Leslie B. Hutchison Records
(R1395)

Collection Number: R1395

Collection Title: Leslie B. Hutchison Records

Dates: 1855-1941

Creator: Hutchison, Leslie B., 1878-1941

Abstract: The Leslie B. Hutchison Records contain the business records of a Maries County, Missouri based lawyer. The materials include his legal papers, correspondence, some personal political papers, and records from his time as the Special Deputy Commissioner of Finance of the State of Missouri during the 1930s.

Collection Size: 6.75 cubic feet
(354 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla. If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Leslie B. Hutchison Records (R1395); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the University of Missouri by the Meramec Regional Planning Commission on August 4, 1980 (Accession No. RA0311). An addition was made on April 23, 1993 by J. Leonard Garland (Accession No. RA0566).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Leslie B. Hutchison Records can be found in the following collections:

J. Milton Shockley Collection (R0643)
Lloyd Crow Stark Papers (C0004)
Biographical Note:

Leslie Benjamin Hutchison was born on July 15, 1878, in Phelps County, Missouri to William and Louise Krewson Hutchison. The family lived briefly in Rolla, Missouri, but were in Maries County by January 1890. Hutchison attended the School of Mines (now Missouri University of Science and Technology) and was admitted to the bar in 1898. He practiced law under Judge Kelly before moving to Vienna in 1900 where he worked with attorney John O. Holmes.

Hutchison ran as the Democrat candidate for the Maries County prosecuting attorney in 1902. He won the election and served as prosecuting attorney for a total of 24 years and served as the Maries County probate judge in the 1930s.

On May 25, 1905, Hutchison married Bertha Schenker in St. Louis, Missouri. The couple lived in Vienna and had two children, Harold and Carolyn. Harold Schenker Hutchison was born on June 2, 1906. He followed his father into law attending school at the Missouri Military Academy, School of Mines (now Missouri University of Science and Technology), University of Notre Dame, Georgetown University Law School, and the National School of Law. Elected first in 1950 he served the next 26 years as the Maries County prosecuting attorney. During that time, he also served as the county Juvenile Officer until his death in January 1976.

Leslie Hutchison was appointed the Special Deputy Commissioner of Finance of the State of Missouri in July 1934. He oversaw the closure and liquidation of banks in his districts, closures caused by the Great Depression. These establishments included the Bank of Meta, Bank of Summerfield, Bank of Westphalia, Peoples Bank of Dixon, Farmers and Merchants Bank of Linn, the Bank of Henley, and the Bank of Argyle, among several others.

Hutchison died on March 8, 1941 at his home north of Vienna, Missouri. He is buried in the Vienna City Cemetery.


Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following four series with four subseries:

Banks
Legal Files
  Prosecution
Correspondence
  Client
  Special Deputy Commissioner of Finance
Personal
Personal Papers
Scope and Content Note:

Banks

This series contains correspondence with businesses and account holders to settle their accounts with banks that were closing. The materials include correspondence from Hutchison as the Special Deputy Commissioner of Finance, inventories of banks, and documentation of the selling of assets due to liquidation of banks. The Commissioner of Finance for the State of Missouri appointed Hutchison as the Special Deputy Commissioner of Finance for Meta and Iberia banks. He also served as the legal representative on various matters prior to banks closures. These records track the closure of banks in central Missouri during the Great Depression. Folders 3-4 contain business correspondence of the Bank of Meta prior to its closure and liquidation. The series is arranged by bank and then chronologically.

Legal Files

This series consists of Hutchison’s correspondence with clients, legal counsel, witnesses, opposing counsel, various courts, and others involved in the various cases and legal matters he handled. The legal files include cases of land disputes, insurance claims, civil cases, criminal cases, bankruptcy, divorce, alimony, adoption, and workmen compensation. The Prosecution subseries contains the notes and correspondence for cases he handled while he served as prosecuting attorney of Maries County. This series is arranged alphabetically by surname of the client or by title of the institution he represented.

Correspondence

This series contains Leslie Hutchison’s correspondence with fellow attorneys, clients, judges, and opposing counsel. The Client subseries contains correspondences with individuals seeking his legal aid. The Special Deputy Commissioner of Finance series contains correspondence dealing with his work with local banks that he oversaw during their closures and liquidations. The bulk of these correspondence deal with the Bank of Meta. The Personal subseries contains correspondence pertaining to his career and personal life. His personal political correspondence deals with his appointment to Maries County probate judge and his support of various Democrat Missouri candidates. He has correspondence between himself and Senator W. C. Irwin, Senator Phil Donnelly, Governor Lloyd Stark, and Senator Bennett Champ Clark discussing various current issues, political campaigns, veteran affairs, and court cases. Each series is arranged in alphabetical order.

Personal Papers

This series contains miscellaneous materials of Leslie B. Hutchison including political flyers and pamphlets, Maries County school newsletters and history, Hutchison family genealogy, and pamphlets on the Central Route. Of particular interest are the pamphlets and maps concerning the Central Route campaign. The route was a proposed cross-state highway system from Saint Louis to Springfield, Saint Louis to Jefferson City, and then Jefferson City to Kansas City. The city of Belle in Maries County was proposed as the ‘Y-axis’ of the route. This series is arranged in alphabetical order by subject.

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