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 5th 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 31st 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.

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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].

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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
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 Monmmoth, Kansas
Folder 142. Photographs: Deepwater, Missouri
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 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 Loenora 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)


x15. Kansas City High School May 26, 1898 (William W. Shelley)

x16. Daily Princetonian, Vol. XXV, No. 56, Wed. May 9, 1900

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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
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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