



Union Cemetery Association Records (K0385)

Collection Number: K0385

Collection Title: Union Cemetery Association Records

Dates: 1857-1954

Creator: Native Sons of Kansas City

Abstract: The records of Union Cemetery Association contain minutes, financial and legal documents, correspondence, lists of plot owners, a scrapbook of clippings, a stock book, and photographs concerning the cemetery shared by the towns of Kansas City and Westport, Missouri, dated 1857-1954.

Collection Size: 1 cubic foot
(29 folders, 1 oversize map, 36 photographs)

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: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Union Cemetery Association Records* (K0385); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the University of Missouri by the Native Sons of Kansas City on June 17, 1990 (Accession No. KA0590).

Notes: Collection is associated with the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City Archives. Folder 29 is located in an oversize flat box.

Processed by: Processed by Whitney Heinzmann, November 2017

Historical Note:

Established in 1857, Union Cemetery was shared by the towns of Kansas and Westport. Existing cemeteries had filled quickly with the outbreak of cholera in the area and the communities desperately needed a space for a new cemetery. In 1857, James W. Hunter deeded 49 acres located between the town of Kansas and near Westport. Union Cemetery Assembly was organized by the Missouri General Assembly later that year.

By 1910, Union Cemetery showed signs of deterioration and neglect and came under constant criticism. The Association sold acreage to raise funds for necessary maintenance. It later came to light that the acreage sold for funds was purchased by Evergreen Land Company, a company formed by members of the Association. Remaining land was deeded to Kansas City in 1937. The Kansas City Parks Department currently maintains Union Cemetery.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following four series with two subseries:

Administrative Records

 Financial Records

 Legal Records

Photographs

Scrapbook

Oversize

Scope and Content Note:**Administrative Records**

This series contains committee reports, correspondence, lists of cemetery lot and grave owners, and minutes. The Financial Records subseries contains material concerning the monetary business of the association. Of particular note are cards requesting lot owners provide an estimate of monetary donation for the year. The subseries also contains a stock book with certificates and stubs for lot owners. The Legal Records subseries contains material concerning legal action taken against Kansas City in 1888 and 1913. The subseries also includes miscellaneous legal documents pertaining to the property, including an abstract of title to lots 61 to 74, Union Terminal Addition.

Photographs

This series consists of photographs of Union Cemetery and structures on the property. Court case exhibit photographs show the layout of the cemetery and placement of the structures on the property. Reports on the Union Cemetery Photographs are similar and show the interior of the buildings and highlights the remodeling performed on the structures. These photographs were originally part of the Report on Union Cemetery by the Kansas City Board of Park Commissioners, 1944.

Scrapbook

This series contains pages from a scrapbook outlining the early history of Union Cemetery. Pages are primarily comprised of newspaper clippings, with a special focus on the legal matters of the cemetery.

Oversize

This series consists of a single plat map of the Union Terminal Addition to Union Cemetery.

Container List:

f. 1-18	Administrative Records
Box f. 1 001	Committee Reports, 1923-1934
f. 2-3	Correspondence, 1922-1941
f.4	Dedication of the Ornamental Entrance to Union Cemetery Address, 1954
f. 5-8	Financial Records
f. 5	Expenses, 1923, 1929
f. 6	Proposed Subscription Cards, 1923
f. 7	Subscription Amounts, no date
f. 8	Stock Book, 1899-1937
f. 9-12	Legal Records
f. 9	Appellant's Abstract of Record, John Campbell vs. The City of Kansas, 1888
f. 10	Union Cemetery vs. Kansas City, 1913
f. 11	Abstract of Title to Lots 61 to 74, Union Terminal Addition, 1919-1928
f. 12	Legal Documents, 1923-1931
f. 13-15	Lot Owners Records, no date
f. 16	Minutes, 1916-1937
f. 17	Report on Union Cemetery by Kansas City Board of Park Commissioners, 1944
f. 18	Ephemera, 1923-1927
f. 19-23	Photographs
f. 19-20	Court Case Exhibit Photographs, no date
f. 21-22	Report on Union Cemetery Photographs, 1944
f. 23	Photograph, no date
f. 24-28	Scrapbook
f. 24-28	Scrapbook, 1910-1954
f. 29	Oversize
Box f. 29 002	Plat Map of Union Terminal Addition, no date

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Cemeteries--Missouri--Kansas City	1-29	Yes

Index Term	Folder	Image
Union Cemetery (Kansas City, Mo.)	1-29	Yes