

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid 3.34

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### OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### FREDERICK DOZIER GARDNER, 1917-1921

*Abstract:* Records (1917, 1919-1920) of Governor Frederick Dozier Gardner (1869-1933) contain correspondence.

*Extent:* 1 folder

*Physical Description:* Paper

*Location:* MSA stacks

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

*Access Restrictions:* No special restrictions.

*Publication Restrictions:* Copyright is in the public domain.

*Required Citation:* [Item description], [date]; Frederick Dozier Gardner, 1917-1921, Record Group 3.34; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Processing Information:* Processing completed by Sharon E. Brock on August 13, 2014.

### HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Frederick Dozier Gardner was born on November 6, 1869 in Hickman, Kentucky to William H. Gardner and Mary Ellen Dozier. Gardner attended public schools in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Gardner moved to St. Louis in 1887 where he obtained employment with the St. Louis Coffin Company as an office boy. He was promoted to bookkeeper and, by the age of 25, Gardner owned controlling stock in the company. In 1898, Gardner created the Memphis Casket Company and served as chairman of the board. He married Jeanette Vosburgh on October 10, 1894 in St. Louis and the couple had three children.

In 1913, Gardner served on the St. Louis Board of Freeholders which framed a new charter for the city. His 1916 campaign for governor focused on four issues: establish an agricultural land-credit system, balance the budget, reform the penal system, and improve Missouri roads. On November 7, 1916, Gardner defeated Judge Henry Lamm and was sworn in on January 8, 1917 as Missouri's 34<sup>th</sup> governor.

Created by Governor Gardner, the Missouri Council of Defense oversaw the state's home front response following the formal declaration of war against Germany on April 6, 1917. Over a million Missourians signed Hoover Food Pledge cards which asked Americans to increase food production and to conserve food for the war effort. Missouri ranked second in the nation in total number of signees.

His administration inherited a \$2.5 million debt from the previous governor. Gardner pushed six tax increases (corporation franchise tax, income tax, general inheritance tax, secured debt tax, soft drink inspection tax, and wholesale liquor dealers tax) through the General Assembly. The Missouri Supreme Court ruled the secured debt tax unconstitutional on October 8, 1921. The governor vetoed appropriations in excess of estimated revenue. When he left office on January 7, 1921, Missouri was out of debt.

Other accomplishments of the Gardner administration included the consolidation of the state penal system under one bipartisan body (State Prison Board) in 1917. The board not only improved efficiency, but also made the system self-supporting. The State Highway Commission was established by legislative act in 1916 and in 1920, a bond issue funded by automobile license fees was proposed as a constitutional amendment which Missouri voters approved. Additionally, the 18<sup>th</sup> (Prohibition of alcohol) and 19<sup>th</sup> Amendments (Women's suffrage) to the U. S. Constitution were ratified by the Missouri legislature in 1919.

On January 10, 1921, Governor Gardner retired to private life in St. Louis and immersed himself in business affairs. He died in St. Louis on December 18, 1933. Gardner is interred in Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis.

## ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

### Bibliography

Carnahan, Jean. *If Walls Could Talk: the Story of Missouri's First Families* (Jefferson City, Mo.: Missouri Mansion Preservation, Incorporated, 1995), pp. 168-177.

Christensen, Lawrence O., et al. *Dictionary of Missouri Biography* (Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1999), pp. 330-331.

*National Governor's Association*, Governor's Information—Frederick Dozier Gardner (on-line) <http://www.nga.org>

Shoemaker, Floyd Calvin. *Missouri and Missourians: Land of Contrasts and People of Achievements* (Chicago, Ill.: Lewis Publishing Company, 1943), volume II, pp. 280-298.

## RECORDS, 1917, 1919-1920

*Extent:* 1 folder

*Arrangement:* Chronological

### Scope and Content

Limited appointment correspondence comprises this series.

### Container List

| Location | Box | Folder | Date              | Contents                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------|-----|--------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1B/1/5   | 1   | 5      | January 11, 1917  | William H. Pauling Emrich, Paris, France; commissioner of deeds for Missouri residing in France requests reappointment; includes application form and oath of office                      |
| 1B/1/5   | 1   | 5      | October 20, 1919  | Louis E. Trieseler, St. Louis; resignation from the General Assembly, 2 <sup>nd</sup> District; includes note from the governor accepting resignation on December 12, 1919                |
| 1B/1/5   | 1   | 5      | October 21, 1919  | Secretary to the Governor, Jefferson City, Cole County to Louis E. Trieseler, St. Louis; receipt of resignation                                                                           |
| 1B/1/5   | 1   | 5      | December 12, 1919 | Secretary to the Governor, Jefferson City, Cole County to Louis E. Trieseler, St. Louis; governor has accepted resignation; includes filing note by John Leo Sullivan, secretary of state |

|        |   |   |                  |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------|---|---|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1B/1/5 | 1 | 5 | January 14, 1920 | Irl T. Oliver, Kansas City, Jackson County; resignation from Missouri State Board of Embalming; includes note from governor accepting resignation on February 1, 1920 |
|--------|---|---|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|