

Charles P. Deatherage Book Manuscripts

Charles Deatherage was a local businessman who had intentions of writing a three-volume history of Kansas City. Only his first volume was published. This collection contains the manuscripts for the second and third volumes.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Charles P. Deatherage
Title: Charles P. Deatherage book manuscripts
Dates: 1919-1939
Size: 2 boxes, 51 folders
Location: SC61

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Terms governing use and reproduction: Researchers are encouraged to use the microfilm copy when applicable.

Additional physical form available: Also available on microfilm, filmed in January, 1965.

Acquisition information: Unknown, previous to 1965.

Citation note: Charles P. Deatherage book manuscripts (SC61), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

Charles P. Deatherage (1852?-1939) was a local Kansas City, Missouri, businessman who in 1878 founded and owned for many years the Deatherage Lumber Company located in Kansas City, Missouri. According to his obituary, he began writing his envisioned three volume history of Kansas City after he retired in 1919. Volume I, entitled *Early History of Greater Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas: The Prophetic City at the Mouth of the Kaw*, was noted as a Diamond Jubilee Edition and was copyrighted by the author in 1927. It was printed in 1928 by Interstate Publishing Company. The years covered in the first volume range from 1492 to 1870.

The second volume was to be entitled "Municipal History, 1853 to 1928" and the third volume, "Industrial History to Date, 1928". It appears that Volume II was finished in handwritten form, with 30 chapters completed. Galley proofs from the publisher cover Chapters 1-7. Volume II includes the following subject emphasis: city government, churches, hospitals, fraternal associations, transportation, schools, cultural aspects, parks and boulevards, and disasters.

There are a few unchaptered segments dealing with issues Deatherage had designated for the industrial history volume. Ill health is stated in his obituary as at least one reason the projected volumes were never totally finished and published. The portions of the third volume as found deal with the following

subjects: lumber trade, architects, expositions and fairs, insurance business, livestock business, and bridges. Mr. Deatherage died January 15, 1939, and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri.

Scope and content note

Exact documentation and provenance on the manuscript was unknown at the time of processing. Sally Deatherage worked for the Kansas City Public Library for many years and a large, empty envelope addressed to her was found with the manuscript material during processing. Another notation found in the Special Collections department indicated the material was in Library Director Richard Sealock's office in 1965. Whether the manuscript was donated or purchased is unknown.

The microfilm of the manuscripts is located in the Special Collections microfilm cabinets under the "Miscellaneous Historical" category. The sequence of the filming is not exactly the same sequence found in the processed collection.

Where numbered pages were out of order, they were restored to their original order. The numbering appears inconsistent in places but the context of the pages appears to be correct. There are some places where revisions were evidently done by the author and in most cases these are together within the original in the sequence. The topics included in Chapter 18 and 20 seem to be duplicated and are found after Chapter 30 of Volume II, folders 16, 17.

The bulk of the material is handwritten presumably in Mr. Deatherage's own hand. It was done in pencil on legal size paper and numbered consecutively through the various chapters. There is a small amount of typewritten pages throughout the manuscript. Some printing and publication material is included: lists of illustrations, cuts for the printer, galley proofs of Volume II, Chapter 1-7 as well as printed photograph proofs depicting primarily railway transportation. Folders containing pages for Volume II are first and Volume III folders follow. The manuscript pages are not dated, but it is assumed they were produced over a period of time in the decade between 1928 and 1939.

In the 1990s, at various times, some interest by descendents of Mr. Deatherage has been shown for publishing the manuscript. At the time of processing, no conclusive decision had been made by them.

In April of 1997, the granddaughter of Mr. Deatherage, Elizabeth Blair, allowed the library to photocopy miscellaneous material that she had in her possession that concerned the publication of the books. These items included correspondence with the publisher (1934-39), a typewritten unsigned contract with the publisher (Brown-White), statement of intent to publish, copyright registration notice on Vol. 1, a receipt, and a list of original cuts. These items have been placed in the second box of SC61 in the last folder.

Collection Inventory

Box 1

Folder 1 - Collection description, computer record, documentation, clippings, etc.

Folder 2 - "Contents of Volume II by Chapters", handwritten, 1 p.; "Groups of Mayors for Volume II", handwritten, 1 p.; "Illustrations" – Vol. II, 1 p.

Folder 3 - Synopsis of V. II & III, handwritten, signed by author, 1 p.; Cuts for printer – V. II, Brown and White, 12 p.; “To the printer”, handwritten, 4 p.

Folder 4 - Title Page, handwritten, (V. II), 1 p.; Explanatory forward, handwritten, 2 c., typewritten, 1 p.

Folder 5 - Table of Contents, Chapter 1-4, typewritten, 2 p.; Chapter 1-17, 21-30, handwritten (Chapter 20 after 30), 19 p.

Folder 6 - V. II, Chapter 1, typewritten, 3 p.

Folder 7 - V. II, Chapter 1, p.17-58, handwritten, “Early Administrations, 1853 to 1870”

Folder 8 - V. II, Chapter 2, p.59-97, handwritten, “Six Mayors and Cabinets...1874-1882”

Folder 9 - V. II, Chapter 3, p.98-150, handwritten, “Administration of 5 mayors, 1882-1890”

Folder 10 - V. II, Chapter 4, p.151-206, handwritten, “Administration of mayors, 1889-1896”

Folder 11 - V. II, Chapter 5, p.207-273, handwritten, “Administration of 2 mayors, 1896-1904”

Folder 12 – V. II, Chapter 6, p.274-316, handwritten, “Administration of three mayors, 1904-1910”

Folder 13 – V.II, Chapter 7, p. 317-380, handwritten, “Administration of two mayors, April 1910 to 1916”

Folder 14 – V. II, Chapter 8, p. 381-451, handwritten, “The World War Period”, “Administration of Three Mayors, 1916 to 1922”

Folder 15 – V. II, Chapter 9, p. 452-497, handwritten, “The New Era...and Two Mayors, 1922-1930”

Folder 16 – V.II, Chapter 10, p. 498-534, handwritten, “General Recapitulation from 1853-1928”

Folder 17 – V. II, Chapter 11, p. 550-584, handwritten, “Denominations and Churches of Greater Kansas City”- Baptist

Folder 18 – V. II, Chapter 12, p. 585-619, handwritten, “Catholic Churches and Christian Denomination”

Folder 19 – V. II, Chapter 13, p. 620-646, handwritten, “Congregational, Episcopal and Evangelical Churches”

Folder 20 – V. II, Chapter 14, p. 645-671, handwritten, “The Methodist Episcopal Churches, South”

Folder 21 – V. II, Chapter 15, p. 672-690, handwritten, “Methodist Episcopal Churches”, “First Lutheran Church”

Box 2

Folder 1 - V. II, Chapter 16, p. 691-711, handwritten, "History of the Churches", "The Presbyterian Churches, USA"

Folder 2 – V. II, Chapter 17, p. 710-727, handwritten, "Historical Sketches of Mormon Churches at Independence, Jewish Synagogues and Unity School of Christianity" (and miscellaneous Independence churches)

Folder 3 – V. II, Chapter 18, p. 732-(750), handwritten, "Hospitals of Greater Kansas City"

Folder 4 – V. II, Chapter 19, p. 751-(772), handwritten, "The Fraternal Associations of Kansas City"

Folder 5 – V. II, Chapter 20, p. 770-796, handwritten, "The Evolution of the Transportation System of Greater Kansas City"

Folder 6 – V. II, Chapter 21, p. 880-821, handwritten, "Greater Kansas City and It's Schools"

Folder 7 – V. II, Chapter 22, p. 822-850, handwritten, "Elementary Schools of Kansas City, Mo."

Folder 8 – V. II, Chapter 23, p. 851-885, handwritten, "Elementary Schools, cont." (vocational schools, high schools)

Folder 9 – V. II, Chapter 24, p. 886-909, handwritten, "Other Educational Institutions and Agencies", "Kansas City Musical Activities", "Art Education in Kansas City", "Women's Clubs", "Kansas City Branch of the Collegiate Alumnae Association", "Parent Teachers Associations", "Kansas city University Extension Center", "YMCA", "YWCA", "Boy Scouts of America", "Civic and Commercial Clubs", "Kansas City Board of Public Welfare", "Juvenile Court", etc.

Folder 10 – V. II, Chapter 25, p. 910-929, handwritten, "Report of the Board of Education"

Folder 11 – V. II, Chapter 26, p. 930-942, handwritten; p. 943-948, typewritten, "Summary of School Board and Kansas City, Ks.", etc. (and Higher Education in this area)

Folder 12 – V. II, Chapter 27, p. 960-988, handwritten, "Parks, Boulevards and Monuments"

Folder 13 – V. II, Chapter 28, p. 990-1020, handwritten, "Earthquakes, Storms, Floods and Springs"

Folder 14 – V. II, Chapter 29, p. 1025-1055a, handwritten, "Railroads from 1870-1880"

Folder 15 – V. II, Chapter 30, p.1056-1115, handwritten, "Railroads of Greater Kansas City Today"

Folder 16 – V. II, Chapter 18?, unpagged, "Hospitals of Greater Kansas City", "Medical Profession in Missouri", etc

Folder 17 – V. II, Chapter 20?, 16 p., handwritten, “Evolution of Transportation System of [Greater] Kansas City”

Folder 18 – V. II, Box label

Folder 19 – V. II, galley proofs, to Chapter 7, 2 p. photo illustrations

Folder 20 - 7 p. photo proofs, includes 16 photos, subject: street railways

Folder 21 – V. III, Introductory to V. III, signed by author, 5 p., handwritten

Folder 22 – V. III, Chapter 1, 11 p., handwritten, "Industries", introductory

Folder 23 – V. III, Foreword, 1 p., handwritten chapter – “Lumber Trade of Greater Kansas City”

Folder 24 – V. III, Chapter 1, 13 p., handwritten, “Some Early Architects (and Buildings)”

Folder 25 – [V. III], 4 p., handwritten, “Expositions and Fairs of Kansas City”

Folder 26 – [V. III], Chapter?, 14p., handwritten “The Insurance World”

Folder 27 – [V. III], 21 p., handwritten, “The Livestock & Packing Industry of Kansas City”

Folder 28 – [V. III], 6 p., handwritten "Steel Bridges"

Folder 29 – “An Appreciated Past”, 16 p., typewritten, Concerning V. 1, “The Early History of Greater Kansas City”

Folder 30 - Miscellaneous items donated by Mrs. Elizabeth Blair which pertain to the publication of the manuscript, including the publishing contract. Typewritten and handwritten (1927-39).

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman, Summer 1996.