

K Lykins Family Papers, 1841-1866
0294 0.16 cubic feet
NSA

MICROFILM

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INTRODUCTION

The papers contain correspondence, ledger books, and scrapbooks related to the lives and activities of Johnston Lykins, Martha Lykins Bingham, his second wife, and William Lykins, his son.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri as part of the collection of the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City on July 17, 1990 (Accession No. KA0590). An addition was made on July 10, 2001, by Jim Haas (Accession No. KA1136).

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Johnston Lykins was born April 15, 1800, in Franklin County, Virginia. For a short time, he studied medicine at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, after which he worked with Indian missions in Indiana and Michigan for 12 years. In 1828, he married Delilah McCoy, and moved to the Kansas City area around 1834. Shortly thereafter, Lykins helped establish the Potawatomi and Shawnee Indian Baptist missions in present-day Johnson County, Kansas, where he worked as an administrator and physician. After his wife died of tuberculosis in 1843, Lykins moved to the Town of Kansas. In 1851, he married Martha A. Livingston. As chairman of the new city council, Lykins assumed the office of mayor in 1853 when the first mayor, William S. Gregory, resigned. The following year he was re-elected. Lykins was involved with many business and civic organizations and was a charter member of the First Baptist Church. Dr. Johnston Lykins died in August 1876.

Martha Ann Livingston was born in Shelbyville, Kentucky, on January 24, 1824. Her family moved to Lexington, Missouri, in 1850, where she contributed news items, obituaries, poetry, and serialized stories to the newspaper. In 1851, she married Dr. Johnston Lykins. Two years after his death, she married painter George Caleb Bingham, who died the following year, in 1879. Although she had no children of her own, she raised several stepchildren and operated a school, earning the nickname "Aunt Mattie." Martha Lykins Bingham died in the Washington Hotel at 12th and Washington Streets in 1890.

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William Hall Richardson Lykins was born November 29, 1828, to Johnston and Delilah McCoy Lykins. William was employed in a store in Kansas, owned by McCoy & Martin. He remained there until the fall of 1849, when he went to the Indian Territory with his father. He took charge of an Indian trading house and remained there until Kansas was opened to settlement, when he went to Lawrence and took up a claim. William married Cordelia Smith in 1859. William was elected mayor of Lawrence in 1866. In 1867, William returned to Kansas City. While in Kansas City, he worked several years in the city engineer's office and the post office. William resigned from the post office in 1887 because of poor health. He died in 1893.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers contain correspondence, scrapbooks, and deeds related to the lives and activities of Johnston Lykins, his wife Martha Lykins Bingham, and his son, William. The correspondence consists of two letters to family members. The first of two scrapbooks in the collection documents the establishment of the Home for Widows and Orphans of Confederate Soldiers and expenses for the Potawatomi Baptist School and Mission, which Johnston Lykins took over from his first father-in-law, Isaac McCoy. The second scrapbook consists of an account book used by Lykins and Brent from 1857-1860, and clippings of material written by Martha Livingston Lykins. In addition, the collection contains two deeds pertaining to Lot 40 of McCoy's Addition to Westport.

LOCATION NOTE

Scrapbooks have been microfilmed and are available for viewing at the Kansas City Research Center.

PREFERRED CITATION

Specific item; box number; folder number; *Lykins Family Papers (K0294)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Correspondence, 1841, 1847
- f. 2 Deeds, 1858, 1860
- f. 3 Statement and Brief on Re-Hearing, Mattie A. Bingham vs. Michael Delougherty and Matthew Birmingham, 1890
- f. 4 Biographical information
- f. 5 Scrapbook, 1874; Account book, 1851-1853
- f. 6 Scrapbook, 1849-1866; Account book, 1857-1860

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