

John A. Bushnell Family Papers

Much of the correspondence in this collection is between John A. Bushnell and Eugenia Bronaugh whom he married. They were residents of Henry County, Missouri. There is also some Civil War era letters.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: John A. Bushnell family
Title: John A. Bushnell family papers
Dates: 1842-1814
Size: 2 boxes, 82 folders
Location: SC38

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Related collections in other repositories: Bronaugh-Bushnell Family, Papers, 1852-1930 (C0079), Western Historical Manuscripts Collection-Columbia.

Acquisition information: Unknown

Citation note: John A. Bushnell family papers (SC38), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

John A. Bushnell was born in Harrisonburg, Virginia on April 6, 1821 and died in 1874. He was a merchandiser all his life. He came to Missouri via the West Indies, settling first in Boonville, then Warsaw and finally settling in Calhoun. He favored the Southern cause during the Civil War. After the war and his marriage he removed to St. Louis, Missouri, where he died.

Eugenia Bronough Bushnell was born in Virginia around 1835 and died November 1, 1916. The couple's two children were Horace B. Bushnell, born around 1870 in Calhoun, Missouri and dying July 13, 1923 and John A. Bushnell, born about 1873 and dying December 30, 1930 in Kansas City, Missouri, president of the True-Bushnell Postage Machine Company and Colorado-Bentonite Company. All the family appears to be buried in Englewood Cemetery in Henry County, Missouri.

Information concerning the Bushnell Family can be found in the book *The History of Henry and St. Clair Counties, Missouri...*, National Historical Company, 1883, MVSC 977.846 H52.

Scope and content note

The John A. Bushnell Papers is a collection associated in some way with John A. Bushnell and family who resided primarily in Henry County, Missouri at Calhoun and at times in St. Louis, Missouri. The Bronaugh family is also mentioned as Mr. Bushnell married Eugenia Bronaugh, daughter of Christopher Columbus Bronaugh and Ann E. Waters Bronaugh.

The majority of the collection is made up of correspondence, including 226 letters. In addition there are 31 folders which contain various forms as deeds, pension claims, school report cards, as well as a phrenology publication, information concerning the Confederate Home of Missouri and the Coffman Manufacturing Company.

The correspondence in the collection has been arranged in date order, with those pieces lacking a date placed in the beginning. Accompanying most all of the letters is the envelope. Those letters written during the time period of the Civil War do include commentary on the war and the political situation of the country. Much of the letter writing is between Eugenia Bronough and John A. Bushnell while they were courting, before their marriage on August 15, 1867. After his death, the correspondence includes that between Mrs. Bushnell and her sons and others. The average life of a central Missouri citizen during the 19th century is reflected in these papers.

Collection Inventory

Box 1 - Correspondence, 1842 - 1872, 38 folders, 162 letters

Box 2 - Correspondence, 1873 - 1914, 13 folders, 64 letters

Box 2 - Miscellaneous Items

- Folder 14 - **Chattel Mortgage document** from Bronough Brothers to Bank of Nevada, Vernon County, Missouri, June 3, 1893.
- Folder 15 - **Confederate Home of Missouri**, *Rules and Regulations of the Board of Managers*, 1897, 1900; **Confederate Home Association of Missouri**, *Charter, By-Laws, Rules for Admission...*, 1894; and **Ex-Confederate Association of Missouri**, letter, 189?.
- Folder 16 - **Merchant's License**, Johnson County, Missouri, 1870, for John A. Bushnell; and miscellaneous items.
- Folder 17 - **Land deed**, Joshua E. Ham, Benton County deeding land in Johnson County, Missouri to John A. Bushnell, Henry County, 1857
- Folder 18 - **Indenture**, March 11, 1845, between James and Mary Jane Erwin and Margaret E. Lynch, all of Henry County, Missouri, concerning parcel of ground in Calhoun, Missouri.
- Folder 19 - **Deed**, James and Mary Pile, Benton County, Missouri, to John A. Bushnell, land in Benton County, February 1846.
- Folder 20 - **Publication**, *Synopsis of Phrenology* by D.G. Derby, 1850.
- Folder 21 - **Deed**, between Daniel and Frances Ashley, Henry County, and Margrate Frakes, Henry County, concerning sell of land in Henry County, 1851.
- Folder 22 - **Deed**, between Fendal P. Wade and Thomas Sallee of Henry County, Missouri, 1853.
- Folder 23 - **Pension Claim**, No. 157034 for Robt. E. Spotswood, June 1855, for Bounty Land, contains signature of John A. Bushnell, Calhoun, Missouri.

- Folder 24 - **Pension Claim**, No. 164708 for John Edmondson, June, 1855, for Bounty Land.
- Folder 25 - **Pension Claim**, No. 253400 for Joseph Gray, August, 1856, for Bounty Land.
- Folder 26 - **Pension Claim Inquiry**, for R.E. Spottswood and John Edmondson, signed by John A. Bushnell, 1855.
- Folder 27 - **Pension Claim Inquiry Return Form**, for Robert E. Spottswood, 1855, signed by J. A. Bushnell, Calhoun, Missouri
- Folder 28 - **Letter**, to John A. Bushnell, Knob Noster, Missouri from John Montgomery, Jr., Pettis County, January 18, 1871.
- Folder 29 - **Letter**, to John A. Bushnell, Knob Noster, Missouri from Chase & Cabot, St. Louis, Missouri, May 11, 1871.
- Folder 30 - **Deed**, between Harrison W. Buckley, James T. Barker, and John A. Bushnell, all of Henry County, Missouri, 1861. Concerns the sale of horses.
- Folder 31 - **Quit Claim Deed**, between Samuel and Lydia Dirck and John A. Bushnell, Henry County, Missouri, 1866.
- Folder 32 - **Letter**, to John A. Bushnell, Calhoun, Missouri from ?, September 27, 1866.
- Folder 33 - **Tax and Accounting Forms**, Henry County, Missouri, 1866-68.
- Folder 34 - **School Report Card**, Franklin Public School, Clinton, Missouri, 1887, for Horace Bushnell.
- Folder 35 - **College Report Card**, Central College, Fayette, Missouri, 1887, for H. B. Bushnell.
- Folder 36 - **College Report Card**, Central College, Fayette, Missouri, 1889, for H. B. Bushnell.
- Folder 37 - **College Report Card**, Central College, Fayette, Missouri, 1889, for H. B. Bushnell.
- Folder 38 - **College Report Card**, Central College, Fayette, Missouri, 1889, for H. B. Bushnell.
- Folder 39 - **Letter**, to Sam H. Bronough from Louis Callan, Menardville, Texas, Feb. 5, 1890, includes envelope.
- Folder 40 - **Chattel Mortgage**, W. C. and F. W. Bronough, Vernon County, Missouri, to The McDonald-Crowley Farmer Live Stock Com. Co., Kansas City, Kansas, 1894.
- Folder 41 - **Lease of Farm**, between First National Bank of Jefferson City, Missouri and R.K. Goff, 1897.

- Folder 42 - **Wedding Invitation**, Emma Moor to William Wiatt, Waltham, Massachusetts, 1904, addressed to Eugenia Bushnell, Clinton, Missouri, includes envelope.
- Folder 43 - **Articles of Incorporation**, Coffman Manufacturing Company, state of Nevada, February, 1911.
- Folder 44 - **Assignment of Patent**, Coffman (unsigned), concerning mechanical devices for the vending of postage stamps and for printing and vending tickets, n.d.

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