

# Brookings Montgomery Papers

Brookings Montgomery was a local photographer who maintained a business in Kansas City for many years during the 20th century. His collection of photographs purchased by the library provided the major beginnings for the photograph holdings of Missouri Valley Special Collections.

## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Brookings Montgomery  
**Title:** Brookings Montgomery papers  
**Dates:** 1940s-1962  
**Size:** 4 boxes, 135 folders  
**Location:** P3

## Administrative Information

**Restrictions on access:** Unrestricted access.

**Acquisition information:** Purchase, 1960s.

**Citation note:** Brookings Montgomery papers (P3), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

## Collection Description

### **Biographical/Historical note**

Brookings Montgomery was a local photographer who died in 1963 at the age of 79. He was a photographer in Kansas City for 50 years and owned and operated Montgomery Foto Service located at 1519 Wyandotte, Kansas City, Missouri. He was born in Carthage, Missouri, and attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is buried in Pleasant View Cemetery in Shawnee, Kansas. Many of the photographs he acquired that are connected with the correspondence in this collection may be found in P2, Montgomery's Wild West Photograph Collection.

### **Scope and content note**

The Brookings Montgomery Photograph Collection that was acquired by the Kansas City Public Library in the late 1960s contained his current office files. These files were found arranged alphabetically by the name of the person or group who were the senders. The arrangement has been left as it was found. Most of the correspondence is from 1940-1962. There are some older photostats of correspondence from an earlier period, most of it not Montgomery's directly. Although most of the contents consists of correspondence, there are some photocopies of newspaper clippings, brochures, etc.

The majority of the correspondence deals with the following subjects: circus, rodeo, Wild West lore, and cowboys. Montgomery was affiliated with the *Circus Monthly Magazine* and was actively collecting pictures on that subject. He also was interested in western figures and folklore and wrote many older western figures from stage and screen trying to acquire photos to build up this part of his collection. Some of the correspondence deals with his involvement in the

Cowboy Hall of Fame. He was also interested in local folklore characters as Jesse James, the Younger brothers, etc. There is correspondence with ancestors of Jesse James including many letters from Stella James, wife of Jesse James II.

### Collection Inventory

**Box 1** - 9 folders - 1946-1962, correspondents include:

- **Folder 1** - American Royal and FFA, 1946-1955
- **Folder 2** - Automobile Show of Kansas City, 1949-1956
- **Folder 3** - American Association of Baggage Traffic Managers, National Federation of Federal Employees, National United Fresh Fruit, Fretted Instrument Guild of America, Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, General Motors Corporation, 1946-1961
- **Folder 4** - City of Kansas City, Kansas, 1959-1961
- **Folders 5-7** - Correspondence with relatives and various others concerning Jesse James, 1948-1962
- **Folder 8** - Kappa Alpha Pi, Phi Kappa Alpha, National Association of Master Plumbers, Missouri State Bowling Association, Newspaper Advertising Executives Association, Midwest, One Hundred Thirty First Ordinance Maintenance Battalion, Jane Phillips Society, United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters, Woodford Green, Essex, England, 1950s
- **Folder 9** - Western Road Shows, 1951-1958

**Box 2** - 44 folders - 1960-1962, correspondents include:

Ned Aitchison, Jack Armstong, Tom Averill, Casey Barthelness, Leo Barthelmoss, Billy Binder, Carl Breihan, Sam Brownell, Montana Brumbo, Perry Bryan, Goldie Cameron, Rex Carson, Cherokee Bill, Chic Chevis, John Childers, Mildred Chrisman, Circus Historical Society, *Circus Review*, Circus World Museum, Fog Horn Clancy, S. J. Coffey, John D. Cooper, Robert Cotton, Cowboy Hall of Fame, Cutler Agency, Dalton Film Company, Clayton Danks, C. C. Day, Edward M. Dickey, Mitchell Dittman, Ralph Doubleday, Marc Drogin, *Ebony Magazine*, Merle Evans, Future Farmers of America, Hayes Ganiard, John Gardner, Sam Garrett, Elsie Gatewood, James George, Todd George, Bonnie Gray, Gil Gray Shrine Circus, and Weaver Gray.

**Box 3** - 32 folders - 1959-1962, correspondents include:

George Hamid, Hagan/Wallace Circus, Sam Henderson, Mat Hinkle, J. F. Holden, George Hormel & Co., George Hubert, H.C. Ingraham, Al Jennings, W.H.B. Jones, John F. Kennedy, Dan Kerr, Bette Leonard, Velma Lowry, Buck and Tad Lucas, Jim Lynch, Mae Lyons, Tom Murray, Letty McConnell, C. F. McCubbin, J. Don McLean, Jerry Malloy, John Marietta, Ken Maynard, Zack T. Miller, Lew Minor, Joe Mix, Jack Mulhall, and Johnny Mullins.

**Box 4** - 50 folders - 1956-1962, correspondents include:

Bill Penny, John Perard, Pete and Lovena Peterson, Robert Nicholson, L. Wilson Poarch, Harve Poe, Jake Posey, Rawhide Reckon, Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus, Richard Riss, Gary Roberts, Curly Roberts, Rodeo Producers, Round-Up, Ruth Salmon, Bill and Dot Sawyer, Millard Smith, Joseph R. Smith, Southern Alberta Rodeo Circuit, Bill Sterling, William F. Sutter, Bob Tabor, Charles H. Tompkins, E. B. Trail, Frank Upp, Vallejo

Chamber of Commerce, Carl Vandever, Roy Vincent, George Virgines, Pat Wagner, Wall Drug Store, Fay Ward, Washington D.C. Chamber of Commerce, *Wednesday Magazine*, *Western Horseman Magazine*, *Western Livestock Reporter*, Western Publications (*True West*), Western Historical Museum, White Tops, Tony White Cloud, Hub Whitman, Wichita, Kansas Cowtown, Jess Willard, Bill Van Winkle, Ed Wright, Jack Wright, Otis Zirkle, Fritz Zook, and a miscellaneous file with *Circus Monthly*, Circus World Museum bulletins, etc.

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman and Library Associate Kathryn Maciel, 1990-1991.