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Penny, John S., collection, 1915-1930

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Penny, John S., Collection, MS 252

Overview of the Collection

Title	The John S. Penny Collection
Collection Number	MS 252
Dates	1915-1930
Collection Size	.4 linear foot
Creator	Ralph O. Willard
Scope and Content	A collection of photocopies of John S. Penny's poems, rhymes, and lyrics. Also included is unpublished poetry, family history, photographs, and correspondence.
Repository	Pittsburg State University, Special Collections & University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas 1701 S. Broadway Pittsburg, Kansas 66762 (620) 235-4883 speccoll@pittstate.edu
Access Restrictions	This collection is open for access. Researchers must use the collection in accordance with the policies of the Special Collections & University Archives, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University
Languages	English

Biographical Note John Scott Penny was born in Des Moines, Iowa in 1848. In 1881, he and Irene Hixson married, and had two sons. Around 1900, they moved to Fort Scott, Kansas. There, Penny worked first as a real estate agent. Penny went on to open his own real estate, insurance, and loan office in 1914. Between 1915 and 1930, John Penny wrote approximately 500 poems, mostly about Kansas, Iowa, and the aspects of life around him. About 50 of his poems were published in Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri newspapers. In 1917 Penny published a poem booklet called *Short Poems at Odd Hours*, which included 141 of his poems. His writing gained national attention when he wrote a poem titled "The World's Answer" in 1919 as a response to Lt. Col. John D. McCrae's World War I poem titled "In Flanders Fields," written in 1915. Penny died in Fort Scott in 1933.

Penny, John S., Collection, MS 252

Content Description

This collection is primary and secondary sources separated into three series:

1. Published Works, Family Relations, Photographs, Correspondence, Poems, and Writings
2. Poems, Published and Unpublished
3. Loose and Miscellaneous Material

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series 1: Published Works, Family Relations, Photographs, Correspondence, Poems, and Writings

- Approximately 50 newspaper clippings of poems published by Penny
- Copyright for and index to *Short Poems at Odd Hours*
- Family relationships indicated by ancestor charts
- Family correspondence
- Photographs of various descendants and ancestors of John Penny
- Miscellaneous poems, a song, and clipping
- Burial site detail – John and Irene Penny
- “My Own Life’s History” written by Penny over time
- A poem written about the courting of Ralph O. Willard’s maternal grandparents

Series 2: Poems, Published and Unpublished

- Penny’s handwritten index and numbering, contains 56 poems
- Penny’s handwritten index and numbering, contains 20 poems
- Contains 57 numbers and 3 miscellaneous poems (index in Part III)
- No index, 25 poems
- No index, 48 numbered and 10 miscellaneous poems
- No index, 37 numbered poems
- No index, 38 poems
- No index, 38 numbered poems
- No index, “World War Poems,” contains 59 numbered and some miscellaneous poems

Part 3: Loose and Miscellaneous Material

- Some *Short Poems at Odd Hours* poems, duplicates, song lyrics, a piece on the Ozarks
- Assorted poetry, lyrics, a story, copies of other poems
- More *Short Poems at Odd Hours* poems, other poetry, correspondence