

# **P-36: George Kishmar Collection of Missouri, Gasconade and Osage River Life and Work**

**Finding aid prepared by Sean Visintainer**

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St. Louis Mercantile Library Special Collections

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	St. Louis Mercantile Library Special Collections
<b>Title</b>	P-36: George Kishmar Collection of Missouri, Gasconade and Osage River Life and Work
<b>Date</b>	ca 1870 - 1995
<b>Extent</b>	1.0 Linear feet 1 legal-sized Hollinger clamshell box
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	George Kishmar Collection of Missouri, Gasconade and Osage River Life and Work contains materials relating to the life and works of Mr. Kishmar revolving around river life and work on the Missouri River and its towns. The collection consists of manuscripts by Kishmar as well as related newspaper clippings, correspondence, notes, and excerpts from related works. The subject matter of the collection revolves around Missouri River navigation and work, as well as river signalling, the Army Corps of Engineers, floods, and Mr. Kishmar's life.

### Preferred Citation note

The preferred citation for this collection is "From the collections of the St. Louis Mercantile Library at UM - St. Louis."

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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George Kishmar was born in 1910 at Chamois, Missouri, to parents John and Marie Dolana Krcmar. George's parents floated down the Missouri River from Omaha, Nebraska, in a houseboat in 1910. They made a living from farming and livestock raising, as well as from the river, by fishing, and working, in John's case, as a ferryman. John Krcmar was also a river freight agent from 1904-21. They had 13 children in all, 8 of which lived to adulthood. George had an eighth grade education when he began his career with the Corps of Engineers in 1927, at the age of 17, constructing willow mattresses. He later worked as a Corps pile driver, and then ran reconnaissance surveys, retiring at age 55 in 1965. George was a president of Chamois Lion's club and a member of the Osage County Historical Society. He compiled four works; The History of Chamois; Osage County and its Three Rivers; My Experiences and Years on the Missouri River; and Facts and Events of the Missouri River.

George was wed in 1933 to Edna Bernice Plaster and had a son and two daughters. He died at the age of 89.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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The collection maintains its original order, where the organizer, presumably a relative of Mr. Kishmar, put everything together in related packages. The collection contains manuscripts, notes, correspondence, newspaper clippings, publications (newsletters and journals), and excerpts of other works, often transcribed by Mr. Kishmar. Different materials have been described down to the file level, with a description of each attendant work in the file, or in the case of correspondence or clippings, a more general note in the file description. The titles of publications have been included in the file, with publication information when available.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

St. Louis Mercantile Library Special Collections 7/30/2013

### **Conditions Governing Access note**

This collection is available for use during the open hours of the St. Louis Mercantile Library's Rare Book and Manuscript Reading Room. Please see the Mercantile Library's website for more information.

### **Conditions Governing Use note**

**Access Restrictions:** Some of the material in Special Collection M-331 may be photocopied, digitally scanned or photographed, subject to condition.

**Copyright Information:** The researcher assumes full responsibility for observing all copyright, property, and libel laws as they apply.

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### **Other Resources note**

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Two of George Kishmar's works are available for perusal at the Library, in addition to this archival collection:

Facts and Events of the Missouri River. Call number UMSL MERC NCIR WTRS WYS F598 .K5. Available in the Pott Library open stacks, non-circulating.

My Experiences and Years on the Missouri River. Call number UMSL MERC RARE SMALL OVR F598 .K5 1989. Available during reading room hours only. Please consult the St. Louis Mercantile Library at UM - St. Louis website for more information.

## Collection Inventory

Steamboating on Missouri's Rivers (photocopied excerpt); Osage River; Hope Valley Newsletter; Steamboats (photocopied images); "Osage County, Missouri. It's Three Rivers" (manuscript and correspondence); "I Had a Part in Taming the Wild Missouri River. My Life, Career and Comments on the Missouri River" (manuscript, George Kishmar); Excerpts from Steamboating Sixty Five Years on Missouri Rivers (Capt. William L. Heckmann, 1950); "Missouri River, Shaped by Glacier and Man" (manuscript, George Kishmar); Excerpts from Taming the Mighty Missouri (Corps of Engineers. Kansas City District); Correspondence, USACE.

Excerpt from work on US Army Corps of Engineers; Pilot's Report - Missouri River, 1930; "40th Meeting Missouri River Basin Inter-Agency Committee on the Missouri River (Jefferson City to Mouth)", by Missouri River Division - Corps of Engineers, 18 May 1950.

"My Experiences and YEarS on the Missouri River" by George Kishmar. (w/ correspondence, notes, clippings, Missouri River Odyssey Group, USACE working papers)

"Facts and Events of the Missouri River" by George Kishmar

Missouri River; Osage River

John Krcmar - genealogical documents

"Missouri River Journal". Summer, 1980. Vol 2, No. 1. Published by the Missouri River Society; Steamboating on the Gasconade River

George Kishmar (articles and history); Flood Stages Jefferson City, Chamois, Hermann 1844-1995; Misc. Manuscript Pages re: George Kishmar, bridges, river signals

Clippings re: Steamboats, Corps of Engineers Snagboats, Steamboats, Dredges; Woven Willow Mats; Houseboats; Bridges; Chamois, MO; St. Louis & Hermann Packet Co.; Downstream Tariff List (ca. 1920); Barges; Tows.

"Facts and Events of the Missouri River"