

## George M. Chase Diary (SC31-2)

### *Introduction*

George M. Chase was born in Calais, Maine in 1837. In the spring of 1859 he bought ten acres of land in Kansas City and ran a successful farm and grocery store. His diary includes accounts of day-to-day life in 1860 Kansas City.

### *Descriptive Summary*

Creator: George M. Chase  
Title: George M. Chase Diary  
Dates: 1860  
Size: 0.1 linear feet, 1 item  
Collection Number: SC31-2

### *Donor Information*

Found in collection. Possibly included in the Missouri Valley Historical Society Records ca. 1950.

### *Citation Note*

George M. Chase Diary (SC31-2), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

### *Administrative Information*

Related Collections: Additional information regarding George M. Chase may be found in *Historic Homesteads and Beauty Spots of Kansas City* (MVSC Q051 k15s), *Hughes' Kansas City Views* (MVSC Q099 H89), and *Kansas City Missouri: Its History and Its People, 1800-1908* (MVSC Q997.8411 W61).

### *Biographical Sketch*

George M. Chase, a real estate investor, was born in Calais, Maine in 1837. In his early adulthood he accompanied his father to Hawaii after his father's death he returned to Maine in 1856.

In the spring of 1859 he bought ten acres of land in Kansas City between Euclid and Brooklyn streets, extending almost from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> streets. He established a successful farm and later a grocery, flour and feed store at 4<sup>th</sup> and Walnut streets. He died, after living on 12<sup>th</sup> street for almost half a century, at the age of 75 in Kansas City, Missouri at the Southside Hospital on January 4, 1913.

***Scope and Content Note***

The George M. Chase Diary consists of a large hardback diary including handwritten notes and entries describing his daily routine. The diary also includes several loose pages of diary entries, a handwritten note to Mr. Chase's brother, and a list of cooking items needed for purchase.

The diary includes information about the arrival of Mr. Chase to the Kansas City area and the reasons that brought him to Missouri. The diary primarily records Mr. Chase's business transactions and loans to residents and friends that he established in the Kansas City area. He details the construction of his home and expresses his frustrations he experiences in the process. The diary offers a view into the material culture of Kansas City during the 1860s and the products that Mr. Chase desired the most. The diary includes sparse commentary on slavery and the election of 1860, but does detail Mr. Chase's interaction with a "free negro" family.

***Collection Inventory***

- f. 1 George M. Chase Diary, January 1, 1860-December 27, 1860
- f. 2 Loose pages, correspondence, and list, December 3-26, 1860 and n.d.

***Index***

Bancroft, Chase  
 Bancroft, George  
 Bancroft, Henry  
 Grandall, Gilbert  
 Grandall, John  
 Groom & Vaile Business  
 Houston, John  
 Norwood, Ada  
 Norwood, N. A.

**Processed by Ryan Leimkuehler, Intern, September 2015**