



William Elsey Connelley Letters (K0203)

Collection Number: K0203

Collection Title: William Elsey Connelley Letters

Dates: 1900-1911

Creator: Connelley, William Elsey, 1855-1930

Abstract: The collection contains letters written by Connelley, noted Kansas historian, to Franklin Benjamin Sanborn, discussing Connelley's research, and specifically Connelley's research of John Brown. In addition, the collection provides insight into Connelley's candid opinions about prominent political and literary personalities in Kansas and Connelley's personal life.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot
(3 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the University all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *William Elsey Connelley Letters* (K0203); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

Donor Information: The papers were transferred to the University of Missouri by the University of Missouri-Kansas City, General Library on October 24, 1980 (Accession No. KA0054).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the William Elsey Connelley Letters can be found in the following collections:

William Elsey Connelley Papers (40016)
Kansas State Historical Society

William Elsey Connelley papers (RH MS 2; RH MS P452; RH MS-P 2)
The University of Kansas, Kenneth Spencer Research Library

William E Connelley Interviews (MS C4)
Truman State University, University Archives

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Historical Note:

William Elsey Connelley, the son of Constantine and Rebecca J. (McCarty) Connelley, was born in Johnson County, Kentucky, in 1855. Self-educated, Connelley taught school in Johnson County between 1872 and 1880 and continued that profession after coming to Wyandotte County, Kansas, in 1881 before turning to other pursuits. From 1883 to 1887, he served as county clerk for Wyandotte County; between 1888 and 1892, he was in the wholesale lumber business; and in 1892, he was again in Wyandotte County associated with banking interests.

The 1890s found Connelley beginning his avocation of historical research and writing. Among his most important contributions are, *The Provisional Government of Nebraska Territory* (1899), *Quantrill and the Border Wars* (1909), *Eastern Kentucky Papers* (1910), *Life of Preston Plumb* (1913), a five volume *History of Kansas* (1917), a five volume *History of Kentucky* (1922), and *Indian Myths* (1928). At the time of the correspondence and for the remainder of his life, Connelley lived in Topeka, Kansas. He died in 1930.

Arrangement:

This collection has been arranged chronologically into three folders.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of letters written by Connelley, noted Kansas historian, to Franklin Benjamin Sanborn, a journalist, author, and reformer, from Massachusetts. The correspondence primarily covers Connelley's research into the life of John Brown. The letters also convey information about other research projects in which Connelley was involved, his candid opinions about prominent political and literary personalities in Kansas, and some insight into Connelley's personal life. In addition, the collection contains copies of two letters written by John Brown to Reverend Adair in 1857.

Container List:

f. 1-3 Correspondence, 1900-1911

Index:

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