

C Folk, Joseph Wingate (1869-1923), Papers, 1902-1952
101 .6 linear feet

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INTRODUCTION

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.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Mrs. James Avery Webb on 19 July 1948 and 19 September 1951 (Accession No. 2926). An addition was made on 17 March 1953 by Fred Robins (Accession No. 3160).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Joseph W. Folk was born October 28, 1869, in Brownsville, Tennessee. He was 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.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers have been arranged into the following six series: **Biography, Clippings, Correspondence, Genealogy, Miscellaneous, and Speeches.**

More complete series descriptions are located in the folder list.

FOLDER LIST

Biography Series

- f. 1-13 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 Series

- f. 14-23 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; Tocna Arica controversy; death in Washington D.C.; resume of career; burial at Brownville, Tennessee; articles after his death.
- 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

Correspondence Series

- f. 24-31 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 Series

- f. 32-37 Folk-Bates genealogy by May Folk Webb and Ernest Linwood Folk, Jr. Typed, photostatic copy of letter, 1849, also included.

Miscellaneous Series

- f. 38-41 Pictures 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 Series

- f. 42-43 Speeches and extracts of Folk's speeches: "The Era of Consciences," address at Clear Lake, Iowa's Chautauqua Assembly, July 30, 1906; "The Golden Age," address at St. Paul Democratic Banquet, 1912; Democratic Banquet 1914; University Club Banquet, 1916; Cotton State Merchant's Association Convention, 1917; Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, 1917; Address at Massachusetts, 1917.

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