

# Robinson Family Papers

This collection contains a variety of handwritten items ranging in date from 1820 to 1893. Most relate to counties in Missouri and some letters were written during the Civil War.

## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Robinson family  
**Title:** Robinson family papers  
**Dates:** 1820-1893  
**Size:** 1 box, 73 folders  
**Location:** SC36

## Administrative Information

**Restrictions on access:** Unrestricted access.

**Acquisition information:** Gift, 1965, Wilma Garvin and Lenore Peery.

**Custodial history:** This collection was part of a donation which includes SC40. The donation description reads, "collection of Dr. William James Robinson including anti-tobacco tracts, several notebooks of clippings, sermons, original poems, etc." The Peery Family Papers (SC40) contains some correspondence in Box 1 with the Holman name as found in this collection. While doing additional processing of both collections, things were left as they were found and no attempt has been made to change the arrangement. It is believed that the tracts, clippings, sermons, poems, etc., mentioned were probably placed elsewhere in the department at the time of the gift. How these items were dispersed and arranged upon receipt is not known.

**Citation note:** Robinson family papers (SC36), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

## Collection Description

### **Biographical/Historical note**

Little is known of the Robinson family of this collection. Listed in the 1860 United States census, there is a James H. Robinson, age 40, teacher and his wife, Mary E., age 36. They were living in Danville, Missouri at the time. He was born in Virginia and she was listed as born in Missouri. Others listed in the household include: William, age 15; Eliza, age 13; Lucius, age 10; Mary, age 5; See, age 4, Abbott, age 1; and Eliza Overall, age 51. It is believed that this is the family as names and locations match those in the collection. Upon examination of the papers in the collection, James H. Robinson died in the 1860s and Mary remained a widow for several years. When looking at this collection, one may want to look at early folders in Box 1 of SC40.

### **Scope and content note**

The contents of this collection are arranged chronologically. Approximately one half of the folders in this collection contain correspondence and the rest contain land deeds, affidavits, bill of sales, survey notations, slave agreements, maps,

real estate documents, legal land descriptions, field notes, receipts, bills, court records, road information, etc. Most of the items pertain to Missouri and in particular to the counties of Livingston, Buchanan, Montgomery, Callaway, Howard and Macon.

The earliest letters found are addressed to Dr. John Holman and Mary Holman and were written by Elisha Norcross and others from places as New York and Boston. The rest of the correspondence and miscellaneous items primarily pertain to the Robinson family including William, James, Mary, Willie, Eliza, and others while the family was living in and around Danville in Montgomery County, Missouri, as well as other Missouri locations.

Of particular interest are the letters written during the Civil War. Many of these were written by Willie Robinson, son of James Robinson, while he was on board the ship *U.S.S. Constitution* at Newport, Rhode Island during 1861-1862. Prior to his arrival there, he went to Washington, D.C. and to New York. He mentions James Lane of Kansas (Folder 23), Union soldiers in the nation's capitol (Folder 23), Odon Guitar, General Sherman (Folder 22), England and France entering the War (Folder 25) and describes Fort Adams (Folder 28). It appears that Willie was attempting to enter the United States Navy. Letters concerning Vicksburg can be found in Folders 41 and 42.

The topic of slavery is also mentioned and found in Folders 1, 6, and 14. Willie Robinson eventually becomes a 2nd Lt. in the 38th Regiment of Missouri Volunteers with a statement from St. Louis, Mo., July 26, 1862 (Folder 36) verifying this fact. Another interesting letter from James Robinson to his wife written in 1854 (Folder 15), details the experiences of traveling by boats to reach the East.

Processed by Special Collections Department Manager Gloria Maxwell, 1992, additional processing by Special Collections Librarian, Sara Nyman, 2004.