

Charles S. Stevenson Papers

This collection contains the working papers of Charles S. Stevenson that are associated with the writing of his newspaper articles about Kansas City mayors. These articles appeared in the *Kansas City Star* and *Kansas City Times* in the mid-1970s.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Charles S. Stevenson
Title: Charles S. Stevenson papers
Dates: 1975-1976
Size: 2 boxes, 48 folders
Location: SC85

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Acquisition information: Gift, Charles S. Stevenson, 1976.

Citation note: Charles S. Stevenson papers (SC85), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/historical note

Charles Stevenson was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1895, but grew up in Olathe, Kansas and Kansas City. He remained in the area until his death at age 90 in 1985. He served as an Army Sergeant in World War I. After being discharged from duty in 1919, he found work with Hallmark Cards and remained there until he retired in 1960. After retirement, Stevenson worked as a freelance writer for the *Kansas City Star* and wrote numerous articles featuring prominent Kansas Citizens, as well as former Kansas City, Missouri, mayors.

Mr. Stevenson was very active in national defense and veterans affairs. In 1980, he was the first recipient of the Great American Award of the Committee of One, an award that honors individual acts of patriotism. He also served for 15 years as civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army for Western Missouri.

Mr. Stevenson was an active board member and executive of Salvation Army, Liberty Memorial Association, Greater Kansas City Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (local chapter), Friends of the Zoo, etc.

Scope and content note

The Charles S. Stevenson papers contain final drafts, rough drafts, personal notes, photocopied newspaper clippings and correspondence related to Stevenson's series of newspaper articles which featured 48 former mayors of Kansas City who served between 1853 and 1971. These articles appeared in the *Kansas City Star* & *Kansas City Times* in 1975 and 1976.

This collection is arranged alphabetically by the last name of each mayor. Each folder contains primarily a final draft, printed copy, rough draft(s) with handwritten notes and related newspaper clippings. If a copy of the printed article was

not included in the original file, then one was added by the processor, if available, and noted on the copy. Some files contain personal letters and other items of interest, which are noted in the inventory. Also provided in the inventory, is the year of birth & death of each mayor, as well as the year(s) he served in office.

Collection Inventory

Box 1 Allen – Johnson

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Mayor</u>	<u>Birth/Death</u>	<u>Term(s)</u>
1	Allen , Edward H.	1830-95	1867
2	Bartle , H. Roe	1896(1901)-1974	1955-62
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains a typed letter from a Mr. Keith Wilson, Jr. dated 7/12/76, as well as a note to Peggy Smith (KC Public Library) from Mr. Stevenson. 	
3	Beach , Albert I.	1883-1939	1924-1929
4	Beardsley , Henry M.	1858-1938	1906, 1907
5	Bonnifield , William	1814-1875	1863
6	Brown , Darius A.	1869-1938	1910, 1911
7	Bullene , Thomas B.	1828-1894	1882
8	Chace , Charles A.	1835-1900	1880
9	Cowgill , James	1848-1922	1918-1921
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains one handwritten and two typed letters to Mr. Stevenson from Mrs. Howard S. Thurman. Immell Thurman lived in the Inez hotel at the same time former Mayor Cowgill was a resident. The letters are dated, September 20, 1975, November 29, 1975 and October 1, 1975. These letters contain interesting information about the Inez hotel and the prominent Kansas Citians who stayed there, as well as fascinating accounts of living in Kansas City during the early 1900's. 	
10	Cowherd , William S.	1860-1915	1892-1893
11	Crittenden , Thomas T.	1863-1938	1908, 1909
12	Cromwell , Frank H.	1878-1955	1922, 1923
13	Davenport , Joseph J.	1849-1921	1889
14	Davis , Ilus, W.	1917-1996	1963-1971
15	Davis , Webster	1862-1923	1894, 1895

16	Edwards, George H.	1860-1941	1916, 1917
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains "expense" statements from Mildred I. Sylvester.
17	Frink, Daniel A.	1835-1885	1881
18	Gage, John B.	1887-1970	1940-1945
19	Gibson, James	1849-1918	1883
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three typed letters from a Mr. B.M. Little Jr., grandson of Mayor Gibson. The letters are dated March 3, 1975, June 8, 1975 and July 12, 1975.
20	Gill, Turner A.	1841-1919	1875
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains a handwritten letter, dated May 6, 1975, from Mrs. Allan K. George.
21	Gregory, William S.	1825-1887	1853
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains a typed letter, dated February 16, 1974, from Betty Cochran, great-granddaughter of Mayor Gregory.
22	Harris, Alexander L.	1820-1898	1866,1868
23	Holmes, Benjamin	1846-1914	1890,1891
24	Hunt, Robert H.	1839-1908	1872
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - Contains list of references for this Mayor series.
25	Johnson, John	1816-1903	1855
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains typed correspondence, dated October 12, 1974 and October 19, 1974 between Mr. Stevenson and Miss Berenice Ford, great- granddaughter of Mayor Johnson's wife.

Box 2 Jones – Woods

1	Jones, James M.	1862-1928	1896-1899
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains a magazine article from <i>The City Window</i> about the history of the Waldo Neighborhood – no date available.
2	Jost, Henry L.	1873-1950	1912-1915
3	Keith, Charles S.	1873-1945	1939
4	Kemp, William E.	1889-1968	1946-1955

5	Kumpf , Henry C.	1830-1904	1886-1888
6	Long , Francis R.	1812-1881	1869
7	Lykins , Johnston	1800-1876	1854
8	Martin , Edward L.	1842-1912	1873
9	Maughs , George	1823-1895	1860
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains handwritten & typed letters, dated April 27, 1975 and May 3, 1975, between Mr. Stevenson and Sydney B. Maughs, a descendant of Mayor Maughs. 		
10	McGee , Elijah	1819-1873	1870
11	Moore , John W.	1840-1917	1885
12	Neff , Jay H.	1854-1915	1904-1905
13	Payne , Milton J.	1829-1900	1855, 1862
14	Reed , James A.	1861-1944	1900-1903
15	Shannon , Patrick	1824-1871	1865
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains a handwritten letter, dated October 26, 1974, from Rita H. Dawson, great-granddaughter of Mayor Shannon. 		
16	Shelley , George M.	1849-1927	1878, 1879
17	Slavens , James W. L.	1838-1905	1876
18	Smith , Bryce B.	1878-1962	1930-1938
19	Strother , Sam B.	1871-1929	1922
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No printed copy, final draft or rough draft included in the original notes. 		
20	Talbott , Leander J.	1849-1924	1884
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains a letter from Dorothy Talbott Shepherd, daughter of Mayor Talbot. The letter is dated July 28, 1975. 		
21	Van Horn , Robert T.	1824-1916	1861, 1864
22	Warner , William	1839-1916	1871
23	Woods , Smith D.	1830-1888	1874

Processed by Special Collections Associate Jeremy Drouin, September 2001.