

Monroe F. Cockrell Papers

This collection pertains to banking issues in Kansas City during the 1920s-30s and includes the names of Midwest Reserve Trust Company, Kansas City Clearing House, and William T. Kemper and the Commerce Bank.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Monroe Cockrell
Title: Monroe F. Cockrell papers
Dates: circa 1920s-1930s
Size: 9 folders
Location: SC114

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Additional physical form available: Contents of a portion of the collection have been photocopied.

Related collections in other depositories: Monroe F. Cockrell Papers (#1145), Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library (Manuscripts Department), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Acquisition information: Gift, Monroe F. Cockrell, 1963.

Citation note: Monroe F. Cockrell Papers (SC114), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

Monroe Fulkerson Cockrell was at one time Vice President of Continental and Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago, Illinois.

In addition to being a banker, Monroe F. Cockrell was also a Civil War author and genealogist. Some of his writings include: *The Early Cockrells in Missouri* (1966), *Sarah Horton Cockrell in Early Dallas* (1961), *Gunner with Stonewall: Reminiscences of Thomas Poague* and *Banking in Chicago, 1929-1935, Deep Depression Years* (1948).

Scope and content note

This collection of materials pertains to Kansas City banking in the 1920s. It consists primarily of two items: first, a transcript of Mr. Cockrell's testimony in a June 13-14, 1934, Jackson County, Mo., Circuit Court case (No. 421513) between P.E. Laughlin (the Plaintiff), of The Midwest Reserve Trust Company, and William T. Kemper, Chairman of the Board of The Commerce Trust Company of Kansas City, Mo. In the lawsuit, which was later dismissed, Laughlin alleges that William T. Kemper, and others, conspired to drive him out of the banking business in Kansas City. At that time, Mr. Cockrell was manager of the

Kansas City Clearing House, a company that was involved in the aforementioned lawsuit.

The second component is a thirty-five page manuscript by Monroe Cockrell entitled: *Banking in Kansas City, Missouri, 1920-1928*, which discusses aspects of the Kansas City banking scene between the 1920s. Of particular interest, are names and dates associated with bank openings, mergers and closings in Kansas City. The manuscript also contains a chronology of Mr. Cockrell's work history, as well as related correspondence and newspaper clippings (photocopied).

Collection Inventory

Folder 1 - *Banking in Kansas City, 1920-1928* Manuscript

Contains a 35-page manuscript, written by the aforementioned Monroe F. Cockrell, about Kansas City banking in the 1920s.

Folder 2 - Correspondence

Contains correspondence between Monroe F. Cockrell and Richard B Sealock, Director of the Kansas City Public Library, discussing the donation of Mr. Cockrell's banking manuscript to the library. There is also correspondence between Mr. Sealock and Andre S. Nielsen, of the Evanston Public Library and John Taylor, Chairman of the J.C. Nichols Company, pertaining to Monroe Cockrell and his credentials. The correspondence dates from February-May 1963.

Folder 3 - Miscellaneous

Contains a Kansas City Judgment Bond (6th Issue) for one-thousand dollars. The processor has also added citations and bibliographies, found online, containing books and papers written by Monroe Cockrell.

Folder 4 - Midwest Reserve Trust Company Testimony (pp. 1-90)

Includes a photocopied transcript (pp. 1-90) of Monroe Cockrell's testimony regarding the Midwest Reserve Trust Company. There is also a key, provided by Mr. Cockrell, that notes the page number, line number and necessary corrections, identifying errors in the transcript (dates, figures, etc.) that were apparently made by the court reporter. These errors are noted throughout the transcript.

Folder 5 - Midwest Reserve Trust Company Testimony (pp. 91-179)

Folder 6 - Midwest Reserve Trust Company Testimony (pp. 180-275)

Folder 7 - Midwest Reserve Trust Company Testimony (Original)

Folder 8 - Midwest Reserve Trust Company Testimony (Original)

Folder 9 - Midwest Reserve Trust Company Testimony (Original)

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Jeremy Drouin, 2005.

