

C Gibson, Charles, Scrapbooks, 1852-1899
4282 2 oversize volumes

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The papers of Charles Gibson contain two scrapbooks that cover the travels and career of St. Louis attorney, Charles Gibson. Both volumes chronicle Gibson's legal career in the late 1800s and his European travels, specifically dealing with his interactions with imperial families of Germany and Austria-Hungary. The scrapbooks include correspondence between Gibson and German nobles, documents from the German imperial family, an appointment from Abraham Lincoln, photographs of his home and of his travels abroad, and newspaper clippings from the 1890s.

DONOR INFORMATION

Scrapbook number one was donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Joyce Ogden on 20 April 1978 (Accession No. 2147.) Scrapbook number two was donated to the University of Missouri on 22 December 1999 by Ellis Library (Accession No. 5825).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Prominent lawyer Charles Gibson was born to a Virginian family on February 15, 1825. In 1836, his family moved to western Missouri. As Gibson grew, he moved eastward and briefly studied at the recently opened University of Missouri in 1843. In the same year, he moved to St. Louis, where he studied law. St. Louis would become his home, and he would live there for the rest of his life.

In 1861, as Missourians debated secession, Charles Gibson campaigned to keep the state in the Union. For his efforts and connections to important pro-Union figures, he was appointed by the Union government as Solicitor of the Court of Claims, a position known today as Solicitor General. He maintained this position until 1864 when he resigned due to what he saw as radical policies from the Lincoln administration. Following his time in Washington, he returned to his St. Louis home and resumed his legal practice.

Gibson was married to Virginia Gamble Gibson, niece of Missouri governor, Hamilton Gamble. They had four children. Their first son, Archibald, studied at the United States Military Academy at West Point, after which he served in the U.S. Seventh Cavalry until his death in 1881.

Gibson's most intriguing moments come from his interactions with the imperial families of Germany and Austria-Hungary. In 1851, Charles Gibson successfully represented the Prussian monarchy in a St. Louis court case. For his work, the Prussians offered him two porcelain vases. In addition to this, he was knighted by both Prussia as well as Franz Joseph, emperor of Austria-Hungary. In Gibson's later years, he traveled to Europe to visit with the imperial families who favored him. While in Germany, which unified in 1871, he dined with the emperor and even met Otto von Bismarck, Germany's first chancellor.

When his tours concluded, Charles Gibson returned to his old St. Louis home where he lived until his death in 1899.

FOLDER LIST

OVERSIZE LOCATION Mezzanine, Row 4, Section 5, V-28

v. 1	Gibson, Charles scrapbook, 1852-1899
v. 2	Gibson, Charles scrapbook, 1852-1899

INDEX TERMS

Index Term	Folder	Other
Architecture-- St. Louis, Lafayette Avenue, 1852		v. 2
Austria-Hungarian families		v. 1, 2
Brandis, Countess		v. 2
Fane, Lady Georgian		v. 2
Gibson, Charles (1825-1899)		v. 1, 2
Gibson, Victoria		v. 1, 2
Joseph, Franz (1839-1916)		v. 1, 2
Missouri, St. Louis		v. 1, 2
Nowlan, H. J.		v. 2
St. Louis Cyclone, 1896		v. 2
Von Bismarck, Otto (1815-1898)		v. 1, 2
Wilhelm I (1797-1888)		v. 1, 2
Wilhelm II (1859-1941)		v. 1, 2