

Kansas City Bar Association Records

The Kansas City Bar Association is a local organization for lawyers, organized in 1884. This collection of the group's records provides information primarily during the early years of 1898 to 1917. Included are minute books, photographs, speeches, banquet programs, and other memorabilia.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Kansas City Bar Association
Title: Kansas City Bar Association records
Dates: 1895 - 1946
Size: 3 boxes, 30 folders
Location: SC101

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Terms governing use and reproduction: Due to preservation concerns, certain pages of the large ledger book may not be photocopied.

Additional physical form available: The organization's published minutes during the collection's time frame may also be found in the publication, *Kansas City Bar Monthly*, 1895-1917, MVSC 347.05 K16.

Acquisition information: Gift, Kansas City Bar Association, February 25, 1924.

Custodial history: Previous to being placed in the unprocessed special collections area, the collection was classed and on the shelf, first in the Reference Department and then in Missouri Valley Special Collections. The name of Porter B. Godard is written on several of the items and he was the group's secretary at one time. He is featured in the book *Men Who Are Making Kansas City*, MVSC 091 C91, p. 53. Some items are dated after 1924 so it is apparent that the library added some printed material to the collection up to the mid-1940s.

Citation note: Kansas City Bar Association records (SC101), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/historical note

According to a newspaper clipping found in Minute book #1, p. 86, a meeting for the organization of the Kansas City Bar Association was held in March, 1884. This clipping states that the early minutes show "on the evening of March 13, 1884, at the office of Alderson & Young a meeting of members of the Kansas City bar was held for the purpose of organizing a bar association, the following being present: E. Philips, E.L. Scarritt, W.J. Ward, J.M. Fox, W.A. Alderson, T. Winningham, R.S. Rodgers, A. Young, W.C. Scarritt". Jefferson Brumback was the first president according to the book *Liberty and Justice: the Story of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association* by Melody Richardson Daily, Other first officials included Charles L. Dobson and Joseph V.C. Karnes as vice presidents, William A. Alderson as secretary and Edward L. Scarritt as treasurer. At least 85 lawyers signed their names to the group's first constitution and one of the first

resolutions formed by the organization addressed the need for building of a new county courthouse in Kansas City.

The minutes reveal that the group usually met in the evening and at the Commercial Club rooms. Occasionally they met in the Circuit Court rooms in the county courthouse, other court rooms, and very rarely at the University Club or the New York Life Building. Meetings usually included the following: reading of previous meeting minutes, Executive Committee report, treasurer's report, various committee reports, election of new members, presentation of various resolutions, election of officers when appropriate, memorials of deceased members, and the reading of papers on selected legal topics. Often a quartet would sing and socializing would occur if time allowed. The organization was large with 80 members in 1899 and growing to 111 in 1900.

During the time period covered by this collection, the group held annual banquets which were usually in the winter or early spring. Also special banquets were held and these many times were in honor of specific individuals prominent in the legal profession. According to the banquet programs included with the collection, these banquets were held in the following locations: Midland Hotel, ca1895-1908; Hotel Baltimore, ca1900-1916; Coates House, 1909, 1912; Hotel Muehlebach, ca1917-1923; Kansas City Athletic Club, 1920s; and Kansas City Club, 1934. The programs from these events include the menu for the evening, list of officers, executive committee names, program, and toasts. The group also published the *Kansas City Bar Monthly* during this time period and other publications of the group are listed below.

Scope and content note

The bulk of the collection is made up of two minute books maintained by the organization. This collection does not contain the earliest record book but rather contains two later record books. These minutes start with October 1, 1898, and close with the minutes of August 18, 1917, covering almost a 20-year span. Also included are the group's banquet programs, miscellaneous committee reports, a few death resolutions, a membership list, copies of speeches, and loose minutes. The extra items are in Box 1 and may have become separated from the minute books at some point over the years. In addition, there are two black and white identified photographs which provide images of former Kansas City Bar officials. The minutes appear as handwritten, typewritten, and eventually the minutes as published in the *Bar Monthly* are pasted on the record book page. Found with the minutes are miscellaneous items which include newspaper clippings, banquet programs, speeches, memorials, meeting reminder postcards, etc.

In order to help preserve the records, the newspaper clippings found pasted in the record books were photocopied and placed in folders. These clippings cover the organization's events/meetings as well as obituaries for selected lawyers. Minute book #1 contains 153 pages and covers October 1, 1898, to February 9, 1903. This book was disassembled during processing and the contents placed in folders in Box 1. The attendance record or member count is found in this record book on p. 150-151. An item of interest that was recorded concerned the lawyer's desire to put portraits of Judge Francis Black and Judge John W. Henry in the Supreme Court rooms at the state capitol in Jefferson City. The George Sheidley donation toward the purchase of books in the public library is also mentioned on p. 21.

Minute book #2 contains 325 used pages out of 396 total record book pages. The minutes start with October 4, 1902, and end with August 18, 1917. Handwritten and typewritten minutes are included and in 1912 the minutes as published in the *Bar Monthly* are pasted in the book. A roll call list and mention

of those missing can be found on p. 75. Contents include newspaper clippings, programs, memorials, correspondence, resolutions, meeting reminder postcards, etc. Standing committees found mentioned in both minute books include: On the Amendment of the Law, Judiciary, Grievances, Legal Education, Reception and Membership, Executive, Legislation and Publicity. Items of interest include the discussion of constitutional amendments and the recommendation in 1912 for the establishment of a Municipal Court in Kansas City (p.265)

Bibliography

Bibliography of publications available in Missouri Valley Special Collections that are associated with the Kansas City Bar Association primarily during the time period covered by this collection.

- *Liberty and Justice: the Story of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association* by Melody Richardson Daily, c1994, MVSC Q 340.06 D13L
- *Reproduction of the Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of 1787*, compiled and arranged by Robert K. Ryland, presented by the Kansas City Bar Association, Convention Hall, Kansas City, Missouri, 1932, MVSC Q 095.8 R99
- *Judge Kimbrough Stone; a Tribute*, Kansas City Bar Association, 1929, MVSC 091.1 S878K
- *Kansas City Bar Bulletin*, 1924-1965, MVSC 347.05 K166
- *Kansas City Bar Association Directory*, 1921-1999
- *Business Trusts as Substitutes for Business Corporations: a Paper Read Before the Kansas City Bar Association, April 10, 1920* by Guy A. Thompson, MVSC 338.8 T47
- *William Strother Cowherd, September 1, 1861-June 20, 1915*, Kansas City Bar Association, 191-, MVSC 091.1 C887K
- *In Memory of R.J. Ingraham*, Kansas City Bar Association, 1919, MVSC 091.1 I54
- *Roll of Honor*, Kansas City Bar Association, 1918, MVSC 091.1 K16R
- *In Memoriam: Major Murray Davis, Major William J. Bland, Serg. Major Roswell B. Sayre, Lieutenant Frank L. Stauver, Private William T. Law, Private Lawrence Fulton, Louis C. Krauthoff*, Kansas City Bar Association, 1918?, MVSC 091.1 K16
- *John Cutter Gage, April 20, 1835-February 27, 1915: [memorial addresses]*, Kansas City Bar Association, 1915, MVSC 92 G133K
- *Constitution of the Kansas City Bar Association, Kansas City, Mo.; List of Members*, Kansas City Bar Association, 1913?, MVSC 095.8 K16B
- *President's Address* by Sanford B. Ladd, 1907, MVSC 340 L15M (Given while Missouri Bar Association met in Kansas City)
- *Office Address and Telephone Directory of the Attorneys of Jackson County, Mo. and Kansas City, Kansas: Also List of United States, State and Other Courts in Jackson County, With Their Officers and Other Information* by Porter B. Godard, 1901, MVSC 091.1 G57
- *John Marshall: an Address Delivered Before the Kansas City Bar Association At Its Annual Banquet, February 4, 1901* by Sanford B. Ladd, 1901, MVSC 091.98 L15J
- *A Sketch of the Life and Character of Col. Alexander W. Doniphan* by D.C. Allen, 1897, MVSC 92 D6833A
- *Kansas City Bar Monthly*, Kansas City Bar Association, 1895-1917, MVSC 347.05 K16

Collection Inventory

Box 1 - Miscellaneous Folders

- **Folder 1** - Banquet/Dinner Programs, 1895, 1896, 1899 (in Minute Book #1, p. 9), 1900 (in Minute book #1, p. 29), 1901, 1902, 1903 (Found in Minute book #2, p.27)
- **Folder 2** - Banquet/Dinner Programs, [1904], 1905, 1906, 1907
- **Folder 3** - Banquet/Dinner Programs, 1908, 1909, 1910 (with autographs), 1910 (annual dinner)
- **Folder 4** - Banquet/Dinner Programs, 1911, 1912 (in Minute book #2, p. 254), 1913, 1914 (in Minute book #2, p. 290) 1915 (banquet notice)
- **Folder 5** - Banquet/Dinner Programs, 1916, 1920, 1921, 1923
- **Folder 6** - Banquet/Dinner Programs, 1925, 1929, 1934 (2c)
- **Folder 7** - Committee Reports, February, 1915 and January 1, 1917 (treasurer)
- **Folder 8** - Death Resolutions - Crysler, Charles S. (1915); Fontron, Joseph P. (1917); and Garner, James W. (1914)
- **Folder 9** - Death Resolutions - Schaich, John G., 2c. (n.d.); Warner, William (1916/17)
- **Folder 10** - Death Meeting/Resolution –Warner, William (1916); and Col. Louis Henry Waters (n.d.)
- **Folder 11** - Membership List - November 1, 1899 and April, 1946 (applicants)
- **Folder 12** - Minutes (Unbound) - April 24, 1915 (special), 2c. and October 1916
- **Folder 13** - Minutes (Unbound) - October 9, 1917
- **Folder 14** - Minutes (Unbound) - November 3, 1917 and December 1, 1917
- **Folder 15** - Minutes (Unbound) - January 4, 1918, February 2, 1918, May 4, 1918, and May 11, 1918 (adjourned meeting)
- **Folder 16** - Minutes (Unbound) - June 1, 1918 and October 5, 1918
- **Folder 17** - Poem - "In Old John Marshall's Days"
- **Folder 18** - Speech - "Address of Hon. William R. Moore", typewritten, 5 p., n.d.
- **Folder 19** - Speech - Untitled, J.K. Cubbison, typewritten, 7 p., n.d.
- **Folder 20** - Speech - "Speech of Albert J. Beveridge, delivered at the Kansas City Bar Banquet, held at the Coates House, February 29, 1912", typewritten, 24 p.
- **Folder 21** - Minute Book #1 (1898-1903), front cover plus p. 1-22, October 1, 1898 - December 9, 1899. Includes newspaper clippings for John W. Beebe death, and installation of H. D. Ashley as president of group.
- **Folder 22** - Minute Book #1 (1898-1903), p. 23-38, January 13, 1900 - May 3, 1900. Includes newspaper clippings on the 12th annual banquet of the group and the death of John R. Walker.
- **Folder 23** - Minute Book #1 (1898-1903), p. 39-62, October 13, 1900 - February 4, 1901. Includes newspaper clipping on group.
- **Folder 24** - Minute Book #1 (1898-1903), p. 63-84, February 16, 1901 - May 18, 1901. Includes newspaper clippings on the death of D.S. Twitchell and report of group meeting.
- **Folder 25** - Minute Book #1 (1898-1903), p. 85-104, June 11, 1901 - December 27, 1901. Includes newspaper clippings on original Kansas City Bar Association minute book from 1884, death of Frank L. Irish and John A. Ross, and reports of Bar meetings.
- **Folder 26** - Minute Book #1 (1898-1903), p. 105-126, January 11, 1902 - May 26, 1902. Includes newspaper clippings on the group's annual banquet which gives a list of those present, and on death of Judge Francis M. Black.
- **Folder 27** - Minute Book #1 (1898-1903), p. 127-153, August 14, 1902 - February 9, 1903. Includes newspaper clippings on the death of Judge Charles L. Dobson as well as a partial membership/attendance record on p. 150-151.

- **Folder 28** - Minute Book #1 (1898-1903), Photocopies of newspaper clippings found pasted in the minute book, 18 p.

Box 2 - Minute Book #2, October 4, 1902- August 8, 1917, bound, 396 pages, 325 pages used, 9" x 16"

- Minute book includes minutes handwritten, typed, or published as found in the organization's *Kansas City Bar Monthly*. The record book also contains newspaper clippings (photocopied during processing and in two folders in the box), meeting reminder postcards, banquet programs, booklets, limited correspondence, featured items from the *Bar Monthly*, memorials, resolutions, reports, and other miscellaneous items.

Box 3 - Photographs

- **Photo #1** - "Former Presidents, Kansas City Bar Association At Dinner, University Club, Feb. 15, 1924, black and white, 10" x 15", Tyner & Murphy Photographers, individuals not identified, back of photograph says it is a gift of Mr. Hunt Moore, n.d.
- **Photo #2** - "Presidents of the Bar Association of Kansas City, Missouri (1884 to 1916 inclusive)", black and white, 11" x 13", D.P. Thomson Photos, individuals identified by name, back of photograph says it is a gift of Mr. Hunt Moore, n.d. Includes: Jefferson Brumback, J.V.C. Karnes, D.B. Holmes, C.O. Tichenor, Wm. B. Teasdale, John C. Gage, J.T. Dew, S.B. Ladd, O.H. Dean, Gardiner Lathrop, H.L. McCune, R.E. Ball, J. McD. Trimble, Milton Moore, Henry D. Ashley, C.S. Palmer, Samuel W. Moore, Edward L. Scarritt, E.P. Gates, Henry M. Beardsley, R.J. Ingraham, Rees Turpin, J.J. Vineyard, T.H. Reynolds, Joseph A. Guthrie, John Park, Edward D. Ellison, John T. Williamson, James H. Harkless, Hunt C. Moore and Elmer N. Powell.

Deaths mentioned in record books

- **Adams**, Charles B. - Minute book #2, p. 237, 246 (memorial), 247
- **Ballingal**, George F. - Minute book #2, p. 69 (memorial)
- **Batavia**, Eugene - Minute book #2, p. 308
- **Beebe**, John W. - Minute book #1, newspaper clipping, p.15
- **Black**, Francis M. - Minute book #1, newspaper clipping, p. 124
- **Black**, James - Minute book #2, p. 115, 117-118
- **Botsford**, James S. - Minute book #2, p. 312
- **Brewer**, David J. - Minute book #2, p. 198
- **Brumback**, Jefferson - Minute book #2, p. 137 (memorial)
- **Burnham**, Charles E. - Minute book #2, p. 147
- **Campbell**, Mark C. - Minute book #2, p. 128
- **Carskadon**, N.B. - Minute book #1, p.85
- **Chase**, Charles W. - Minute book #2, p. 15
- **Clarke**, Charles W. - Minute book #2, p. 307
- **Conkling**, Virgil - Minute book #2, p. 267, 278 (mention only in minutes)
- **Cowherd**, William S. - Minute book #2, p. 307
- **Crysler**, Charles S. - Minute book #2, p. 303-304, See Also Box 1, Folder 8
- **Cunningham**, W. Lawrence. - Minute book #2, p. 169, 191, 197
- **Dana**, Israel Putnam - Minute book #2, p. 216, 228 (memorial)
- **Dew**, Jere T. - Minute book #2, p. 307
- **Dobson**, Charles L. - Minute book #1, newspaper clipping, p. 128, other, p. 127, 133, 138, Minute Book #2, p.7
- **Finley**, B.P. - Minute book #2, p. 207
- **Fontron**, Joseph - Minute book #2, p. 323, See Also Box 1, Folder 8

- **Garner**, James W. - Minute book #2, p.299, See Also Box 1, Folder 8
- **Garnett**, Edward Prescott - Minute book #2, p. 304
- **Griggs**, Mr. - Minute book #2, p. 39
- **Hamilton**, Robert H. - Minute book #2, p. 85 (memorial)
- **Harrison**, F.M. - Minute book #1, p. 119
- **Hatfield**, Lewis H. - Minute book #2, p. 147
- **Henry**, John W. - Minute book #1, p. 137; Minute book #2, p. 6,11,14-22
- **Holmes**, D.B. - Minute book #2, p. 278 (mention only in minutes)
- **Hopkins**, E.E. - Minute book #1, p. 90
- **Hurt**, Holden - Minute book #2, p.66
- **Irish**, Frank L. - Minute book #1, newspaper clipping and other, p. 90-91
- **Jenkins**, Judge - Minute book #2, p. 39
- **Jones**, Thomas - Minute book #1, p. 134, 138; Minute book #2, p. 7, 12
- **Karnes**, J.V.C. - Minute book #2, p. 278 (mention only in minutes)
- **Latshaw**, Henry J. - Minute book #2, p. 304
- **Leach**, F.A. - Minute book #2, p. 251
- **Littlefield**, Walter - Minute book #2, p. 278 (mention only in minutes)
- **McDonald**, Judge - Minute book #2, p. 41-42
- **McDougal**, Henry Clay - Minute book #2, p. 316
- **McPherson**, Smith - Minute book #2, p. 303
- **Muckle**, John - Minute book #2, p. 303-304
- **Nearing**, Charles H. - Minute book #2, p. 307
- **O'Grady**, John (Col.) - Minute book #2, newspaper clipping, p. 45-47
- **Perry**, William C. - Minute book #2, p. 134
- **Powell**, Edgar - Minute book #2, p. 177
- **Pratt**, Wallace - Minute book #2, p. 132
- **Rodgers**, R.A. - Minute book #2, p. 251
- **Ross**, John A. - Minute book #1, newspaper clipping and other, p. 92-93
- **Scammon**, James - Minute book #1, p. 7
- **Schaich**, John G. - Minute book #2, p. 304, See Also Box 1, Folder 9
- **Slover**, James H. - Minute book #2, p. 284 (*Bar Monthly* death clipping)
- **Smith**, Jackson L. - Minute book #2, p. 157, 263
- **Sulzbacher**, Louis - Minute book #2, p. 303-304
- **Synder**, John W. - Minute book #2, p. 201
- **Teasdale**, Judge - Minute book #2, p. 130
- **Thayer**, Amos M. - Minute book #2, newspaper clipping, p. 93
- **Thompson**, George R. - Minute book #1, p. 119
- **Tichenor**, Charles O. - Minute book #2, p. 307-308
- **Timmonds**, H.C. - Minute book #2, p. 284 (*Bar Monthly* death clipping)
- **Traber**, Judge - Minute book #2, p. 199
- **Trimble**, J. McD. - Minute book #2 (*Bar Monthly* death clipping)
- **Twitchell**, Daniel S. - Minute book #1, newspaper clipping and memorial, p. 71
- **Walker**, John R. - Minute book #1, newspaper clipping, p. 30
- **Warder**, George W. - Minute book #2, p. 127
- **Warner**, William - Minute book #2, p. 319, 322, See Also Box 1, Folder 9, 10
- **Waters**, Louis H. - Minute book #2, p. 319-320
- **Woffard**, John - Minute book #2, p. 131
- **Yeager**, Robert - Minute book #2, p. 59 (memorial speech)
- **Yocum**, John C. - Minute book #2, p. 35

Processed by Special Collections Librarian, Sara J. Nyman, August 2006.