Introduction
Approximately 58 cubic feet.

This collection consists of the personal papers, including the philanthropic work, of Oscar David Nelson. Materials within this collection include personal investments in real estate, farms, oil corporations, and stocks; interest in the Republican Party; correspondence regarding education, health services, churches, and travel; and professional papers from his time as the chairman of the board of the Butler Manufacturing Company.

Biographical Statement
Oscar David Nelson, son of Swedish immigrants, was raised on a dairy farm in Johnson County, Kansas. At fifteen, Nelson left high school to work as an office boy for the Butler Manufacturing Company, a large steel fabricating firm. While there, Nelson studied bookkeeping at a night school, by twenty-eight he had become the treasurer of the company, and later, the general manager.

In the late 1930s, Oscar Nelson was instrumental in winning a major government contract for the building of grain storage bins. This accomplishment was credited with helping the Butler Manufacturing company survive the Great Depression. Nelson was named the president of the Butler Manufacturing company, a position he held until 1957. He would go on to serve as the chairman of the board from 1957 until his retirement in 1961.

Oscar Nelson served on the boards of the Commerce Trust Company, the Marsh Steel Corporation, and the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. He also served on the executive committee for the Midwest Research Institute. His civic and charitable activities were numerous. He was a major benefactor for the Rehabilitation Institute and served as its president. He also held leadership positions with the Trinity Lutheran and Children’s Mercy Hospitals, the United Way, and the Country Club Christian Church.

Oscar David Nelson died on October 8, 1981, at the age of eighty-six.

Donor Information
The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Ms. Gloria Nelson on November 19, 1981 (Accession No. KA0121). An addition was made on January 3, 2012, by Ms. Jeanette Sutor (Accession No. KA2002).

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The Donor has given and assigned to the University 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 University from others.
Box List

Box 001
Alphabetical files, A-D
Materials related to the Butler Manufacturing Company, clubs, art, and antiques

Box 002
Alphabetical files, E-M
Materials related to Florence L. Nelson, equipment, the University of Kansas City, and magazines

Box 003
Alphabetical file, I
Materials related to investments in oil, Carter-Waters, and insurance

Box 004
Alphabetical files, R, materials related to the Republican Party such as: campaigns, fund raisers, and correspondence

Box 005
Alphabetical files, G-M, materials related to Children’s Mercy Hospital, 1011, Kansas City Foundation for Private Colleges, insurance, and Dr. Holmes

Box 006
Alphabetical files, M-XYZ, materials related to Children’s Mercy Hospital, Byron Wolfe, ODN Retirement, and individuals filed by their last names

Box 007-008
Britain files, A-O, materials related to a trip to Great Britain around 1954, the Butler Manufacturing Company, maps, and individuals by their last names

Box 009
Alphabetical files, 1914-1966
Materials related to the Butler Manufacturing Company, investments, and the John Nelson estate

Box 010
Alphabetical files, 1914-1966, F-H, materials related to nursery data, foods, and individuals by their last name

Box 011

Box 012
Alphabetical files, 1914-1966, materials related to the Butler Manufacturing Company and files on individuals

**Box 013**
Alphabetical files, 1914-1966, P-V, materials related to nursery bills, Pennsylvania, Mid Continent Development Council, and Marsh Steel

**Box 014**
Alphabetical files, 1914-1966, materials related to Marsh Steel and insurance polices

**Box 015**
Personal accounts, bills paid, and real estate, 1960s

**Box 016**
Personal accounts, bills paid, contributions, and meeting notices, 1956-1960s

**Box 017**
Alphabetical files, M-S, materials related to Nelson’s career

**Box 018**
Alphabetical files, S-W, materials related to Nelson’s career

**Box 019**
Marsh Steel and financial statements, 1951-1960

**Box 020**
Nelson’s investments in oil companies, E bonds, real estate, and farms, 1956-1961

**Box 021**
Farm records
Midwest Research Institute

**Box 022**
Farm records, 1953-1954

**Box 023**
Farm records
Insurance
Government programs
Herefords
Seeds
Plans for years 1953-1961

**Box 024**
Gardner farm for 1944-1950
Butler Manufacturing Company, depression data, 1931-1933
O. D. Nelson’s awards, affiliations, invitations, and an article, “Leaders in our Town”
Charles R. Butler, 1923-1951

**Box 025**
Jacomo farm
Community Blood Bank
Rehabilitation Institute
United Funds campaigns, 1955-1956
Midwest Research Institute
Earnings taxes
Citizens for Eisenhower, 1956

**Box 026**
Farm operations, 159-1969
Mrs. Nelson
Maps
John Anderson, 1960
Commerce Trust Company

**Box 027**
Historical materials collected by Nelson on the company and its employees, contracts, and personnel files

**Box 028**
Butler Manufacturing Company materials, 1937-1966
Includes correspondence, statements, divisions, foundation, “landing mat,” and the *Butler Bee* newsletter

**Box 029**
Butler Manufacturing Company materials, 1947-1955
Includes army, Navy “E” Bonds, Kate Butler, division reports, and publicity advertisements

**Box 030**
Butler Manufacturing Company materials, 1942-1950’s
Includes World War II production, tests, clippings, and photograph notebooks

**Box 031**
Butler Manufacturing Company materials, 1954-1964
Includes photographs, reports, and sales books

**Box 032**
Butler Manufacturing Company materials, 1935-1960’s
Includes, letters, reports, and clippings
*Butler Bee* newsletter, 1953-1960’s
Box 033
Variety of papers concerning Mrs. Nelson, Marsh Steel, equipment, clubs, farm feed, and entertainment, 1950’s-1960’s

Box 034
Materials related to insurance, real estate, taxes, and personal papers, 1940’s-1950’s

Box 035

Box 036
Materials related to the Kansas City Area Hospital Association, Kansas, Kemp, maps and charts, and a file pertaining to “ODN: Talks and Writings,” 1950-1963

Box 037
Materials related to Mr. Nelson’s trips to:
Boston, 1957
Florida, 1959
Europe, 1965
Materials related to a F. L. Nelson’s trip to Europe, 1961
Other materials included are information and guide books for Australia, Austria, Mexico, Switzerland, Germany, England, France, Spain, Scotland, and the United State

Box 038
Materials related to Mr. Nelson’s trips to Europe, 1970-1971
Additional materials related to Mr. Nelson’s travel which, includes: travel Planners, requests, lists, and letters to Butler shareholders
Butler Manufacturing Company literature
Butler Manufacturing Company, Annual Report, 1956

Box 039
Christmas list, 1953-1971
Purchasing information
Decorations
Holiday Season cards

Box 040
The United Fund and Fund Raising, 1953-1955
Take information, 1973-1974
Bills Paid
Additional materials related to Mr. Nelson

Box 041
Contents of this box contain documents written in Swedish.
Papers of John Nelson
F. L. Nelson Memorial

Box 042
Files on individuals
Materials related to Sweden

Box 043
Various materials, 1960s
Eisenhower family
Children’s Mercy Hospital
Trinity Lutheran Hospital
The Kansas City Museum
YWCA

Box 044
Materials related to hospitals in the Kansas City area. Information covers contributions, financial statements, budgets, and fund raising campaigns for Children’s Mercy, Trinity, and Wheatley-Provident (King) hospitals, 1953-1970

Box 045
Materials related to Trinity Lutheran Hospital, 1952-1965

Box 046
Children’s Mercy Hospital, 1963-1968
Butler Manufacturing Company
Insurance
Shepley for Governor
Biocourt Hunting Association

Box 047
Rehabilitation Institute, 1966
Oscar Nelson soliciting funds and acknowledgment of contributions

Box 048
Rehabilitation Institute, 1956-1969
Nelson Antioch farm, 1949-1953
Quarterly Federal Tax Returns, 1951-1968
File on “Affiliations”

Box 049
Basement files

Box 050
Materials concerning rationing during World War II

**Box 051**
Entertainment
Sweden
Fox for Congress
Camp Fire Girls
Commerce Trust Company
Kansas City Parade, 1949

**Box 052**
Community Blood Bank
Election, 1962
New car purchase
Various other materials, 1960s

**Box 053**
Children’s Mercy Hospital
The Last Supper Sculpture by Domenic Zappia
“1011”
Trinity Lutheran Hospital
Various clippings

**Box 054**
Jacomio Farm, zoning survey, 1967
Butler Manufacturing Company
Various clippings
Unidentified papers

**Box 055**
Butler Manufacturing Company, papers and clippings, 1957-1960s
Carter Waters Corporation, 1970s
Children’s Mercy Hospital, 1970s

**Box 56**
Colorado hunting trip, 1942
Litigation from Colorado hunting trip
Various clippings
Butler Manufacturing Company, Fact Book, 1974
IRS reports, 1974
Minutes of the O. D. and F. L. Nelson Fund
Real estate information, 1918
Materials related to Domenic Zappia, Last Supper Sculpture, 1964, 1971
Condemnation papers related to the Jacomo Farm
Information pertaining to scholarships, colleges, and universities

**Box 057**
Commerce Trust Company
Children’s Mercy Hospital, 1975-1978
Christmas, 1972
Correspondence, 1919-1929

**Box 058**
Check stubs
Pass books
Banking materials, 1914-1943
f. 1 Photographs, Oscar D. Nelson, George C. Dillon, Marion Reno, Calvin Fentress, Jr., 1955-1956, and 1980
f. 2 Plaque, Oscar D. Nelson, distinguished professorship in business, Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, 1977
f. 3 Photographs, unidentified wedding, 1970s
Strauss-Peyton Studios, price list, 1955
f. 5 Butler Manufacturing Company, steel products, partial drawing, 1951

**Flat Box 001**
f. 1 Materials related to the Army-Navy “E” Award, Butler Manufacturing Company and Galesburg, 1944
f. 2 Photograph and postcard album, 1903
Butler family photographs
Butler Manufacturing Company photographs, John D. Stevens, Butler Business Builders, 1917, Engineering Department, 1941, Basketball team, 1925, Future Planning Group meeting, 1943, various unidentified
Catholic Community Service award, 1953
Remarked by the Most Reverend Edwin V. O’Hare, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City
f. 3 Reprint of painting, “Mount Eisenhower,” by Dwight D. Eisenhower, signed on mounting by Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1959
f. 4 Certificate of Appreciation, Oscar Nelson, 1976
Note of thanks and color photographs of Kansas City Mayor, Richard Berkley and Oscar D. Nelson, pertaining to the gift of the rose garden fountain in Loose Park, 1979
Photograph, mounted on board, group of men seated around a table in Oscar D. Nelson’s office, 1952
Portrait of Oscar D. Nelson