

James F. Spalding Papers

This small collection belonged to James F. Spalding who was an early Kansas City citizen and founder of Spalding Commercial College.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: James F. Spalding
Title: James F. Spalding papers
Dates: 1860-1950
Size: 1 box
Location: SC54

Administrative Information

Restriction on access: Unrestricted access.

Acquisition information: Gift, 1946, Mary J. Spalding; additional photograph donated in 1950.

Custodial history: Formerly classed in department, MVSC F 091.6 S73M.

Citation note: James F. Spalding papers (SC54), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

James F. Spalding was born in Michigan on July 28, 1835. In 1860 he graduated from the classical department of the University of Michigan and received a Masters of Arts degree in 1863. He came to Kansas City in 1865 and in October of that year established Spalding's Business College in the heart of what was then downtown. According to his obituary he founded the first school in Kansas City, two years before the first public school. Many early businessmen attended the college. Mr. Spalding also published textbooks on bookkeeping. According to his death certificate, he died on August 18, 1916.

Scope and content note

The James F. Spalding Papers is a small collection. The contents include newspaper clippings, a handwritten essay, graduation memorabilia, some correspondence, photographs, and artifacts. See also MVSC 650.07 S73an, 1908-1930 for school catalogs and MV 657 S73m for publications written by Spalding. The two newspaper clippings about Charles C. Spalding which are included in the collection appear to possibly have been added by librarians at some point. James apparently was not related to author Charles C. Spalding.

Collection Inventory

- Newspaper clippings - "In Memory of a Prophet," *Kansas City Star*, July 20, 1916, photocopy and original and "A Biography of C.C. Spalding," n.d., n.p., photocopy and original

- Newspaper clippings montage - August 18-21, 1916, *Kansas City Star*, *Kansas City Times*, *Kansas City Journal*. Obituaries and tributes to James F. Spalding, photocopies and original.
- Diploma, 17" x 19", James F. Spalding, written in Latin, University of Michigan, n.d.
- Correspondence, handwritten, August 20, 1864, 1 p., to J. S. Spalding from R. J. Barry, Provost Marshal's Office, 3rd District of Michigan, includes envelope.
- Essay, handwritten, 6 p., May 8, 1860, by J. S. Spalding entitled "Polyps or Coral Builders." Also identified as theological essay and commencement oration.
- Commencement program, annual. University of Michigan, Dept. of Science, Literature and the Arts, June 27, 1860 (2 copies).
- Correspondence, handwritten, from Mary J. Spalding to the Kansas City Public Library concerning the donation. Dated: March 26, 1946. and September 14, 1950.
- Correspondence, typed, to Mary J. Spalding from Louis M. Nourse, dated April 2, 1946, and from Harold Hamill, dated April 6, 1946. Acknowledgement of gift.
- Photograph: oval framed photograph of Jeannette Spalding (wife of James F. Spalding), 12", color tinted.
- Photograph: Small unframed oval portrait of James Spalding, n.d.
- Artifacts: University of Michigan Alumni Association, 1860 pin and badge.
- Artifacts: Zeta Psi fraternity pin belonging to James F. Spalding

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman, January 1995.