



## **Bronaugh-Bushnell Family Papers (C0079)**

**Collection Number:** C0079

**Collection Title:** Bronaugh-Bushnell Family Papers

**Dates:** 1852-1930

**Creator:** Bronaugh-Bushnell Family

**Abstract:** The papers consist of personal and business correspondence of the Bronaugh and Bushnell families, landowners and business operators near Clinton, Henry County, Missouri.

**Collection Size:** 1.2 cubic feet  
(57 folders)

**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 [columbia@shsmo.org](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Bronaugh-Bushnell Family Papers* (C0079); 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 University of Missouri by R.G. Carney on January 17, 1944 (Accession No. CA0084).

**Processed by:** Processed by The State Historical Society of Missouri-Columbia staff, date unknown. Finding Aid revised by John C. Konzal, April 24, 2020

**Historical Note:**

The Bronaugh and Bushnell families, were large landowners near Clinton, Missouri, from 1852-1930. W.C. "Wall" and F.C. Bronaugh owned large tracts of land near Lewis Station, Henry County, Missouri, and operated the Bronaugh Bros. Farmers and Stock Dealers. On August 15, 1867, John A. Bushnell, Sr. married Eugenia Bronaugh, sister of W.C. and F.C., and they had two sons, Horace and John. Over the next 60 years the Bronaugh and Bushnell families would work closely on a number of business ventures in Missouri, Texas, and the Oklahoma Territory. The family enterprises included the Tebo Coal Company, Pettis County Investment Company, Concho Cattle Company, Savanna Coal and Mining Trading Company, and the Bushnell Manufacturing Company.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Correspondence  
Programs

**Scope and Content Note:**

The majority of the correspondence documents the personal and professional lives of Horace B. Bushnell and John A. Bushnell, Jr. and are arranged chronologically. Included are letters from Horace while he was a student at Central College, Fayette, Missouri. The later correspondence documents the business dealings and travels of the brothers as they worked as salesmen of tobacco, stamp machines, and various other products. The letters include rich description of travel throughout the United States during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century and offer insight into the early days of traveling salesmen. While they owned property in Clinton and Lewis, Missouri, Horace and John spent much of their lives on the road and in hotels.

The families were also Confederate sympathizers and there is some correspondence concerning the Ex-Confederate Association of Missouri and the establishment of the Confederate Home in Higginsville, Missouri. W.C. Bronaugh was also active in state politics, serving as Railroad and Warehouse Commissioner in 1902, and assisting in the attempt to secure the release of Missouri outlaws Cole and Jim Younger from the Minnesota State Penitentiary in Stillwater. Correspondents include Frank James, William J. Stone, Lon V. Stephens, F.M. Cockrell, Breckinridge Long, and Arthur M. Hyde. The family correspondence also contains letters from relatives living in areas such as Paint Rock, Texas, and Buffalo, West Virginia.

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