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Bender Crimes photographs, 1873

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Bender Crimes Photographs, MS 405

Overview of the Collection

Title	The Bender Crimes Photographs
Collection Number	MS 405
Creator	Roger O'Connor
Dates	1873
Quantity	1 linear foot
Summary	Three photographs taken in rural Labette County, Kansas in 1873 at the Bender family house and property shortly after the discovery of the murders of approximately 12 individuals.
Repository	Pittsburg State University, Leonard Axe Library, Special Collections & University Archives 1701 S. Broadway Pittsburg, Kansas 66762 (620) 235-4883 speccol@pittstate.edu
Access Restrictions	There are no restrictions and the collection is open for research. Researchers must use the collection in accordance with the policies of the Special Collections & University Archives, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University
Languages	English

Biographical and Historical Note Roger O'Connor (1941-2006) ran a bookstore, Mostly Books, in Pittsburg, Kansas, selling books, papers, and photographs. He previously had bookstores in Lawrence, Kansas and Omaha, Nebraska before coming to Pittsburg. He previously had attended Pittsburg State University, where he received a master's degree. The Bender Family crimes occurred in 1872-1873 where a mysterious family going by the name of Bender (aka "Bloody Benders") murdered, apparently for their money, approximately a dozen travelers in remote Labette County, after they had stopped at a make-shift inn they operated. The family escaped shortly before their crimes were discovered and were never caught nor brought to

Bender Crimes Photographs, MS 405

justice. In 2022, Roger O'Connor's daughter, Shannon O'Connor, donated the three photographs to Pittsburg State University that had been in her father's possession, from his own research on the Benders.

This collection of primary and secondary resources and is divided into the following series:

1. Photographs
 - a. Individuals standing around graves, with names of victims written in
 - b. Individuals standing around graves
 - c. Individuals around the Bender cabin