



## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0049

Barbara Rosa Barnett (Mrs. William W.) Shelley (1889-1980) Family  
Papers

ca. 1850-1980

3 cubic feet, one oversize envelope

*Personal, business, and legal documents pertaining to the Barnett, Williamson,  
and Shelley families.*

### BIOGRAPHY:

Barbara Rosa (Barnett) Shelley was born in Deepwater, Missouri, the daughter of Samuel Davidson Barnett and Catherine Connor (Vaughan) Barnett. She was the fourth of five children and lived most of her childhood in Ft. Scott, Kansas. Her father was elected school superintendent for Paola, Kansas, on the People's Party ticket and was elected Councilman from the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward of Ft. Scott. Kate Barnett was an early teacher in Kansas, and was active in the W.C.T.U. in Ft. Scott. Both of Barbara Shelley's brothers, Wilbur Carlyle and Samuel Arthur, worked for the railroad in Kansas as telegraphers. Her sisters were Leta Winifred, who married Robert Lee Browning, and Catherine Goldie, who died at the age of six. Barbara Barnett Shelley became a public stenographer in Kansas City after working in newspaper offices with her cousin, C.A. Patterson, in both Kansas and Oklahoma.

Barbara Barnett married William Williamson Shelley in 1928 in Wichita, Kansas. He was the son of Leonora Williamson of Memphis, Tennessee, and William Francis Shelley of Keokuck, Iowa. The Williamson family became acquainted with General William Tecumseh Sherman during his March to the Sea, and the General assisted the Williamson family to recover damage claims from the United States Congress after the Civil War. Sherman attended the wedding of Leonora and William F. Shelley and supplied them with letters of reference for their two year honeymoon tour of Europe. Upon their return to the United States, they lived in Chicago, Keokuck, St. Louis, and finally settled in Kansas City, Missouri, when William F. Shelley became treasurer of the Jarvis-Conklin Development Company and purchased land in their Hyde Park Project. In 1888 and 1889 the Shelley house was built at 3601 Baltimore. It was one of

the first homes built south of 31<sup>st</sup> Street in the area proposed for the residences of the Kansas City elite. Built in Carpenters' Vernacular style it is one of the few remaining homes original to the period. It was placed on the national Register of Historic Homes through the efforts of Barbara Shelley in 1976.

#### PROVENANCE:

These papers were donated by Beverly Shaw, executrix of the Barbara Shelley Estate. They were received as accession KA0064 on January 27, 1981 and KA0091 on June 19, 1981. An additional accession KA1351 was recorded on May 9, 2005.

#### COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS:

The Donor has given and assigned to the State Historical Society of Missouri 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 Society from others.

#### PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; *Barbara Rosa Barnett (Mrs. William W.) Shelley (1889-1980) Family Papers (K0049)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

#### CONTACT:

*The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City*  
302 Newcomb Hall, University of Missouri-Kansas City  
5123 Holmes Street, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499  
(816) 235-1543 [SHSofMO-KC@umsystem.edu](mailto:SHSofMO-KC@umsystem.edu)  
<http://shs.umsystem.edu/index.shtml>

#### DESCRIPTION:

The papers consist of personal, business, and legal documents pertaining to the Barnett, Williamson, and Shelley families. The content of the papers indicates the material was primarily maintained by Catherine Vaughan Barnett and Leonora Williamson Shelley. Much of the material has been annotated by Barbara Barnett Shelley and helps to clarify the relationships of family members, business ties, and legal documents. Mrs. Shelley also included materials from her own genealogical research which is significant in sorting out the family members.

Folders 1-31 contain the papers of James Madison and Louise (Stubblefield) Shelley of Keokuck, Iowa, and their sons, George Madison and William P. Williamson of Memphis, Tennessee, their daughter Leonora, and other family members. The papers then follow through the joining of these two

families by the marriage of William and Leonora, and the lives of their children. Also included are legal documents on the suit filed by Leonora Williamson Shelley against her brother, Jacob T. Williamson, and her brother-in-law Michael J. Brynes, in settlement of the estate of Leonora P. Williamson. Letters from William Francis Shelley to his wife, Leonora, discuss the building of the house at 3601 Baltimore and subsequent financial problems.

Folders 32-64 contain the papers of William Williamson Shelley and Barbara Barnett Shelley, prior to and after their marriage in 1928. Topics include business papers, family letters, education, politics, and legal documents.

Folders 65-100 document the building of the house at 3601 Baltimore in 1888-1889. These papers cover costs, taxes, repairs, and receipts in detail through 1965.

Folders 101-121 concern the family of Samuel Davidson and Catherine Vaughan Barnett, parents of Barbara Barnett Shelley.

Folders 122-165 contain photographs of various members of all the families brought together by the marriage of Barbara Barnett and William Williamson Shelley.

#### INVENTORY:

##### **BOX 001**

- Folder 1. Shelley/Williamson Family History compiled by Barbara Shelley
- Folder 2. Shelley/Williamson Family History; Memphis, Tennessee cemetery plot
- Folder 3. Louise J. (Stubblefield) Shelley
- Folder 4. Louise J. (Stubblefield) Shelley - will and estate inventory
- Folder 5. James Madison Shelley - business papers
- Folder 6. James Madison Shelley - business papers  
X1 "Appointment of J.M. Shelley, Lee County, Iowa as delegate from the First Congressional District to the Interstate Deep-Harbor Convention...."
- Folder 7. George Madison Shelley - clippings; Kansas City, Missouri, Mayor; founder of Mayor's Christmas Tree
- Folder 8. William Francis Shelley, Education - essays, diplomas  
X2 Diploma: "Societatis Americana Wiggensis" Feb. 1865  
X3 Diploma: "Collegii Neo Casariensis in America" July 1865
- Folder 9. Leonora Williamson Shelley - childhood  
X4 Diploma: Memphis Ladies Institute, June 18, 1867

- Folder 10. General William Tecumseh Sherman  
Photographs: Folder 124
- Folder 11. William Francis and Leonora Williamson Shelley - letters of introduction
- Folder 12. William Francis and Leonora Williamson Shelley - European Tour, 1875
- Folder 13. William Francis and Leonora Williamson Shelley - European Tour, 1875
- Folder 14. William Francis Shelley - Chicago
- Folder 15. Leonora Louise Shelley (infant) - Chicago, relocation of remains
- Folder 16. Leonora Williamson Shelley - correspondence
- Folder 17. William Francis Shelley - correspondence  
X5 Photograph: "This may be the Power Dam over the Mississippi River at Keokuck, Iowa...."
- Folder 18. Alice Williamson - essay, Ashville Female Academy, 1857
- Folder 19. Dent County, Missouri, land deed
- Folder 20. James Madison Williamson - will, estate inventory, probate
- Folder 21. Leonora P. Williamson - will, estate inventory
- Folder 22. Leonora P. Williamson Estate - suit against Jacob T. Williamson by Leonora Williamson Shelley
- Folder 23. Leonora P. Williamson Estate - Hill, Fontane & Company, St. Louis, Missouri, Executors  
X6 Executor's Sale Notice, June 3, 1893  
X7 Estate Sale Poster  
X8 Estate Sale Poster  
X9 Ledger Sheet, income of Leonora W. Shelley from estate of Leonora P. Williamson
- Folder 24. Leonora P. Williamson Estate - Southern Railway Stock inherited by Leonora W. Shelley
- Folder 25. Leonora Williamson Shelley - safe deposit, 1884-1888
- Folder 26. William Francis Shelley Estate
- Folder 27. Leonora Williamson Shelley - will contested by Dolly and Irene Shelley in 1923
- Folder 28. Irene Francis Shelley Caperton (Mrs. H.C. Kuenzle)  
X10 Diploma: Westport, Missouri Public Schools, June 5, 1896  
X11 Diploma: Central High School, May 31, 1900
- Folder 29. Dorothy (Dolly) Lee Shelley Richter

- Folder 30. Dorothy (Dolly) Lee Shelley Richter  
X12 Diploma: Westport, Missouri Public Schools, May 27, 1898  
X13 Diploma: Central High School, May 27, 1904
- Folder 31. Dorothy Shelley Richter Estate - suit filed by Barbara Barnett Shelley
- Folder 32. William Williamson Shelley - school essays and lessons
- Folder 33. William Williamson Shelley - school essays and lessons
- Folder 34. William Williamson Shelley - school essays and lessons
- Folder 35. William Williamson Shelley - education
- Folder 36. William Williamson Shelley - education  
X14 Diploma: Westport, Missouri Public Schools, May 18, 1894

**BOX 002**

- Folder 37. William Williamson Shelley - Central High School  
X15 Diploma: Kansas City High School May 26, 1898
- Folder 38. William Williamson Shelley - Princeton University  
X16 Daily Princetonian, Vol. XXV, No. 56, Wed. May 9, 1900
- Folder 39. William Williamson Shelley - Kansas City School of Law
- Folder 40. William Williamson Shelley - Kansas City School of Law  
X17 Diploma: Bachelor of Laws, June 11, 1902  
X18 Certificate: Acceptance to the Jackson County, Missouri Bar, June 12, 1902
- Folder 41. William Williamson Shelley - European tour, 1904
- Folder 42. Princeton Club of the Southwest
- Folder 43. Southside Club, Colonials Club
- Folder 44. William Williamson Shelley - address book
- Folder 45. William Williamson Shelley, politics - speeches, clippings
- Folder 46. William Williamson Shelley - personal correspondence prior to 1928
- Folder 47. Barbara Bennett - personal correspondence and letters of introduction prior to 1928
- Folder 48. William Williamson and Barbara Barnett Shelley - marriage
- Folder 49. William Williamson and Barbara Barnett Shelley - personal correspondence after 1928
- Folder 50. William H. Launder
- Folder 51. Barbara Barnett Shelley - correspondence, 1928-1966

- Folder 52. Agda (Person) Johnson  
Photographs: Folder 139
- Folder 53. Barbara Barnett Shelley - Nurse's Aid Training  
Photographs: Folder 136
- Folder 54. William Williamson Shelley - Missouri Bar, 1953-1958
- Folder 55. William Williamson Shelley - business papers
- Folder 56. William Williamson and Barbara Barnett Shelley - business papers  
X19 Commission of Barbara Barnett as Notary Public within  
Jackson County, Missouri, September 15, 1920
- Folder 57. Personal property taxes, 1942-1958
- Folder 58. William Williamson Shelley - death, funeral
- Folder 59. William Williamson Shelley - will, estate, probate  
(See Folder 31, Dorothy Shelley Richter Estate)
- Folder 60. Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
- Folder 61. Barbara Barnett Shelley - clippings
- Folder 62. Barbara Barnett Shelley - Possum Trot  
X20 Historic Kansas City News, June 1977  
X21 Possum Trot Poster, April 23-24, 1977  
Photographs: Folder 137
- Folder 63. Barbara Barnett Shelley - correspondence on Memphis, Tennessee  
house  
Photograph: Folder 124
- Folder 64. Barbara Barnett Shelley - obituary, estate
- Folder 65. National Register and Kansas City Landmarks Commission - 3601  
Baltimore
- Folder 66. Jarvis-Conklin - promotional material
- Folder 67. 3601 Baltimore - abstract
- Folder 68. 3601 Baltimore - workers' pay receipts, August 1888
- Folder 69. 3601 Baltimore - workers' pay receipts, September 1888
- Folder 70. 3601 Baltimore - workers' pay receipts, October 1888
- Folder 71. 3601 Baltimore - workers' pay receipts, November 1888
- Folder 72. 3601 Baltimore - workers' pay receipts, December 1888
- Folder 73. 3601 Baltimore - workers' pay receipts, January 1888
- Folder 74. 3601 Baltimore - workers' pay receipts, February 1888
- Folder 75. 3601 Baltimore - workers' pay receipts, March 1888
- Folder 76. 3601 Baltimore - building costs, brick

- Folder 77. 3601 Baltimore - building costs, bills, 1888
- Folder 78. 3601 Baltimore - building costs, bills, 1889
- Folder 79. 3601 Baltimore - building account, Jarvis-Conklin Mortgage Company, William Francis Shelley, Treasurer
- Folder 80. 3601 Baltimore - building account, ledger sheets  
X23 Ledger: July 1887 - February 189  
X24 House Debt Calculations, October 26, 1900 - February 1, 1901
- Folder 81. 3601 Baltimore - mortgage and deeds, 1888-1889  
X25 Warranty Deed, W.F. Shelley to Alfred Gregory, July 23, 1889  
X26 Warranty Deed, Alfred Gregory to Leonora W. Shelley, July 23, 1889
- Folder 82. 3601 Baltimore - mortgage, 1890-1898
- Folder 83. 3601 Baltimore - mortgage, Dr. A. Hartsuff, 1899-1900
- Folder 84. 3601 Baltimore - mortgage, Dr. A. Hartsuff, 1901-1902
- Folder 85. 3601 Baltimore - mortgage, Dr. A. Hartsuff, 1903-1904
- Folder 86. 3601 Baltimore - mortgage, Dr. A. Hartsuff, 1905-1906
- Folder 87. 3601 Baltimore - mortgage, Dr. A. Hartsuff, 1907-1908  
X27 Royal Exchange Assurance Policy May 22, 1907 - May 22, 1908  
X28 Royal Exchange Assurance Policy May 22, 1908 - May 22, 1909

**BOX 003**

- Folder 88. 3601 Baltimore - mortgage, Dr. A. Hartsuff, 1909-1910
- Folder 89. 3601 Baltimore - mortgage, 1911
- Folder 90. 3601 Baltimore - grading of streets  
X29 Scale drawing for grading 36th Street between Main and Baltimore and Baltimore Street between 36th and 37th
- Folder 91. 3601 Baltimore - special tax, 1887-1889
- Folder 92. 3601 Baltimore - tax receipts, 1888-1889
- Folder 93. 3601 Baltimore - tax receipts, 1900-1929
- Folder 94. 3601 Baltimore - real estate tax receipts, 1930-1949
- Folder 95. 3601 Baltimore - electrical repairs, 1930-1949
- Folder 96. 3601 Baltimore - structural repairs, 1930-1949
- Folder 97. 3601 Baltimore - heating and plumbing, 1930-1949
- Folder 98. 3601 Baltimore - repairs, 1950-1969

- Folder 99. 3601 Baltimore - robbery, 1905
- Folder 100. 3601 Baltimore: Furniture storage
- Folder 101. Barnett/Vaughan Family History compiled by Barbara Barnett Shelley
- Folder 102. Vaughan Family papers
- Folder 103. Still Family Papers  
X30 Journal Of Osteopathy, Vol. II, No. 10, Feb. 1896
- Folder 104. Kate (Vaughan) Barnett - journal, 1868-1869
- Folder 105. S.D. (Samuel Davidson) Barnett - journal, prior to 1875
- Folder 106. Kate (Vaughan) Barnett - teaching certificates, contracts, test results  
X31 Teaching Certificate: Public Schools of the State of Kansas First Grade, Johnson County, September 27, 1878
- Folder 107. S.D. Barnett - teaching certificates, contracts, test results  
X32 Teaching Certificate: Public Schools of the State of Kansas First Grade, Miami County, September 25, 1875
- Folder 108. S.D. Barnett - elections, resolutions, People's Party  
X33 Election Ballot, Fifth Ward, Ft. Scott, Kansas, General Election Nov. 3, 1896
- Folder 109. S.D. Barnett - Miami County, Kansas, School Superintendent
- Folder 110. S.D. Barnett Family - marriage certificates, birth announcements
- Folder 111. S.D. Barnett Family - church and school programs
- Folder 112. S.D. Barnett Family - children's correspondence and drawings
- Folder 113. S.D. Barnett Family - Deepwater, Missouri  
X35 Plat of Deepwater, Henry County, Missouri
- Folder 114. S.D. Barnett Family - letters of recommendation
- Folder 115. S.D. and Kate Barnett - correspondence
- Folder 116. Barnett Literary Journals
- Folder 117. Barnett Literary Journals
- Folder 118. Kate Vaughan Barnett (Catherine Connor) - short stories and poetry
- Folder 119. Kate Vaughan Barnett - Fort Scott W.C.T.U. (Willard East Side Union)
- Folder 120. Barnett Family - clippings
- Folder 121. Barnett Family - funeral notices, wills
- Folder 122. Photographs - unidentified



- Folder 123. Photographs - unidentified
- Folder 124. Photographs - General William Tecumseh Sherman
- Folder 125. Photographs - 3601 Baltimore, exterior
- Folder 126. Photographs - possibly 3601 Baltimore, crayon drawing
- Folder 127. Photographs - 3601 Baltimore, interior
- Folder 128. Photographs: William Francis Shelley, Schlitz Brewing Company Group Pictures (2 poses)  
X36 "Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co."  
X37 "Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co"
- Folder 129. Photographs: James Madison Shelley and his, son George M. Shelley
- Folder 130. Photographs: Leonora P. Williamson and probably James Madison Williamson
- Folder 131. Photographs: Leonora P. Williamson Shelley and children
- Folder 132. Photographs: Irene Shelley
- Folder 133. Photographs: Dorothy Shelley Richter, Clifford (Buster) Richter
- Folder 134. Photographs: William Williamson Shelley
- Folder 135. Photographs: William Williamson Shelley  
X38 "Pikes Peak via the World Famous Cog Road", Aug. 12, 1922  
X39 "William Williamson Shelley Kansas City, Missouri, Photo Reflex Taken at Emery-Bird-Thayers Married"
- Folder 136. Photographs: Barbara Barnett Shelley
- Folder 137. Photographs: Barbara Barnett Shelley
- Folder 138. Photographs: Barbara Barnett and William Williamson Shelley on vacations
- Folder 139. Photographs: Agda (Person) Johnson
- Folder 140. Photographs: Fort Scott, Kansas
- Folder 141. Photographs: Girard and Monmoth, Kansas
- Folder 142. Photographs: Deepwater, Misosuri
- Folder 143. Photographs: Vaughan Family
- Folder 144. Photographs: children of F.P. Vaughan
- Folder 145. Photographs: E.S. and Morovia (Still) Clark
- Folder 146. Photographs: F.P. and Barbara (Still) Vaughan
- Folder 147. Photographs: S.D. Barnett
- Folder 148. Photographs: Kate Vaughan Barnett

- Folder 149. Photographs: S.D. and Kate Barnet with children  
X40 Barnett Family Portrait
- Folder 150. Photographs: S.A. Barnett and Ethel Heryford
- Folder 151. Photographs: children and grandchildren of S.A. and Ethel Barnett
- Folder 152. Photographs: children and grandchildren of S.A. and Ethel Barnett
- Folder 153. Photographs: children and grandchildren of S.A. and Ethel Barnett
- Folder 154. Photographs: Leta Winifred (Barnett) Browning
- Folder 155. Photographs: Leta (Barnett), Robert Lee Browning and their children
- Folder 156. Photographs: Leota Vocile (Browning) Farichild
- Folder 157. Photographs: Mrs. Abram (Ida) Vaughan and Family
- Folder 158. Photographs: Champ Graham
- Folder 159. Photographs: Dr. Harvey L. Kennedy and Family
- Folder 160. Photographs: Dr. Harvey L. and Barbara (Vaughan) Kennedy and Family
- Folder 161. Photographs: R. Douglass and Winifred (Vaughan) Fluke and Family
- Folder 162. Photographs: brothers and sisters of S.D. Barnett
- Folder 163. Photographs: James Barnett Family
- Folder 164. Photographs: Rowland Family (Barnett descendants)
- Folder 165. Photographs: Patterson Family (Barnett descendents)
- Folder 166. Osteopathic Badge, Kirksville MO. School of Osteopathy, Dr. Andrew Taylor Still. Attached note by Barbara B. Shelley reads: "This is a badge of Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, Kirksville Mo. School of Osteopathy, and Founder of Osteopathy. I attended their National Convention in Kansas City in 1916 and met some of the Stills. There were twin boys, another boy and Blanche Still Laughlin. The boys served in the Missouri legislature. Uncle Drew was raised in Baldwin, Kansas. Baker University is on the old Still farm, as they helped found Baker U. My mother attended Baker and took Teachers Examinations when she was 15 years old. She also took her music there and attended the 25th anniversary of Baker." (1351kc)

**OVERSIZED:**

- x1. "Appointment of J.M. Shelley, Lee County, Iowa as delegate from the First Congressional District to the Interstate Deep-Harbor Convention...."

- x2. Diploma: "Societatis Americana Whiggensis" Feb. 1865 (W.F. Shelley)
- x3. Diploma: "Collegii Neo Csariensis in America" July 1865 (W.F. Shelley)
- x4. Diploma: Memphis Ladies Institute, June 18, 1867 (Leonora W. Shelley)
- x5. Photograph: "This may be the Power Dam over the Mississippi River at Keokuck, Iowa...."
- x6. Executor's Sale Notice, June 3, 1893 (Leonora P. Williamson)
- x7. Estate sale poster (Leonora P. Williamson)
- x8. Estate sale poster (Leonora P. Williamson)
- x9. Ledger sheet - income of Leonora W. Shelley from estate of Leonora P. Williamson
- x10. Diploma: Westport, Missouri Public Schools, June 5, 1896 (Irene Shelley)
- x11. Diploma: Central High School, May 31, 1900 (Irene Shelley)
- x12. Diploma: Westport, Missouri Public Schools, May 27, 1898 (Dolly Shelley)
- x13. Diploma: Central High School, May 27, 1904 (Dolly Shelley)
- x14. Diploma: Westport, Missouri Public Schools, May 18, 1894 (William W. Shelley)
- x15. Kansas City High School May 26, 1898 (William W. Shelley)
- x16. Daily Princetonian, Vol. XXV, No. 56, Wed. May 9, 1900
- x17. Diploma: Bachelor of Laws, June 11, 1902 (William W. Shelley)
- x18. Certificate: Acceptance to the Jackson County, Missouri Bar, June 12, 1902 (William W. Shelley)
- x19. Commission of Barbara Barnett as Notary Public within Jackson County, Missouri, Sept. 15, 1920
- x20. Historic Kansas City News, June 1977 (Barbara Barnett Shelley)
- x21. Possum Trot poster, April 23-24, 1977 (Barbara Barnett Shelley)
- x22. "Nite in Old Possum Trot" poster (Barbara Barnett Shelley)
- x23. Ledger: July 1887 - Feb. 1889 (3601 Baltimore)
- x24. House debt calculations, Oct. 26, 1900 - Feb. 1, 1901 (3601 Baltimore)
- x25. Warranty deed, W.F. Shelley to Alfred Gregory, July 23, 1889

- x26. Warranty deed, Alfred Gregory to Leonora W. Shelley, July 23, 1889
- x27. Royal Exchange Assurance Policy, May 22, 1907 - May 22, 1908 (3601 Baltimore)
- x28. Royal Exchange Assurance Policy, May 22, 1908 - May 22, 1909 (3601 Baltimore)
- x29. Scale Drawing for Grading 36th Street between Main and Baltimore and Baltimore Street between 36th and 37th Streets.
- x30. Journal of Osteopathy, Vol. II, No. 10, Feb. 1896 (Still Family)
- x31. Teaching Certificate: Public Schools of the State of Kansas, First Grade, Johnson County, Sept. 27, 1878 (Kate Vaughan Barnett)
- x32. Teaching Certificate: Public Schools of the State of Kansas, First Grade, Miami County, Sept. 27, 1878 (S.D. Barnett)
- x33. Election Ballot, Fifth Ward, Ft. Scott, Kansas, General Election Nov. 3, 1896
- x34. Fort Scott Free Press, April 5, 1913
- x35. Plat of Deep Water, Henry County, Missouri
- x36. "Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co." (W.F. Shelley) photograph
- x37. "Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co." (W.F. Shelley) photograph
- x38. "Pikes Peak via the World Famous Cog Road", Aug. 12, 1922 (William W. Shelley) photograph
- x39. "William Williamson Shelley, Kansas City, Missouri, Photo Reflex taken at Emery-Bird-Thayers Married" photograph
- x40. Photograph: Barnett Family Portrait