



## **Alva F. Lindsay Constitutional Convention Papers (C0020)**

**Collection Number:** C0020

**Collection Title:** Alva F. Lindsay Constitutional Convention Papers

**Dates:** 1943-1944

**Creator:** Lindsay, Alva F., 1891-1957

**Abstract:** Correspondence and other papers of a St. Joseph lawyer and delegate to the state constitutional convention. Papers deal primarily with convention work, especially the committee on education which he chaired and the other committees of which he was a member.

**Collection Size:** 0.6 cubic feet  
(69 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-Columbia](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at [columbia@shsmo.org](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Alva F. Lindsay Constitutional Convention Papers* (C0020); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Alva F. Lindsay on October 26, 1944 (Accession No. CA0169).

**Processed by:** Processed by The State Historical Society of Missouri-Columbia staff, date unknown. Finding Aid revised by John C. Konzal, April 15, 2020.

**Historical Note:**

Alva F. Lindsay was a St. Joseph lawyer and delegate to the state constitutional convention.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Committees  
Correspondence

**Scope and Content Note:**

More complete series descriptions are located in the container list.

**Container List:**

**Committees Series**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| f. 1-35 | Committee on Education  |
| f. 1-7  | Letters, papers, committee, and subcommittee reports  |
| f. 1    | Brief historical sketches of educational institutions of Missouri   |
| f. 2    | State support of the junior college   |
| f. 3    | Three proposals on education introduced by Lindsay and articles on education in the state constitution of 1875, with proposals for changes.   |
| f. 4    | Racial problems in public education   |
| f. 5    | State support of public libraries   |
| f. 8    | Copy of an article by Park declaring schools get too much money and suggesting absorption of state teachers colleges into one university.   |
| f. 9-11 | Reports of Missouri State Teachers Association committee on constitution revision and correspondence about state aid to public libraries. Reprint from Urban League <i>Bulletin</i> urging county decisions an educational segregation of blacks. Proposed section barring differentials on teachers' wages and letter from D.M. Grant, representative of Missouri State Association of Negro Teachers on same subject. |

- f. 12 Letter from the Methodist Missouri Annual Conference urging religious education in public schools. Letters for and against segregation of blacks in public education.
- f. 14 Letter from Irwin F. Coyle, dean of Junior College of Flat River, expressing his ideas on public education in Missouri.
- f. 15 Letter from Joe E. Deupree, editor of *The Howell Count Gazette*, deploring the practice of rural teachers “buying” the privilege of teaching from school board members. Letter from Jacob M. Lashley, president of Citizens Council for Missouri Libraries, urging state aid to public libraries.
- f. 16 Letter from Kansas City Chamber of Commerce opposing library aid and approving investment of county school funds, letter from Wesley A. Deneke, superintendent of Flat River Public Schools, urging consideration of junior colleges and kindergartens in the new constitution, and letter from E.E. Crader opposing appointive state head of education.
- f. 17-23 Correspondence to Lindsay for and against segregation of blacks in public schools, state aid to parochial schools and public libraries, and elimination of age limits. Correspondence about discontinuation and liquidation of County School Funds. Minutes of the committee and sub-committee meetings. Correspondence from F. A. Middlebush, president of University of Missouri, and others regarding proposals affecting the University. Correspondence regarding taxation for local purposes.
- f. 23 Letter from the Conference of Board Members and Superintendents of the St. Louis County Schools on the development of area schools if constitutional barriers are removed.
- f. 24-35 General correspondence on the work of this committee, minutes of the committee meetings, continued correspondence on the liquidations of county and township funds, age limits, state aid to public libraries, and state aid to junior colleges.
- f. 25-26 Correspondence on racial discrimination. Letters from individuals bitterly opposed to blacks and religious education in the public school and constitutional provision for the kindergarten.
- f. 34 School levies
- f. 36-43 Committee on State Finance (except Taxation) —Expenditures, Public Indebtedness, and Restrictions Thereon
- f. 36-40 Minutes of meetings from 26 October 1943 to 1 February 1944. Reports of subcommittee.
- f. 39 Sections of the proposed constitution dealing with state finance and general objections to proposal relating to the issuance of revenue bonds by cities, towns, and villages.
- f. 40 Papers on finance and pamphlets on old age assistance and

- state budget.
- f. 41 Letter from the attorneys for Missouri Utilities Company protesting the section in the new constitution authorizing the issuance of bonds by small municipalities for the purpose of acquiring utility plants.
- f. 42-43 Material pertaining to “earmarking” funds for state parks
- f. 44-46 Committee on Judicial Department. Letters, papers, and pamphlets concerning the work and proposals of this committee.
- f. 47-48 Committee on Public Health and Public Welfare and Federal Relations with Respect Thereto. General correspondence. Most of the papers concern Proposal 357, introduced by Alva Lindsay, providing for public recreation.
- f. 49 Committee on Taxation—Levy, Assessment, and Collection. Correspondence and papers regarding changes in tax levies and exemptions.
- f. 50 Committee on Agriculture and Conservation. Correspondence protesting proposals to change the organization and powers of the Conservation Commission. A rather comprehensive statement by Lindsay expressing his views on the matter.
- f. 51 Committee on Preamble, Boundaries, Bill of Rights, and Distribution of Powers. Most of these papers deal with proposed amendment on religious freedom, especially from the standpoint of the Christian Scientist. Other papers deal with the right of freedom of speech in Missouri.
- f. 52 Committee on Labor. A letter from F.E. Berggren, legislative representative of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, urging constitutional sanction of labor's right to organize and bargain collectively and opposing the outlawing of closed shop and compelling labor unions to incorporate. Letter from the chairman of state legislative board of Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen opposing incorporation.
- f. 53 Committee on Congressional, State Senatorial, and Representative Districts. A bulletin and map on senatorial redistricting.
- f. 54 Committee on Highways. Most correspondence deals with proposal which would allow the Highway Commission to regulate access to the state highways. Arguments against bureaucracy.
- f. 55 Committee on Local Government. Letters and papers pertaining to proposal introduced by Alva Lindsay providing for consolidation of offices and services and distributing cost and expenses of same. Paper on “blighted areas” of cities.
- f. 56 Committee on Local Government (City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and Jackson County). Letter from both the Republican City Central Committee of St. Louis and St. Louis Chamber of Commerce urging constitutional provision for the extension of boundaries of the city.
- f. 57-58 Committee on Miscellaneous Provisions. Correspondence and pamphlets on the work of this committee, especially the proposal to

- prevent excessive interest charges.
- f. 57 Report of a committee of the Illinois State Senate appointed to investigate the small loan situation in that state and used for reference by the committee.

### Correspondence Series

- f. 59 General correspondence between R.E. Blake, president of the convention, and Alva F. Lindsay, and other members.
- f. 60-69 Miscellaneous Correspondence
- f. 64 Letter from Daniel G. Taylor, St. Louis attorney, written after the Constitutional Convention of 1922-1923, explaining why the Catholics were opposed to the proposed amendment on education.
- f. 66 Letter from W.A. Petree, St. Joseph lawyer, giving his thoughts relative to a constitution.
- f. 68 Letters protesting the submission of the new constitution as a whole to the voters.
- f. 69 Material pertaining to University of Missouri

### Index:

Subject	Folders
American Association of University Women	19
Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers	52
Catholic Church	64
Chamber of Commerce, Kansas City, Missouri	16,21,49,58
Chamber of Commerce, St. Louis, Missouri	17,1,9,56,68
Chambers of commerce	16,17,21,49,56,58,68
Education	1-35
Educational associations--Missouri	9-10, 23, 25, 32, 35
Labor unions	8, 52
Libraries	35
Lindsay, Alva (1891-1957)	1-69
Loans	57-58
Missouri Farmers Association	50, 54
Missouri Public Expenditure Survey	1
Missouri State Teachers Association	9-10, 23, 25, 32, 35
Missouri. Conservation Commission	50
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944	1
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Agriculture and Conservation	50
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Congressional, State Senatorial and Representative Districts	53

Subject	Folders
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Education	1-35
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Highways	54
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Judicial Department	44-46
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Labor	52
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Local Government	55
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Local Government (City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and Jackson County)	56
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Miscellaneous Provisions	57, 58
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Preamble, Boundaries, Bill of Rights and Distribution of Powers	51
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Public Health and Public Welfare and Federal Relations with Respect thereto	47, 48
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on State Finance (except Taxation)--Expenditures, Public Indebtedness and Restrictions thereon	36-43
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Taxation-Levy, Assessment and Collection	49
Missouri. Highway Commission	54
Missouri. Highway Department	54
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People	12, 14, 19
Race relations	1-35
Religious Education	1-35
Schools	1-35, 41-43, 49
Taxation	36-43, 49
University of Missouri	1, 17-23, 69