

Isaac Monroe Cline Collection

RG 54

Louisiana State Museum Historical Center

April 2012

Descriptive Summary

Provenance:	Donated as a gift to the Louisiana State Museum by Dr. I.M. Cline in April 1931
Title:	Isaac Monroe Cline Collection (1927 Mississippi Flood Collection)
Dates:	March 1927 – August 1927
Abstract:	Complete file of special bulletins issued during the Mississippi River flood of 1927
Extent:	10 folders
Accession:	10218

Biographical / Historical Note

Cline (1861-1955) was a meteorologist with the United States Weather Service stationed in New Orleans. He was selected as forecaster of the Gulf South office of the Weather Bureau at the beginning of the 20th century after laying an integral role in the forecasting of the infamous Galveston Hurricane in 1900. Originally the bureau was to be located in Galveston but Cline moved it to New Orleans in 1901.

During his time as head of the Head of the Weather Bureau in New Orleans, Cline focused his interests on tropical storms and flood forecasting. He published a book in 1926, *Tropical Cyclones*, which grew out of his various experiences with hurricanes and floods. One of his greatest accomplishments was successfully predicting the stages of the Great Flood of 1927 two weeks in advance.

The Great Flood of 1927 is considered one of the greatest natural disasters of the 20th century. It began with large amounts of rainfall draining into the central basin of the Mississippi River in the summer of 1926, causing the swelling of tributaries and its eventual overtaking of the levees. Ten southern states were affected by flooding. On April 15, 1927, New Orleans was inundated with water from heavy rainfall, trapped inside the city due to the levees, and the internal city pumps stopped working because of the sheer mass of water. With the height of the Mississippi already extreme and rising due to the rain the threat of a severe flood was eminent.

Cline attempted to have his warning bulletins printed in the local paper in order to prepare the public but the local papers refused to print it in order to avoid bad publicity and panic. After much conflict the bulletins were eventually posted and Cline was commended for his work. In 1934, Tulane University gave him an honorary Doctor of Science degree and he retired from his post as head of the New Orleans Weather Bureau in 1935. In his retirement he became an avid painter and wrote two more books, *A Century of Progress in the Study of Cyclones and Storms*, *Floods, and Sunshine: An Autobiography*. He passed away in August 1955 at the age of 93.

Scope and Content

This collection contains the special bulletins and maps written by Dr. I.M. Cline regarding the Mississippi Flood of 1927.

Subjects

Isaac Monroe Cline
Flood
Hurricane
Great Flood of 1927
Levee Breaks
Warnings
Bulletins
Weather Bureau

Access of Use Restrictions

Access

Collection is **open** for research

Related or Separated Materials

Vertical Files: Cline, Isaac

“Floods in the Lower Mississippi Valley”, by Isaac Cline, December 1927, RG 68

Times Picayune, April 27, 1927, “Levee at Poydras to be cut April 29, 1927, to relieve Mississippi River Flood Threat in New Orleans”

Times Picayune, April 29, 1927, “Caernavon Levee cut in vicinity of the Orange Grove refining company plant”

927 C: “Art and Artists in New Orleans during the last century”, includes Isaac Cline

551.55 C641c LA: “A Century of Progress in the Study of Cyclones”, by Isaac Cline

921 C: “Storms, Floods, and Sunshine: An Autobiography”, by Isaac Cline

1981.083.192 - .194, .198 : Portraits photographs of Dr. I.M. Cline by Pops Whitesell

2003.093.3: Painting, "Dr. Isaac Monroe Cline at Home", by Robert Bledsoe Mayfield, 1910

2003.093.4: Presentation Cup, "To Dr. I.M. Cline in appreciation of his work during the 1927 Flood"

2008.070.01.1-.2: Photograph, "The Art House of Dr. Cline", 1940

090402: Photograph, "Dr. I.M. Cline receiving an award"

11496.1: Bust, "Dr. Isaac M. Cline", by Carl Christensen, 1931

T0530.1990.044: Photograph. "Plaque given to Dr. I.M. Cline from Pacific Lines in appreciation of his work during the Flood of 1927"

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Isaac Moore Cline Collection, Louisiana State Museum Historical Center

Acquisition Information

Materials donated as gift to the Louisiana State Museum by Dr. I.M. Cline in April of 1931.

Notes

Contents List

Folder 1: Flood Warning Bulletins issued by I.M. Cline: March 23, 1927; April 8, 1927; April 14, 1927
River Forecast and Flood Warning issued by the Weather Bureau: April 23, 1927
Special Flood Bulletin issued by the Weather Bureau: April 29, 1927

Folder 2: Special Flood and Warning Bulletins issued by I.M. Cline: May 1, 1927; May 4, 1927; May 7, 1927; May 10, 1927; May 11, 1927; May 12, 1927; May 13, 1927; May 14, 1927; May 15, 1927; May 16, 1927; May 17, 1927 (11:00am); May 17, 1927 (2:30pm); May 18, 1927; May 19, 1927; May 20, 1927

Folder 3: Special Flood Bulletin issued by I.M. Cline: May 21, 1927; May 22, 1927; May 23, 1927; May 24, 1927 (8:00am); May 24, 1927 (1:00pm);

May 25, 1927 (11:30am); May 25, 1927 (3:30pm); May 26, 1927; May 27, 1927; May 28, 1927; May 29, 1927; May 30, 1927; May 31, 1927

Folder 4: Special Flood Bulletin issued by I.M. Cline with detailed map of Louisiana showing flooded areas: June 27, 1927

Folder 5: Special Flood Bulletin issued by I.M. Cline: June 1, 1927; June 2, 1927; June 3, 1927; June 4, 1927; June 5, 1927; June 7, 1927; June 8, 1927; June 9, 1927; June 10, 1927; June 11, 1927; June 12, 1927; June 13, 1927; June 14, 1927; June 15, 1927

Folder 6: Special Flood Bulletin issued by I.M. Cline: June 16, 1927; June 17, 1927; June 18, 1927; June 19, 1927; June 20, 1927; June 21, 1927; June 22, 1927; June 23, 1927; June 24, 1927; June 25, 1927; June 26, 1927;

Folder 7: Special Flood Bulletin issued by I.M. Cline: June 28, 1927; June 19, 1927; June 30, 1927

Folder 8: Special Flood Bulletin issued by I.M. Cline with detailed map of Louisiana showing flooded areas: July 15, 1927

Folder 9: Special Flood Bulletin issued by I.M. Cline with detailed map of Louisiana showing flooded areas: August 1, 1927

Folder 10: Envelope that contained all Flood Bulletins issued by I.M. Cline