Henry R. Rule Autograph Collection

The Henry R. Rule Autograph Collection is the largest in a series of autograph collections found in Missouri Valley Special Collections. It includes a variety of material types and its focus is primarily on American figures including those involved in politics, literary arts, military, judicial, etc. It does appear to be an artificial collection with the bulk collected by Mr. Rule in the latter half of the 19th century and early 20th century.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Henry R. Rule and others
Title: Henry R. Rule autograph collection
Dates: 1792-1939, bulk 1860-1920
Size: 2 boxes, 23 folders, 180+ items
Location: SC35-2

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.


Citation note: Henry R. Rule autograph collection (SC35-2), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

From the letters in the collection, it appears that Henry R. Rule lived in Manchester, Iowa in the 1880s, Wichita, Kansas around 1890, Oklahoma City in the early 1900s, and Kansas City in the 1920s. According to the online Missouri death certificate database, a Henry R. Rule died in Independence, Missouri in August of 1938.

Scope and content note

This collection appears to be an artificial collection with the bulk collected by Mr. Rule in the latter half of the 19th century and early 20th century. It appears that other noteworthy autographs were either added to it as they came into the library's possession or were already here and added into this donation. There was no provenance documentation available at the time of processing.

The bulk of the collection consists of letters, photographs (mostly autographed), and autograph cards. Other signed items include land deeds, proclamations, and various other documents. Non-signed items include badges, cross stitch bookmarks, flyers/advertisements/notices, and other ephemeral items.

Apparently Mr. Rule devised the note card indexing system found with the collection which has been retained for the arrangement of items. This
Within the collection, there are found political figures including many presidents, literary greats, Civil War personalities, etc. Included is a letter written by Walt Disney, Aug. 17, 1937, addressed to the Kansas City, Missouri Public Library.

When the collection was processed a complete inventory was made by categories as listed above. Some items were not originally found and others may have become missing over the years.

**Collection Inventory**

**Box 1**

- Folder 1 - Handwritten inventory of autographs divided by: Letters - 3 pages, Autographs - 4 pages, Photographs - 3 pages
- Folder 2 - Letters - Size B, #1-9, Content Names: Simon Cameron, Schuyler Colfax, Josephus Daniels, George Dewey, J.P. Dolliver, Norman Duncan
- Folder 5 - Letters - Size C, #1-5, Content Names: W.B. Allison, William Beck, Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher, Blind Tom Concert Program (1872), F.A. Harris (private secretary to Senator Bruce)
- Folder 6 - Letters - Size C, #6-11, Content Names: Schuyler Colfax, J. Fennimore Cooper, George Cortelyou, Jefferson Davis, Earl of DePrey, T. DeWit Talmage
- Folder 7 - Letters, etc. - Size C, #12-17, Content Names: Photograph of Edinburgh, Scotland, Margaret Fuller, Funeral Badge of James A. Garfield, Horace Greeley, E.B. Tibbott (Secretary to Benjamin Harrison), John Hay
- Folder 8 - Letters, etc. - Size C, #18-27, Content Names: Oliver Wendel Holmes, Robert Lansing, Abraham Lincoln Assassination News-Extra, W. Loeb (Secretary to Theodore Roosevelt), Membership certificate of Jacob Buffington by the Grand Royal Arc Vessel in London, 1792, Slave bill signed by Samuel Devilbiss, Comptroller of the household of the Prince of Wales, Gifford Pinchot
- Folder 9 - Letters, Photographs, etc. - Size C, #28-33, Content Names: Local Navy WWI Recruiting Leaflet, Local Army WWI Recruiting Leaflet, Elihu Root (letter and photograph), bookmarks, W. S. Schley
- Folder 11 - Letters, photographs, etc. - Size C, #40-45 and 3 miscellaneous items, Content Names: J.P. Tumulty, Mark Twain (autographed photograph), John Wanamaker, Washington Temperance Society Badge, John Greenleaf Whittier, Edward E. Hale, Walt Disney, Hamlin Garland

- Folder 12 - Photographs, autograph cards - Size D, #1-6, Content Names: Chester A. Arthur (photograph), T.F. Bayard, G.T. Beauregard, Henry Ward Beecher (signed photograph), J.G. Blaine, Samuel G. Blythe (signed photograph)

- Folder 13 - Photograph, autograph cards - Size D, #7-15, Content Names: William Booth, B.K. Bruce, William Jennings Bryan (includes photograph), Ambrose E. Burnside, Simon Cameron, Charles D. Clark, Grover Cleveland

- Folder 14 - Photographs, autograph cards, letter - Size D, #16-23, Content Names: Roscoe Conkling (photograph), Joseph Cook, George Cortelyou, J.S. Cox, Jefferson Davis, William M. Evarts, John C. Fremont, John A. Garfield (autographed photograph)

- Folder 15 - Photographs, autograph cards - Size D, #24-31, Content Names: John H. Gear (signed photograph), John B. Gaugh, Guttenberg (picture), H. Hamlin, Benjamin Harris, Joseph J. Hayes, Rutherford B. Hayes (photograph and autograph card)

- Folder 16 - Photographs, autograph cards - Size D, #32-39, Content Names: Benjamin H. Hill, J.G. Holland, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Charles E. Hughes, Alex Humboldt (picture), R.G. Ingersoll, Robert E. Lee (photograph), Abraham Lincoln (funeral badge)

- Folder 17 - Photographs, autograph cards, etc. - Size D, #40-47, Content Names: John A. Logan (signed photograph), George B. McClellan, D.L. Moody (photograph and autograph card), Thomas Nast, Wendell Phillips (signed photograph), Army pay warrant for Randall, local recruiting poster for Missouri National Guard

- Folder 18 - Photographs, Autograph cards - Size D, #48-55, Content Names: James Whitcomb Riley (photograph and signature), Ira D. Sankey (photograph and autograph card), Carl Schurz (photograph and autograph card), Phil Sheridan (signed photograph), John Sherman (autographed photograph), William T. Sherman

- Folder 19 - Photographs, autograph cards - Size D, #56-63, Content Names: Alexander H. Stephens (photograph and autograph card), Charles S. Stratton (Tom Thumb), David Swing, Alfred Tennyson (photograph), Edward Thornton, A.G. Thurman, Mark Twain

- Folder 20 - Photographs, autograph cards, etc. - Size D, #64-70, Content Names: M.R. Waite, John Greenleaf Whittier (signed photograph), John S. Worden, Theodore Roosevelt?, Peter Cooper

- Folder 21 - Autograph cards, photographs - Size E, #1-8, Content Names: John G. Gear, Cyrus W. Field, Guiseppe Garibaldi (signed photograph), U.S. Grant (signed photograph), S.J. Hare, George F. Hoar, O.O. Howard (photograph), Abraham Lincoln (photograph)

- Folder 22 - Autograph cards, photographs - Size E, #9-15, Content Names: George B. McClellan (signed photograph), George McDonald (signed...
photograph), Edna Dean Proctor, Bayard Taylor (signed photograph), Commodore Vanderbilt (photograph), Elihu Washburne, John B. Gough (photograph)

- Folder 23 - Photographs - Size F, #1-8, Content Names: Ben F. Butler (photograph), William Cullen Bryant (signed photograph), Schuyler Colfax (signed photograph), Abraham Lincoln (Photograph, beardless), William T. Sherman (photograph signed on back), William T. Sherman and his staff, 1864 (photograph)

Inventory of Items - Oversize Box

- Land Deed/Grant for Charles J.? Drury of Montgomery County, Missouri, 40 acres, sold at St. Louis, Nov.7, 1837, Certificate No. 5616, signature: Martin Van Buren

- Land Deed/Grant for Thomas Sallee of Henry County, Missouri, 140 acres, sold at Clinton, Missouri, Nov.1, 1853, Certificate No.34759, signature: Franklin Pierce

- Badge - "In Memoriam, General U.S. Grant...."Contains photo of Grant

- A1 - Document appointing certain Army men to make peace with the Indians, July 29, 1867, Signature: Andrew Johnson

- A2 - Land Deed/Grant for William Harrington of Clay County, 80 acres, sold at Lexington, Missouri, May 31, 1827, Certificate No.376, signature: John Quincy Adams

- A3 - Land Deed/Grant for Agostino Paolo of St. Louis County, Missouri, 320 acres, sold at Jackson, Aug. 1, 1860, Certificate No. 38118, Signature: James Buchanan

- A4 - Printed copy of Ulysses S. Grant's Inaugural address, March [1868], H.W. Rule autograph on it, 9" x 12"

- A5 - Civil War Captain's Commission, New York State Volunteers, 127th Regiment of Infantry, Sept. 10, 1862, for James W. Gurney, signature: Edwin D. Morgan and Thomas Hillhouse

- A6 - License (typewritten) for Monroe Holloway of Fort Defiance, Arizona to trade with the Navaho Indians, Sept. 25, 1903, signature: W.H. June?

- A7 - Land Deed/Grant for John Bybee of Monroe County, Missouri, 80 acres, sold at Palmyra, Missouri, Sept. 15, 1835, Certificate No. 4097, signature: Andrew Jackson

- A8 - Land Deed/Grant for William Groom of Ray? County, Missouri, 80 acres, sold at Franklin, Missouri, June 1, 1824, Certificate No. 3250, signature: James Monroe

- A9 - Land Deed/Grant for John Wilson of Clay County, Missouri, 39+ acres, sold at Plattsburg, Missouri, May 1, 1846, Certificate No. 3202, signature: James K. Polk

- A10 - Land Deed/Grant for John W. Reynolds of Clay County, Missouri, 40 acres, sold at Plattsburg, Missouri, June 1, 1850, Certificate No. 7863, signature: Zachary Taylor
- A11 - Land Deed/Grant for John W. Reynolds of Clay County, Missouri, 40 acres, sold at Lexington, Missouri, May 1, 1843, Certificate No. 15,880, signature: John Tyler
- A12 - U.S. Custom Bond, Aug. 14, 1828, signed by Charles O. Ermatinger, Jr. and Robert Stuart
- A13 - Land Deed/Grant for Samuel Livingston of Clinton County, Missouri, 80 acres, sold at Lexington, Missouri, Sept. 7, 1838, Certificate No. 5960, signature: Martin Van Buren
- A14 - Whig Part Baltimore Convention, Massachusetts Delegation badge, 1840 plus typewritten information concerning convention, donated by A.R. Waterbury
- A16 - Ship Clearance declaration, 1810, signature: James Madison
- B2 - Civil War Handbill - "Householders Look Out for your Spoons!", Confederate side, ca1864
- B4 - Thanksgiving Proclamation publication, 1925, signature: Calvin Coolidge?
- B11 - The Colorado Miner Extra, Sept. 19th, "Dead on the Field of Honor", announcing President James Garfield’s death
- B14 - Reception badge of General LaFayette on return to United States, August, 1824
- B15 - Playbill for Ford's Theatre, April 14, 1865, the night President Lincoln was assassinated
- B16 - Thanksgiving Proclamation publication, 1908, signature: Theodore Roosevelt
- B19 - Thanksgiving Proclamation publication, 1912, signature: William H. Taft
- B23 - Thanksgiving Proclamation publication, 1913, signature: Woodrow Wilson
- B24 - Circus Flyer, Albany, Oct.12-13, 1827, Master George Washington on the tightrope, etc.

Processed by Department Manager Gloria Maxwell, October, 1992; further processing by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman, 2005.