



## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0771

Kansas City Turner Society (Socialer Turnverein) Records

1872-1988

11 cubic feet, oversize

*Organizational records of the primary German social club in Kansas City. Includes minute books, ledgers, correspondence, photographs, and membership records, and national and local printed material and publications, programs, and songbooks Also records of the Turner Development Company and the administration of Turner Park.*

### HISTORY:

The Kansas City Socialer Turnverein was founded February 14, 1857, by ten naturalized citizens of German birth. Their first building at 5th and Main soon became too small for the growing membership, so Esslinger's Hall on Main between 6th and Missouri Avenue was rented. The Civil War temporarily interrupted the activities of the group, but after the war, larger meeting halls were rented. In 1902, they built a new Turner Hall at 1325 E. 15th Street, where they stayed for 55 years. In the late 1950s, Turner Park at 79th and Manchester was developed, including a clubhouse, swimming pool, and gymnasium.

The purposes of the Turner Society were to make good American citizens of its members; to educate children; and to provide the tools and discipline for physical fitness. The gymnastics teams would participate in "Turnfests," competing with other Turners from around the country. The Turners were a complete social organization, with special groups of members, including adult men, a women's auxiliary, teenage boys and girls, and elementary school children. After Turner Park was built, they had many different sports, including swimming, tennis, golf, and gymnastics.

## PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from the Kansas City Turner Society as accession KA0860 on May 11, 1995.

## COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS:

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## PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; *Kansas City Turner Society (Socialer Turnverein) Records (K0771)*; 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 collection consists of early minute books, ledgers, correspondence, and membership records. Later materials include records of the Turner Development Company in the 1950s and records concerning the administration of Turner Park through the 1970s. Also included in the collection are national and local printed material and publications, programs, songbooks, and many photographs.

## INVENTORY:

*Language used in the minute books changes from German to English in the 1920s.*

**BOX 001**

- Volume 1. Minute book, November 1886-December 1896
- Volume 2. Protokoll Buch des Kansas City Sozialier Turn Vereins (minutes), January 1897-December 1909
- Volume 3. Minute book, November 1909-April 1916

- Volume 4. Committee Sitzung, November 1910-June 1911
- Volume 5. Mitglied der Sterbekasse des Kansas City Socialer Turnvereins, 1915-ca. 1918
- Volume 6. Scrapbook - correspondence, printed material, January 1895-August 1903
- Volume 7. Protokoll-Buch von Germania Maennerchor von KCMO (minutes), June 24, 1891-March 26, 1895
- Volume 8. Kansas City und sein Deutschtum (poor condition)

**BOX 002**

- Volume 1. Ledger - dues records, April 1909-August 1915
- Volume 2. Ledger - expenses/income, February 1911-January 1913; April 1938-December 1941; July 1942 - Filling Station
- Volume 3. Ledger - "Accounts transferred from Ledger #1" March 1, 1901-ca. 1902
- Volume 4. Ledger - expense journal, membership records(?), May 1909-April 1914, April 1928-March 1934  
Ice purchases, September 1932-November 1933  
Meetings of Telephone Company Employees, ca. 1928-1929
- Volume 5. Ledger, April 1924-August 1945
- Volume 6. Ledger - income/expenses, March 1890-November 1902  
Membership list, 1913
- Volume 7. Minute book (Protokoll), January 1916-November 1929
- Volume 8. Minutes, November 1925-April 1936

**BOX 003**

- Volume 1. Protokolle - Missouri Valley Turn-Bezirks, 1872-1901
- Volume 2. Letterbook containing carbon copies of correspondence, December 1903-March 1908
- Volume 3. Journal - receipts/disbursements, January 1941-September 1944

*Women's Auxiliary (vols. 4-6):*

- Volume 4. Journal, October 1944-December 1950
- Volume 5. Journal, January 1952-December 1959
- Volume 6. Minutes, May 1969-May 1972
- Volume 7. Yearbook and History of the American Turners, 1892
- Volume 8. Der Freischütz - play by Oscar de Mojean, 1873

- Volume 9. Die beiden Reichenmüller - play by Oscar de Mojean, 1883  
Folder 1. Records of Kreis (district) Turnfest, June 23-26, 1911  
Folder 2. Letterbook, October 1917-December 1920

**BOX 004***Turner Development Company*

- Folder 1. Minutes, April 1958-January 1959  
Folder 2. Correspondence, bylaws, deed/mortgage, invoices, rules  
Folder 3. Financial reports, 1954-1965  
Folder 4. Loan agreements, contracts, charge orders, 1963-1964  
Folder 5. Proposal re: zoning, 1962  
Correspondence, proposal re: development of community housing project, 1962  
Folder 6. Correspondence, contract for septic tank, 1963; sewer easement, 1967  
Folder 7. Correspondence, mechanic's lien, affidavits re: electrical, plumbing, mechanical, 1964  
Folder 8. Parliamentary procedure, membership applications and information, old shareholder lists  
Folder 9. Business correspondence, 1959-1970  
Folder 10. Correspondence, contracts, bids for capital improvements, 1959-1969  
Folder 11. Monthly treasurer's reports, 1963-1970  
Folder 12. Monthly treasurer's reports, 1959-1961  
Folder 13. Annual meeting announcements, procedures, reports, mailing list, ca. 1962-1969  
Folder 14. Correspondence, minutes, 1965-1966  
Folder 15. Minutes, treasurer's reports, 1965-1966  
Folder 16. Minutes, newsletters, 1969-1970  
Folder 17. Pro Forma Decree of Incorporation, 1954 (photocopy)  
Folder 18. Bylaws, 1951-1967; membership roster, 1968  
Folder 19. American Turners publications and printed material:  
Endowment Trust, 1947  
Principles and Statutes, 1951  
American Turner Topics Magazine, Sep/Oct, Nov/Dec 1970

- Folder 20. Corporation record book - includes minutes of Mortgage and Improvement Fund Committee, 1940-1945
- Folder 21. Loose items removed from book in Folder 20:  
Lists of Building Fund subscribers, ca. 1905  
Stock certificates, 1940  
Bylaws, 1940
- Folder 22. Minutes, June 1954-December 1957 (binder)
- Folder 23. Minutes, reports, announcements, 1961-1973
- Folder 24. Financial reports, 1959-1974
- Folder 25. Elections, 1966-1971

**BOX 005**

- Kansas City Turner newsletters - February 1952, 1959-1979
- Brochure for country club
- Songbooks
- Anniversary programs, 1908, 1914, 1918, 1933, 1938, 1943, 1950, 1983, 1988
- Centennial program, 1958
- Turner Singers 70th Anniversary, 1956
- International Turnfest - audit, program, schedules, 1969
- Conventions - minutes, announcements, packets, 1970-1971
- Turnfests and sports events
- History of the Kansas City Turners, 1857-1973

**BOX 006**

- American Turner Topics magazines, January 1959-August 1975
- Membership application cards, ca.1950-1973
- Membership Rosters, 1963-1974
- Membership - canceled or dropped, ca.1973-1977
- Minutes, officer reports - St. Louis District Convention, 1964, 1966, 1973
- Germania Singers - programs from festivals, correspondence, flyers, "Germania Notes" newsletters, 1924-1955
- "Agrarian Policy..." by Kurt Wittmer - Eigenbrodt-Hessian Farmers Union
- Printed/published materials, 1918-1938, 1960s
- Miscellaneous clippings
- Miscellaneous papers (includes some duplicates)

Annual Treasurers Report, 1949, 1950  
Miscellaneous taxes, insurance, 1883-1948  
State sales tax, 1941-1943  
Taxes, 1943-1946, 1949-1951  
Badges - 47th Annual Convention, 1958  
Ribbons - "Ehren-Mitglied" (esteemed member)  
Tickets to banquets, tours, etc.  
Ribbons, coins, keychains, plastic bears

**BOX 007**

Board correspondence, 1972-1976, 1977-1978, 1979-1982  
General Correspondence, September 1975-April 1977  
Financial reports, committee reports, 1980-1982  
Paid Secretary reports, 1959  
Committee reports, 1976-1980  
Pool Reports, July-September 1973, August-September 1974, 1977  
Pool contract, 1978  
Bar reports/committee reports/annual Auxiliary reports, 1975-1978  
Women's Auxiliary - constitution, reports, 1971, 1973  
Treasurers reports - "Original Copy" 1976-1978  
Financial reports, 1977-January 1980  
Beer service at Maifest - time donations, undated  
Minutes, 1972-1975, 1976-1977, 1978-1979  
Membership drive, 1958, 1968-1971  
Check registers: 6/1/1949-6/13/1950; 6/13/1950-5/7/1951; 5/7/1951-9/25/1951;  
3/4/1954-2/10/1955; 7/21/1978-3/12/1979  
Financial materials, January-December 1955  
Constitution and bylaws booklets - KC/St. Louis District  
National publications  
Chiropractic - Dr. Lester Meng, ca.1970s  
Publications:  
Programs - National Festival (Milwaukee), 1955, 1971  
Centennial Journal - Denver Turnverein, 1965

National Turner Auxiliary Cookbook, 1982

112th Report of the National Council, 1966

Directory and Statistics of National Districts/Societies, 1975

Minutes - 47th Convention (KCMO), 1958

Program - Turner's Indoor Circus

Programs - German Nite - Buffalo Turners, 1968

### **BOX 008**

Music

### **BOX 009**

Music

### **BOX 010**

Photographs

### **OVERSIZE**

### **BOX 001X1**

- Attendance records - 1st Boys Class, 1st Girls Class, Matrons, Ladies, Actives, Junior Boys, 2nd Girls, Bears - Business Men's Club, some hall rental records, 1920-1922
- Ledgers - Mitglieder Beiträge (contributing members), 1904-1907
- Akten (records, files) des Kansas City Socialen Turn Vereins - correspondence, charter, receipts, November 1890-December 1894
- Gedenkbblätter für das Goldene Buch der Deutschen in Amerika - Gegeben von deutschen Fürsten, Staatsmännern, Dichtern, Denkern und Künstlern, Weltausstellung, St. Louis, 1904 (handwritten messages from princes, statesmen, poets, philosophers, and artists, World Exposition)
- Protokolle - Vorort (outlying cities) des Kansas Turnbezirk; Vorort des Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska Turnbezirk, October 23, 1887-April 16, 1919
- Ledger - bar and restaurant records, undated (includes one page of expenditures, Spring 1920)
- Ledger - "Casso Conto" (cash account) - income and expenses for Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska Turnbezirk, October 16, 1887-August 2, 1908
- Ledger - "Casso Conto" - income and expenses of Kansas Turnbezirk, 1888-1906

- Protokolle - includes lists of members - Kansas City Turnverein, September 1867-May 1879

### **OVERSIZE DRAWING: (RECORDS CENTER)**

KC Socialier Turnvein, Frederick Michaelis, SW Corner 15<sup>th</sup> & Virginia

### **OVERSIZE PHOTOGRAPHS (PANORAMA STORAGE – WHMC-KC)**

Six oversized photographs from this accession's materials are stored with other panoramic photographs at the Western Historic Manuscript Collection-Kansas City office:

- *Gen'l. Friedr. Von Steuben, Denkmal, Washington, D. C., Copyright 1911.* A sepia-tone photograph of sculptor Albert Jaegers' 1910 monument to Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin Steuben, Baron von Steuben (1730-1794), hero of the American Revolutionary War. The monument, which is in Lafayette Park in Washington, D. C., is shown from the right side (Commemoration sculpture) in winter with dozens of wreaths placed around its base. A uniformed policeman stands to the left, and empty wooden chairs are placed to the right and behind of the monument. American flags are visible above and behind the monument. A crowd of people in overcoats and hats stand on a rise behind the ranks of chairs at the back of the photograph. (Sepia-tone image, 10½" x 14" including mat)
- *Dedication banquet, Kansas City Turners.* A group photograph of couples seated at long tables in a gymnasium. Dignitaries are seated on a raised stage to the back of the photograph and a large circular sign, American Turners – Sound Mind, Sound Body, is hung on the wall at the back of the stage. No date, but this may have been taken in the late 1950s when the Society's Turner Park facilities were built. Three copies. (B/W image, Anderson K.C. photographer, 8" x 20½" including borders)
- *39. Deutsch-Amerikanisches Saengerfest, Chicago, Juni 1938.* A large panoramic photograph of male choral singers, attired in black trousers, long-sleeved white shirts, and bow ties, seated on bleachers and a wooden platform in an auditorium to either side and behind a seated orchestra. Spectators are seated in two levels of bleachers to either side of the singers and orchestra. June 1938. (B/W image, Kaiser & Mueller Chicago photographer, 9½" x 38" including borders)
- *Zentenarfeier Nordamerikanischer Sangerbund, Chicago Stadium, 10 Juni 1949.* A large panoramic photograph of a sangerbund choral and music festival in Chicago. Choral singers, both men and women, are seated in bleachers behind and to either side of an orchestra seated on a raised platform. Fourteen young women in evening gowns (beauty contestants?), one of whom is wearing a crown, are standing in a line before and to the left side of the orchestra. Each of the women wears a sash that bears the name of an American city and state. A larger group of young women, also in gowns, are



seated before and to the right of the orchestra. A group of men, dressed in dark suits, are standing in the center, in front of the orchestra, conductor, and featured singers. The audience is seated on wooden chairs in front of the orchestra and in bleachers on either side and above the choral singers. June 10, 1949. (B/W image, Mueller photographer, 10" x 38" including borders)

- *Socialer Turnverein Kansas City, Mo.* at 32<sup>nd</sup> National Tournament, Chicago, Ill. 1920. Men identified in photo: A. Faulstich, A. Lake, Wm. Bekemaier, E. Pueschel, A. Kaiser, K.W. Booy, H. Freyman, Herb. Rudolph, F. Kettler, J.Gohres, P. Engels, Herm. Rudolph, Geo. Epp, Keane, O. Pueschel, C. Rudolph, T. Gohres, O. Obendorf, C. Meert. Men wearing white shirts with "T" logo, white pants, white shoes and black belt. White hats on ground at men's feet.
- *Socialer Turnverein Kansas City, Mo.* at 32<sup>nd</sup> National Tournament, Chicago, Ill. 1920. (unidentified photo assumed to be same tournament as above photo). Members not identified. Men wearing white shirts and pants, black belts. White hats on ground at men's feet bear name of Kansas City, Missouri. Each man holding a cane.