The papers of Temple Bodley, lawyer and author of Louisville, Ky.

For information regarding literary and copyright interests for these papers, see the Curator of Manuscripts James J. Holmberg.

Size of Collection

15 cubic feet

Locator Number Mss.\AB668
Biographical Note

Temple Bodley was born in Louisville in 1852. He attended the University of Virginia and the University of Louisville School of Law where he graduated in 1875. He went on to practice law from which he retired in 1903. He then turned his talents to writing history. He wrote a biography of George Rogers Clark and a history of Kentucky. He died in 1940 and was buried in Cave Hill Cemetery. For more information consult the Kentucky Encyclopedia.
Scope and Content Note

Contains personal papers, 1877-1940, and collected materials. Includes Bodley’s private letterbooks, 1877-1914; correspondence, 1881-1940, with his research assistants, publishers, and others concerning his historical pursuits; correspondence, 1926-1931, about his life of George Rogers Clark; writings, including articles on Clark, the parcel post, the park system of Louisville, and the history of Goebelism; manuscripts of his History of Kentucky (1928), Our First Great West (1938), Louisiana Expedition (1933), Our Nation’s Paramount Problem (1939), and What We Owe France (n.d.); material relating to William Goebel and Ky. politics in his time, including articles on the history of Goebelism by Richard W. Knott; material relating to Colonel Andrew Cowan and the Louisville park system, including Cowan’s papers read before the Conversation Club, 1913, and Cowan’s scrapbooks of clippings about his career; transcripts of source material concerning the history of the West during the Revolution and the career and services of George Rogers Clark, including copies of the Pontalba Papers from the Louisiana Historical Society, and accompanied by an index alphabetically and chronologically arranged (12 v.); reviews of Bodley’s books; and printed materials relating to George Rogers Clark. A group of letters, 1856, to Bodley’s father, William Stewart Bodley, concerns the presidential campaign of Millard Fillmore and Andrew Jackson Donelson.
item 1 Letterbook, 1877 Mar. 3-1888 Mar. 20.
item 2 Letterbook, 1888 Dec. 20-1898 May 14.
item 3 Not received.
item 4 Letterbook, 1899 Jan. 27-1902 May 17.
item 5 Letterbook, 1902 May 27-1914 Dec. 12.
fl. 6 Statement about the formation of the Bodley’s collection of transcripts of source materials concerning the history of the West during the Revolution and the career of George Rogers Clark.
Explanation of references in the General Index.
List of papers to be given to The Filson Club.
List of papers in a trunk at Bassett Ave.
fl. 6a Memorabilia.
fl. 7 Letters to William Stewart Bodley, father of Temple, about the presidential campaign of Millard Fillmore and Andrew Jackson Donelson, nominees of the American Party, 1856.
fl. 8 Correspondence, 1881-1910.
fl. 9 Correspondence, 1911-1924.
fl. 10 Correspondence, 1926-1927.
fl. 11 Correspondence, 1928 Jan.-June.
fl. 12 Correspondence, 1928 July-Dec.
fl. 13 Correspondence, 1929.
fl. 14 Correspondence, 1930.
fl. 15 Correspondence, 1931-1932.
fl. 16 Correspondence, 1933-1934.
fl. 17 Correspondence, 1935-1936.
fl. 17a Correspondence, 1937-1939.
fl. 18 Canceled checks, 1910-1911.

Box 2
fl. 19 Correspondence with Mrs. Minnie G. Cook, 1906.
fl. 20 Correspondence with Mrs. Minnie G. Cook, 1907-1908.
fl. 21 Correspondence with Mrs. Minnie G. Cook, 1910 Mar.-May.
fl. 22 Correspondence with Mrs. Minnie G. Cook, 1910 June.
fl. 23 Correspondence with Mrs. Minnie G. Cook, 1910 July.
fl. 24 Correspondence with Mrs. Minnie G. Cook, 1910 Aug.
fl. 25 Correspondence with Mrs. Minnie G. Cook, 1910 Sept.-Dec.
fl. 26 Correspondence with Mrs. Minnie G. Cook, 1911.
fl. 27 Correspondence with Mrs. Minnie G. Cook, 1915-1917.
fl. 28 Correspondence with Mrs. Minnie G. Cook, 1920-1922.
Correspondence with Mrs. Minnie G. Cook, 1926.

Minnie G. Cook notebook and miscellaneous notes.

Box 3

item 31 Letterbook, Bodley’s letters to Mrs. Minnie G. Cook, 1910 Nov. 30-1915 Apr. 3.
item 32 Letterbook, Cook’s letters to Bodley on Western history and George Rogers Clark, 1911 Mar. 5-1912 Apr. 25.
item 33 Letterbook, Cook’s letters to Bodley, 1912 May 16-1915 Mar. 15.
item 34 Correspondence with William D. Richardson, William S. Bodley, John D. Kemper, and others, 1911 July 3-1912 Dec. 9.
item 35 Letters from William D. Richardson to Bodley, 1910 June 18-1911 June 19.
item 36 Letters from Bodley to William D. Richardson, 1910 June 21-1911 June 12.

Box 4

item 37 Correspondence with Houghton Mifflin Co. and G.P. Putnam’s Sons about the publication of George Rogers Clark his life and public services, 1922-1927. Also statements about copyright from Houghton Mifflin, 1927-1940.
item 38 Correspondence with Houghton Mifflin Co. about a new edition of the Clark book, 1929-1933.

Box 5

item 39 Correspondence about his life of Clark, 1926-1940.
item 40 Correspondence with S. J. Clarke Publishing Co. about Bodley’s History of Kentucky, 1925-1930.

Box 6

fl. 41 Appendix for Bodley’s work on Clark, carbon copy.
fl. 42 Parcels-post and constitution, 1915.
fl. 43 Memorandum of an interview with T. M. Gilmore at Louisville, Mar. 26, 1918, concerning confiscation of property of citizens invested in whiskey.
fl. 44 Malcolm Ross’s criticism of Bodley’s manuscript of his life of Clark. 1922 Oct. 20.
fl. 45 George Rogers Clark’s treatment in history. Notes by Bodley left with the Filson Club, 1928.
fl. 46 Biographical sketch of George Rogers Clark, 1930.
fl. 47 America’s greatest woman (A Louisville girl, Mary Anderson), 1939.
fl. 48 The park system of Louisville and the services of Colonel Andrew Cowan, with a political history of Louisville at the time.
fl. 49 Commencement of general sketch of G. R. Clark.
fl. 50 George Rogers Clark and historians. Incomplete.
fl. 51 Notebook on George Rogers Clark, beginning Apr. 8, 1911.

fl. 52 Index of William Hayden English, Conquest of the country northwest of the river Ohio 1778-1783; and Life of Gen. George Rogers Clark.
fl. 53 Historical notes.
Significance of inland navigation during the Civil War.


Jonathan Clark diary, 1770-1811. Typed carbon copy.

Poetry notebook with presentation to Bodley, 1912 Apr. 3.

Opinion of Judge Baskin on motion for a new trial in the case of Nora Moore and Ella Herfurth v. executors of the estate of James P. Whallen, 1931 June 1. Typed carbon copy.

Photostat copies of letters from George Rogers Clark and Joseph Bowman which were given by Mrs. Ellen (Bodley) Stuart to the Virginia Historical Society in 1958.


The Revolutionary West in war diplomacy and politics. Typed carbon copy. Incomplete.

Our first great west, in Revolutionary War, diplomacy and politics, 1938.

Our first great west, in Revolutionary War . . . , galley proof.

History of Kentucky, 1928.

Louisiana expedition, 1933.

Our nation’s paramount problem (boss rule), 1939.

What we owe France. Typed carbon copy.


Richard Wilson Knott. The rise and fall of Goebelism in Kentucky. Typed manuscript.

The killing of John Sanford by William Goebel at Covington, Ky. in 1895.

Stenographic reports of testimony of witnesses in cases against Caleb Powers, Henry Youtsey and . . .?

Articles on Kentucky politics in 1899: “The Outlook in Kentucky” in 1900, “Why I am a Democrat,” the political and social condition of Kentucky and the career of William Goebel, and other articles; also letters and documents collected by Bodley.

Pages from unidentified manuscripts and newspaper clippings about William Goebel.

Material relating to Andrew Cowan and the Louisville park system.
item 73a  Material relating to Andrew Cowan and the Louisville park system.

Box 12
item 73b  Scrapbook of newspaper clippings about Andrew Cowan’s career.
item 74  1908 letter describing Pickett’s charge.
          Letter from Robert L. Drummond to William E. Webster 1914 June 24.

item 75  William D. Richardson notes (2 v.).
item 76  Mrs. Minnie G. Cook notes (2 v.).
item 77  Miscellaneous notes (2 pkgs.).
item 77a  Miscellaneous notes 3rd copy.
item 78  Selections.
item 78a  Selections (3 pkgs.).
item 79  Madison copies.
item 79a  Madison copies; carbon copies of v. 1-3 bound in one volume.
item 80  British transcripts; diplomatic correspondence; Kemper’s notes, British Museum copies.
item 80a  British transcripts from Michigan Pioneer Collection, duplicates.
item 81  Pollock papers.
item 82  Pontalba Papers: Wilkinson-Miro correspondence; Wilkinson’s Memorial.
item 83  Shelburne Papers.
item 84  Maes transcripts, British Museum, etc.
item 85  Mason letter; Clark’s memoir; W. Heth’s letter; and Richardson notes.
item 85a  Mason letter and Clark’s memoir duplicate.
item 86  General index to source materials v. 75-85.
item 87  General index to source materials v. 75-85. Carbon copy.
item 88  Cook index; Madison copies index; and miscellaneous index.
item 89  British transcripts from Michigan Pioneer Collection and British Museum alphabetical index, G.R. Clark’s correspondence; Kemper notes.
item 90  Additional history, miscellaneous. v. 1-2.
item 91  Clark transcripts regarding Morgan, Pollock, etc.

Box 13
item 92  Reviews of Bodley’s *George Rogers Clark his life and public services*; pamphlets and newspaper clippings about Clark.
item 93  Reviews of Bodley’s *Our first great West*.
item 94  Pamphlets, articles, clippings and pictures relating to George Rogers Clark.
item 95  Miscellaneous newspaper clippings and pictures.

item 96  Miscellaneous newspaper clippings.
item 97  Ann J. Bodley. Wedding invitations and newspaper clippings about marriages and deaths of members of the Bodley, Clark, and allied families and other Ky. families.