

# Kansas City Centennial Association Scrapbook

The hundredth anniversary of the original incorporation (1850) of the Town of Kansas (Kansas City) was observed in 1950. This scrapbook contains information that chronicles that event.

## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Kansas City Centennial Association  
**Title:** Kansas City Centennial Association scrapbook  
**Dates:** 1949-1950  
**Size:** 1 box, 31 folders  
**Location:** SC51

## Administrative Information

**Restrictions on access:** Unrestricted access.

**Additional physical form available:** Collection photographs have been digitized.

**Acquisition information:** Gift?, 1953?, based on old accession number found in scrapbook. Additional, Accession #2004-13.

**Custodial history:** Formerly classed in department, F977.8411 K162c.

**Citation note:** Kansas City Centennial Association scrapbook (SC51), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

## Collection Description

### **Biographical/Historical note**

The hundredth anniversary of the original incorporation (1850) of the Town of Kansas (Kansas City) was observed June 3-July 5, 1950. A number of activities were held, culminating in a parade and pageant. A Centennial queen was chosen, Clara Belle Smith, and the men had beard contests while the women dressed in clothes of the time period. Starlight Theater was built to accommodate the pageant which was called "Thrills of a Century." An Indian village with cultural events was also part of the festivities. Celebrities present included movie star Gloria Swanson and Margaret Truman. A radio program aired entitled "The Kansas City Story" which featured Jane Wyman and Robert Young.

### **Scope and content note**

This scrapbook was originally a 67x69 cm bound, black-leaved scrapbook assembled by the Kansas City Centennial Association during 1949-1950. The included material was generally pasted to the pages. As time passed and the paste dried, materials became unattached and during processing may not have been returned to their original locations. Although care was taken in the processing of the scrapbook to ensure that as much of the original order was maintained as possible, it cannot be assumed for certain that the current order was indeed the original order. All of the newspaper clippings which were a part of the scrapbook have been photocopied, and the original clippings discarded.

Included in the scrapbook are the following items: newspaper clippings, brochures, photographs, memorabilia from the event, reports, official stationery, postage marks, invitations, and other miscellaneous material. Most of the newspaper articles were identified at the time of placement in the scrapbook, but these labels became unattached over time. If a date was evident, it was included with the clipping. In front of each folder is a list of date labels found loose from each page of the scrapbook included in that folder. There are 24 photographs which include the centennial cake, beard contest members, billboard advertising, Gloria Swanson, Mayor Kemp, Margaret Truman, Centennial Queen, Indian Village, Starlight pageant, etc. A sheet of 50 centennial stamps (3 cents) were bought by Special Collections and placed with this collection in October 1996. A CD was duplicated of the radio program "The Kansas City Story," June 1, 1950. This was donated in May 2004 (#2004-13).

### Collection Inventory

- **Folder 1** - Inventory sheet and finding aid; sheet of 50 centennial stamps (3 cent); audio recording (CD) of "The Kansas City Story", June 1, 1950, etc.
- **Folder 2** - Page 1 - newspaper clippings, official tag, brochures, etc.
- **Folder 3** - Page 2 - newspaper clippings, pennant, patch, coupon book
- **Folder 4** - Page 3 - newspaper clippings, news release
- **Folder 5** - Page 4, 5 - newspaper clippings, official stationary, etc.
- **Folder 6** - Page 6, 7 - newspaper clippings, sketch
- **Folder 7** - Page 8, 9 - newspaper clippings, photograph, license plate
- **Folder 8** - Page 10, 11 - newspaper clippings, miscellaneous beard items
- **Folder 9** - Page 12, 13 - newspaper clippings, badges, jewelry noted, etc.
- **Folder 10** - Page 14, 15 - newspaper clippings, postage mark
- **Folder 11** - Page 16, 17 - newspaper clippings
- **Folder 12** - Page 18, 19 - newspaper clippings, photographs, stamped envelope, program
- **Folder 13** - Page 20, 21 - newspaper clippings
- **Folder 14** - Page 22, 23 - newspaper clippings, sketch, brochures, etc.
- **Folder 15** - Page 24-26 - newspaper clippings, pamphlet, poster
- **Folder 16** - Page 27-29 - newspaper clippings
- **Folder 17** - Page 30-32 - newspaper clippings
- **Folder 18** - Page 33-35 - newspaper clippings
- **Folder 19** - Page 36-39 - newspaper clippings, photograph
- **Folder 20** - Page 40-42 - newspaper clippings
- **Folder 21** - Page 43-45 - newspaper clippings
- **Folder 22** - Page 46-48 - newspaper clippings, program
- **Folder 23** - Page 49-51 - newspaper clippings
- **Folder 24** - Page 52-54 - newspaper clippings
- **Folder 25** - Page 55-57 - newspaper clippings
- **Folder 26** - Page 58-60 - newspaper clippings, entrance card
- **Folder 27** - Page 61-63 - newspaper clippings, invitations, photographs, articles, exposition material, etc.
- **Folder 28** - Page 64, 65 - photographs
- **Folder 29** - Page 66, 67 - programs, passes, brochures, etc.
- **Folder 30** - Page 68 - photograph, mayor's report, letter
- **Folder 31** - Page 69 - photographs (Indian Village)

Processed by Special Collections Librarian, Sara Nyman, September 1995.