

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [998.441]

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Alfred A. Speer Capitol Collection

Abstract: Alfred A. Speer was one of four men leading the Capitol Dedication Ceremony Committee in 1924. The Committee was under the auspices of the Missouri Capitol Commission. This collection contains Speer's correspondence, newspaper clippings, publications, and notes regarding the Ceremony, which was held in Jefferson City on October 6, 1924.

Extent: 1/3 Cubic Foot

Physical Description: Paper; Photographs;

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: None

Access Restrictions: None

Publication Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [date]; *Alfred A. Speer Capitol Collection*, Record Group 998.441; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift with deed. Accession #1999-0026

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BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Alfred A. Speer (1858-1935) served on the Capitol Dedication Committee in 1924. The Committee organized the Dedication Ceremonies, which took place on October 6, 1924 in Jefferson City. The Capitol Dedication Pageant was divided into five parts: a prologue and four epochs.

Prologue:

Features a woman dressed as the “Spirit of Jefferson City” accompanied by the four epoch queens and a children’s choir.

Epoch One: Epoch of the Pioneer

Picturing the early settling of the Louisiana and Missouri Territories, presided over by Mrs. Herbert S. Hadley, wife of the former Governor.

Epoch Two: Epoch of Development

Showing the growth of the state after settlement, presided over by Mrs. Elliott W. Major, wife of the current Governor.

Epoch Three: Epoch of the World War

Depiction of war scenes, presided by Mrs. Frederick D. Gardner.

Epoch Four: Epoch of Progress

An attempt to exhibit the rapid strides toward a greater civilization that have been taken in the past few years, presided by Mrs. Arthur M. Hyde.

Rain, thunder, and lightning cut the Pageant short at the end of Epoch Three. The Pageant closed with a fireworks display.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION**Related Collections**

MS006 Edwin William Stephens Collection
 MS013 Theodore Lacaff Diaries
 MS027 Thomas Garfield Cooper Photograph Collection
 MS066 Peter Herman Rackers Photograph Collection
 MS111 Ralph Miller Capitol Fire Photograph Collection
 MS163 Blanche Leach Capitol Dedication Scrapbook
 MS268 New Capitol Day Collection
 MS284 Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce Chairman Portraits
 MS313 Van Gundy Photograph Collection
 MS314 Tom Sater Capital City Collection
 MS321 James C. Worth Photograph Collection
 RG395 State Capitol Commission Board
 RG395 State Capitol Commission Photographs
 RG396 Capitol Decoration Commission

Found in Archives RG000.106 Department of Higher Education State Documents Collection:

Shoemaker, Floyd C. “Dedication of Missouri’s Capitol, October 6, 1924.” Missouri Historical Review. Vol. 19 No. 2 January 1925: pp. 300-303.

Additional External Resources

The State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia maintains the following collections:

[#C0216 Missouri State labor Council, AFL-CIO, Records, 1891-1975](#)

[#C2417 John M. Dalton Papers, 1921-1965](#)

[#C2582 University of Missouri President's Office Papers, 1892-1966](#)

[#C3300 Thomas B. Curtis Papers, 1950-1969](#)

SERIES

Publications and Newspaper Clippings, 1917-1924

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

This series contains research materials, newspaper clippings, and articles regarding the Capitol Dedication Ceremony. The Ceremony was held on October 6, 1924.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	202	15	<u>Flood Lighting the National Capitol</u> , published by Edison Lamp Works, Harrison, NJ. Booklet on General Electric's installation of floodlights at the Capitol, used for the first time in a Presidential inauguration ceremony in March 1917 for Woodrow Wilson. Includes an 8"x10" b&w photograph of the U.S. Capitol Building illuminated at night.	1917
	202	16	<u>The Missouri Association</u> newsletter, Vol. II No. 10. Contains an article, "Queen Selection for the Capitol Dedication: Your County's Opportunity for Active Representation." (2 copies)	July 1924
	202	17	<u>The Missouri Association</u> newsletter, Vol. II No. 11. Contains articles on the Capitol and its upcoming dedication. Article contains a two-page spread of photographs. Newsletter has water damage.	September 1924
	202	18	<u>The Missouri Association</u> newsletter, Vol. II No. 12. Contains articles and photographs on the Capitol Dedication ceremony. (2 copies)	October 1924
	202	19	Photocopies of numerous newspaper clippings concerning the Capitol Dedication.	1924

SERIES

Capitol Dedication Day Printed Materials, 1924

Scope and Content

These are materials printed for the Dedication Ceremony itself, which was on October 6, 1924.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	202	20	Formal Capitol Dedication Ceremony invitation to A.A. Speer, including envelope.	10/06/1924
	202	21	Platform ticket to the Missouri State Capitol Dedication Ceremony. (2 copies)	10/06/1924
	202	22	Official Souvenir Program Missouri State Capitol Dedication, Monday, October 6, 1924, Jefferson City. (2 copies)	10/06/1924

SERIES

Correspondence and Notes, 1924

Arrangement: Chronological, Then by Topic

Scope and Content

This series contains correspondence to and from the Capitol Dedication Committee, which is under the auspices of the Missouri Capitol Commission. The correspondence is largely from A.A. Speer. Original order was kept; half was arranged chronologically, the other half by topic. Most items are on onionskin paper. Beginning in July 1924, most of the chronological correspondence folders contain original letters by Blanche Leach (aka Mrs. Frank Leach), the director of the Dedication Day Pageant. All materials concern the Capitol Dedication, which was held on October 6, 1924.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	202	23	Correspondence by date	April 1924
	202	24	Correspondence by date	May 1924
	202	25	Correspondence by date	June 1924
	202	26	Correspondence by date	July 1924
	202	27	Correspondence by date	August 1-14, 1924
	202	28	Correspondence by date	August 15-30, 1924
	202	29	Correspondence by date	September 1-16, 1924
	204	1	Correspondence by date	September 17-30, 1924
	204	2	Correspondence by date	October 1924
	204	3	Correspondence: Andy Gump (character actor portraying the noted comic strip character)	September 1924
	204	4	Correspondence: Finance-related	Aug. 6-Sept. 23, 1924
	204	5	Correspondence: Finance-related	Sept. 24-Oct. 18, 1924
	204	6	Correspondence: Homing Pigeons (Carrier Pigeons)	Sept.-Nov. 1924

SERIES

Miscellaneous Materials, 1916-1924

Scope and Content

This series contains notes hand-written by A.A. Speer, draft outlines for the Capitol Dedication Ceremony pageant, and other miscellaneous materials.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	204	7	Draft outlines for the Capitol Dedication pageant	1924
	204	8	Sample articles by the Republican State Press Bureau regarding the pageant and Republican politics	09/25/1924
	204	9	Biography of Col. John Thornton written by Theodosia Thornton Lawson	September 1924
	204	10	Hand-written notes and committee assignments	1924
	204	11	Photographs of other states' capitol buildings or government buildings: 1) Capitol of Wisconsin at night illuminated with G.E. flood lighting projectors, by McKillop, 10/28/1916 2) City Hall in Plymouth, MA illuminated with G.E. floodlighting projectors, 07/18/1916 3) City Hall in Waterbury, CT, illuminated at night, no date 4) State House in Boston, MA, illuminated at night, no date	1916