

K Collapse of the Women's Prison at 15th and Grand Collection, 1863-1956
0349 0.12 cubic feet
NSA

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri-Research Center, Kansas City](http://www.shsofmo-kc.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at shsofmo-kc@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The collection contains research correspondence, typed transcripts of historical documents, and Photostats of original documents from the National Archives concerning the collapse of the women's prison in Kansas City, Missouri, on August 13, 1863.

DONOR INFORMATION

The collection was donated to the University of Missouri as part of the collection of the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City on 7/17/1990 (Accession No. KA0590).

COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS

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HISTORICAL SKETCH

Mildred C. Cox, a Kansas City historian, gathered documentary information concerning the collapse of the women's prison in Kansas City, Missouri, which occurred on August 13, 1863. The exact cause of the collapse, however, had not been firmly established, prompting Cox's research. Local legend suggested that the "murder" of several Southern sympathizing women prisoners had sparked Quantrill's raid on Lawrence, Kansas. The building housing the prison was commandeered by Union Brigadier General Ewing to house female Confederate sympathizers.

The building housing the prison stood at 1425 Grand Boulevard. A historic marker commemorates the site at Grand Avenue and Truman Road. George Caleb Bingham was one of the building's owners at the time of the collapse, though it was referred to as the Thomas Building in the legal materials. Four women were killed and many were seriously injured during the collapse. Cox obtained the documents in an attempt to settle the controversy of what caused the collapse and who should be held responsible.

Cox believed that the documented facts should be available locally for historical research. She donated her research materials to the Native Sons of Kansas City in 1956.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of research correspondence, typed transcripts of historical documents, and Photostats of original documents from the National Archives concerning the collapse of the women's prison in Kansas City, Missouri, on August 13, 1863. The collection includes a summary of the documents, an annotated bibliography of sources

compiled by Mildred Cox, and her research correspondence with the National Archives and James Anderson of the Native Sons of Kansas City. The collection also includes typed transcripts and Photostats of original materials related to the event.

PREFERRED CITATION

Specific item; box number; folder number; *Collapse of the Women's Prison at 15th and Grand Collection (K0349)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Correspondence and research materials, 1955-1956
- f. 2 Typed transcripts and Photostats, 1863-1874

LOCATION NOTE

Materials in this collection are housed offsite (063215) and will need to be retrieved before viewing.

SUBJECT TERMS

Bingham, George C.
Prisons – Missouri – Kansas City
Structural failures
United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865