

ARCHIVES RECORD

RG0001
SG0029

Nebraska. Governor
McMullen, Adam, 1872-1959

Papers, etc.: 1899-1959

Cubic ft.: 7

Approx. No. of Items: 13 boxes and 44 oversize items

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Adam McMullen was born June 12, 1872 at Wellsville, New York, son of John H. McMullen. His family migrated to Nebraska when he was young. After graduating from Wymore High School in 1889, he attended the University of Nebraska. Following his graduation he became city editor of the Lincoln Evening Call due to his experience as a leader on the University newspaper. He left that position to become secretary to Congressman J. B. Strode and later, Sen. Charles H. Dietrich, in Washington, D.C. He received his law degree in 1899 and after returning to Nebraska was admitted to the state bar in 1902.

McMullen's career as a public official began when he was elected to the Nebraska House of Representatives in 1904. He served two terms and sponsored the direct primary election bill during that time. In 1915-1916 he gained fame as Wymore's "dry" mayor. He was a steadfast prohibitionist throughout his years in public office. From 1916 to 1920 he served as a member of the Wymore School board, the last two years as its president. He served as State Senator, 1917-1919 and in 1920 he tried unsuccessfully to obtain the Republican nomination for governor. He succeeded four years later and was elected over his Democratic opponent, J. N. Norton, in 1924.

During Governor McMullen's first term he established the gasoline tax as a permanent part of the state's fiscal policy for highway improvement. He eliminated a floating debt of \$5,000,000. He also became the first governor to occupy the executive offices of the new State Capitol. He was re-elected in 1926 and served as governor until 1929. He chose not to run for re-election and retired to his home in Beatrice.

In 1928, McMullen, as a delegate to the Republican National Convention, supported a strong agricultural plank, earning himself the respect and admiration of farmers. He returned to the convention in 1932. In that same year he was appointed postmaster of Beatrice and later indulged in managing his farms.

In 1940 McMullen re-entered the political scene and ran for the Republican nomination to the U.S. Senate. His sound defeat in the primary marked his last attempt at public office although he remained active in politics. In 1956 he opposed President Eisenhower's farm policy and supported the Democratic candidate.

McMullen belonged to several fraternal and civil organizations including the Masonic Lodge of Wymore, the York Rite of Beatrice, and the Scottish Rite and Seostis Temple of the Shrine in Lincoln. He received the 32nd degree in the Scottish Rite. The governor was also a charter member of the University of Nebraska chapter of Delta Tau Delta fraternity. In addition he was a member and vestryman of the Christ Episcopal Church of Beatrice. On March 2, 1959, Adam McMullen died at the age of 86. He was survived by his brother Paul and his wife, the former Cora Greenwood, of Wymore.

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ADDED ENTRIES:

AGRICULTURE

ARBOR LODGE (NEBRASKA CITY, NEB.)

BEATRICE (NEB.)--HISTORY

Blizzard Club--Nebraska

BRYAN, CHARLES W. (CHARLES WAYLAND), 1867-1945

Carter, Edward F.

Dalby, Dwight S. (Dwight Stout), 1878-

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (D.A.R.)--NEBRASKA

Delta Tau Delta Fraternity (Lincoln, Neb.)

EISENHOWER, DWIGHT D. (DWIGHT DAVID), 1890-1969

FARM RELIEF--Nebraska

GASOLINE TAX--NEBRASKA

Griswold, Dwight (Dwight Palmer), 1893-1954

Henry Field Company

HOMESTEAD NATIONAL PARK--NEBRASKA

Hoover, Herbert (Herbert Clark), 1874-1964

HOWELL, ROBERT B. (ROBERT BEECHER), 1864-1933

Jansen, Peter, 1852-1923

Lapidus, Harry, d.1932

McKelvie, Samuel R. (Samuel Roy), 1881-1956

MCMULLEN, CORA (GREENWOOD)

Meeker, David

MISSOURI RIVER

NEBRASKA HISTORY

NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

Newton, Jesse S.

North Central States Agricultural Conference

Norris, George W. (George William), 1861-1944

Peek, George

PIONEERS PARK (Lincoln, Neb.)

POLITICS

Republican State Central Committee

Roberts, Walton G.

Seaton, Fredrick (Fredrick Andrew), 1909-1974

Weaver, Arthur J., 1873-1945

WEEKES, W. H. (WILLIAM HERBERT), 1855-

WILSON, WOODROW (THOMAS WOODROW), 1856-1924

WYMORE (NEB.)--HISTORY

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This subgroup consists of both the official and personal papers of Adam McMullen arranged in seven series: 1) Governor's Correspondence, 1924-1929; 2) Topical and Divisional Correspondence, 1924-1928; 3) Miscellaneous Receipts, 1928; 4) Personal Correspondence, 1901-1958; 5) Personal Topical Files, 1895-1959; 6) Speeches and Miscellaneous, 1904-1955; and 7) Newspaper Clippings, 1906-1959.

The bulk of the subgroup consists of official correspondence of the Governor arranged in chronological and topical/departmental files, 1924-1929. Of particular interest is the correspondence relating to farm relief, agriculture and the gasoline tax. Also included is information on the development of the Missouri River and state parks in Nebraska. Prohibition administration is also a topic, including two cases involving liquor violations.

McMullen's personal correspondence relates to politics and his campaigns, as well as his property interests and farm business. Included is information on his investments and oil and mineral leases. McMullen rented his farms and business property in Beatrice. He also had interests in Kansas and Oklahoma. A good deal of his personal correspondence relates to politics, his views on agriculture and farm relief.

Many of the speeches are not identified as to where they were given. Clippings are mostly political in nature. Whole pages of interest to McMullen are shelved in oversize storage. McMullen was also a part of a campaign to encourage interest in Nebraska and its history. There are clippings related to Nebraska History and historical markers. There are a good deal of clippings relating to the Daughters of the American Revolution organization to which Cora McMullen belonged and was state regent at one time.

Correspondents include: Herbert Hoover, 1928-1930; George W. Norris, 1917-1942; Jesse S. Newton, 1920-1937; Dwight S. Dalbey, 1920-1927; Arthur J. Weaver, 1923-1933; Fredrick Seaton, 1952-1954; and Harry Lapidus, 1929-1932 (who was murdered in Omaha, Nebraska, 1932).

DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE GOVERNOR'S CORRESPONDENCE, 1924-1929

B.01 Nov. 1924 - 1929 & n.d.

SERIES TWO TOPICAL & DIVISIONAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1924-1928

B.01 Adjutant General
 Agriculture, 1925-1926
 Agricultural Conference, 1926
 All State Agricultural Advisory Committee (Corn Belt Committee), 1926-1928
 Agriculture, Department of, 1927-1928
 Farm Relief, 1926-1928
 Farm Relief -Clippings

SERIES TWO TOPICAL & DIVISIONAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1924-1928

- B.01 (cont) Agriculture (cont)
 Gasoline Tax
 North Central State Agricultural Conference, 1926-1927
 School of Agriculture - Curtis
 Appointments, Nov. - Dec. 1924
 Appointments and Resignations, 1925-1928
- B.02 Attorney General, 1927
 Board of Control, 1927-1928
 Breede, Adam, 1926
 Budget and Audit, 1927
 printed state budget, 1927
 Capitol Commission, 1924, 1927
 Capitol Building - Clippings
 Education, 1926-1928
 Executive Orders
 Fire Marshal
 Fish and Game Commission, 1924-1927
 Fish and Game clippings
 Governor's Conferences, 1925-1929
 Historical Society, 1927
 Immigration, 1926-1927
 Insurance Department, 1924-1927
 Invitations, 1925-1928
- B.03 Labor Department
 Law Enforcement - appointments, 1925
 Law Enforcement, 1927-1928
 Legislation, 1911-1928
 Legislative Reference Bureau, 1927
 Library, 1927-1929
 Liquor Permits, 1928-1929
 Missouri River
 Motor Vehicles, Dept of
 Normal School Board
 Pardons and Paroles, Brd of
 State Park Board
 Penitentiary
- B.04 Prohibition, 1924-1928
 Clippings
 Davis Case
 McGraw Case
 Public Welfare, Dept of
 Public Works, Dept of
 Public Works - clippings
 Railway Commission
 Secretary of State

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SERIES TWO TOPICAL & DIVISIONAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1924-1928

B.05 Tax Commissioner
 Trade and Commerce, Dept of
 Treasurer, State
 U. S. Dept of Commerce
 University of Nebraska
 Veterans
 Warehouse Licenses
 Water Resources

SERIES THREE MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS, 1928

(in box 5, Series Two) Receipts, 1928

SERIES FOUR MCMULLEN PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1901-1958

B.01 1901-1924
B.02 1925-1958 & n.d.

SERIES FIVE MCMULLEN PERSONAL TOPICAL FILES, 1895-1959

B.01 Beatrice Postmaster, 1932-1936
 Beta Tau (Delta Tau Delta), 1895-1950
 B.P.O.E., 1918-1932
 Blizzard Club, 1955-1958
 Congressmen and Senators, 1902-1952
 Dalbey, Dwight S., 1920-1927
 D.A.R. (Cora McMullen)
 Endorsements, 1920-1956
 Farm Business, 1925-1938
 Henry Field Company, 1930
 Financial, 1925-1939
 Governor's Conferences, 1930
 Homestead National Park, 1934
 Home Repairs and Construction, 1919, 1938
 Insurance, 1920-1929
 Jensen, Peter, 1916-1920
 Lapidus, Harry, 1929-1932
 Legislature, 1931

B.02 Masons, 1924-1932
 McKelvie, Samuel R., 1920
 Medical, 1919-1939
 Mineral and Oil Leases, 1925-1937
 Newton, Jesse S., 1920-1937

SERIES FIVE MCMULLEN PERSONAL TOPICAL FILES, 1895-1959

B.02 (cont) Norris, George W., 1917-1942
Pioneers Park, Lincoln, Neb., 1930
Real Estate, 1919-1939
Rental Properties, 1920-1939
Republican Party, 1902-1944
Rotary, 1920-1927
Speaking Invitations, 1920-1933
U.S. Army Quartermaster, 1918-1922
Weaver, Arthur J., 1923-1933
Wymore, Nebraska, 1915-1922

SERIES SIX SPEECHES AND MISCELLANEOUS, 1904-1955

B.01 Personal - Miscellaneous, 1904-1940
Campaign, 1926
McMullen - News Ads, n.d.
Obituaries and Memorials
Speeches
 Agriculture, n.d.
 Nebraska and the Governorship, n.d.
 Political Speeches
 Chronological Speeches
 1904-1905
 1920
 1922
 1924
 "Citizenship", 1924

Speeches, 1925-1927
"New Agricultural Policy," address Chicago, 1928
Des Moines Speech, Jan. 20, 1928
Speeches, 1928
Speeches, 1930
Speeches, 1953-1955
Speech on Wheat, c.1918

OD1-06C

f.1

Certificate, Adam McMullen to Mississippi Valley Association, 1929
Iowa - County and State officers, 1927-1928
State Highway System Maps (2), 1926
Certificate of appointment, Beatrice Postmaster, 1932

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SERIES SEVEN NEWS CLIPPINGS, 1906-1959

- B.01 Clippings
1906-1908
1914-1920
1920 Primary
1922
1922 Primary scrapbook
1924-1933
1924 Election clippings
1940-1949
1940 primary Scrapbook
1950-1959
n.d.
- B.02 Clippings and Miscellaneous
Agriculture
Bryan, Charles W.
Campaign Ads
D.A.R.
General News
Governors' Conferences
Historical Markers and Nebraska
Hoover, Herbert
Cora McMullen
McMullen - Personal, 1899-1936
Political Ad Invoices, 1918-1920
Norris, George W.
Republican Party clippings
Woodrow Wilson
World War I
- OB#1 (RG001)
f.2 Newspaper pages and issues
Beatrice Daily Express, July 6, 1922 (A-7)
"An Intimate View of Adam McMullen..."
Beatrice Daily Sun
May 3, 1945 (WWII)
Aug. 25, 1949 (Farm Plan)
Aug. 26, 1949, pp.3-6
Beatrice Weekly Times
Oct. 20, 1904, p.2 (Republican Candidates)
May 9, 1945 (Victory Day, WWII)
Campaign posters, 1924
LABOR, Washington, D.C., Mar. 24, 1928 (political)
Lincoln Journal and Star
Sunday Star, Sec. H, p.1, Jan. 22, 1928 (crop record)
State Journal, Jan. 3, 1929, p.11
(McMullen parting message to Legislature)
Evening State Journal, Jan. 3, 1929, p.1
(Gov. Weaver Inauguration)

SERIES SEVEN NEWS CLIPPINGS, 1906-1959

OB#1 (RG001)
f.2 (cont)

Lincoln State Journal (cont)
State Journal, Oct. 20, 1929, B-11/12 (McKelvie's Confirmation)
Sunday State Journal, Oct. 27, 1929, Sec. 3,C-1
Nebraska Governors, 1867-1929
Sunday State Journal, Dec. 13, 1931, C-1/2
Nebraska Governors' Hearty Eaters
Sunday Journal & Star, 12/16/1934, Sec. c/d, 1-2
Portraits of Former Governors' Wives
Sunday Journal & Star, Jan. 29, 1950, A-1
NFO Reporter, Vol. 1, #3, November 1956
Omaha Bee
Sept 28, 1924 (Adam McMullen)
Oct. 5, 1924 (Candidates)
Sunday Bee, Oct. 17, 1926 (General news)
Omaha World Herald
October 7, 1925, p.1 (Coolidge in Omaha)
Magazine, Oct. 28, 1928, p.6 (re Governors Mansion)
Magazine, Jan. 21, 1929, p.10
Article on Governor's Secretary
Oct. 27, 1929 issue
Nebr. History & "Political Evolution of Nebraska"
Oct. 27, 1929
Nebr. Diamond Jubilee w/photos of Governors 1867-1929
Magazine, June 12, 1949, pp.1-2
Morning WH, July 25, 1952, pp.1&3 re Farm Plank
Morning WH, Aug. 22, 1952, pp. 37-38
Magazine, Jan. 4, 1953
Sketches of past Governors, 1867-1953
Portland Press Herald, July 1, 1925 (Governors' Conference)
Republican State Headquarters news Bulletin (McMullen-Bryan)
Tagliche Omaha Tribune, Sept 30, 1924
Trade Review, Lincoln, Mar. 29, 1924
Washington Daily News, Mar. 4, 1925 issue (Coolidge)
Wisconsin Weekly Courier, p.1, Oct. 31, 1924
Wymore, Weekly Arbor State, June 6, 1929
GOP Celebrates Its 75th Birthday
Wymore, Weekly Arbor State, May 23, 1957
50th Commencement of Wymore School

END OF INVENTORY

WFS/RB/js 9/22/1964
DJJ/ht 2/16/1973
PMC/PMC 6/21/2005 Word 2000