



John Bailey Gage Papers (K0254)

Collection Number: K0254

Collection Title: John Bailey Gage Papers

Dates: 1941-1964

Creator: Gage, John Bailey, 1887-1970

Abstract: The John Bailey Gage Papers consists of correspondence primarily relating to the Midwest Research Institute (MRI). Many of these letters have attachments, most of which are the agendas and the meeting minutes of the institution's Executive Committee of the Board of Governors. Also included are copies of by-laws and reports on income and expenses. Additional materials include speeches made by Gage, photographs, certificates, programs, and a title of abstract for the Gage Addition to Kansas City.

Collection Size: 0.60 cubic foot
(22 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 and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *John Bailey Gage Papers* (K0254); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Kansas City].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Mrs. John Gage on November 11, 1988 (Accession No. KA0494). An addition was made on July 10, 1995, by Frank Gage (Accession No. KA0868). An addition was made on November 15, 1996, by Frank Gage (Accession No. KA0927). An addition was made on January 2, 2001, by Donna Miller (Accession No. KA1111).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the John Bailey Gage Papers can be found in the following collections:

Laurance Mastick Papers (C3390)

J C. Nichols Company Records (K0106)

Processed by: Processed by Rachel Forester, April 2018

Historical Note:

John Bailey “Jack” Gage was born on February 24, 1887, in Kansas City, Missouri, to John Cutler and Ida Bailey Gage. He graduated from Central High School and later enrolled at the University of Kansas. After graduating in 1907, Gage began working in his father's law firm. At that time, he began attending night classes at the Kansas City School of Law where he graduated in 1909.

During his career as an attorney, Gage gained a reputation for being an expert in probate law and taught evening classes at the Kansas City School of Law for nearly twenty years. In 1930, Gage helped to establish the firm of Gage, Hodges, Kreamer, and Varner.

During the spring of 1940, Gage ran for the office of Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, on the nonpartisan United Campaign Committee’s ticket. He won the candidacy and would be re-elected in 1942 and again in 1946. Gage was dubbed the “Cleanup Mayor,” during his three terms where he set up business-like procedures for the bankrupt city. Together with City Manager L. P. Cookingham, they replaced the old patronage system of the Pendergast Era with a merit-based system for city employees. He also guided the city out of bankruptcy and at the end of his third term, the city held a balanced budget. Gage did not seek a fourth term as mayor; instead, he opted to resume his career as an attorney.

In addition to his political career, Gage was known nationally as a cattle breeder. He served as the president of the American Shorthorn Breeders Association, the American Milking Shorthorn Society, and the Saddle and Sirloin Club. He was also the president of the American Royal for a time. Gage served for many years as a regional vice-president of the National Municipal League, a citizens group that helped to foster good local government. In addition, he also served as the vice chairman of the Executive Committee of the Midwest Research Institute from 1949 to 1956.

John Gage was married to Constance Lane, who died during the flu epidemic of 1918. They had a daughter, Betty Lane Gage. In 1922, Gage married Marjorie Hires, who had been active in civic affairs and the Citizens Association. Gage had two sons with Marjorie, John Cutter Gage and Frank Hires Gage, and two daughters, Anne Lewis and Betty Jensen.

John B. Gage died on January 15, 1970. He is buried at the Mount Washington cemetery, in Independence, Missouri. In October 1970, Gage’s friends and colleagues established the John B. Gage Lecture and Fellowship Fund for the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School in his memory.

Arrangement:

Collection has been arranged into twenty-two folders. Materials within this collection have been arranged chronologically within their folders.

Scope and Content Note:

Folders one through sixteen consists of correspondence relating primarily to the Midwest Research Institute (MRI) and are dated between 1949 and 1954. Many of these letters have attachments, most of which are copies of by-laws, reports, agendas, and the meeting minutes of the Institution's Executive Committee of the Board of Governors. Folder seventeen contains five speeches given by Gage in 1945, during his time as the mayor of Kansas City, Missouri. Folder eighteen consists of a single speech given by General John T. Barker to the Boone County Bar Association held in Columbia, Missouri, in 1952. The title of the speech reads, "The Trail of Frank James." Folder nineteen contains five programs for shows performed at the Starlight Theatre and the Musical Hall in Kansas City, Missouri, between 1941 and 1951. Folder twenty contains an abstract of title for the Gage addition to Kansas City and folder twenty-one contains photographs.

Folder twenty-two consists of seven oversize items. These oversize items include an award for distinguished service issued by the University of Kansas in 1943; a resolution of thanks issued by the Board of Advisory Trustees of the Citizens Bond Committee in 1955; a certificate of membership to the Mississippi Valley Association in 1958; two certificates of appreciation issued by the Department of the Army for patriotic civilian service in 1960; a certificate of appreciation issued by the Midwest Research Institute in 1964; and lastly a man of the month certificate issued by Man of the Month Fraternity, date is unknown. All oversize materials were presented to John Gage.

Container List:

Box 001	f. 1-16	Correspondence, 1949-1954
	f. 17-18	Speeches, 1945, 1952
	f. 19	Programs, 1941-1951
	f. 20	Title of Abstract, no date
	f. 21	Photographs, no date
Box 002	f. 22	Oversize, 1943, 1955-1964

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Baker, John T.	18	
Black & Veatch	12	
Carey Salt Company	8	
Carnation Company	7	
Chicago Transit Authority	4	
Cities Service Gas Company	12	
Gage, John Bailey, 1887-1970	1-17	
General Aniline & Film Corporation	8	
Girard Trust Company	5	
Great Lakes Pipe Line Company	13-14	
Hasman, John	21	Yes
Houdry Process Corporation	5	

Index Term	Folder	Image
Illinois Institute of Technology	5-6	
J. C. Nichols Company	4, 16	
James, Frank, 1843-1915	18	
John Price Jones Company	11	
Kimball, Charles Newton, 1911-1994	6-7, 11-12, 16	
Linda Hall Library	9	
Mellon Institute of Industrial Research	5	
Midwest Research Institute (Kansas City, Mo.)	1-16	
Mississippi Valley Association	1	
Nichols, Jesse Clyde, 1880-1950	5	
Nichols, Miller, 1911-2000	16	
Service Pipe Line Company	7	
Socony-Vacuum Oil Company	8	
Stanford Research Institute	5	
Stanolind Oil and Gas Company	7	
Trans World Airlins	12	
University of Missouri—Kansas City	11	
University of Nebraska at Omaha	4	
University of New Hampshire	5	
Victor Chemical Works	7	
Wheatley, Robert Lee	21	Yes