

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid RG 3.40

Office of Governor

Governor Forrest C. Donnell, 1941-1945

Abstract: Records (1937-1945) of Governor Forrest C. Donnell (1884-1980), include attorney general opinions, appeals from board of pharmacy, correspondence, foreign extraditions, remittances of bond forfeiture, and Washington County Tiff Mining materials.

Extent: 1.2 cubic feet (3 Hollinger boxes; 1 oversize box)

Record Description: Paper

Alternative Formats: None.

Location: Missouri State Archives.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

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Preferred Citation: [Item description], [Date]; [Box and Folder] OR [Volume and Page]; [Series]; Office of the Governor/Forrest C. Donnell, 1941-1945, Record Group 3.40; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

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Historical and Biographical Notes

Forrest C. Donnell was born on August 20, 1884 in Quitman, Nodaway County to John Cary Donnell and Barbara Lee Waggoner Donnell. He attended public schools in Cameron and graduated in 1900 from Maryville High School. Donnell earned a B.A. degree in 1904 followed in 1907 by a law degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia. He practiced law in St. Louis from 1907 until 1940, most notably with U. S. Senator Selden Palmer Spencer. Donnell married Hilda Hays on January 29, 1913 in St. Louis. The couple raised two children.

He actively campaigned for Republican Governor Herbert Spencer Hadley in 1908 and in 1917 led the Missouri Young Republicans. In 1918, Donnell served as a member of the executive committee of the Republican State Committee of Missouri and in 1919 as the president of the 28th Ward Republican Club of St. Louis. He defeated Lawrence McDaniel in the 1940 gubernatorial election and on February 26, 1941 was sworn in as the 40th Governor of Missouri.

During the Donnell administration, the governor backed higher salaries for legislators, advanced a state merit hiring system and a secret-ballot measure, brought state unemployment compensation in line with federal social security regulations, and created marriage laws which required blood tests and waiting periods. Donnell joined Episcopal Bishop William Scarlett and prominent businessmen and other bi-racial professionals (Scarlett Committee) to defuse racial tensions in St. Louis following the lynching of Cleo Wright in Sikeston in January 1942.

In 1944, he successfully campaigned for a U.S. Senate seat and served until 1950 when Donnell was defeated for re-election by Thomas Carey Hennings, Jr. He returned to his law practice in St. Louis, served as president of the University of Missouri Alumni Association. Forrest C. Donnell died on March 3, 1980 in St. Louis and is interred in Bellefontaine Cemetery.

Additional Descriptive Information

Bibliography

Capeci, Dominic J. *Dictionary of Missouri Biography*, edited by Lawrence O. Christensen (Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1999), pages 248-250.

Missouri State Archives, Documents Collection, Office of Administration. Biographies of Missouri Governors, 1820-2012

National Governor's Association, governor's information—Forrest C. Donnell (on-line), <http://www.nga.org>

Related Material

Stanford University Library, Stanford, California holds *The Budget Message of Governor Forrest C. Donnell* (Jefferson City, Mo.: State of Missouri, 1943).

State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia holds:

C194, Forrest C. Donnell (1884-1980), Papers, 1941-1945 90 linear feet

C0796, Forrest C. Donnell (1884-1980), Senatorial papers, 1945-1950

Series

The records are organized into the following series:

Attorney General Opinions, 1941-1942

Board of Pharmacy Appeals, 1940-1941, 1943-1944

Gas Rationing, 1943-1944

Foreign Extraditions, 1941-1944

Pardons and Paroles, 1937-1942

Remittance of Bond Forfeitures, 1941-1943

Subject Files, No date, 1944

Washington County, 1941-1944

Attorney General Opinions, 1941-1942

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Two opinions issued from the Office of the Attorney General pertaining to criminal law insanity and Missouri residence requirements for notaries public. A note on the top of each document summarizes the opinion. Responses are authored by W. J. Burke and B. Richards Creech.

Container List

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1	1	October 18, 1941	W. J. Burke, Jefferson City, Cole County to Michael W. O'Hern, Kansas City, Jackson County: whether a convict under death penalty reprieved by governor and discharged by State Hospital as sane is subject to execution
1	1	February 16, 1942	B. Richards Creech, Jefferson City, Cole County to Richard Arena, Jefferson City, Cole County: whether Missouri law prescribes length of residence before a person becomes a citizen

Board of Pharmacy Appeals, 1940-1941, 1943-1944

Extent: 2 folders

Arrangement: Chronological, then by case number.

Scope and Content

This series contains correspondence pertaining to appeals of Board of Pharmacy regulations.

Container List

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1	3	1940-1941	Correspondence
1	4	1943-1944	Correspondence

Foreign Extraditions, 1939-1944

Extent: 1 cubic ft (2 Hollinger boxes, 1 partial, 1 oversize)

Arrangement: Chronological, then alphabetical by name of individual.

Scope and Content

Extradition requests are used to return persons charged with crimes to the state in which he or she is wanted. Foreign extraditions refer to requests made from other states to Missouri. This series contains correspondence and supporting materials, court documents (affidavits, briefs, complaints, hearings, judgements, and proceedings), newspaper clippings, notes (some in shorthand), signed extradition forms, and memoranda.

The folders in this series were renumbered. The original number is indicated within parenthesis. OB stands for Oversized Box.

Container List

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1	11 (7)	1941	Correspondence
1	12 (8)	1941	Ashenfelt, John
1	13 (9)	1941	Barnes, John
1	14 (10)	1941	Billups, Freeman
1	15 (11)	1941	Butler, Leona
1	16 (12)	1941	Calhoun, Norman S.
1	17 (13)	1941	Demming, Homer
1	18 (14)	1941	Howe, Wilbert
1	19 (15)	1941	McCallen, Marion F.
1	20 (16)	1941	Mears, Thomas
1	21 (17)	1941	Mouse, Frank E.
1	22 (18)	1941	Neve, Nigel
1	23 (19)	1941	Ordman, Tillman AKA Dalton, Jack; Teague, Virgil
1	24 (20)	1941	Price, Eldridge S.
1	25 (21)	1941	Smith, Emmett
1	26 (22)	1941	Southern, James AKA Spencer, Harry; Middleton, Troy
1	27 (23)	1941	Vaden, Paul AKA Wilson, Jack
1	28 (24)	1941	Williams, Robert L.

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1	29 (25)	1941	Wyatt, Mary Alice; Blancherd, Franklin
2	1	1942	Anthony, David L.
2	2	1942	Binford, W. D. AKA Binford, Walter D.
2	3	1942	Cassidy, Herman
2	4	1942	Gordon, George AKA Gray, George
2	5	1942	Green, Jessie Bennie
2	6	1942	Hunter, Lewis
2	7	1942	Jobe, Raymond E.
2	8	1942	Ketchum, W. L.
2	9	1942	Lewis, Oliver
2	10	1942	Nash, Nova M.
2	11	1942	Ogden, John Harold
2	12	1942	Stone, Fred G.
2	13	1942	Turner, Ruthie
2	14	1942	Wilson, Floyd
2	15	1942	Worley, Jack
2	16	1943	Barrett, Joe
2	17	1943	Clark, George C.
2	18	1943	Clinton, James E.
2	19	1943	Conrad, Roy AKA Conradt, Roy
2	20	1943	Corbitt, Clifford
2	21	1943	Finkelstein, Ike
2	22	1943	Ford, Raymond John
2	23	1943	Huffman, Flora
2	24	1943	Johnson, Lonnie
2	25	1943	King, Louis
3	1	1943	Kingery, Horace
3	2	1943	Payton, Alice
3	3	1943	Rayford, Charles
3	4	1943	Schwab, Ernest L.
3	5	1943	Strain, Alonzo
3	6	1944	Adkins, George AKA Gregory, Vernon Lloyd

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
3	7	1944	Cacioppo, Charles A.; Glaviano., Mary M. [see also oversize items, box 4, folder 1]
OB1	1	1944	Cacioppo, Charles A.
3	8	1944	Cooper, James T.; Miller, Henry
3	9	1944	Davis, Stanhope
3	10	1944	Slater, Joseph M.
OB1	1	1944	Slater, Joseph M.
3	11	1944	Smith, Joseph W.
3	12	1944	Summers, J. L.

Gas Rationing, 1941-1943

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Correspondence pertaining to World War II gas rationing for the governor's personal vehicle. Includes ration applications, gas rationing cards, inspection records, mileage sheets, post cards, and speedometer readings.

The folders in this series were renumbered. The original number is indicated within parenthesis.

Container List

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1	5 (6A)	1941-1943	Correspondence

Pardons and Paroles, 1937-1942

Extent: 14 folders

Arrangement: Correspondence folder is arranged in chronological order. Pardon files are arranged alphabetically by inmate surname.

Scope and Content

This series contains records of pardons, by which the governor exempts a convicted person from the penalties of an offense or crime by the power of the law.

Folder 13 primarily contains correspondence pertaining to the syphilis outbreak at Algoa prison. The folder also includes a list of inmates, handwritten notes, a blank parole form from the administration of Governor Lloyd Crow Stark, and an outline explaining the probation and parole system of Missouri by Robert C. Edison, director.

Container List

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
3	13	1941-1942	Correspondence
3	14	1937-1940	Pardons: A
3	15	1941	Pardons: B
3	16	1941	Pardons: C
3	17	1941	Pardons: G
3	18	1941	Pardons: H
3	19	1941	Pardons: J
3	20	1941	Pardons: L
3	21	1941	Pardons: M
3	22	1941	Pardons: P
3	23	1941	Pardons: R
3	24	1941	Pardons: S
3	25	1941	Pardons: T
3	26	1941	Pardons: U-W

Remitter of Bond Forfeiture, 1941-1944

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical, then chronological

Scope and Content

The Remitter of Bond Forfeiture series contains correspondence and supporting material. The Missouri Revised Statutes (Section 217.805) give power to the governor to grant a remittitur (or remitter) for “any fine imposed by any statute, and for any forfeiture of a recognizance.” The latter are surety bonds made for the appearance of accused persons in court; the sureties for the bond are held liable in the amount agreed to by the court if the accused fails to show for trial. The governor must find that by such fine or forfeiture “an injustice [is] done, or great hardship suffered.”

According to the statute, applications for relief must include a statement of facts in the case, signed by the judge or prosecuting attorney, and a certificate from the clerk that all costs have been paid. The governor then files his decision in the case, along with the supporting documentation, with the secretary of state.

Container List

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1	2	1941-1944	Correspondence

Subject Files, 1941

Extent: 2 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

Contains various topical files.

Container List

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
3	27	No date	Masonic Scottish Rite list
3	28	April 14, 1944	Forrest C. Donnell, Jefferson City, Cole County to Thomas Brennan, Jersey City, New Jersey; thank you for writing

Washington County, 1941-1944

Extent: 5 folders

Arrangement: Correspondence arranged chronologically. Reports are chronological, then alphabetical by committee name.

Scope and Content

Chaired by Episcopal Bishop William Scarlett of Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis, the Washington County Tiff Mining committee investigated the problems of poverty and underdevelopment in Washington County. The mandate was expanded to cover the effects of wartime industrial development.

This series contains correspondence and reports. Correspondence is filed together followed by the reports. Reports covered relief distribution, economic aid, education, and reforestation.

Select folders in this series were renumbered. The original number is indicated within parenthesis.

Container List

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1	6 (5)	1941-1944	Correspondence
1	10	1941	Reports: Committee on Health, Welfare and Housing; Committee on Reforestation; Committee on Labor
1	7 (6)	June 30, 1941	Report, General Planning Committee
1	8	July 1, 1941	Report, Committee on Economic Application
1	9	July 1, 1941	Report, Committee on Education