



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0038

Charles Nelson Glaab (1927-2009) Papers

1956-1991

42 folders

Correspondence, research materials, working papers, and drafts relating to the operation and research of the Kansas City History Project and to Glaab's research into the Kansas City railway systems.

BIOGRAPHY:

Charles Nelson Glaab received his Ph.B. and M.A. degrees (1951 and 1952 respectively) from the University of North Dakota and his Ph.D. in American History from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1958.

During the years 1956-1958, he served with A. Theodore Brumvold as Research Associate in the Kansas City History Project, a pioneering urban history study directed by Dr. Richard Wohl, University of Chicago (until his untimely death in November 1957), and funded by the Rockefeller Foundation.

During his employ with the Project, Glaab conducted research into the economic community and development of Kansas City, and in particular the promotion of Kansas City as a railroad center. This last topic was the basis of his dissertation, "Local railroad promotion in Kansas City, 1855-1880."

From Kansas City, Glaab held positions in the History Departments at Kansas State University, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and from 1968 a professor of History at the University of Toledo.

PROVENANCE:

The papers are a gift of Dr. Charles Nelson Glaab, and received as accession KA0045 on October 15, 1980. An addition was received from the University of Missouri-Kansas City General Library on September 11, 1981 as accession

KA0112. The last addition was a gift from Dr. Glaab, accessioned as KA0790 on February 1, 1994.

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CONTACT:

The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City
302 Newcomb Hall, University of Missouri-Kansas City
5123 Holmes Street, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499
(816) 235-1543 SHSofMO-KC@umsystem.edu
<http://shs.umsystem.edu/index.shtml>

DESCRIPTION:

Contained within the papers are correspondence, research materials, working papers and drafts relating to the operation and research of the Kansas City History Project including photocopies of correspondence from the UMKC Archives and the Rockefeller Archive Center; papers delivered at conferences or submitted for publication; and correspondence with colleagues Mark Rose and Bill Wilson concerning urban history and the KC History Project. The collection also includes other papers by Rose and Wilson. The addition contains personal and professional correspondence between Glaab and his colleague, Theodore Brown, from the years 1960-1983. Also included are notes and papers from research conducted by Glaab, particularly in the study of local promotion for Kansas City railroads, the subject of Glaab's Ph.D. dissertation.

INVENTORY:

BOX 001

Folder 1. Correspondence, 1956
Personal and business correspondence to and from Glaab. Some of

the letters deal with the operation and research of the Kansas City History Project.

- Folder 2. Correspondence, 1957
- Folder 3. Correspondence, 1958-1960
- Folder 4. Wahl correspondence, 1956-1957
Letters between Dr Richard Wohl, Director of the Kansas City History Project, and Glaab which served as progress reports on various aspects of the Project. Most are carbons of the letters written to Wohl by Glaab.
- Folder 5. Glaab file, 1956-1957
Wohl's file on Glaab which Glaab received after Wohl's death in November 1957. The file contains letters, in carbon written by Wohl, and originals from Glaab and others. Also included is a vita for Wohl and a transcript/vita for Glaab.
- Folder 6. Personal file, ca. 1956-1962
Contains applications and resumes of Glaab.
- Folder 7. Histories of the Kansas City History Project
Two lectures on the Project: "History--and the History of Kansas City" by A. Theodore Brown. April 1958; and, "The Kansas City History Project" by Glaab. 1960.
- Folder 8. "The Development and Management of Historical Materials for Urban History" by Mildred Cox.
- Folder 9. "Antiquarianism Revisited: a Note on Urban History" by A. Theodore Brown and Glaab. ca. 1963.
- Folder 10. "Written and Oral Traditions in the Historiography of Kansas City," a draft article by A. Theodore Brown.
- Folder 11. William Gilpin notes
Working paper and an article by Glaab.
- Folder 12. "Nature and Enterprise: Two Studies in the Culture of 19th Century Midwestern City Growth" by A. Theodore Brown and Glaab.
- Folder 13. Economic Growth of Kansas City, 1865-1880."
An undated draft paper.
- Folder 14. "Kansas City Business Community Before the Civil War"
by Glaab. Three drafts and working papers.
- Folder 15. "Kansas City and the Santa Fe Trade,"
a working paper by Glaab. October 1956.
- Folder 16. Histories of Kansas City, Kansas, and Osawatomie, Kansas
Articles written by Glaab for the Encyclopedia Britannica. Includes

notes, drafts and maps. (Ref: Correspondence (folder 3) January 3, 1960.

- Folder 17. "Role of Local Policy in the Development of a Western Railroad Center, Kansas City, 1855-1869" by Glaab, for a paper presented to the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, April 1959.
- Folder 18. Hannibal Bridge notes
Working paper and an article by Glaab.
- Folder 19. Hannibal Bridge letters
Transcriptions, abstractions and notes taken from letters written in 1866 concerning the Hannibal Bridge in Kansas City
- Folder 20. Johnston Lykins' "L" letters
Transcriptions of letters to the editor, assumed to have been written by Johnston Lykins in 1855-1858, advocating a railroad for Kansas City. Also included is a list transcribed from the November 6, 1858 Western Journal of Commerce newspaper giving the names of persons in Kansas City taxed at an assessment over \$10,000.
- Folder 21. Railroad notes
Notecards by Glaab regarding the Kaw Valley Railroad, and a bibliography of sources on Kansas City local railroad promotion.
- Folder 22. Chapter I: "Local Railroad Promotion in Kansas City, 1855-1880"
Ph.D. dissertation draft by Glaab. May 1958.
- Folder 23. Chapters II-III
- Folder 24. Chapters IV-V
- Folder 25. Chapter VI
- Folder 26. Chapters VII-VIII

KA0112

- Folder 27. William Gilpin – Notes
- Folder 28. William Gilpin - Working Paper
See folder 11 for an earlier version of this paper.

KA0790

- Folder 29. Correspondence - Theodore Brown and Glaab, 1960-1962
- Folder 30. Correspondence - Theodore Brown and Glaab, 1963
- Folder 31. Correspondence - Theodore Brown and Glaab, 1964-1983

BOX 002

- Folder 32. Correspondence - photocopies from Rockefeller Archive Center regarding KC History Project, 1957-1961

- Folder 33. Correspondence - photocopies from UMKC Archives regarding KC History Project, 1956-1960
- Folder 34. Papers for Missouri Valley History Conference, March 1989:
“The First Project, 1955-1958,” by Glaab
“Manner and Method in Urban History: The History of Kansas City Research Projects: The Second Project, 1960-1965,” by William H. Wilson
“From Harvard to Kansas City: The Early Days of Urban History, 1945-1955,” by Mark H. Rose
- Folder 35. Correspondence, proposals - Organization of American Historians conference, 1989-1991. Also includes paper “What Was New in the New Urban History?” by Terrence J. McDonald
- Folder 36. Correspondence, reader comments, paper “The History of Kansas City Projects and the Origins of American Urban History,” by Glaab, Rose, and Wilson, 1990-1991
- Folder 37. Bibliographic notes about urban history, undated
- Folder 38. Correspondence, outlines, drafts - Mark Rose paper on the KC History Project, 1986-1988
- Folder 39. Papers by Mark Rose:
“Machine Politics: The Historiography of Technology and Public Policy”
“Gas and Electric Service: Shaping of the Urban Ecology, 1900-1940”
- Folder 40. Correspondence - Mark Rose regarding the KC History Project, 1988-1989
- Folder 41. Correspondence - Mark Rose and Bill Wilson, 1987-1989
- Folder 42. Paper by Bill Wilson regarding KC History Project, undated