Joseph Wingate Folk Papers
(C0101)

Collection Number: C0101

Collection Title: Joseph Wingate Folk Papers

Dates: 1902-1952

Creator: Webb, May Folk, 1873-

Abstract: Unfinished biography of Folk by his sister, Mrs. James Avery Webb. Clippings pertaining to Folk's career as circuit attorney in St. Louis, 1902-1904; Democratic governor of Missouri, 1904-1909; races for Senate and failure to win election, 1918; career in Washington, D.C., 1917-1923, under President Woodrow Wilson; and death in 1923. Letters of sympathy at death, Folk-Bates genealogy, speeches by Folk, and miscellaneous material.

Collection Size: 0.6 cubic feet
(44 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.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Joseph Wingate Folk Papers* (C0101); 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 Mrs. James Avery Webb on July 19, 1948 and September 19, 1951 (Accession No. 2926). An addition was made on March 17, 1953, by Fred Robins (Accession No. 3160).

Processed by: Processed by the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia staff, date unknown. Finding aid revised by Laura Jolley on April 13, 2020.

Historical Note:

Joseph W. Folk was born October 28, 1869, in Brownsville, Tennessee. He graduated in 1890 from Vanderbilt University with an L.L.B. degree. He moved to St. Louis in 1893, and after attracting attention in the settlement of a labor dispute, he was called upon to run for circuit attorney. In this office he uncovered corruption and bribery and prosecuted the offenders. Folk was elected governor in 1904. When his term of office expired in 1909, he returned to his law practice and also toured the country with a Chautauqua. During President Woodrow Wilson's administration, he served as Solicitor of the State Department and First Chief Counselor for the Interstate Commerce Commission.

In 1918, Folk returned to St. Louis as General Counselor for the Chamber of Commerce. Nominated for the United States Senate in 1918, he was defeated under the republican landslide. Continuing his law practice which developed along national and international lines, Folk became counsel for Egypt in 1919. In 1923, he represented Peru in the negotiations with Chile over the Tacna-Arica controversy. Folk died May 28, 1923, in New York and was buried in Brownsville, Tennessee.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following six series.

Biography
Clippings
Correspondence
Genealogy
Miscellaneous
Speeches

Scope and Content Note:

Biography

This series contains an incomplete biography of Folk written and compiled by his sister, Mrs. James A. Webb, mostly compilation of newspaper articles and editorials written at time of Folk's death, 1923, giving resume of his life.

Clippings

This series consists of articles pertaining to prosecution of St. Louis Boodlers; grafters such as: Ed Butler, Charles. H. Turner, Phillip H. Stock, and Charles. T. Kelly; bribe-takers in St. Louis Council and House of Delegates. Trial of Ed Butler in Columbia, Missouri; prosecution of Denny, Faulkner, Kratz, Murrell, etc.; Folk's gubernatorial race; Peru Council; Tacna Arica controversy; death in Washington D.C.; resume of career; burial at Brownville, Tennessee; articles after his death.

Go to top

Correspondence

This series contains correspondence of Mrs. James Avery Webb, sister of Folk, relative to writing a biography and publishing a biographical sketch in the *National Cyclopedia of American Biography*. Letters of sympathy after death of Folk, 1923. Also, correspondence with Lewis E. Geiger pertaining to Geiger's doctoral dissertation.

Genealogy

This series contains the Folk-Bates genealogy by May Folk Webb and Ernest Linwood Folk, Jr. Typed, photostatic copy of letter, 1849, also included.

Miscellaneous

Included are photographs of Folk and Folk's home; campaign button of Folk for governor; poems; programme for Hon. Joseph Folk Campaign Dinner; articles by Folk's mother, "How to Train Boys." Last will and testament of Gertrude Folk, 1952. *Heart Thoughts* by Mrs. H.B. Folk, 1908, American Baptist Publication Society. Papers and addresses by Mrs. Folk.

Speeches

Speeches and extracts of Folk's speeches, including: "The Era of Consciences," address at Clear Lake, Iowa's Chautauqua Assembly, July 30, 1906; "The Golden Age," address at St. Paul Democratic Banquet, 1916; Cotton State Merchant's Association Convention, 1917; Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, 1917; Address at Massachusetts, 1917.

Container List:

f. 1-13	Biography	
f. 14-23	Clippings	
	f. 14-16	Circuit attorney, 1902-1904
	f. 17-18	Governor, 1906
	f. 19-22	Death
	f. 23	Mrs. Joseph Folk and articles about Folk after his death, 1925-1949
f. 24-31	Correspondence	
f. 32-37	Genealogy	
f. 38-41	Miscellaneous	
f. 42-43	Speeches	
f. 44	*Heart Thoughts* by Mrs. H. B. Folk; "The Shamelessness of St. Louis" by Lincoln Steffens	

Index:

Index Terms	Folders	Image
Benton, Thomas Hart (1782-1858)	5	
Boodle Scandal, St. Louis	4, 12	

Go to top

Index Terms	Folders	Image
Bryan, William Jennings (1860-1925)	6, 8, 12	
Butler, Edward R.	3-5	
Butler, James T.	8	
Chautauquas	5, 6, 12	
Clark, Champ (1850-1921)	6, 8	
Democratic State Convention--Missouri	12	
Folk, Gertrude G.	2	
Folk, Joseph Wingate (1869-1923)	1-43	
Folk, Joseph Wingate (1869-1923)	40	Yes
Hawes, Harry Bartow (1869-1947)	2, 3, 5	
Jefferson Club	3	
Johnson, Charles P.	4	
Lincoln Farm Association	6, 12	
Missouri, St. Louis	3-15, 13	
Missouri, St. Louis. Municipal Assembly	4, 5	
O'Neill, Frank R.	4, 8	
Political cartoons	40	
Politics	2, 3, 5-7, 10	
Roosevelt, Theodore (1858-1919)	4-6	
Rowe, Thomas J.	4, 5, 8	
Spencer, Selden Palmer (1862-1925)	7	
St. Louis and Suburban Railroad	3, 4, 12	
Stone, William Joel (1848-1918)	6, 7, 12	
Tennessee, Brownsville	1	
Wills	39, 41	

Go to top