INTRODUCTION
The collection contains letters written by Connelley, noted Kansas historian, to Franklin Benjamin Sanborn, journalist, author, and reformer, relating to Connelley’s research into the life of John Brown and other projects. The collection provides insight into Connelley’s candid opinions about prominent political and literary personalities in Kansas and Connelley's personal life.

DONOR INFORMATION
The letters were part of a transfer from the General Library of the University of Missouri-Kansas City on 10/24/1980 (KA0054). The letters are believed to have been collected by Robert M. Snyder, Jr. and sold to the University in the mid-1940s.

COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS
The Donor has given and assigned to the University 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.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
William Elsey Connelley, the son of Contantine and Rebecca J. (McCarty) Connelley, was born in Johnson County, Kentucky, in 1855. Self-educated, Connelley taught school in Johnson County between 1872 and 1880 and continued that profession after coming to Wyandotte County, Kansas, in 1881 before turning to other pursuits. From 1883 to 1887 he served as county clerk for Wyandotte County; between 1888 and 1892 he was in the wholesale lumber business; and in 1892 he was again in Wyandotte County associated with banking interests. The 1890s found Connelley beginning his avocation of historical research and writing. Among his most important contributions are The Provisional Government of Nebraska Territory (1899), Quantrill and the Border Wars (1909), Eastern Kentucky Papers (1910), Life of Preston Plumb (1913), a five volume History of Kansas (1917), a five volume History of Kentucky (1922), and Indian Myths (1928). At the time of the correspondence and for the remainder of his life, Connelley lived in Topeka, Kansas. He died in 1930.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE
The collection consists of letters written by Connelley, noted Kansas historian, to Franklin Benjamin Sanborn, Massachusetts journalist, author, and reformer, relating to Connelley's research into the life of John Brown and other projects. The letters also convey information about other projects in which Connelley was involved, his candid opinions about prominent political and literary personalities in Kansas, and some insight into Connelley’s personal life. The letters cover the period 1900-1911.
Additional Connelley correspondence and research notes may be found in repositories throughout Kansas and Missouri. Most notable are the materials at the Kansas State Historical Society, the Kansas Collection at the University of Kansas, the Wyandotte County Historical Society, and the Kansas Room at the Kansas City, Kansas, Public Library.

PREFERRED CITATION
Specific item; box number; folder number; *William Elsey Connelley (1855-1930) Letters (K0203)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

FOLDER LIST

f. 1 Correspondence, 1900
   Included are copies of two letters written by John Brown to Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Adair dated 10/5/1857 and 11/17/1857
f. 2 Correspondence, 1901
f. 3 Correspondence, 1908-1911

LOCATION NOTE
The collection is stored offsite (062870) and will need to be retrieved before viewing.

SUBJECT TERMS
Kansas – History
Snyder Collection of Americana

Processed 1/2016.