

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid 552.26

LEGISLATOR PAPERS

FRED SPEARMAN, 1925-1932, 1937-1944, 1954-1955

Abstract: Papers (1918-1961) of Missouri House Representative Fred Spearman. This collection contains various documents highlighting aspects of Fred Spearman's legislative career and personal life.

Extent: .1 cubic ft. (1 partial Hollinger box).

Record Description: Paper and photographs.

Alternative Formats: Two original photographs were digitized and are available to view as TIFF images. Originals were returned to donor.

Location: Missouri State Archives.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: No restrictions.

Publication Restrictions: Copyright is in the public domain for state publications and for correspondence from Spearman in his official capacity. Researchers bear sole responsibility for following applicable copyright laws.

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [Date]; [Box and Folder] OR [Volume and Page]; Fred Spearman; Legislator Papers, Record Group 552; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Donation with deed of gift. Accession 2023-0109.

Processing Information: Processing completed by Hunter Staskevich on April 25, 2023.

Historical and Biographical Notes

Representative Fred Spearman, born July 23, 1880, served the residents of Miller County during his career. He married Eunice Hutsler and had four children, Juanita, Dorothy,

Freddie, and Betty Lou. He served with the United States Marine Corps in World War I from June 1918 to August 1919 in the European theater.

Spearman was first elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 1924 and would go on to serve nine terms (1925-1932, 1937-1944, 1953). Spearman was highly involved in a number of committees throughout his tenure including: Permanent Seat of Government, Roads and Highways, Teachers' Colleges, Township Organization and County Boundaries, Fish and Game, Appropriations, Federal Relations, Justices of the Peace, Workmen's Compensation, Agriculture, Military Affairs, Purchasing Supplies, Taxation and Revenue, Miscellaneous Resolutions, Municipal Corporations, Private Corporations, Aviation and Naval Affairs, Constitutional Amendments and Redistricting, Forestry, Conservation, Criminal Justice and Costs, Ways and Means. He also served as chairman for the Military Affairs and Civilian Defense, Criminal Costs, and Private Corporations committees for specific General Assemblies.

One of his crowning legislative achievements was obtaining funding for a bridge in Tuscumbia (replacing a swinging toll bridge) as well as additional improvements on Highway 17 and promoting the creation of farm to market roads. Spearman was also involved in the discussions regarding the building of Bagnell Dam by Union Electric.

Additional Descriptive Information

Bibliography

Official Manual of the State of Missouri (Jefferson City, MO: Office of Secretary of State, various publication dates, and legislative years).

Memoir, 1961; Box 1, Folder 6; Fred Spearman; Legislator Papers, Record Group 552; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Other Finding Aids

RG 5.08 Session Laws

Related Material

Copy of the August 19, 1937 Iberia Sentinel from the Miller County Museum and Historical Society: www.millercountymuseum.org/homesteads/spearman.html

Series

The records are organized into the following series:

Certificates, 1930-1952
Election Results, 1926-1937
Identification Ephemera, 1949-1954

Letters, 1924-1961
Memoir and Biographical Information, 1961
Photographs, 1918 and undated
Speeches, 1929-1932 (approx.)

Certificates, 1930-1952

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Series contains governmental documents such as Certificates of Election that contain a government seal certifying the appointment.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	1	Certificate of Election	1930
1	1	Certificate of Election	1938
1	1	Public Notary Commission	1950
1	1	Certificate of Nomination	1952

Election Results, 1926-1937

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Contains voter count reports from the Iberia Sentinel regarding election results. Also in this series is the 1937 inauguration program.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	2	Primary Election Results, Miller County	1926
1	2	Primary Election Results, Miller County	1928
1	2	General Election Results, Miller County	1930
1	3	Inauguration Program	1937

Identification Ephemera, 1949-1954

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Series contains various identification documentation including business cards, organization membership cards, and a W2 (no Social Security number)

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	4	Personal business cards (3 copies)	Undated
1	4	Lodge membership card	1952
1	4	General Assembly membership card	1953
1	4	W2	1949

Letters, 1924-1961

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Series contains letters to Fred Spearman along with a condolence letter to his wife after his passing.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	5	Letter from J.T. Williams to Fred Spearman	December 31, 1924
1	5	Letter from Veterans Administration to Fred Spearman	August 26, 1935
1	5	Letter from Jefferson Barracks to Eunice Spearman	January 9, 1961

Memoir and Biographical Information, 1961

Extent: 2 folders

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Series contains the transcribed oral history of Fred Spearman done by his family prior to his death. The memoir itself discuss some family history including the movement of the family across the county, eventually settling in Missouri; a detailed account of his legislative career and the issues he pursued while in office; and some remarks about his family and overall personal life. A copy of the obituary for both Fred and Eunice Spearman is also located in this series.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	6	Memoir	Undated
1	7	Obituary	Circa 1961

Photographs, undated, 1918

Extent: 1 folder and 2 digital images

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Series contains several photos encompassing various periods in Spearman's life. Two images are only available as digital images.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	8	Spearman with car	Undated
1	8	Spearman with his wife Eunice	Undated
1	8	Spearman posing with fish	Undated
1	8	Spearman in suit	Undated
Digital		Spearman in his office with two unidentified men	Undated
Digital		Spearman saluting at Paris Island marine camp	1918

Speeches, 1929-1932 (approx.)

Extent: 2 folders

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

This series contains various typewritten speeches and drafts of speeches made by Fred Spearman. The speeches generally are made to Miller county residents with the intention of informing them of the legislative agenda of the General Assembly. The drafts are not dated but use letterhead indicating they were created during the 56th General Assembly dating them between 1931-1932.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	9	Radio address over WOS to Miller county residents (2 copies)	May 13, 1929
1	10	Speech drafts covering various topics such as highway construction and improvement, bridge creation in Miller county, topics regarding the Bagnell Dam, and general reporting on the General Assembly	Undated