

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
K0297 (KA0590)
ROBERT THOMPSON VAN HORN FAMILY PAPERS
[NSA]

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City. If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org.

Introduction

Approximately 3 cubic feet.

The collection includes correspondence, Civil War service records, business and property records, artifacts, and ephemera pertaining to Robert Thompson Van Horn. Additional materials include the papers of Van Horn's granddaughter, Adela Cooley Van Horn, who traveled extensively.

Robert Thompson Van Horn was born on May 19, 1824, in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, to Henry and Elizabeth Thompson Van Horn. Between 1843 and 1855, Van Horn was a printer apprentice and journeyman. He also briefly, taught school, worked on the Erie Canal, studied law, and operated a steamboat. Van Horn married Adela Honeywood Cooley on December 2, 1848, in Pomeroy, Ohio. Van Horn moved to Kansas City, Missouri, in 1855 and purchased the weekly newspaper *The Enterprise* (later the *Western Journal of Commerce* and the *Western Journal of Commerce*). He served as a postmaster for Kansas City between 1857 and 1861.

During the American Civil War, Van Horn commanded the 25th Regiment of the Missouri Volunteer Infantry. Upon returning to Kansas City after being wounded at the Battle of Lexington, Van Horn was elected to the Missouri Senate in 1862 and two years later was elected Mayor of Kansas City. He served two terms as a United States Congressman for Missouri and was instrumental in securing legislation for the creation of Hannibal Bridge and expanding the railroad services through Kansas City. He was later appointed the regional tax collector by President Ulysses S. Grant, a position that Van Horn held until 1881. Van Horn died on January 3, 1916, in Clay County, Missouri, and is buried at the Mount Washington Cemetery in Independence, Missouri.

Donor Information

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City on July 17, 1990 (Accession No. KA0590).

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Related Collections

Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City Records (K0297)

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Location Note

The collection is stored offsite and will need to be retrieved before viewing.

Box List

Box 1

Robert Thompson Van Horn

- Correspondence, inventory, and provenance of collection, 1959
- Admission to Ohio Bar, 1849
- Certificate of Honor, Adela Cooley, 1832
- Church Certificate for Robert Thompson from Ireland, 1789
- Contract and release as a printing apprentice, 1839-1843
- Monograph, *Henry Clay* by Judge Samuel M. Wilson, 1950
- Correspondence, 1843-1849
- Letter Wallet, includes description
- Correspondence, legal documents, business interest, and property, 1850-1858
- Correspondence, Adela to Robert, 1866-1867
- Campaign address in support of Ulysses S. Grant, 1868
- Correspondence, John Calvin McCoy concerning the Kansas Indian Lands, 1867-1870
- Correspondence, Hannibal Bridge, Invitation to opening, 1866, 1869
- Correspondence, 1861-1866
- Documents concerning Civil War service, 1861-1864
- Notes concerning why Van Horn wrote a draft article of impeachment for President Andrew Jackson
- Mayoral vetoes, 1861
- Certification of Union Loyalty Oath, 1861
- Congressional candidacy, 1864
- Certificate of election to Missouri Senate, 1862
- Railroad passes, 1863, 1867
- Contracts for furnishing beef to the Army, 1864
- Legal documents concerning business and property, clippings, 1860-1869
- Real estate documents, 1860-1870
- Petitions urging Van Horn to run for Congress, undated
- Stock certificates, 1870-1878
- Railroad passes, 1871-1875
- Personal property deed, 1871
- Correspondence, 1870-1877
- Certificate, membership in Board of Trade, 1879
- Miscellaneous receipts, invitations, 1870s
- Invitations, Veiled Prophet Ball, St. Louis, 1878-1879, undated
- Knights of Momus Ball, Galveston, 1875
- Stock certificates, 1880-1881
- Correspondence, commemorative medal, clippings, cornering U.S. Grant's visit to Kansas City, 1880
- Correspondence, includes Fr. Bernard Donnelly, 1880-1889

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Autographs, W. T. Sherman and J. A. Garfield, 1880
Correspondence, pardon of Younger Brothers, 1881
Contract, canal construction, 1884
Ephemera, 1880s
Correspondence, 1890-1898
Mining claim, 1893
Legal brief, contested election case between Van Horn and John C. Tarsney, 1894
Program, steamship excursion, 1895
Reprint of Senate speech, clippings, silver standard, 1896
Ephemera, 1890s
Souvenir program, reunion dinner of The Old Guard, 1893
Invitation from President Cleveland, 1897
Badges and ribbons, 1890s
Correspondence, ephemera, clippings, 50th wedding anniversary of Adela and R. T. Van Horn, 1898
Correspondence, clippings, ephemera, resolution, 1904-1909
"Evolution and Life Forms," by R.T. Van Horn, 1905
Address, "Col. Robert T. Van Horn: His Life and Public Service," by J. M. Greenwood, 1905
Draft of address about the Civil War given to the Loyal Legion, 1907
Memorials, Adela Van Horn, 1910; R. T. Van Horn, 1916-1917
Printed materials, Military Order of the Loyal Legion, 1908, 1912
Affidavit of Henry Kirkwood Van Horn regarding family estates, 1914
Designation of Van Horn Road, 1915
Correspondence, clippings, ephemera, 1910-1918
Handwritten manuscripts, clippings, reminiscent writings by R. T. Van Horn, 1857-1909
Biographical writings
 Capt. John Blake
 George Gaston
 Henry S. Millett
 William Mulkey
 Milton J. Payne
Political writings, 1864-1904
Editorials, philosophical writings in the *Kansas City Journal*, 1893-1894 (2 folders)
Articles about Van Horn, 1900-1955
Thesis, *Kansas City's Van Horn*, by Joe Klassen, University of Kansas City, 1958
Robert T. Van Horn account and scrapbook, 1860
Adela Cooley Van Horn
 Correspondence, 1919-1957
 Postcard correspondence, 1931-1942, 1960
 Correspondence, gift forms, Kansas City Museum, Kansas Historical Society, 1942-1959
 Passports, 1918-1956
 Travel narratives, 1928-1940

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Printed material, 1919-1961
Genealogical materials
Initiation, membership cards, Kansas City Area directory, Phi Beta Kappa, 1913-1962
Medical receipts and notes, Egypt, 1957-1958
Stickers for trunks and luggage
Poems
Handwritten notes
Certificates, 1919-1939
Clippings

Box 2

Negatives

Family and personal
Yucatan, Mexico
Mexico
Guatemala
Africa (4 folders)
Japan
Siam
Bali
South Seas
Philippines
Penang, China
Ceylon
India
Sumatra
Java
Ankor, Cambodia
Persia
Iraq
Trinidad
Macassar
Italy

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Penang, China
Ceylon
India
Sumatra
Java
Ankor, Cambodia
Persia
Iraq
Trinidad
Macassar
Italy

Box 4

Oversize

Certificates
Legal Documents
Presidential pardon for James E. Marsh
African language newspaper from Zanzibar
Photographs, 1859-1958

Oversize Volume

Business ledger for the Enterprise, 1849-1857