

K Robert M. Snyder, Jr. (1876-1937) Collection, 1701-1981  
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#### INTRODUCTION

The collection contains papers related to Robert M. Snyder, Jr. and his interests. Snyder's personal papers include photographs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, articles written by Snyder, and scrapbooks related to Snyder's work with Kansas Natural Gas Company and his preservation work in the Ozarks. The other materials in the collection consists of items Snyder collected over the course of his life. The materials generally relate to important people of history, early American history, and pioneer families.

#### DONOR INFORMATION

The collection was transferred to the University of Missouri by the University of Missouri-Kansas City General Library on August 14, 1980 (Accession No. K0032).

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*Lawrence Dudley Bailey (1819-1891) Collection, 1855-1881 (K0125)*  
*John Irwin Billman (1870-1934) Collection, 1916-1932 (K0126)*  
*Richard H. Lindsay (1865-1908) Scrapbook, 1894-1896 (K0127)*  
*Liberty Ladies College Records, 1905-1910 (K0128)*  
*Ovid H. Corbin (1820-1892) Papers, 1848-1863 (K0129)*  
*Philip Shelley Brown (1833-1921) Papers, 1903-1905 (K0130)*  
*George Woodward Warder (1848-1907) Papers, ca. 1877-ca. 1900 (K0131)*  
*Scrapbook, 1865-1882, 1865-1882 (K0132)*  
*Combination Bridge Company Photographs, 1890-1896 (K0200)*  
*Fields Trammel Bledsoe (1818-1880) Letter, 1851 (K0229)*  
*Gideon Johnson Pillow (1806-1878) Letters, 1861 (K0231)*  
*Wilhelm Kroll (1829-1887) Collection (K1253)*  
*Kansas City Star, March 29, 1896*  
*Kansas City World, March 29, 1896*  
*Kansas City Journal, November 25, 1906*  
*Missouri & Kansas Farmer, August 1, 1912*  
*St. Louis Republic, September 27, 1914*

*Laclede County Republican*, December 31, 1920  
*Kansas City Star*, November 4, 1923  
*Kansas City Post*, March 26, 1925  
*Kansas City Journal*, March 27, 1927  
*Kansas City Star*, November 27, 1927  
*Kansas City Star*, July 7, 1931  
*Kansas City Star*, October 11, 1934

**Note:** The newspapers can be found on microfilm at The State Historical Society of Missouri

#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Robert M. Snyder, Jr. was born in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1876 and moved to Kansas City, in 1881. In 1904, Snyder organized the Kansas Natural Gas Company by building a pipeline from the Southwest gas fields. In 1906, Snyder married Mary Bowen and they had three sons.

Snyder was interested in collecting rare books and papers that related to early American history and westward expansion. He also devoted a great deal of his time to preserving the Ha Ha Tonka region of the Ozarks. His family built Ha Ha Tonka Castle, a site he lobbied for and successfully turned into a State Park.

Snyder died in 1937, and his collection of papers was purchased by William Volker the same year. Volker then donated the collection to the University of Kansas City (now University of Missouri-Kansas City).

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers have been arranged into the following three series and eighteen subseries. All of the folders within the subseries have been arranged alphabetically.

#### **Snyder Personal Papers**

- Biographical**
- Business Papers**
- Correspondence**
- Ha Ha Tonka State Park**
- Kansas Natural Gas Company**
- Newspaper Clippings**
- Omar Khayyam Club**
- Writings**
- Scrapbooks**

#### **Collected Papers**

- Kansas and Missouri Correspondence**
- Kansas and Missouri Papers**
- United States Correspondence**
- United States Papers**
- European Correspondence**
- European Papers**
- Miscellaneous Correspondence**

**Miscellaneous Papers**  
**Oversize**  
**Scrapbooks**

The **Snyder Personal Papers** series contains material related to Snyder's personal life, business dealings while in charge of Kansas Natural Gas Company, and the articles he wrote for various Kansas City newspapers throughout his life. There are also various papers pertaining to his travel and work in the Ozarks region, specifically Ha Ha Tonka. In addition, there are several newspaper clippings that relate to Snyder and some photographs of him and his family.

The **Collected Materials** series contains the historical papers that Snyder collected over the course of his life. The materials consist of correspondence, newspaper clippings, and legal documents relating to historically relevant people or events. There are correspondence and papers related to Kansas City and Missouri, the United States, and Europe. It should be noted that within some of these folders there is ephemera related to the individual or subject.

The **Oversize** series contains large format items that Snyder collected. They consist of legal documents, both foreign and domestic, newspapers, pieces of artwork, shipping manifests, theater programs, and a map of the Ha Ha Tonka area. In addition, the **Scrapbooks** subseries contains four volumes that relate to Snyder and his wife's marriage and travels to Europe. There is also one scrapbook that contains some of the newspaper articles that Snyder wrote over the years.

**PREFERRED CITATION:**

Specific item; box number; folder number; *Robert M. Snyder, Jr. (1876-1937) Collection (K0025)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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