

Henry R. Rule Autograph Collection

The Henry R. Rule Autograph Collection is the largest in a series of autograph collections found in Missouri Valley Special Collections. It includes a variety of material types and its focus is primarily on American figures including those involved in politics, literary arts, military, judicial, etc. It does appear to be an artificial collection with the bulk collected by Mr. Rule in the latter half of the 19th century and early 20th century.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Henry R. Rule and others
Title: Henry R. Rule autograph collection
Dates: 1792-1939, bulk 1860-1920
Size: 2 boxes, 23 folders, 180+ items
Location: SC35-2

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Acquisition information: Unknown, the bulk apparently from Henry R. Rule. Other names associated with donated signatures in the collection include: William S. Gurney, Edgar Archer, A.R. Waterbury, Edward Butts, N. Ballard, Robert Stanhope Townsend, P.J. Reed, William Sheaffer, Jr., Mrs. L.E. Delehant, F.P. Flagler, and Mrs. W.H. Segar.

Citation note: Henry R. Rule autograph collection (SC35-2), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

From the letters in the collection, it appears that Henry R. Rule lived in Manchester, Iowa in the 1880s, Wichita, Kansas around 1890, Oklahoma City in the early 1900s, and Kansas City in the 1920s. According to the online Missouri death certificate database, a Henry R. Rule died in Independence, Missouri in August of 1938.

Scope and content note

This collection appears to be an artificial collection with the bulk collected by Mr. Rule in the latter half of the 19th century and early 20th century. It appears that other noteworthy autographs were either added to it as they came into the library's possession or were already here and added into this donation. There was no provenance documentation available at the time of processing.

The bulk of the collection consists of letters, photographs (mostly autographed), and autograph cards. Other signed items include land deeds, proclamations, and various other documents. Non-signed items include badges, cross stitch bookmarks, flyers/advertisements/notices, and other ephemeral items.

Apparently Mr. Rule devised the note card indexing system found with the collection which has been retained for the arrangement of items. This

explanation was used: "A", 1-15 items, size 12 1/2" x 17" or larger; "B", 1-25 items, size 9" x 14"; "C", 1-45 items, 8" x 10"; "D", 1-70 items, 4 1/2" x 7"; "E", 1-15 items, 4" x 5 1/2"; "F", 1-8 items, 3" x 5" or smaller, and 3 miscellaneous found in Box 1, Folder 11 and 3 miscellaneous items found in Box 2 on top.

Within the collection, there are found political figures including many presidents, literary greats, Civil War personalities, etc. Included is a letter written by Walt Disney, Aug. 17, 1937, addressed to the Kansas City, Missouri Public Library.

When the collection was processed a complete inventory was made by categories as listed above. Some items were not originally found and others may have become missing over the years.

Collection Inventory

Box 1

- Folder 1 - Handwritten inventory of autographs divided by: Letters - 3 pages, Autographs - 4 pages, Photographs - 3 pages
- Folder 2 - Letters - Size B, #1-9, Content Names: Simon **Cameron**, Schuyler **Colfax**, Josephus **Daniels**, George **Dewey**, J.P. **Dolliver**, Norman **Duncan**
- Folder 3 - Letters - Size B, #10-18, Content Names: J.H. **Gallinger**, George **Gaethals**, D.H. **Hill**, L.M. **Shaw**, Samuel F. **Smith**
- Folder 4 - Letters - Size B, #20-25, Content Names: Theodore **Tilton**, Oscar W. **Underwood**, Woodrow **Wilson**, William H. **Seward**
- Folder 5 - Letters - Size C, #1-5, Content Names: W.B. **Allison**, William **Beck**, Mrs. Henry Ward **Beecher**, **Blind Tom** Concert Program (1872), F.A. **Harris** (private secretary to Senator **Bruce**)
- Folder 6 - Letters - Size C, #6-11, Content Names: Schuyler **Colfax**, J. Fennimore **Cooper**, George **Cortelyou**, Jefferson **Davis**, Earl of **DePrey**, T. DeWit **Talmage**
- Folder 7 - Letters, etc. - Size C, #12-17, Content Names: Photograph of **Edinburgh, Scotland**, Margaret **Fuller**, Funeral Badge of James A. **Garfield**, Horace **Greeley**, E.B. **Tibbott** (Secretary to Benjamin **Harrison**), John **Hay**
- Folder 8 - Letters, etc. - Size C, #18-27, Content Names: Oliver Wendel **Holmes**, Robert **Lansing**, Abraham **Lincoln** Assassination *News-Extra*, W. **Loeb** (Secretary to Theodore **Roosevelt**), Membership certificate of Jacob **Buffington** by the Grand Royal Arc Vessel in London, 1792, Slave bill signed by Samuel **Devilbiss**, Comptroller of the household of the **Prince of Wales**, Gifford **Pinchot**
- Folder 9 - Letters, Photographs, etc. - Size C, #28-33, Content Names: Local Navy WWI Recruiting Leaflet, Local Army WWI Recruiting Leaflet, Elihu **Root** (letter and photograph), bookmarks, W. S. **Schley**
- Folder 10 - Letters - Size C, #34-39, Content Names: Thomas H. **Sherman**, F.L. **Stevenson**, E.W. **Halford**, George **Cortelyou**, Edward **Thornton**, Mary **Tolstoi** (for her father Count Tolstoi)

- Folder 11 - Letters, photographs, etc. - Size C, #40-45 and 3 miscellaneous items, Content Names: J.P. **Tumulty**, Mark **Twain** (autographed photograph), John **Wanamaker**, Washington Temperance Society Badge, John Greenleaf **Whittier**, Edward E. **Hale**, Walt **Disney**, Hamlin **Garland**
- Folder 12 - Photographs, autograph cards - Size D, #1-6, Content Names: Chester A. **Arthur** (photograph), T.F. **Bayard**, G.T. **Beauregard**, Henry Ward **Beecher** (signed photograph), J.G. **Blaine**, Samuel G. **Blythe** (signed photograph)
- Folder 13 - Photograph, autograph cards - Size D, #7-15, Content Names: William **Booth**, B.K. **Bruce**, William Jennings **Bryan** (includes photograph), Ambrose E. **Burnside**, Simon **Cameron**, Charles D. **Clark**, Grover **Cleveland**
- Folder 14 - Photographs, autograph cards, letter - Size D, #16-23, Content Names: Roscoe **Conkling** (photograph), Joseph **Cook**, George **Cortelyou**, J.S. **Cox**, Jefferson **Davis**, William M. **Evarts**, John C. **Fremont**, John A. **Garfield** (autographed photograph)
- Folder 15 - Photographs, autograph cards - Size D, #24-31, Content Names: John H. **Gear** (signed photograph), John B. **Gaugh**, **Guttenberg** (picture), H. **Hamlin**, Benjamin **Harris**, Joseph J. **Hayes**, Rutherford B. **Hayes** (photograph and autograph card)
- Folder 16 - Photographs, autograph cards - Size D, #32-39, Content Names: Benjamin H. **Hill**, J.G. **Holland**, Oliver Wendell **Holmes**, Charles E. **Hughes**, Alex **Humboldt** (picture), R.G. **Ingersoll**, Robert E. **Lee** (photograph), Abraham **Lincoln** (funeral badge)
- Folder 17 - Photographs, autograph cards, etc. - Size D, #40-47, Content Names: John A. **Logan** (signed photograph), George B. **McClellan**, D.L. **Moody** (photograph and autograph card), Thomas **Nast**, Wendell **Phillips** (signed photograph), Army pay warrant for **Randall**, local recruiting poster for Missouri National Guard
- Folder 18 - Photographs, Autograph cards - Size D, #48-55, Content Names: James Whitcomb **Riley** (photograph and signature), Ira D. **Sankey** (photograph and autograph card), Carl **Schurz** (photograph and autograph card), Phil **Sheridan** (signed photograph), John **Sherman** (autographed photograph), William T. **Sherman**
- Folder 19 - Photographs, autograph cards - Size D, #56-63, Content Names: Alexander H. **Stephens** (photograph and autograph card), Charles S. **Stratton** (Tom Thumb), David **Swing**, Alfred **Tennyson** (photograph), Edward **Thornton**, A.G. **Thurman**, Mark **Twain**
- Folder 20 - Photographs, autograph cards, etc. - Size D, #64-70, Content Names: M.R. **Waite**, John Greenleaf **Whittier** (signed photograph), John S. **Worden**, Theodore **Roosevelt?**, Peter **Cooper**
- Folder 21 - Autograph cards, photographs - Size E, #1-8, Content Names: John G. **Gear**, Cyrus W. **Field**, Guiseppe **Garibaldi** (signed photograph), U.S. **Grant** (signed photograph), S.J. **Hare**, George F. **Hoar**, O.O. **Howard** (photograph), Abraham **Lincoln** (photograph)
- Folder 22 - Autograph cards, photographs - Size E, #9-15, Content Names: George B. **McClellan** (signed photograph), George **McDonald** (signed

photograph), Edna Dean **Proctor**, Bayard **Taylor** (signed photograph), Commodore **Vanderbilt** (photograph), Elihu **Washburne**, John B. **Gough** (photograph)

- Folder 23 - Photographs - Size F, #1-8, Content Names: Ben F. **Butler** (photograph), William Cullen **Bryant** (signed photograph), Schuyler **Colfax** (signed photograph), Abraham **Lincoln** (Photograph, beardless), William T. **Sherman** (photograph signed on back), William T. **Sherman** and his staff, 1864 (photograph)

Inventory of Items - Oversize Box

- Land Deed/Grant for Charles J.? Drury of Montgomery County, Missouri, 40 acres, sold at St. Louis, Nov.7, 1837, Certificate No. 5616, signature: Martin **Van Buren**
- Land Deed/Grant for Thomas Sallee of Henry County, Missouri, 140 acres, sold at Clinton, Missouri, Nov.1, 1853, Certificate No.34759, signature: Franklin **Pierce**
- Badge - "In Memoriam, General U.S. Grant...."Contains photo of Grant
- A1 - Document appointing certain Army men to make peace with the Indians, July 29, 1867, Signature: Andrew **Johnson**
- A2 - Land Deed/Grant for William Harrington of Clay County, 80 acres, sold at Lexington, Missouri, May 31, 1827, Certificate No.376, signature: John Quincy **Adams**
- A3 - Land Deed/Grant for Agostino Paolo of St. Louis County, Missouri, 320 acres, sold at Jackson, Aug. 1, 1860, Certificate No. 38118, Signature: James **Buchanan**
- A4 - Printed copy of Ulysses S. **Grant's** Inaugural address, March [1868], H.W. Rule autograph on it, 9" x 12"
- A5 - Civil War Captain's Commission, New York State Volunteers, 127th Regiment of Infantry, Sept. 10, 1862, for James W. Gurney, signature: Edwin D. **Morgan** and Thomas **Hillhouse**
- A6 - License (typewritten) for Monroe Holloway of Fort Defiance, Arizona to trade with the Navaho Indians, Sept. 25, 1903, signature: W.H. June?
- A7 - Land Deed/Grant for John Bybee of Monroe County, Missouri, 80 acres, sold at Palmyra, Missouri, Sept. 15, 1835, Certificate No. 4097, signature: Andrew **Jackson**
- A8 - Land Deed/Grant for William Groom of Ray? County, Missouri, 80 acres, sold at Franklin, Missouri, June 1, 1824, Certificate No. 3250, signature: James **Monroe**
- A9 - Land Deed/Grant for John Wilson of Clay County, Missouri, 39+ acres, sold at Plattsburg, Missouri, May 1, 1846, Certificate No. 3202, signature: James K. **Polk**
- A10 - Land Deed/Grant for John W. Reynolds of Clay County, Missouri, 40 acres, sold at Plattsburg, Missouri, June 1, 1850, Certificate No. 7863, signature: Zachary **Taylor**

- A11 - Land Deed/Grant for John W. Reynolds of Clay County, Missouri, 40 acres, sold at Lexington, Missouri, May 1, 1843, Certificate No. 15,880, signature: John **Tyler**
- A12 - U.S. Custom Bond, Aug. 14, 1828, signed by Charles O. **Ermatinger**, Jr. and Robert **Stuart**
- A13 - Land Deed/Grant for Samuel Livingston of Clinton County, Missouri, 80 acres, sold at Lexington, Missouri, Sept. 7, 1838, Certificate No. 5960, signature: Martin **Van Buren**
- A14 - Whig Part Baltimore Convention, Massachusetts Delegation badge, 1840 plus typewritten information concerning convention, donated by A.R. Waterbury
- A15 - Advertising poster - H.W. Younger, Dry Goods, etc., Harrisonville, Mo., May, 1862
- A16 - Ship Clearance declaration, 1810, signature: James **Madison**
- B2 - Civil War Handbill - "Householders Look Out for your Spoons!", Confederate side, ca1864
- B4 - Thanksgiving Proclamation publication, 1925, signature: Calvin **Coolidge?**
- B11 - *The Colorado Miner Extra*, Sept. 19th, "Dead on the Field of Honor", announcing President James Garfield's death
- B14 - Reception badge of General LaFayette on return to United States, August, 1824
- B15 - Playbill for Ford's Theatre, April 14, 1865, the night President Lincoln was assassinated
- B16 - Thanksgiving Proclamation publication, 1908, signature: Theodore **Roosevelt**
- B19 - Thanksgiving Proclamation publication, 1912, signature: William H. **Taft**
- B23 - Thanksgiving Proclamation publication, 1913, signature: Woodrow **Wilson**
- B24 - Circus Flyer, Albany, Oct.12-13, 1827, Master George Washington on the tightrope, etc.

Processed by Department Manager Gloria Maxwell, October, 1992; further processing by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman, 2005.