

THE LAWRENCE, KANSAS, JOURNAL-WORLD

KANSAS
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Kirke Mechem, Secretary
June 2, 1939

Miss Hannah P. Oliver
802 Tennessee Street
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Miss Oliver:

We have learned that you have in your possession the correspondence of Mrs. Charles Robinson with Frank W. Blackmar, and I am taking the liberty of asking you to consider making this society the depository for these papers.

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As you know, we are particularly well equipped to give our collections the best possible care. Our building is fire proof, and, as an extra precaution, our manuscript collections are kept in a fire proof vault. Furthermore, we clean and repair letters and documents to give them longer life than they could ever have in casual handling by organizations not employing such methods. Our plan for the preservation of manuscripts is the one used at the Library of Congress.

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The Robinson papers illustrate a problem that we are trying to solve in the best interests of history. As you doubtless know, we have here, besides the official papers of Governor Robinson's administration, a large collection of personal papers. These papers have been used more frequently than any similar collection in our possession, but always unsatisfactorily from the standpoint of the historian or researcher for the reason that certain groups of papers are missing. We are making every effort to bring to the society the papers existing elsewhere that would complete this collection and present the whole story of the Robinsons in Kansas.

Similar problems exist with other collections and we feel that local groups, interested in the preservation of history, can serve best by helping us centralize manuscript material. Students and writers who come from great distances usually find it impossible to visit several depositories, and expect to find manuscripts in one place. Even when it is possible for them to visit other places the manuscripts are frequently unorganized or not available for study. All of this leads me to urge local societies as strongly as I can to deposit manuscripts here.

This society has fostered local organizations, believing there is much work to be done by them; and one of the greatest services would be the saving of manuscript material for permanent preservation here. Other materials--relics, etc.--can be satisfactorily assembled and exhibited locally.