

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid RG 998.002

Manuscript Collection

Governor Sam A. Baker Collection

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

Extent: 0.25 Cubic ft.

Record Description: Paper; 35mm film; photographs; ephemera.

Alternative Formats: .PDFs or .TIFs of most items and .MP4 and .MOV of the film.

Location: Missouri State Archives.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

Publication Restrictions: Some files may contain copyrighted material. Researchers bear sole responsibility for following applicable copyright laws.

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [Date]; [Box and Folder]; [Series]; Governor Sam A. Baker Collection, Record Group 998.002; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Donations with Deeds of Gift; Accession Numbers 1970-0012, 1973-0061 & 1974-0001.

Processing Information: Processing completed by Erika Woehlk on 12/05/2016. Finding aid last updated by EW on 01/09/2024.

Historical and Biographical Notes

Quoted from Finding Aid RG3.36 by Sharon Brock:

“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 36th 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."

Additional Descriptive Information

Related Material

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

Series

The records are organized into the following series:

Documents and Photographs, 1897-1955
Film, 1927-1928

Documents and Photographs, 1897-1955

Extent: Just under ¼ Cubic Feet

Arrangement: None

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 Kinhead	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 th 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.

Film, 1927-1928

Extent: Two reels of 35mm film

Arrangement: N/a

Scope and Content

Close-ups of Gov. Baker at his desk and outside on the Capitol steps mixed with exterior shots of the Capitol Building. The Archives contracted with George Blood, LP to digitize this film and it is now available to the public as an .MP4. The Archives also maintains a .MOV preservation copy.

Watch the film on the Missouri State Archives YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efP2dUTRI1Q>.

Container List

Location	Box	Contents	Date
	1 & T343	<i>Governor Sam A. Baker Keeps Busy at Capitol: Missouri Executive Spends Strenuous Summer at His Desk Caring for Official Duties</i> by DuPont-Pathé. 1927-1928. 35mm. Run time 03:05. (See the Master Motion Picture Index for additional specifications.) (2 copies)	1927-1928
		Digital copies (.MP4 and .MOV) of the film	11/15/2023