
Language:	English
Repository:	The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

Table Of Contents

Biographical Notes	3
Administrative Information	5
Conditions Governing Access	5
Immediate Source of Acquisition	5
Physical Location	5
Preferred Citation	5
Conditions Governing Use	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Detailed Description of the Collection	6
Series I: Raven's Bride, 1984-1990, undated	6
Research	6
Typescripts	7
Series II: Promised Lands, 1990-1994, undated	8
Typescripts, 1993, undated	8
Series III: Essays and Articles, 1994-1995, undated	9
Series IV: Mailing Lists, undated	9
Series V: Clippings, 1990-2000	9
Scope and Contents	4
Administrative Information	5
Conditions Governing Access	5
Immediate Source of Acquisition	5
Physical Location	5
Preferred Citation	5
Conditions Governing Use	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Detailed Description of the Collection	6
Series I: Raven's Bride, 1984-1990, undated	6
Research	6
Typescripts	7
Series II: Promised Lands, 1990-1994, undated	8
Typescripts, 1993, undated	8
Series III: Essays and Articles, 1994-1995, undated	9
Series IV: Mailing Lists, undated	9
Series V: Clippings, 1990-2000	9

Biographical Notes

Elizabeth Crook was born in 1960 in Nacogdoches and raised in San Marcos, Washington DC, where her father directed VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) under Lyndon B. Johnson, and Australia, where her father served as ambassador. Crook went on to Baylor University, and received her B.A. in English from Rice University. In 1985, she began intensely researching what would become an article in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (July, 1990), focused on the 1828 marriage of Tennessee governor Sam Houston and the 20 year old Eliza Allen. This article became the touchstone of her best-selling first novel, *Raven's Bride*, published in 1991 by Doubleday. The 750 page manuscript was accepted by the publisher after fifteen publishing houses had rejected it; Crook's soon-to-be editor at Doubleday, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, called her personally to accept it. Journalist and author Bill Moyers writes that in *Raven's Bride*, Crook "brought to life the great events of Texas past and turned them into a robust novel. The characters, the descriptions, and the drama are a panorama that only a fine historian or inspired novelist could handle to the reader's delight, and Ms. Crook is both." In 1993, Crook was inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters. A year later, she published her second novel, *Promised Lands: A Novel of the Texas Rebellion*, also edited by Ms. Onassis at Doubleday. "At a time when war is sanitized, televised, and intellectualized, Crook's most important contribution may be her reminder of the insanity and sheer waste of it all... Though she probably did not intend it that way, her account of the slaughter at Goliad is one of the most powerful anti-war statements I've read" (Joyce Slater, *Houston Post*). Crook currently lives in Austin, with her husband, Marc Lewis, a professor of psychology at the University of Texas, and their son.

Scope and Contents

Research notes, annotated typescripts, correspondence, photographs, and newsclippings in the Elizabeth Crook papers range in date from 1984-2000, and relate mainly to Crook's novels of historical fiction, *Raven's Bride* (1991), and *Promised Lands: A Novel of the Texas Rebellion* (1994).

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Elizabeth Crook, 1995 and 2001.

Physical Location

Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use: .
<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/makearesearchappointment.html>.

Preferred Citation

Elizabeth Crook Papers, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

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<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/visit/policies/publication.html>

Controlled Access Headings

- Historical fiction
- Literature
- Texas -- Politics and government -- Fiction
- Women authors, American -- Texas -- 20th century

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Raven's Bride, 1984-1990, undated

Research

Box	Folder	
1	1-3	Allen, Eliza and family
Box	Folder	
2	1	Allen, Eliza and family
2	2	Architecture
2	3	Bledsoe, Anthony
2	4	Boyers, Blackmore
2	5	Campbell, John B. / Cryer
2	6	Cantrell, Stephen / Cannon, Newton
2	7	Carroll, William
2	8	Customs
2	9	Douglass Family
2	10	Eaton, John H.
2	11	Fashions
2	12	Foster, Robert C.
2	13	Gallatin, TN
2	14	Grundy, Felix
3	1	Guild, Judge Jo. C.
3	2	Hall, William
3	3	Horse breeding
3	4	Hume, Reverend William
3	5	Jackson, Andrew
3	6	Lewis, William B.
3	7	Maps
3	8	Martin, Robert and Robert McEwen
3	9	McGregor, General John
3	10	Morris, Eastin
3	11	Nashville
3	12	Overton, John
3	13	Peyton, Bailie
4	1	Polk, James

4	2	Saunders / Donelson
4	3	Shelby, Isaac
4	4	Simon, Monkey
4	5	Trousdale family
4	6	Tyree, Clayton
4	7	Williams, Willoughby
4	8	White, W. and G. B. Williams

Typescripts

5	1-3	Mary Beth's manuscript , circa 1984
5	4	Annotated typescript, undated
6	1-2	Annotated typescript, undated
6	3	Annotated typescript, pages 1-284, undated
6	4	Annotated typescript with bibliographic notes, undated
7	1-2	Annotated typescript with bibliographic notes, undated
7	3	Synopsis, with bibliographic notes, 47 pages
7	4	Synopsis, with bibliographic notes, 66 pages
7	5-6	Annotated typescript, undated
8	1	Annotated typescript, undated
8	2-4	Annotated typescript, revised, December 1986
9	1-3	Typescript, 1987
9	4-5	Typescript, undated
10	1	Typescript, undated
10	2-4	Old version, undated
11	1-2	Annotated typescript, undated
11	3-5	Typescript, undated
12	1	Typescript, undated
12	2-3	Typescript, undated
12	4	Typescript, undated
13	1-3	Typescript, undated
13	4	Typescript, undated
13	5	Typescript
13	6	Typescript fragments
14	1-3	Annotated draft, undated
14	4	Annotated draft, undated
15	1-3	Typescript, undated

15	4-5	Annotated draft, pencil and blue ink, undated
16	1-2	Annotated draft, pencil and blue ink, undated
16	3-5	Annotated draft, undated
17	1-3	Annotated draft, undated
17	4	Annotated draft, undated
18	1-2	Annotated draft, undated
18	3	Typescript fragment, includes 1981 photo (possibly of Crook), 1981, undated
18	4	Annotated draft, undated
19	1-3	Annotated draft, undated
20	1-3	Annotated draft, undated
21	1-4	Annotated typescript, undated
21	5	Typescript, undated
22	1-2	Typescript, undated
22	3-5	Typescript, undated
23	1-2	Typescript, undated
23	3	Photocopied final proof, undated
23	4	Afterword typescript, undated
23	5-6	Annotated page proofs (with blue notes)
24	1-2	Annotated galleys (with blue notes)
24	3	Annotated galley (photocopy)
24	4-5	Mock-up with typesetting annotations
25	1	Computer disks (6 5.5" floppy) "Sept-Oct. bound galleys"
25	2	Computer disks (6 5.5" floppy, 2 3.5" 1 Mb) chapter drafts
25	3	Dustjacket quotes from Liz Carpenter and James Michener
25	4	Book design correspondence and proposed illustrations, 1989-1990
25	5	Publicity correspondence, 1990-1994
25	6	Clippings, 1990-1994

Series II: Promised Lands, 1990-1994, undated

25	7	Research notes and correspondence, 1990, undated
		<u>Typescripts, 1993, undated</u>
25	8	Gates of the Presidio, annotated typescript
26	1	Gates of the Presidio, annotated typescript
26	2-4	Goliad (includes note from Crook to Harrigan), undated

26	5	Untitled, undated
27	1	Untitled, undated
27	2-6	Promised Lands, annotated typescript, undated
27	7	Revisions after Jackie Onassis' suggestions, January 20, 1993
28	1-2	Revisions after Jackie Onassis' suggestions, January 20, 1993
28	3	Clippings and reviews , 1993-1994
28	4	Correspondence

Series III: Essays and Articles, 1994-1995, undated

28	5	Remembering Jackie Onassis, My Editor (Publishers Weekly, June 27, 1994) typescripts; Tribute to Mary Elizabeth Holdsworth Butt given by Elizabeth Crook on March 26, 1995, typescript; Crossing Over (essay on Barton Springs), typescript, June 27, 1994, March 26, 1995, undated
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Series IV: Mailing Lists, undated

28	6	Mailings Lists
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Series V: Clippings, 1990-2000

29		Photocopies, 1990-2000
30		Originals, 1990-2000
31		Originals, 1990-2000