

C Robards, John Lewis (1838-1925), Scrapbooks, n.d.  
1437 3 volumes

## **MICROFILM**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Materials collected primarily by RoBards on family members, his childhood friend Mark Twain, and Hannibal, MO. Includes newspaper clippings, correspondence, articles, programs, speeches, and miscellaneous items. See also Collection 3609.

## **DONOR INFORMATION**

The papers were received by the State Historical Society by Rose David on 25 May 1938 (No Accession Number.)

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

John Lewis RoBards was born on 8 May 1838 in Hustonville, Kentucky, to Archibald Sampson and Amanda Carpenter RoBards, Sr. RoBards emigrated with his family to Hannibal, Missouri, in 1843.

In 1849 RoBards accompanied his father to California, via New Mexico. Upon their return two years later, RoBards began reading law with Judge Gilchrist Porter. He later attended the University of Missouri and, in 1861, graduated from the law department of the University of Louisville, Kentucky. Shortly afterward, RoBards returned to Hannibal and began practicing law.

RoBards was a staunch believer in community service. He was an active member of the Knights Templar, the Free Masons, the Missouri Bar Association, and the Park Methodist Episcopal Church. He served as president for both the Hannibal Bible Society and the American Bible Society and as secretary/treasurer of the Mount Olivet Cemetery Association. He attended the Mississippi River Conventions of 1868 and 1884. He was also instrumental in establishing a monument to his childhood friend Mark Twain.

RoBards married Sara Crump Helm on 4 April 1861. They had four children, only three of whom survived to adulthood--Archibald Crump, Mabel Helen Helm, and Mary Logan. Sara died on 3 January 1918 after a brief illness. RoBards followed her seven years later.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The inclusive dates of this collection are difficult to ascertain, as only a small portion of the material is dated. Accordingly, no dates have been assigned, though the years 1870 to 1925 are covered. Due to their fragility, the scrapbooks have been taken apart, placed in folders, and a microfilm copy made.

## **FOLDER LIST**

v.1	Newspaper clippings of obituaries, wedding and anniversary announcements, feature articles, editorials, and poems focusing on RoBards, his family, and friends. Many of the clippings are taken from Hannibal, Missouri, newspapers. Some correspondence included.
v. 2-3	Newspaper clippings, correspondence, articles, programs, and speeches collected by RoBards and his son Archibald on various family members and Mark Twain.

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