This small collection is a compilation of photocopied material that contains information concerning Major John Campbell and his connection with Westport.

**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Adrienne Christopher  
**Title:** John Campbell compilation  
**Dates:** 1805-1965  
**Size:** 1 box, 5 folders  
**Location:** SC43

**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions on access:** Unrestricted access.  
**Acquisition information:** Gift, 1965, Adrienne Christopher.  
**Citation note:** John Campbell compilation (SC43), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

**Collection Description**

**Biographical/Historical note**

The exact date of John Campbell's birth is not known, but he was old enough to be a soldier in 1797. He was issued a license to trade with the Iowa and Sac and Fox Indians along the Missouri and Des Moines rivers in 1822. It was probably in 1827 that he came to the Shawnee Indian agency near what is now Turner, Kansas. He came with his cousin Rosannah Yoacham, with whom he stayed. She and her husband established the first tavern in Westport. She was also an ancestor of Adrienne Christopher. After dismissal as an Indian agent, he went to Washington, D.C. in 1836 to plead his case and died there of smallpox.

**Scope and content note**

This small collection is a compilation of photocopied material dealing with Major John Campbell and his connection with Westport. The title chosen by the compiler is “Major John Campbell (1805-1937), Original Founder of the Towne of West Port.” The collection contains a total of 138 pages. It has been kept in the original order as found.

All of the pages are photocopies and contain several different sources including newspaper clippings, original 19th century letters as well as typescripts of early letters, magazine articles, book text, maps, and various documents including National Archives resources. The research is thorough and professionally done. Mrs. Christopher, at the encouragement of Dr. Ted Brown, was collecting material to justify Major Campbell's early claim to the town of Westport as opposed to John C. McCoy. Both filed plats in Jackson County in 1835. Mrs. Christopher shared her research with Louise Barry of the Kansas State Historical Society in 1962 while she was working on research for her book *The Beginning of the West*, an annals of Kansas which was published in 1972.
Collection Inventory

- **Folder 1** - Inventory sheet; accession information; article entitled "Who Founded Westport? Research Supports the Case For John Campbell", *Kansas City Times*, October 7, 1965; Title sheet - "Major John Campbell (1787-1837) Original Founder of the Towne of West Port, Articles Collected by Mrs. Adrienne Christopher, Presented to the Kansas City Public Library, 1965"; photostat of a letter to Hon. James Barbour, Secretary of War from William Clark, Supt. of Indian Affairs, April 17, 1825; and photocopy of letter to Mrs. Christopher from Louise Barry, April 27, 1962.

- **Folder 2** - Pages 1-21 - Photocopies - Includes text, correspondence, annotated newspaper clippings, book pages, plats and surveys, typescripts of letters, handwritten lists, etc.

- **Folder 3** - Pages 22-70 - Photocopies - Includes typescripts of letters, handwritten letters, forms, deeds, correspondence, maps, text, newspaper clippings, book pages, list of information of National Archives records, etc.

- **Folder 4** - Pages 71-100 - Photocopies - Includes typescripts of letters between John Campbell and Isaac McCoy, typescripts of National Archives records, correspondence, typescripts of documents, handwritten notes, etc.

- **Folder 5** - Pages 101-130 - Photocopies - Includes typescripts of letters, correspondence, typescripts of National Archives records, book pages, magazine articles, newspaper clippings, typescripts of documents, photostats of original documents, etc.

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman, August 1993.