



**Kingsbury Family Papers  
(C4346)**

**Collection Number:** C4346

**Collection Title:** Kingsbury Family Papers

**Dates:** 1903-1983

**Creator:** Kingsbury, Lilburn A., 1884-1983

**Abstract:** Letters written by Lilburn A. Kingsbury to family members.

**Collection Size:** 3.0 cubic feet  
(78 folders, 2 volumes)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [research@shsmo.org](mailto:research@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given and assigned to the Society all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Kingsbury Family Papers* (C4346); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Warren T. Kingsbury on October 3, 1988 (Accession No. 2718). Additions were made on November 7, 1988 by Warren T. Kingsbury (Accession No. 2719), February 9, 1989, by Warren T. Kingsbury (Accession No.2727), April 3, 1989, by Warren T. Kingsbury (Accession No.2741), May 9, 1989, by Warren T. Kingsbury (Accession No.2745), September 27, 1994, by Warren T. Kingsbury (Accession No.3028), and May 31, 1995, by William M. Berry (Accession No.3064).

**Historical Note:**

Lilburn Adkin Kingsbury was born on October 14, 1884, in the Boonslick area of rural Howard County, Missouri, about two miles north of New Franklin. He attended the public schools of New Franklin and Fayette and had two years at Central College (now Central Methodist College) at Fayette. In 1905 he worked as cashier in the Bank of New Franklin. On January 1, 1918, he left the bank and traveled through the west visiting relatives. Upon his return he became a bank cashier, serving until 1922. At that time he bought the stock of a clothing store and ran the store for a while. Later Kingsbury opened an insurance office which he maintained throughout his life. He gradually assumed responsibility for his father's farm and orchard. With his office situated in the middle of town, it was a place people came for not only their insurance needs, but to pay their utility bills, have papers notarized, get help with their income tax, or drawing up of wills.

Lilburn became a member of the Methodist Church Board of Stewards, taught a Sunday school class, played the organ and/or the piano for church services, and played or sang at weddings and funerals. He became a Mason, and was frequently called on to serve on civic committees. Even when full responsibility for the Kingsbury farm and orchard became his, he continued to maintain his office and could be found there most of the time.

Well before the end of his life, a few months before his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday, Lilburn Kingsbury had become an "Uncommon Man." He was called "A Living Legend" and was the subject of numerous feature stories in metropolitan papers and magazines; he was recognized by his college as one of its most distinguished alumni although not a graduate; he had a scholarship established at the college in his name by relatives and friends; and he was honored by the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives as "an exemplary individual who has led a truly outstanding and noble life—a life filled with significant contributions to mankind." Lilburn A. Kingsbury died on July 1, 1983.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following four series:

- Correspondence
- Mule Boat Article
- Scrapbooks
- Compiled Material

**Scope and Content Note:****Correspondence:**

This series consists almost exclusively of Lilburn Kingsbury's letters to various family members, relating to family issues, work, social and church activities. Includes genealogical correspondence. This series is arranged chronologically.

**Mule Boat Article:**

This series consists of a diary Lilburn Kingsbury kept of a job he took of tending mules that were shipped by train from Missouri, and later loaded onto a boat to Barcelona, Spain, in 1928. He later submitted an article of his experiences to a local paper, but it was rejected. Folder 75 contains photographs showing the train and ship used to transport the mules.

**Scrapbooks:**

The scrapbook material series consists of letters, and assorted newspaper clippings, cards and booklets containing marriage announcements, commencements, church events, Kemper Military School alumni booklet, family prayers, reunion announcements, wedding anniversaries, travel descriptions, mule trip, obituaries/death notices mainly related to the Kingsbury family.

**Compiled Material:**

This series consists of two volumes of family correspondence, along with various articles and other family related material written by Lilburn A. Kingsbury, and later assembled into an unpublished work by his nephew, Warren T. Kingsbury. The work is titled: *The Changing Social, Economic and Cultural Life in Boonslick, Country, as Reported in Letters, Talks and Articles by Historian Lilburn A. Kingsbury (1884-1983)*.

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f. 74-76	Mule Boat Article Material
f. 74	1928, <i>Braying the Trail to Europe</i>
f. 75	Photographs, Ship Monarca, showing mule transport on ship
f. 76	1928, 1988
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v. 1 & 2	<i>The Changing Social, Economic and Cultural Life in Boonslick, Country, as Reported in Letters, Talks and Articles by Historian Lilburn A. Kingsbury (1884-1983).</i>	
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