



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0046

William Henry Wilson (1935-) Papers
1909-1963
2 cubic feet

Personal incoming and outgoing correspondence of a historian and educator, including that related to Wilson's work on the Kansas City History Project, proposals for a history of the J.C. Nichols Company, and progress on his dissertation on the City Beautiful Movement. Also included are research notecards and early printed material related to the Kansas City Terminal Railway Company.

BIOGRAPHY:

William Henry Wilson was born in St. Joseph, Missouri on November 3, 1935. He received his B.A. in Journalism from the University of Missouri in 1957, and continued at the University to receive his M.A. (1958) and Ph.D. (1962) in United States History. From 1958-1960 Wilson was an instructor at the University of Missouri. From 1960-1962 he was a Resident Associate of the Kansas City History Project which was jointly funded by Community Studies, Inc. and the Rockefeller Foundation. The topic of his dissertation, "The City Beautiful Movement in Kansas City, 1872-1914," was also his area of concentration for the Kansas City History Project.

After the completion of his dissertation, Wilson became an Assistant Professor of History at the University of South Dakota (1962-1963). From 1963-1967 Wilson taught at the University of Alaska, advancing from Assistant to Associate Professor. During 1967-1968 he was the recipient of a Fellowship for Younger Scholars from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and in 1968 he moved to North Texas State University where he is currently Professor of History. His research has centered on urban history and Alaska history.

PROVENANCE:

These papers were the gift of William H. Wilson. They were accessioned as KA0073 on March 16, 1981, and an addition was received as KA1014 on December 4, 1998.

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PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; *William Henry Wilson (1935-) Papers (K0046)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

The collection contains correspondence for 1960-1963. While the bulk of the material consists of personal incoming and outgoing correspondence, it also includes specific information relating to Wilson's work on the Kansas City History Project, the City Beautiful Movement, proposals for a history of the J.C. Nichols Company, and progress on his dissertation. The papers also include correspondence with Richard S. Kirkendall, who was Wilson's principal advisor for his dissertation, and A. Theodore Brown, his Kansas City History Project supervisor. The 1998 addition consists of his research notecards and early printed material related to the Kansas City Terminal Railway Company.

For related material see: Andrew Theodore Brown (1923-1983) Collection (K0011), Patricia Youmans Wagner (1925-) Papers (K0037), Charles Nelson Glaab (1927-2009) Papers (K0038), and Lyle Wesley Dorsett (1938-) Papers (K0039).

INVENTORY:

- Folder 1. Correspondence, 1960-1961
Included are a letter which confirms Wilson's research grant (July 5, 1960); a reply from Henry Van Brunt, and Delbert Haff (September 15, 1961); and a letter from Charles Bohasseck, partner of Jarvis Hunt, on Mr. Hunt, the Civic Center, and William Rockhill Nelson (November 10, 1961).
- Folder 2. Correspondence, 1962
Included are Wilson's dissertation abstract (March 22, 1962); and a letter to J.V. Lewis on the Kansas City Park Board correspondence files for 1892-1910 which were located by Wilson (July 30, 1962).
- Folder 3. Correspondence, 1963
Proposed letter of agreement from the J.C. Nichols Company for a corporate history (January 1963).
- Folder 4. Corporate history of KC Terminal Railway Co., 1918
Union Depot Co. – charter and bylaws, 1905
KC Terminal Railway Co. – bylaws, amended 1928
Articles of Association (1906)/Statement of Increase of Capital Stock (1907)/Affidavit of Change in Number of Directors (1910)
- Folder 5. Operating Agreements, 1909-1910
- Folder 6. Report of Operating Officers Subcommittee Appointed to Analyze Report on Terminal Coordination of Greater Kansas City Prepared under Direction of Western Coordinating Committee Submitted February 23, 1934. September 28, 1934
- Folder 7. Report – Coordination of Terminal Operations and Facilities in Greater Kansas City, August 21, 1933
- Folder 8. KCMO ordinances, including Union Station, 1909-1911
- Folder 9. Kansas City, Kansas Ordinance, April 24, 1916.

BOX 001*Notecards boxed*

- 3a: 1893 report
courts
charters: 1888, 1889, 1892, 1895, 1905, 1908
bond issue: 1903, 1910
city council, county court, mayor
legislation

associations
 private parks
 park board archives
 the battle against mossbacks, 1896-1900
 park & blvd. system
 3b: early newspaper criticism of board
 Roanoke
 Spring Valley
 Park board, individual parks, condemnations
 Newspaper agitation
 Criticisms- city beautification movement
 Swope park & jubilee
 Meeting Am. Assn park superintendents Aug 1911
 Bio. & obits, park board
 Independent
 Park board reports
 Kessler
 West Bluffs
 Clendenning Papers
 J.C. Nichols 1910
 Billboards & other improvements
 Nelson & early star
 Journal 1865
 Star 1880-
 Times 1871
 Streets, sewers, schools
 Station opening, building

BOX 002

(note: these items housed in box with K0012)

4a: Manufacturers Ass'n. on Union Depot
 K.C. Terminal Railway Co., Maps, Photographs

Union Depot

Misc.

A-Books

D-Periodicals

OVERSIZE (ARC 016x5)

“The Administrators of the U.S. Governments at the beginning of its 2nd century” James D. McBride, July 4, 1786. 1 sheet, color added.

TRACINGS:**Architecture - Missouri - Kansas City****Brown, A. Theodore****City Beautiful Movement****City Planning****Civic Center, Kansas City****Community Studies, Inc.****George Fuller Construction Company****Haff, Delbert J.****Hunt, Jarvis****J.C. Nichols Company****Kansas City History Project****Historiography****Kansas City Park Board****Kansas City Star****Kirkendall, Richard S.****Meyer, August R.****Nelson, William R.****Nichols, J.C.****Nichols, Miller****Terminal Railway Company****Union Station, Kansas City****Van Brunt, Adriance****Walsh, Frank****Cities and Towns - History**