



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0262

Edwin McKaig Clendening (1852-1930) Papers

[Native Sons Archives]

1887-1929

8 cubic feet (114 folders; 9 volumes)

Correspondence, speeches, programs and brochures, meeting minutes, clippings, and photographs, of Edwin Clendening, businessman and Secretary of the Commercial Club, forerunner of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. Correspondence deals with a wide range of topics, both personal and relating to the work of the Chamber.

BIOGRAPHY:

Edwin McKaig Clendening was born on October 7, 1852 to Dr. John Day and Mary Ann Clendening in Frankfort Springs, Pennsylvania. He married Lida Logan of Wheeling, West Virginia, on October 22, 1878, and they had one child, a son Logan, who went on to achieve prominence as a physician in the Kansas City area.

E.M. Clendening came to Kansas City in 1882 and had business interests in a shoe company which failed in 1892. Clendening became Secretary of the Commercial Club in that year, a position he held until 1918, when he was appointed Assistant to the President of the Chamber of Commerce.

Clendening helped organize the plan for erecting Convention Hall and was on the three-member committee which supervised the rebuilding of the hall within ninety days after it burned in the spring of 1900. He took great interest in navigation and transportation issues regarding the Missouri River. He became a member of the Sons of the American Revolution after a family tree search in 1895-1996. Clendening was a charter member and original board member of the National Association of Commercial Organization Secretaries.

Clendening was a member of Grace and Holy Trinity Church, the Round Table Club, Kansas City Art Institute, YMCA, Kansas City Country Club, and Kansas City Athletic Club. E.M. Clendening died in 1930.

PROVENANCE:

These records were received as part of the collection of the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City (KA0590) on July 17, 1990.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS:

This collection chiefly consists of personal and professional correspondence and early records of the Kansas City Commercial Club, later the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. Correspondence is both personal and professional in nature until approximately 1920, after which it is almost exclusively Chamber of Commerce business.

Clendening found interesting the state of shipping and transportation on the Missouri River and other waterways. Some correspondence beginning in the early 1900s indicates his concern with the various problems, committees, organizations, and industries relating to the river.

The subject of E.M. Clendening's son, Logan, and correspondence with and about him is confined from the 1890s to approximately 1920. After that time, references to him are scarce. Correspondence refers primarily to his high school and college education (including receipts from private tutors) and to his early

medical practice. The greatest amount of correspondence with Logan exists from 1917-1918, the years of World War I.

Between the years 1910-1920 Clendening kept correspondence with a black medical student named J.H.H. Riley. The collection also contains other correspondence from blacks who wrote to ask for Clendening's assistance.

From the 1890s through the late 1910s, Clendening maintained regular correspondence with Edgar Tilton of the Stonnard Tilton Milling Company in St. Louis. Although it is chiefly personal in nature, there are many references to the grain business and other commercial matters.

The activities of the Commercial Club and Chamber of Commerce, such as banquets, excursions, meetings, minutes, and day-to-day business, are documented in the collection. Included are many inter-office memos concerning worker efficiency in the mid-1920s.

Other subjects of local interest in the collection include the China Famine Relief fund, the Kansas City Country Club and the Kansas City Club (correspondence and receipts), and references to statues such as the Scout, Pioneer Mother, Swope Memorial, and Meyer Memorial.

The inventory of folders below is arranged chronologically. Items of interest are highlighted for each folder; however, folders may contain information beyond the descriptions given.

INVENTORY:

Box 001

- Folder 1. 1887 - Improved Order of the Heptasophs benefit certificate.
- Folder 2. 1890 - Commercial Club junketing tours.
- Folder 3. 1891 - First Western State Conference - acceptances and regrets from politicians and businessmen.
- Folder 4. 1892 - Correspondence, including the failure and sale of Clendening's shoe business. Letter referring to the University of Kansas football team.
- Folder 5. 1893 - Correspondence, including references to Logan's severe illness and hospital bills. Letter from Clendening to a collection agency concerning his business failure.
- Folder 6. 1894 - Speeches or articles by Clendening about Kansas City's growth and industry. Correspondence with references to Logan's illness, Lida's business interests in West Virginia, and Clendening's debt to Ed Tilton.

- Folder 7. 1895 - Correspondence, including family tree research. Clipping about Armour's ownership of railway lines. *Kansas City Times* article by Clendening about Commercial Club.
- Folder 8. 1896 - Correspondence. Obituary for L.E. Erwin.
- Folder 9. 1897 - "No Mean City" address by Benjamin Harrison at meeting of the Indianapolis Commercial Club. Correspondence, including subject of Logan's tutoring. Clipping about the wreck of the steamboat Tennessee and letter from the captain.
- Folder 10. 1898 - Correspondence, including organization of St. Louis Commercial Club.
- Folder 11. 1899 - Correspondence, including completion of Convention Hall and honorary dinner for Charles Campbell. Building contract for William Rockhill Nelson's home.
- Folder 12. 1900 - Correspondence. Bylaws of the Carter Company. Greene County, Mo. fishing club membership list. Statement of loss regarding Convention Hall. "A Message to Garcia" pamphlet regarding Cuba and the Spanish-American War.
- Folder 13. 1901 - Correspondence. Presidential Tour brochure.
- Folder 14. 1901 - Railway Passes.
- Folder 15. 1902 - Correspondence, including M.Y. Ching describing picture he sent Clendening, William Rockhill Nelson party, Clendening's gift to the Barstow School fund, and Grace Church.
- Folder 16. 1903 - Indianapolis banquet - Clendening's speech about fundraising for Convention Hall.
- Folder 17. 1904 - Correspondence, including appeal from a black man for train passage to see his mother.
- Folder 18. 1905 - Correspondence, including letter from Logan.
- Folder 19. 1906 - Rough draft of Commercial Club speech.
- Folder 20. 1906 - Correspondence, including letter on behalf of Col. Charles B. Hall recommending his promotion to Brigadier-General.
- Folder 21. January-May 1907 - Correspondence.
- Folder 22. June 1907 - Correspondence, including Logan and problems in the Transportation Bureau. Cooley Lake Club's memorial to William B. Thayer.
- Folder 23. July 1907 - Correspondence regarding Commercial Club's Transportation Bureau - resignation of chairman.
- Folder 24. August-December 1907 - Correspondence.

- Folder 25. 1908 - Correspondence. Song performed at luncheon hosted by Clendening. Letter from the Twin City Medical Society in support of separation of races.
- Folder 26. January-February 1909 - Correspondence, including death of Clendening's brother.
- Folder 27. March-June 1909 - Correspondence, including unveiling of Meyer Statue.
- Folder 28. July-December 1909 - Correspondence.
- Folder 29. 1910 - Correspondence.
- Folder 30. 1911 - Correspondence, including the American Royal Livestock Pavilion, Ed Tilton and anti-Taft opinions.
- Folder 31. 1912 - Correspondence, including Clendening's trip to Washington concerning the Mississippi River; possibility of investment in "fire proof film" company; factional rivalry in the Commercial Club.

Box 002

- Folder 32. January-September 1913 - Commercial Secretaries meeting, Omaha. Correspondence, including film company investment.
- Folder 33. October-November 1913 - Chiefly planning materials for the Commercial Club Banquet.
- Folder 34. 1914 - Correspondence, including Clendening to Senator Stone regarding Logan's military obligations, letter to future daughter-in-law and J.H.H. Riley, black medical student.
- Folder 35. 1915 - Correspondence, including J.H.H. Riley.
- Folder 36. 1916 - Correspondence, including J.H.H. Riley describing conditions and opportunities for black physicians.
- Folder 37. January-June 1917 - Correspondence, including Logan and organization of the Chamber of Commerce.
- Folder 38. July-December 1917 - Correspondence, including appeal for Logan's army promotion.
- Folder 39. January-May 1918 - Correspondence, including raising money for Jackson, retiring janitor at the Chamber of Commerce; letter inquiring about Mrs. Horton's talents as a portrait painter.
- Folder 40. June-December 1918 - Correspondence. Program for French Foreign Legion Parade.
- Folder 41. January-June 1919 - Correspondence, including mention of Liberty Memorial planning.
- Folder 42. July-December 1919 - Correspondence.

- Folder 43. 1920 - Correspondence, drafts of speech and article.
- Folder 44. January-April 1921 - Correspondence.
- Folder 45. May-June 1921 - Correspondence.
- Folder 46. July-October 1921 - Correspondence, notecards for speech.
- Folder 47. November-December 1921 - Correspondence, clipping and badge for American Legion National Convention.
- Folder 48. January-August 1922 - Correspondence, including office efficiency report. Notecards for address, Chamber of Commerce Annual Report, banquet programs, Milwaukee Association of Commerce journal article.
- Folder 49. September-December 1922 - Correspondence, "Safety Instruction for Kansas City Elementary Schools" booklet, "Community Leadership" newsletter by the American City Bureau, membership reports.
- Folder 50. January 1923 - Correspondence, membership reports, daily office "late lists," Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee minutes, political articles and unusual cover letter from William H. Farley.
- Folder 51. February-May 1923 - Correspondence, late lists, staff meeting minutes, account of 1889 Priests of Pallas parade.

Box 003

- Folder 52. June-September 1923 - Correspondence, picture postcards.
- Folder 53. October-December 1923 - Correspondence, Board of Directors report.
- Folder 54. January-March 1924 - Correspondence, bylaws discussion, "The Missouri River" article, "Suggestions for Tentative Program of Work" speech, National Memorial to the Battle of Westport proposal, clippings, Sons of Revolution banquet programs.
- Folder 55. March-April 1924 - Correspondence, club receipts, clippings, "David and Uriah's Wife" poem.
- Folder 56. May-July 1924 - Correspondence, "Ho! The Sea" poem.
- Folder 57. August-December 1924 - Correspondence, including letter about new polo field. Chamber of Commerce 1923-1924 annual report.
- Folder 58. January-April 1925 - Correspondence, including beautification of the Paseo.
- Folder 59. May-September 1925 - Correspondence, Board of Director and Past Presidents meeting minutes.
- Folder 60. October-December 1925 - Correspondence.

- Folder 61. January-February 1926 - Correspondence, staff meeting minutes, Sons of the Revolution rosters.
- Folder 62. March-April 1926 - Correspondence, staff meeting minutes.
- Folder 62a. May-October 1926 - Correspondence, including Armistice Day Parade.
- Folder 63. November-December 1926 - Correspondence, office rules, conventions and events schedule.
- Folder 64. January-February 1927 - Correspondence, "Ethics of the Secretary" booklet.
- Folder 65. March-April 1927 - Correspondence, Inland Waterways Corporation annual report, Spaulding golf equipment brochure, subscriber list for Chamber of Commerce Program of Development Campaign.
- Folder 66. May-June 1927 - Correspondence, Convention Hall annual report, clippings.
- Folder 67. July-December 1927 - Chiefly club receipts, expense report, letter addressing criticism against J.C. Nichols.
- Folder 68. January-April 1928 - Correspondence, Sons of the Revolution programs.
- Folder 69. May-September 1928 - Correspondence, boxing benefit expenses, policeman Happy Smith's Trust Fund - legal documents and list of donors, clippings.
- Folder 70. October-December 1928 - Correspondence, National Association of Commercial Organization Secretaries - Historical Committee report.
- Folder 71. 1929 - Correspondence.
- Folder 72. Undated - Correspondence, song sheets, "The Pioneer Mother" by George W. Curtiss, Outline of Kansas City's Program of Development, Alfred Cotton Bedford obituary, ephemera.
- Folder 73. Photographs

Box 004

Scrapbooks Volume 1 – Volume 5 f2: ca. 1900-ca. 1907

Box 005

Volume 5 f3 – Volume 6 f13: ca. 1907-ca. 1912

Box 006

Volume 6 f14 – Volume 8 f7: ca. 1912-ca. 1914

Box 007

V. 8 f8 – V.9 f13: ca 1914-ca 1917

Box 008

- Folder 74. McLucas – Brewer Dinner; May 23, 1919
- Folder 75. Texas Drought, Stricken Sufferers; October 1918; Memo and correspondence
- Folder 76. Republican Convention – 1919
- Folder 77. File on Citizen’s Military Training Camp Association, 1921 – brochures
- Folder 78. File on Citizen’s Military Training Camp Association, 1921 – Policy, applications, news clippings
- Folder 79. File on Citizen’s Military Training Camp Association, 1921 – Lists of names & addresses of applicants
- Folder 80. File on Citizen’s Military Training Camp Association, 1921 – Special Orders
- Folder 81. File on Citizen’s Military Training Camp Association, 1921 – “A-D”
- Folder 82. File on Citizen’s Military Training Camp Association, 1921 – “E-G”
- Folder 83. File on Citizen’s Military Training Camp Association, 1921 – “H-K”
- Folder 84. File on Citizen’s Military Training Camp Association, 1921 – “L” includes a list of candidates to attend then Citizen’s Military Training Camp at Camp Pike, Arkansas
- Folder 85. File on Citizen’s Military Training Camp Association, 1921 – “M-O”
- Folder 86. File on Citizen’s Military Training Camp Association, 1921 – “P-Q”
- Folder 87. File on Citizen’s Military Training Camp Association, 1921 – “R”
- Folder 88. File on Citizen’s Military Training Camp Association, 1921 – “S”
- Folder 89. File on Citizen’s Military Training Camp Association, 1921 – “T” includes application requests to Camp Pike
- Folder 90. File on Citizen’s Military Training Camp Association, 1921 – “U-W”
- Folder 91. File on Citizen’s Military Training Camp Association, 1921 – “X-Z”

- Folder 92. Taft Reception, April 1919 "A-D"
- Folder 93. Taft Reception, April 1919 "E-G"
- Folder 94. Taft Reception, April 1919 "H-K"
- Folder 95. Taft Reception, April 1919 "L-N"
- Folder 96. Taft Reception, April 1919 "O-R"
- Folder 97. Taft Reception, April 1919 "S-V"
- Folder 98. Taft Reception, April 1919 "W-Z"
- Folder 99. Taft Reception, April 1919 Financial data
- Folder 100. Taft Reception, April 1919 Initial planning of the Taft reception
- Folder 101. File on China Famine Fund 1921 – Publicity Material
- Folder 102. File on China Famine Fund 1921 – Financial information
- Folder 103. File on China Famine Fund 1921 – Church subscriptions
- Folder 104. File on China Famine Fund 1921 – Church subscriptions
- Folder 105. File on China Famine Fund 1921 – Subscriptions
- Folder 106. File on China Famine Fund 1921 – Subscriptions
- Folder 107. File on China Famine Fund 1921 – Photographs
- Folder 108. File on China Famine Fund 1921 – Correspondence
- Folder 109. File on China Famine Fund 1921 – Initial Correspondence
- Folder 110. File on China Famine Fund 1921 – Stamps
- Folder 111. File on China Famine Fund 1921 – News clippings
- Folder 112. File on China Famine Fund 1921 – European Relief Council
- Folder 113. File on China Famine Fund 1921 – Misc.
- Folder 114. File on China Famine Relief Fund – Misc. clippings