



Frederick B. Mumford Papers (C0040)

Collection Number: C0040

Collection Title: Frederick B. Mumford Papers

Dates: 1893-1947

Creator: Mumford, Frederick B., 1868-1946

Abstract: The papers of Frederick B. Mumford, instructor and dean of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, include correspondence, speeches, articles, reports, and statistics concerning the College of Agriculture, Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities, Missouri Council of Defense, U.S. Food Administration, and Mission Americaine de Rapprochement to France.

Collection Size: 2 cubic feet
(164 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. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Frederick B. Mumford on November 15, 1944 (Accession No. CA0176). Additions were made by various donors on July 31, 1946 (Accession No. CA2862), September 9, 1947 (Accession No. CA2899),

September 12, 1947 (Accession No. CA2900), November 24, 1948 (Accession No. CA2960), and October 28, 1966 (Accession No. CA3687).

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Historical Note:

Frederick Blackmar Mumford was born near Moscow, Michigan, on 28 May 1869. He entered Albion College in 1889 and studied classics. He graduated the next year with a bachelor of science degree. In 1891, Mumford entered Michigan Agricultural College, graduating in 1893 with a master of science degree. He left M.A.C. in 1895 after two years of teaching and began duties at the University of Missouri, College of Agriculture. He remained at the college as an instructor from 1895 to 1938 and as dean from 1909 until his retirement in 1938.

Besides his duties at the college, Mumford also held positions of prominence during World War I. He was director of the Missouri Council of Defense and administrator of the Missouri Division of the U.S. Food Administration. As head of these defense organizations he was responsible for the organization and implementation of the goals of the two groups to conserve resources, coordinate activities with state and federal agencies, prevent unnecessary speculation in the aspects of everyday life, and lead movements to increase food production. In the spring of 1919, he was included as a member of the Mission Americaine de Rapprochement. The purpose of the mission was to judge France's need for economic assistance after World War I.

During the Depression, Mumford served on the Missouri State Board of Agriculture, Missouri Relief and Reconstruction Commission, Farm Debt Adjustment Committee, and State Planning Board.

Mumford retired in 1938 after serving the College of Agriculture for 43 years. Under Mumford's leadership, the department had expanded its services to the state. Departments of forestry, farm management, poultry husbandry, soils, field crops, and dairy husbandry were created, and new buildings for veterinary science, agricultural chemistry, administration, and the hog cholera serum plant were built.

After retiring, Mumford continued his activities to benefit the college. He remained active at the college and with his work in the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities. Through this association, Mumford attempted to improve agricultural education by using land grant institutions to influence national and state legislation. Mumford was active in the association and was elected president in 1940.

On November 12, 1946, Mumford died from injuries he received the month before in a car accident near Wentzville, Missouri.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following ten series:

- Correspondence
- Pamphlets
- Articles for Publication

Reports
Speeches
Statistics
Clippings
Scrapbooks
Financial Documents
Miscellaneous Material

Scope and Content Note:

Mumford's papers correspond primarily with his years at the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, with most of the material concentrated in the twenty-five-year period of 1910 to 1935. Of significance are the articles, speeches, and reports Mumford composed to keep the College of Agriculture from incurring budget cuts from 1920 to 1935. Other material of significance pertains to Mumford's chairmanship of the Missouri Division of the U.S. Food administration and his presidency of the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities.

The series are not mutually exclusive; for example, correspondence can be found interfiled with statistics, and reports can be found in correspondence. These inconsistencies are a result of maintaining the original filing order when possible. All material within the collection is filed in chronological order unless noted to the contrary.

More complete descriptions of the series are in the container list.

Container List:

Correspondence Series

- f. 1-15 1893-1938. The correspondence is weighted toward Mumford's work in animal husbandry, but some interesting letters are found dealing with early debate over a nursery and orchard inspection bill for Missouri.
- f. 16-22 1938-1941. Pertains to Mumford's retirement as dean of the College of Agriculture. The majority of the letters are congratulatory notes from across the United States and Missouri. The letters begin in early 1938. Copies of articles and speeches given in his honor are also included.
- f. 23-43 1938-1942. Spans the years of Mumford's active work in the Association of Land Grant Colleges and Universities. Correspondence begins in 1938 and continues until Mumford's term as president of the association expired in 1942. The majority of the letters deal with members' impressions on agricultural legislation. Other topics include the executive meetings and enrollment in association institutions during World War I.

Pamphlets Series

- f. 44-45 Pertaining to two topics: modernization of poultry farming in Missouri, 1912, and the Sigma Xi fraternity, 1912-1923.

Articles for Publication Series

- f. 46-70 Articles written by Mumford for publication in magazines, journals, newspapers, or bulletins. Topics include the College of Agriculture and its benefits to farmers of Missouri, the Agricultural Experiment Station, lack of a national farm policy, and Mumford's views on evolution and religion.
- f. 46-51 1909-1919
 - f. 52-52b Circa 1910s
 - f. 53-58 1920-1929
 - f. 59-59a Circa 1920s
 - f. 60-63 1930-1939
 - f. 64-64a Circa 1930s
 - f. 65-70 Undated

Reports Series

- f. 71-112 1904-1931. Reports to Mumford concerning experiments conducted at the Agricultural Experiment Station. Reports are from animal husbandry, botany, horticulture, entomology, agricultural chemistry, and other departments. The reports are complete and extensive for 1912 to 1914, but beginning in 1915 short standardized forms were used. Reports have been indexed by name of department conducting the experiment; only reports pertaining to important experiments have been individually indexed.

Speeches Series

- f. 113-127 1912-1937. Speeches given by Mumford before farm organizations and broadcast over radio. The majority of the speeches were composed between 1920 and 1937 and pertain to the agricultural depression of the twenties and thirties and the College of Agriculture's attempt to help the farmers of Missouri be more efficient and productive. Other topics included are agricultural education in high schools and colleges, agricultural legislation, and the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Statistics Series

- f. 128-129 Attendance records of the College of Agriculture's Farmers' Weeks, 1915-1919, a yearly program to explain new methods of agriculture and animal husbandry.
- f. 130-134 Enrollment records for the College of Agriculture, 1906-1938. Mumford was concerned with the poor economic conditions from 1920 to 1938, which in turn caused a decrease in enrollment and the budget.
- f. 135-136 Statistics Mumford received from other land grant college institutions for the period 1910 to 1930. Also includes statistics concerning the swine cholera serum plant at the college, and the costs of this serum throughout the United States.

Clippings Series

- f. 137-140 1917-1919. These clippings originated from the U.S. Food Administration, of which Mumford was administrator for the Missouri Division. These articles were routed from Washington, D.C. through Mumford's office to newspapers across Missouri, and dealt with production, distribution, use, and conservation of food.

Subjects within the clippings are conditions in France, Great Britain, and Germany, and domestic changes in American society, i.e., wheatless Thursdays, meatless Tuesdays, and porkless Saturdays. Of primary importance to the Food Administration was the conservation of wheat for export to Europe. The clippings are not dated and it can only be assumed that Mumford had kept them in the order he received them.

Scrapbooks Series

- f. 141 Scrapbook which includes personal memorabilia of Mumford and his wife Jesse from 1895 to 1909. Included are poems, pictures, and articles pertaining to the Mumfords. The scrapbook is in its original order.
- f. 142-142b Series of articles from the *Bulletin*, the College of Agriculture newsletter. These articles were clipped during 1904 and constitute a correspondence course in horticulture. This series represents an example of how the College of Agriculture tried to expand the knowledge of the farmers of Missouri. It remains in its original order.

Financial Documents Series

- f. 143-154 1906-1922. This series is composed of financial documents pertaining to the running of the College of Agriculture. Included are budgets, statements of charges, salaries, and outside sources of income. Of note are ledgers of the Swine Cholera Serum Service of the college. Budgets are filed by the date they were written or at the beginning of the fiscal year they represent.

Miscellaneous Material Series

- f. 155-159 Material gathered by Mumford on his trip to France in 1919. Mumford was a member of the Mission Americaine de Rapprochement to France. In the series are menus, hotel bills, speeches, and postcards which Mumford collected.
- f. 160 Photographs of Mumford and some of his protégés.
- f. 161 Posters from the Agricultural Extension Station, 1917, and Missouri Council of Defense, 1917-1918. The extension posters explain crop and pest problems, while the defense posters deal directly with the war in Europe. The posters are examples of propaganda both before and after the United States entered World War I.
- f. 162-163 Graphs from the data derived from the "Growth of Steers" experiment which Mumford supervised. Other names of this experiment were "Retarded Growth" and "Use of Food." The graphs are not dated.
- f. 164 Fragments which could not be matched with other items in the collection, n.d.

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