



Kansas City, Kansas High School Cornerstone Collection (KSCOLL 12)

The Kansas City, Kansas High School Cornerstone Collection is comprised of documents and ephemera placed in the cornerstone of the 1899 Kansas City Kansas High School building during construction.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Unknown

Title: KCK High School Cornerstone Collection

Dates: 1899

Size: 1 box, 13 folders

Location: Kansas Room, 2nd floor workroom, closed stacks

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

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Additional physical form available: No

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Location of originals: Kansas City, Kansas Public Library, Kansas Room closed stacks

Acquisition information:

Citation note: (identification of the image, Kansas Room – Special Collections, Kansas City, Kansas Public Libraries)

Collection Description

This collection consists of documents, newspapers, brochures, business cards, from local businesses and the public schools from 1899

Historical Note

In 1897 a bond issue was passed which funded the erection of a new building for the Kansas City, Kansas High School on the west side of North 9th Street, from Minnesota Avenue to State Avenue. The building was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style by W. W. Rose, and included a great peak-roofed tower that dominated the downtown skyline for many years. The building was completed in 1899, with substantial additions in 1905 and 1910. In addition to high school classes, the school also provided space for a junior college beginning in 1923.

A cornerstone laying ceremony was held on Friday, May 19, 1899 with a slight delay due to rain. A parade led by 25 police officers, Police Chief McFarland and Captain Porter was followed by 25 firefighters, Chief Normal and Assistant Chief McConnell, the I.O.O.F. band, the Westminster Cadets, and a group of local mail carriers. A large number of carriages with city officials and the Mercantile Club brought up the rear.

The cornerstone time capsule contents included documents outlining the ceremony as well as newspapers, and ephemera from local merchants. According to the May 20, 1899 Kansas City Gazette, the cornerstone box also contained the 12th annual report of the Board of Education, old coins donated by citizens and new coins donated by Merchants' Bank (these items are not included in this collection). The high school building served the district until it was destroyed by fire on March 13, 1934. It was replaced by the new Wyandotte High school, completed in 1937.

Arrangement Note

The collection was organized in single box in no particular order. The items have been arranged by type.

Scope and content note

All items in the collection date to 1899 and range from copies of official documents to information about local businesses and school curriculum.

Related Collections

Kansas City, Kansas High School Yearbook Collection
Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools Photograph Collection

Collection Inventory

BOX 1

Folder 1

High School Faculty Photo, 1899

Pictured: J.W. Hullinger, Ellyn Shipley, Katherine Helbach, Louis P. Brous, Anna Hair-Findley, Geo. E. Rose, Clara, Stilwell, Lapier Williams, Dora Markham, J.E. Kammeyer, W.J. Pearson, C.H. Nowlin, Ida M. Hodgson, A.A. Brooks, Mary Samson, E.N. Walker

Folder 2

Rules of the Council of the City of Kansas City, Kansas, 1899
10 page booklet

Folder 3

The High School Record. Vol. 1, No. 9, Kansas City, Kansas, May 19, 1899
12 page booklet

Folder 4

Course of Study for the Public Schools of Kansas City, Kansas
38 page booklet detailing curricula for grades one through high school with handwritten note: "Compliments of L.E. Noble, May 19, 1899"

Folder 5

The Mercantile Club of Kansas City, Kansas, By-Laws
18 page booklet listing members and by-laws, May 19, 1899

Letterhead of The Mercantile Club, Kansas City, Kansas

Folder 6

Mercantile Club of Kansas City, Kansas resolution stating their support for a cornerstone laying ceremony for the new high school. 1 page typewritten, dated April 12, 1899.

Program of the exercises at the Laying of the Cornerstone of the Kansas City, Kansas High School, May 19, 1899, one page, typewritten.

List of the Committee for the Arrangement of Ceremonies Attending the Laying of the Corner Stone of the Kansas City, Kansas High School, one page, typewritten.

Folder 7

Commencement program of the 13th annual commencement of the Kansas City, Kansas High School, May 18th, 1899

Folder 8

Stories of Towns, by Lincoln Phifer

12 page typed booklet with newspaper clippings pasted in, detailing the origins of Wyandotte County towns including White Church, Juniper Bottoms, Armstrong, Armourdale, and Argentine. No date.

Folder 9

One page printed advertisement for Samuel Stewart, dealer in Staple and Fancy Groceries

Folder 10

Business envelopes of: The Mercantile Club (2), The Kansas City Star (1)

Folder 11

Printed leaflet with poem and song written for the Cornerstone ceremony, by Roman William Kramer, class of '99, Kansas City, Kansas High School

Folder 12

Business cards from the following local merchants: The Wyandotte State Bank, W.J. Wright Furnaces, J.W. Ferguson – Contractor and Builder, C.R. Henn Barber Shop, W.T. Maunder & Co., Edwin S. McAnany – Atty. at Law, Wm. W. Rose – Architect, Chas. M. Dunham - Kansas City Journal, Getty & Hutchings – Lawyers, Robt. L. Marshman – Insurance, unidentified warranty certificate, Clyde G. Cooper

Folder 13

Collection documents created by the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library

Handwritten inventory of Cornerstone items, ca. 1970s

Handwritten lists of newspapers included in the cornerstone (2)

Scrap of paper with "Old KCK HS Records Corner Stone" handwritten

The Labor Record, Kansas City, Kansas, April 27, 1899

The Kansas City Star, Kansas City, Missouri, May 17, 1899

The Wyandotte Herald, Kansas City, Kansas, May 18, 1899