

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid [998.002]

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### MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

#### Governor Sam A. Baker Collection

*Abstract:* Miscellaneous items relating to the administration of Baker as Governor of Missouri and various other public offices, 1897-1955.

*Extent:* 1/4 cubic foot

*Physical Description:* Paper, 35mm film, photographs and ephemera

*Location:* Missouri State Archives; Stacks

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

*Alternative Formats:* PDFs or TIFFs of most items

*Access Restrictions:* None

*Publication Restrictions:* Standard copyright rules apply

*Preferred Citation:* [item description], [date]; *Governor Sam A. Baker Collection*, Record Group 998.002; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Acquisition Information:* Gifts; Accession #1970-0012, #1973-0061 & #1974-0001

*Processing Information:* Processing completed by EW on 12/05/2016.

### HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Samuel Aaron Baker was born on November 7, 1874 in Patterson, Wayne County to Mary Amanda McGhee Baker. His father, also Samuel Aaron Baker, was a physician who died before Baker's birth. Baker contributed to the family coffers on a full-time basis and attended Mill Spring School periodically. He worked his way through Southeast Missouri State Teachers College in Cape Girardeau and in 1887 earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pedagogy (Education). He later earned another Bachelor's degree from Missouri Wesleyan College in Cameron, Clinton County. On June 1, 1904, Baker married Nelle Rose Tuckley in Jefferson City, Cole County. The couple had one daughter.

Baker's career in educational administration began in 1897 when he was appointed superintendent of public schools in Piedmont, Wayne County. He also served as principal at Jefferson City High School (1899-1905) and Joplin High School (1905-1910) and was superintendent of Richmond, Cay County public schools from 1910 to 1913. Baker returned to Jefferson City in 1913 as superintendent of schools. He served as Missouri Superintendent of Schools from 1918 to 1922.

Baker gained the Republican nomination for governor in 1924 and defeated Arthur W. Nelson. He was sworn in as Missouri's 36<sup>th</sup> governor on January 12, 1925. During the first year of his administration, the State Board of Agriculture was given control over the Department of Forestry and the state park system was expanded. (Sam A. Baker State Park in Wayne County is named for him and dedicated in 1955.) In 1926, Missouri voters approved the workmen's compensation referendum. The departments of labor and industrial inspection were combined in 1927, the crippled children service began at the University of Missouri hospital in Columbia, the state board of chiropractic examiners was established, and the native bluebird was adopted as the state bird.

On January 14, 1929, Baker returned to private life in Jefferson City. He served as president of the Missouri State Teachers Association and vice president of the National Education Association. Baker suffered a series of paralytic strokes from which he died on September 16, 1933 in Jefferson City. He is interred in Riverview Cemetery, Jefferson City, Missouri.

*(Historical and Biographical Notes copied from Finding Aid RG3.36 by SB)*

## ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

### Related Collections

RG3.36 Samuel Aaron Baker, 1925-1929  
RG000.003 Office of the Governor State Documents Collection

### Additional External Resources

None

## SERIES

Sam A. Baker Documents and Photographs, 1897-1955

### Scope and Content

This series contains personal records, news clippings, and photographs relating to Governor Baker. They were collected and donated to the Archives by Baker's daughter Mary Elisabeth Baker.

\*Items have been digitized and are on Manuscript DVD #1 in the Reference Room.

### Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	1	none	Sam A. Baker's bible, given to him by his mother in 1898; this is the bible upon which he took his oath of office (**See note at bottom of table**)	c1898
	1	1	Fringed leather bookmark with initials SAB	
	OB1	2*	News clipping from the <u>Kansas City Star</u> : "The Romance in the Rise of the Newly Elected Governor of Missouri" and "When Coolidge and Baker Met"	11/16/1924
	OB1	2*	News clipping from the <u>Chicago Sunday Tribune</u> : "The Governors of Uncle Sam's 48 States"	10/16/1927
	1	2*	Clipping from <u>The Missouri School Journal</u> , p. 110: "The First Lady of Missouri and Her Daughter"	April 1926
	OB1	2	Family Tree of Josephus Perrin as made by Edna Brooks Kinkead	1928
	1	3	Inaugural Address of Governor Sam A. Baker to the Fifty-Third General Assembly of Missouri	01/12/1925
	OB1	2*	Certificates of Election for Sam A. Baker: a) as Superintendent of Public Schools and b) as Governor of Missouri	12/10/1918 and 12/20/1924
	OB1	2*	Bachelor of Scientific Didactics from Missouri State Normal School Third District Cape Girardeau Diploma	06/09/1897
	1	4*	a) Oath of Office for Superintendent of Public Schools and b) Oath of Office for Governor	01/13/1919 01/12/1925
	1	5*	Letter of Appreciation to Governor Baker from 47 State Department Heads and Commission Appointees	12/28/1928
	1	6*	Photograph of Baker and the State Department Heads and Commission Appointees	12/28/1928
	1	7*	Two prints of Gubernatorial Candidate Sam A. Baker's Portrait as taken by Carl Deeg in Jefferson City	c1924
	OB4	none*	Plaque stating "Presented by the Burger Engraving Company of Kansas City to Sam A. Baker, Thirty Seventh Governor of the State of Missouri, at his inauguration Jan. 12 <sup>th</sup> 1925. This is the master copper halftone engraving from which his pictures were printed during his primary and election campaigns."	01/12/1925

	1	8*	Photograph of Dr. S.M. Sayman presented to Governor Baker on 12/25/1928. Sayman is standing next to dead deer and ducks and his hunting dogs.	1922
	1	9	a) Photograph of Mary Elisabeth Baker (Baker's daughter) and Mrs. Sam A. Baker in the State Park Board Office with the dedication plaque for Sam A. Baker State Park. Photo by Robert E. Brown of Jefferson City. b) Photograph of the dedication plaque mounted on a rock for Sam A. Baker State Park with Mrs. Hugh Bisplinghoff (Baker's sister), Miss Mary Elisabeth Baker, and Mrs. Sam A. Baker. Photo by Brown of Jefferson City.	04/05/1955 and 05/15/1955
	Drawer 3	2	Poster for the Dedication of Sam A. Baker State Park	1955

\*\*This bible was also used by Governor Eric Greitens during his inauguration ceremony on January 9, 2017 when taking his oath of office. As part of the preparation for the ceremony, the bible was treated in the Conservation Lab and given special housing.

## SERIES

Sam A. Baker Film, 1925-1928

### Scope and Content

This series contains one reel of film. The film has not been digitized, and access is restricted.

### Container List

Location	Contents	Date
	DuPont-Pathé newsreel showing Governor Sam A. Baker's administration. Title screen reads, "Governor Sam A. Baker Keeps Busy at Capitol: Missouri Executive Spends Strenuous Summer at His Desk Caring for Official Duties."	1925-1928