

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid 5.38

### Office of Secretary of State

### Wilson Bell, 1945-1947

---

*Abstract:* Records (1940-1946) of Secretary of State Wilson Bell (1897-1947).

*Extent:* 8 folders.

*Record Description:* Paper.

*Alternative Formats:* None.

*Location:* Missouri State Archives.

### Administrative Information

*Access Restrictions:* No special restrictions.

*Publication Restrictions:* Copyright is in the public domain. Items reproduced for online or physical publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.

*Preferred Citation:* [Item description], [Date]; [Box and Folder] OR [Volume and Page]; [Series]; Office of Secretary of State, Wilson Bell, 1945-1947; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Acquisition Information:* Agency transfer. Accession Number 2018-0026.

*Processing Information:* Processing completed by MKS February 14, 2018. Finding aid updated by Hunter Staskevich on August 29, 2024.

### Historical and Biographical Notes

Wilson Bell was born on May 24, 1897 in Potosi, Missouri. He attended the University of Missouri, Columbia. He enlisted in the Army on August 15, 1918 and served in the United States Army. He served as the treasurer of Washington County, and was active in the Democratic Party. Wilson Bell edited and published *The Independent-Journal*. In 1940 he was elected to the State Treasurer's Office. He was elected as Secretary of State

in 1944. Wilson Bell died while serving his only term as Secretary of State on May 20, 1947. He was succeeded in office by Edgar C. Nelson

Wilson Bell married Margaret Mary Settle in 1918. The couple had two daughters. Margaret Bell died on February 20, 1971.

## **Additional Descriptive Information**

### **Bibliography**

*Official Manual of the State of Missouri* (Jefferson City, MO: Office of Secretary of State, legislative years, 1945-1946), pp. 31.

### **Related Material**

RG3.41 Governor Phillip Matthew Donnelly, 1945-1949  
RG000.005 Secretary of State, State Documents

### **Series**

The records are organized into the following series:

Correspondence, 1946  
Personnel Records, 1940-1945

## Correspondence, 1946

*Extent:* 2 folders

*Arrangement:* Chronological

### Scope and Content

This series contains correspondence with other state government officials.

### Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	6	Re: Official Manual (Attorney General opinion and letter to state agencies)	July 23, 1945
1	6a	Correspondence from Senator P.M. Marr	November 12, 1946

## Personnel Records, 1940-1945

*Extent:* 7 folders

*Arrangement:* Alphabetical

### Scope and Content

Personnel records and correspondence relating to staffing the Secretary of State's office. Includes files of State Treasurer's Office employees from Wilson Bell's time as the State Treasurer.

### Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	7	Esther Downs Bishop	1944
1	8	T. D. Shriver	1944
1	9	Hulda Taylor	1945
1	10	Hugh Williams	1945
1	11	Margaret Wall	1941
1	12	Walter Wallace	1940-1941
1	13	Lillian Williams	1941