



## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0828

William Coleman Branton (1914-1985) Papers  
1943-1985  
269 Folders [9 cubic feet]

*Personal papers of Branton, prominent attorney and civic leader in Kansas City, MO. Includes Photographs, correspondence, records and other papers relating to Branton's military duty, legal practice, banking career, civic activities, and personal life.*

### BIOGRAPHY:

William Coleman Branton was born in Greenville, Mississippi on June 30, 1914. Branton received his undergraduate degree at Davidson College. He obtained his law degree from the University of Mississippi in 1939, at which time he entered into legal practice in Greenville, Mississippi, at the law firm of Farish, Keady and Branton. From 1940 to 1946, his legal career was interrupted by World War II.

During the war, Branton served, with honors, as an Artillery Colonel, United States Army, in the Pacific Theater of Operations. He participated in seven combat landings under fire, and helped reorganize the 35th Infantry Division. After the war, and until his retirement from the military in 1966, Branton served in the National Guard as Chief of Staff of the G-3 Division. He also served as civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army from 1979-1981.

After the war, in 1946, Branton moved to Kansas City to continue his general practice. Less than a year later, on April 12, 1947, he married Mary Shaw of Independence, Missouri. They had two children: Leslie and Paige. Branton practiced law until 1965, when he became Senior Vice President of City National Bank in Kansas City, Missouri. He retired from banking in 1979.

Branton was involved in numerous civic activities, clubs, foundations, and honorary societies in the Kansas City area. He also helped found several

organizations: the Missouri Repertory Theater, Clearinghouse for Midcontinent Foundations, and Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

William Coleman Branton died on September 12, 1985 at the age of 71.

**PROVENANCE:**

The papers were donated by Mrs. William Coleman Branton and received as accession KA0454 on March 22, 1988, and accession KA0461 on May 19, 1988. An addition accession was received as KA0529 on September 12, 1989.

**COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS:**

The Donor has given and assigned to the University of Missouri 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; folder number; *collection name and (number)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

**CONTACT:**

*The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City  
302 Newcomb Hall, University of Missouri-Kansas City  
5123 Holmes Street, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499  
(816) 235-1543 [SHSofMO-KC@umsystem.edu](mailto:SHSofMO-KC@umsystem.edu)  
<http://shs.umsystem.edu/index.shtml>*

**DESCRIPTION:**

Photographs, correspondence, records and other papers relating to William Coleman Branton's military duty, legal practice, banking career, civic activities, and personal life.

**INVENTORY:**

**BOX 001**

*BIOGRAPHICAL DATA*

Folder 1. W.C.B. Resume' (1959-1977)

- Folder 2. Mr. Branton: *Who's Who in America* (1965-1985)
- Folder 3. Clippings, notes, correspondence (1978-1980)
- Folder 4. W.C. Branton Newspaper Clippings (1951-1969)
- Folder 5. American Bar Association Certificate of Membership and related items
- Folder 6. Date Books (1944, 1978)
- Folder 7. William Coleman Branton, Wills (1965)

### *MILITARY*

- Folder 8. Various US Army Records of William. Coleman Branton: Dept of the Army, and National Guard (1945-1963)
- Folder 9. Branton Personnel file: 2nd Lieutenant, 114th F. A. Greenville, Mississippi (1945-1975)
- Folder 10. Records: Service record and allied papers of Branton, National Guard. (1949-1959)
- Folder 11. Military pass, Tally in sheet, shipping ticket (1944-1945)
- Folder 12. Pilot log (1941-1942), Flight calculator
- Folder 13. Fort Riley Screening Center (1944-1946)
- Folder 14. Greetings cards and correspondence while Branton was enlisted (1945-1948)
- Folder 15. Farewell Supper and Shindig for William J. Shaw (ca. 1945)
- Folder 16. Organized Reserve training test (1949)
- Folder 17. *Secret Reports*: orders, correspondence, records, regarding Branton's duties in the Pacific (1944-1945)
- Folder 18. *Secret Intelligence Report*: Summary of Enemy Situation-Blacklist Operation, 41st Infantry Division (September, 1945)
- Folder 19. *Secret Intelligence Plan*: Field order #15; "41st Division Occupation Kure-Hiroshima", (September 17, 1945)
- Folder 20. *Restricted*: 41st Infantry Division Military Telephone directory (12 July, 1945)
- Folder 21. *Top Secret*: Loading, shipping, and landing schedules and corresponding troop lists (July and August 1945)
- Folder 22. ROTC retirement points (1966)
- Folder 23. Newspaper Clippings, certificates, correspondence, and other materials related to the National Guard (1948-1963)

- Folder 24. Missouri National Guardsman newsletter (September-October 1951)
- Folder 25. Miscellaneous National Guard, mostly correspondence
- Folder 26. National Guard, Biographical information; some is labeled restricted
- Folder 27. Missouri Committee Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve: 2 Handbooks, one dated January 1983, and the other not dated.
- Folder 28. Department of the Army Official Records, including a statement of service (dated October 31, 1966)
- Folder 29. Honorary Colonel (Gov. Hearnes' Staff) (January 1969)
- Folder 30. Military Order of World Wars (1963-1964)

**BOX 002**

- Folder 31. Veterans Administration (1949-1960)

*CORRESPONDENCE: FAMILY LETTERS AND CARDS*

- Folder 32. Get Well cards from children (July 1957)
- Folder 33. Cards from children (1957-1970's)
- Folder 34. Letters from children (1957-1979)
- Folder 35. Letters from Mary Shaw Branton (1956-1973)
- Folder 36. Personal Cards and Letters
- Folder 37. Personal Birthday cards
- Folder 38. Retirement Cards
- Folder 39. News clipping cards
- Folder 40. W.C. BRANTON artwork, sketches, and doodles

*PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE*

- Folder 41. Personal Correspondence: 1940-1959
- Folder 42. Personal Correspondence: 1940-1959
- Folder 43. February 4, 1953 - October 15, 1956
- Folder 44. October 7, 1956 - March 21, 1957
- Folder 45. May 1, 1957 - April 1, 1958
- Folder 46. April 21, 1958 - December 8, 1958
- Folder 47. December 1, 1958 - April 2, 1959
- Folder 48. February 27, 1959 - September 10, 1959

- Folder 49. February 11, 1960 - May 10, 1960  
Folder 50. September 16, 1959 - February 10, 1960

**BOX 003**

- Folder 51. May 11, 1960 - October 5, 1960  
Folder 52. October 3, 1960 - January 14, 1961  
Folder 53. January 17, 1961 - June 5, 1961  
Folder 54. June 6, 1961 - October 25, 1961  
Folder 55. October 24, 1961 - February 21, 1962  
Folder 56. February 24, 1962 - October 10, 1962  
Folder 57. October 11, 1962 - May 27, 1963  
Folder 58. April 16, 1963 - August 16, 1963  
Folder 59. August 21, 1963 - December 21, 1963  
Folder 60. J. Gordon Siddens correspondence (1963-1964)  
Folder 61. January 1, 1964 - May 25, 1964  
Folder 62. April 13, 1964 - August 25, 1964  
Folder 63. August 27, 1964 - December 28, 1964  
Folder 64. January 4, 1965 - February 16, 1965  
Folder 65. February 18 1965 - May 10, 1965  
Folder 66. May 10, 1965 - January 3, 1966  
Folder 67. Correspondence regarding City National Bank (July, 1965)  
Folder 68. Personal File; William. Coleman Branton, 1968  
Folder 69. Personal File; William. Coleman Branton, 1969  
Folder 70. Personal File; William. Coleman Branton, 1970  
Folder 71. Personal Correspondence, 1971  
Folder 72. Personal Correspondence, 6/72 -12/72  
Folder 73. Personal Correspondence, 1974  
Folder 74. Personal Correspondence, 1975  
Folder 75. Personal Correspondence, 1976  
Folder 76. Personal Correspondence, 1977

**BOX 004**

- Folder 77. Personal Correspondence, 1978

- Folder 78. Political Correspondence, 1974-1978: Robert Dole, George Lehr, James Spainhower, Richard Bolling, Stuart Simington, James Pearson, Jerry Litton, James Kirkpatrick, Nancy Kassebaum, Secretary of State Vance
- Folder 79. Coleman Branton Personal Correspondence 1985

### *SPEECHES*

- Folder 80. Material for speeches
- Folder 81. Material for speeches
- Folder 82. Speeches by other people
- Folder 83. Speeches
- Folder 84. Speeches
- Folder 85. Speeches
- Folder 86. Speeches
- Folder 87. Speeches
- Folder 88. Speech to C & Gsc Foreign Officer Personnel
- Folder 89. Testimonial Dinner for Senator Richard Southern
- Folder 90. Report/Paper: "Economic Mobilization"
- Folder 91. Trust -- Talk on organization of trust Dept.

### *EAGLETON FUND RAISING*

- Folder 92. Thomas F. Eagleton for Attorney General Committee (1959-1960)
- Folder 93. Official Returns of Primary Election and Campaign Contributions (1960)
- Folder 94. Thomas F. Eagleton for Attorney General Committee (1960)
- Folder 95. Thomas F. Eagleton for Attorney General Committee (1960)
- Folder 96. Thomas F. Eagleton for Attorney General Committee (1960-1961)
- Folder 97. The administration of Attorney General Thomas F. Eagleton (1961-1965)
- Folder 98. Charles Curry (1962-1963), regarding Eagleton fund raising
- Folder 99. Thomas F. Eagleton Correspondence and Committees (1967)
- Folder 100. Senator Eagleton's Birthday Dinner (1973)
- Folder 101. Senator Eagleton's Birthday Dinner, contributions / receipts (1973)
- Folder 102. Senator Eagleton's Birthday Dinner, contributions and receipts (1973)
- Folder 103. Senator Eagleton's Birthday Dinner, deposit reports (1973)

Folder 104. Thomas F. Eagleton Campaign (1974)

**BOX 005**

Folder 105. Thomas F. Eagleton Correspondence (1969-1974)

Folder 106. Thomas F. Eagleton Correspondence (1971-1979)

Folder 107. Thomas F. Eagleton Correspondence (1974-1979)

Folder 108. Thomas F. Eagleton Correspondence (1971-1984)

*PARKER B. FRANCIS FOUNDATION*

Folder 109. Parker B. Francis Foundation: correspondence, reports, documents (1984-1985)

Folder 110. Parker B. Francis III Foundation: insurance policies (1981-1983)

Folder 111. Parker B. Francis Foundation: Articles of incorporation, resolutions of the board, and related reports

Folder 112. Parker B. Francis Foundation: Bank statement (1985)

Folder 113. Puritan-Bennett FD. and Parker B. Francis FD. (1985)

Folder 114. #2 Parker B. Francis FD.: Correspondence, minutes, reports (1985)

*CIVIC ROLE INCLUDING COMMITTEES, BOARDS, SOCIETIES, CLUBS, FOUNDATIONS, AND FUNDS*

Folder 115. St. Luke's Hospital, Definitions

Folder 116. St. Luke's Hospital Foundation, correspondence (1985)

Folder 117. St. Luke's Hospital Foundation, correspondence, reports (1985)

Folder 118. St. Luke's Hospital (1962-1965)

Folder 119. Crittenden birthplace restoration

Folder 120. Westergard Fund, correspondence and shareholder report (1983)

Folder 121. Capital Improvements Commission of Jackson County (1966)

Folder 122. Heart Institute Cardiovascular counsel (1985)

Folder 123. Mid America Heart Institute (1985)

Folder 124. Davidson College: correspondence, alumni association memos (W. Coleman Branton was president of the Kansas City Alumni Chapter) (1980-1984)

Folder 125. UMKC 1973 Bulletin, Alumni Edition

Folder 126. UMKC 1976 Tempo Magazine

- Folder 127. Missouri Repertory Theatre, correspondence, bylaws, board of trustees directory (1985)
- Folder 128. Missouri Rep. Theatre, Inc., correspondence (1982-1984)
- Folder 129. The Chouteau Society, correspondence, minutes, certificate of incorporation and related material (1984)
- Folder 130. The Chouteau Society, correspondence, bylaws and articles of incorporation (1985)
- Folder 131. Society of Fellows Nelson Gallery, investment information (1985)
- Folder 132. Jackson County Historical Society: correspondence with the Harry Truman's' 1967, Newspaper clipping 1968
- Folder 133. Sons of the Revolution: Application for membership 1969 (contains Branton's genealogical information)
- Folder 134. Kansas City Country Club Membership: letters of recommendation and proposals for membership (1982-1983, 1985)
- Folder 135. University Club, miscellaneous, including club lease negotiations (1959-1962)
- Folder 136. Proposal letters for University Club Membership (1969-1985)
- Folder 137. Proposal letters for University Club Membership (1969-1985)
- Folder 138. The University Associates: correspondence, directory, board of directors meetings (1961-1963)
- Folder 139. Regarding W.C. Branton as representative for the University of Mississippi at the inauguration of Harold E. Sponberg as president of the university (1962)

## **BOX 006**

### *DIRECTORIES*

- Folder 140. Wildcat Handbook; Davidson College (1935-1936)
- Folder 141. University Club (1945, 1949, 1950, 1954)
- Folder 142. Directory of the Bar, Kansas City Bar Association (1950-1956)
- Folder 143. The Lawyers Association of Kansas City Roster (1950, 1951, 1952, 1955)
- Folder 144. Military directories, (1948-1949)

### *VARIOUS CORPORATE FORMS*

- Folder 145. Stockholders meetings, company notes of agreement (1946-1964)
- Folder 146. Stock shares certificates, blank



- Folder 147. Various corporate agreements, opinions, etc. (1937-1948)
- Folder 148. W.C. Branton Personal, Opinions on Corporations (1946-1951)
- Folder 149. W.C. Branton Personal, Regarding the closing of the Katz Drug Company (1952)
- Folder 150. W.C. Branton Personal, Opinions regarding S. E. C. (Securities Exchange?), (1946-1950)
- Folder 151. Black Sivalls & Bryson (1946)
- Folder 152. Black Sivalls & Bryson, forms (1944-1948)
- Folder 153. Not for profit corporate forms (1954-1957)
- Folder 154. Papers for Derks Lumber & Coal Company's annual meeting (1948)
- Folder 155. Corporate minutes, by laws, etc. (1948-1957)

*WILLIAM COLEMAN BRANTON PERSONAL FILES, TRIAL PLEADINGS, MEMORANDA, RELEASES, ETC.*

- Folder 156. Pleadings file (1947-1959)
- Folder 157. Trial instructions, undated (ca 1950's)
- Folder 158. Pre-trial motions (1949-1958)
- Folder 159. Miscellaneous opinions (1946-1950)
- Folder 160. Opinions on torts negligence, and liabilities (1949-1957)
- Folder 161. Pleadings, instructions, and after-trial motions (1950-1958)
- Folder 162. Various agreements, releases and receipts (1949-1964)
- Folder 163. Various legal memoranda regarding trials (1943-1952)

**BOX 007**

- Folder 164. Various legal memoranda regarding trials (1943-1952)

*WILLIAM COLEMAN BRANTON PERSONAL FILES, LEGAL MEMORANDA ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS*

- Folder 165. Opinions on condemnation (1948)
- Folder 166. Opinions on taxation (1948)
- Folder 167. Workmen's compensation (1948)
- Folder 168. Opinions on trusts (1948-1956)
- Folder 169. Anti-trust (ca. 1950?)
- Folder 170. Central opinions (1948)
- Folder 171. Labor Memoranda (1944-1950)

- Folder 172. Employment contracts and memoranda (ca. 1950)
- Folder 173. Various arbitration cases (ca. 1950)
- Folder 174. Notes and law (1964-1965)
- Folder 175. Opinions and forms regarding real estate (1947-1957)
- Folder 176. Memoranda and opinions (1952-1953)

*WILLIAM COLEMAN BRANTON PERSONAL FILES, LEGAL BUSINESS  
TRANSACTIONS AND AFFAIRS*

- Folder 177. Office Dockets (1956-1965)
- Folder 178. Trial Docket - Brewer, Meyers and Branton
- Folder 179. Missouri Water Company: court cases and related correspondence and maps (1981-1982)
- Folder 180. Corporate resolutions (1952)
- Folder 181. Pension plan agreement (1952)
- Folder 182. Certified copy of resolutions of Board of Directors (1952)
- Folder 183. Instrument of tender of shares (1952)
- Folder 184. Subscription agreement (1952)
- Folder 185. Stockholder's lease and agreement (1948-1952)
- Folder 186. Declarations (1952)
- Folder 187. Guaranty Agreements, Subordination Agreements (1941-1952)
- Folder 188. North Kansas City Bank (1963-1964)
- Folder 189. The Advanced Underwriter Periodical (October-November, 1963)
- Folder 190. Miscellaneous instruments (1958-1963)
- Folder 191. Barstow School (1962-1964)

*MARY GENTRY SHAW*

- Folder 192. Notes (1958-1964)
- Folder 193. Correspondence (1956-1965)
- Folder 194. Miscellaneous instruments (1959-1965)
- Folder 195. Last Will and Testament (1963)
- Folder 196. Leases, titles, applications of purchase of land, patent deed (1950-1961)

*WILLIAM COLEMAN BRANTON PERSONAL FILES*

- Folder 197. L.L. Shaw Estate (1894-1955)

Folder 198. W.C. Branton's personal life insurance policy (1946-1965)

**BOX 008**

- Folder 199. Royal L. Branton real estate taxes (1959)
- Folder 200. Mary Belle White: legal and financial papers (1958-1960)
- Folder 201. Correspondence and draft of plantation contract (1953-1955)
- Folder 202. Wills and trusts (1957-1964)
- Folder 203. Wills and trusts (1957-1964)
- Folder 204. Wills and trusts (1957-1964)
- Folder 205. Deeds of trust (ca. 1951), Trust agreement (1961)
- Folder 206. Deeds of release (1952)
- Folder 207. Leases (1952-1953)
- Folder 208. Mortgages (ca. 1952)
- Folder 209. Articles of incorporation, Missouri (ca. 1952)
- Folder 210. Printing proof of International Manufacturing Company stock certificate (ca. 1952)
- Folder 211. Articles of incorporation, Nevada, Illinois (1952)
- Folder 212. Escrow agreement between the Flarsheim Co. and Thomas Joseph Manning
- Folder 213. New York Summary Judgment Law (1952)
- Folder 214. Power of Attorney (1951)
- Folder 215. Real Estate Contracts (blank)
- Folder 216. Miscellaneous agreements and contracts (1951-1953)
- Folder 217. Collateral bonds, collateral notes (ca. 1952-1953)
- Folder 218. Promissory Notes (1952-1953)
- Folder 219. Memoranda regarding Cousin's Merchants Acceptance Company Bankruptcy case (1953)
- Folder 220. Rules and regulations regarding proxies
- Folder 221. Articles of incorporation Kansas (ca. 1952)
- Folder 222. Consignments, (1952)
- Folder 223. Minutes of meetings, (ca. 1952-1953)
- Folder 224. Joint venture agreements, (1952)
- Folder 225. Stock option agreements (1952-1958)
- Folder 226. Bylaws and offices (ca. 1952)

- Folder 227. Certificate of Amendment, Bernstein-Applebee Company (1952)
- Folder 228. Memoranda regarding corporate legal questions (1953)
- Folder 229. Letter to stockholders (to W.M. McGough) from Riverside Land Co.
- Folder 230. Court case: District of Colorado: Cinema Amusements, Inc. vs Loew's Inc. and R. K. O. Radio pictures, Inc. et. al.
- Folder 231. Leases (ca. 1957-1963)
- Folder 232. Divorce cases (1945-1956)

*LEGAL FILES MR. AND MRS. ROBERT ENGLANDER*

- Folder 233. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Englander: Pleadings, case Number 695 in the Circuit Court of Taney County, Missouri (1965)
- Folder 234. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Englander: Pleadings case number 664048, division 5 (1964)
- Folder 235. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Englander: law (1964-1965)
- Folder 236. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Englander: Legal notes (1961-1965)
- Folder 237. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Englander: Miscellaneous instruments (ca. 1962-1964)
- Folder 238. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Englander: Correspondence (1963-1965)
- Folder 239. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Englander: Court cases regarding the estate of Jacob Gershon, deceased (1963)

**BOX 009**

- Folder 240. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Englander: (1964-1965)
- Folder 241. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Englander: Court cases regarding the estate of Jacob Gershon, deceased (ca. 1965)

*WILLIAM COLEMAN BRANTON PERSONAL FILES, ESTATE OF MRS. W.G. WHITE, DECEASED*

- Folder 242. Last Will and Testament of William Coleman Branton (1962, 1956); Mary Belle White (1959)
- Folder 243. Correspondence (February 1, 1962 - July 11, 1963)
- Folder 244. Correspondence (September 15, 1961 - February 3, 1962)
- Folder 245. Correspondence (January 25, 1961 - September 18, 1961)
- Folder 246. Correspondence (November 25, 1960 - February 21, 1961)
- Folder 247. Miscellaneous instruments and correspondence (September 30, 1963 - March 26, 1965)

- Folder 248. Miscellaneous Instruments and Correspondence (February 12, 1962 - November 10, 1963)
- Folder 249. Miscellaneous instruments and correspondence (1946 - January 3, 1962)
- Folder 250. Sale of property to D.K. Morrow and Royal Branton (1961-1964)
- Folder 251. Letters of Testamentary, Sale bank contract for 1961, Death certificate, State and Federal Estate Tax Returns
- Folder 252. Information in connection with banking deposits

### *PHOTOGRAPHS*

- Folder 253. Photographs: Taken from personal files: includes pictures of Branton, his family, and children
- Folder 254. Photographs: found in folder marked "Resume": includes civic and social events
- Folder 255. Photographs: National Guard, includes an autographed photograph of Harry Truman
- Folder 256. Photographs: from folder labeled "Lt. Col. William. C. Branton.
- Folder 257. Photographs: W.C.B. visit to US Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning, GA.
- Folder 258. Photographs: Earthworks and caves, South Pacific, W. W. II
- Folder 259. Photographs: Branton's Military duty during W.W. II, marked "for official use only"
- Folder 260. Photographs: snapshots of Branton's personal life ca. 1940-1950
- Folder 261. Photographs: snapshots by Branton of his military life during W.W. II
- Folder 262. Photographs: Groups: 35th Infantry Division 1950-1952, 1954; 41st Infantry Division 1945
- Folder 263. Photographs: Thomas Eagleton Promotional Photographs ca. 1960  
*This is accession 0529kc acquired on September 12, 1989.*
- Folder 264. Thomas Eagleton Materials: correspondence, clippings, flyers 1967-1970
- Folder 265. Thomas Eagleton Materials: correspondence, clippings, flyers 1967-1968
- Folder 266. Thomas Eagleton Materials: correspondence, clippings, flyers 1964, 1968
- Folder 267. Thomas Eagleton Materials: correspondence, clippings, flyers 1968-1969

- Folder 268. Eagleton for Senator Committee: correspondence, clippings, 1968-1970
- Folder 269. Eagleton for Senator Committee: correspondence, clippings, 1968-1970