

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid 3.39

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LLOYD CROW STARK, 1937-1941

Abstract: Records (1939-1941) of Governor Lloyd Crow Stark (1886-1972) include correspondence and a report.

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]; Lloyd Crow Stark, 1937-1941, Record Group 3.39; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Processing Information: Processing completed by Sharon E. Brock on August 19, 2014.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Lloyd Crow Stark was born in Louisiana, Pike County on November 23, 1886 to Clarence McDowell Stark and Lillie Crow. He attended Pike County public schools and Western Military School in Alton, Illinois. In 1904, Congressman James Beauchamp Clark appointed Stark to the U. S. Naval Academy. After graduation, he served in the Navy until 1912 and then returned to Pike County. He married Margaret Pearson Stickney of Baltimore on November 11, 1908. She died in 1930 and in 1931, Stark married Katherine Lemoine Perkins.

In 1912, he became general manager of Stark Brothers Nursery Company, in 1914 was elected president of the Mississippi Valley Apple Growers Association, and in 1919 was

elected president of the American Association of Nurserymen. During World War I Stark joined the U. S. Army and commanded the Second Battalion, 315th Field Artillery. His unit fought in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives in northern France. He returned to the family business after the war.

Stark expanded the family business and Stark Brothers Nursery profits quadrupled. By the 1930s, more than 22,000 worked for the nursery and Stark became one of the most influential businessmen in Missouri. Stark served as general chairman of the Citizen's Road Committee which backed the successful 1928 constitutional amendment to fund the Missouri highway system. During this campaign, he became acquainted with Tom Pendergast.

On November 3, 1936, Stark was elected governor. He was sworn in on January 11, 1937 as Missouri's 39th governor. During his administration, the Ellis Fischel State Cancer Hospital was constructed in Columbia, a merit system was established for the selection of state employees and the state budget was balanced. Stark is most remembered for the destruction of the Pendergast political machine. The governor initiated investigations into Pendergast interference and voting fraud in the 1936 election, removed a Pendergast backed appointee as superintendent of the Missouri Insurance Department, and backed an anti-Pendergast candidate for the Missouri Supreme Court. Stark gained control of the Kansas City Police Board in April 1939 and Pendergast was indicted in federal court for income tax evasion the same month.

After an unsuccessful attempt to unseat Harry S. Truman in the U. S. Senate, Stark retired from politics and in 1940 returned to rural life in northeast Missouri. Stark died on September 17, 1972 in Clayton, St. Louis County and is interred in Riverview Cemetery in Louisiana, Pike County.

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.226-237.

Christensen, Lawrence O., et al. *Dictionary of Missouri Biography* (Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1999), pp. 715-716.

National Governor's Association, Governor's Information—Lloyd Crow Stark (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. 375-396.

Related Material

State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia holds the following manuscript collections and additional references to Governor Stark:

- C0004 Lloyd Crow Stark (1886-1972) Papers, 1931-1941
170 linear feet of materials pertaining to official business, campaigns, and personal affairs.
- C293 Lloyd Crow Stark (1886-1972) papers, 1941-1972
1.9 linear feet of materials including personal and family correspondence, nursery and agricultural business records and miscellaneous photographs.
- P0310 Catharine Stark Photographs 1 folder
Photographs of Lloyd C. Stark and associates from the U. S. Army and Naval Academy classmates.

Missouri History Museum, St. Louis holds the Governor Lloyd C. Stark of Missouri Scrapbook, 1941.

University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville holds the Papers of Frank Bane, 1936-1966. Business papers which include correspondence with Lloyd Crow Stark.

RECORDS, 1939-1941

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Chronological and thereunder alphabetical.

Scope and Content

This folder contains both original handwritten copies and typescript copies of correspondence from Attorney General Edward Coke Crow. Also includes correspondence from the governor to Secretary of State Dwight Huber Brown and to other individuals.

Last item in the folder is a 19 page detailed examination of public printing in Missouri and recommendations for improvement.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1B/1/5	1	10	March 10, 1939	Edward Coke Crow, location unknown; former attorney general writes about the Noel Patterson case who while out on bail for one crime committed another and skipped bail; Virginia M. Peyton (also known as Vinita)
1B/1/5	1	10	March 15, 1939	Edward Coke Crow to Mrs. Powell; handling instructions for enclosed documents
1B/1/5	1	10	March 15, 1939	Lloyd Crow Stark, Jefferson City, Cole County to Dwight Huber Brown, Jefferson City, Cole County; the governor send his decision in the Patterson case to the Missouri secretary of state; governor refused to release Virginia M. Peyton from paying the \$2000 surety bond
1B/1/5	1	10	December 1, 1939	Miss Barton to Edward Coke Crow; enclosing Peyton documents

1B/1/5	1	10	March 2, 1940	Ray Maybee, Unionville, Putnam County; wants the governor made known of the facts in the case should the governor wish to revisit his decision
1B/1/5	1	10	March 4, 1940	Miss Barton to Edward Coke Crow; enclosing letter from State Senator Ray Mabee pertaining to Virginia Peyton
1B/1/5	1	10	March 19, 1940	Edward Coke Crow, Jefferson City, Cole County; encloses copy of letter to the governor, written to Judge Paul Van Osdol, Brookfield
1B/1/5	1	10	March 19, 1940	Paul Van Osdol, Brookfield, Linn County; cannot recommend that the forfeiture of bond be remitted; will not question any decision the governor makes
1B/1/5	1	10	March 19, 1940	Lloyd Crow Stark, Jefferson City, Cole County to Paul Van Osdol, Brookfield, Linn County; renewal of petition for remitter has been made in the Patterson case; requests recommendation
1B/1/5	1	10	March 25, 1940	Frank Mattes, Jefferson City, Cole County; attorney representing Virginia Peyton requests a rehearing and a renewal of petition for remitter; includes facts of the case
1B/1/5	1	10	April 18, 1940	G. Derk Green, Marceline, Linn County; since the decision in 1939, Mrs. Peyton has paid \$1900 of the \$2000 owed; Green opposes any remitter
1B/1/5	1	10	May 8, 1940	Sallye W. Powell, Jefferson City, Cole County to Miss Jordan; includes multiple memoranda requesting that Edward Coke Crow inform the office of actions needed to be taken
1B/1/5	1	10	May 10, 1940	Edward Coke Crow, Jefferson City, Cole County; he is willing to conduct a new hearing in the Peyton matter if the governor does not have the time

1B/1/5	1	10	May 31, 1940	Lloyd Crow Stark, Jefferson City, Cole County to Frank Mattes, Jefferson City, Cole County; rehearing scheduled for June 5, 1940; governor will be represented by R. W. Russell
1B/1/5	1	10	January 6, 1941	Edward T. Miller, report to Governor Lloyd Crow Stark, procurement of public printing in the state of Missouri; includes recommendations for improvement