

C Blake, Robert E. (1885-1962), Constitutional Convention Papers, 1943-1945
17 2.5 linear feet, 1 roll of microfilm

MICROFILM (Volumes only)

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

Papers of a St. Louis lawyer who was a Democratic delegate-at-large. He was elected president of the convention and took an active part in the campaign for adoption of the constitution drawn up by that body. Volumes are on microfilm. See also collection 3301.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were placed on deposit with the University of Missouri by R.E. Blake on 21 March 1945 (Accession No. 219).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Robert E. Blake was born at Cuero in DeWitt County, Texas. He attended Bowen Academy in Nashville, Tennessee, and was graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1908 with an A.B. degree. He was a Rhodes Scholar from 1908 to 1911 and received a B.A. degree in jurisprudence from Oxford University in 1910. He married Dorothy Eyre Gaynor of Kansas City in 1912 and they had three sons. Blake practiced law in Nashville from 1911 to 1919, and was engaged in business in St. Louis, 1919-1921. He served as counsel for the International Shoe Company and was elected to its board of directors in 1921. He served as president and director of Associated Industries of Missouri and as a director of both the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce and the Governmental Research Institute.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers have been arranged into the following eighteen series: **Committees; Correspondence; Missouri League of Women Voters, St. Louis, Missouri; Governmental Research Institute; Amendment Results; Committee Papers and Correspondence; Minutes; Campaign for Adoption; Speeches and Speechmaking Data; Constitutional Convention Papers; General Correspondence; Constitutional Convention News; Clippings; Bulletins; Political Papers; Document; and Scrapbooks.**

More complete series descriptions are located in the folder list.

FOLDER LIST

Committees Series

- f. 1-10 Committee on Rules and Order of Business
 - f. 1-2 Copies of 1922-1923 constitutional convention papers
 - f. 3-6 Committee reports, resolutions, unofficial list of delegates to the 1943 convention, and proposed rules
 - f. 7 Agenda for the first day, 21 September 1943
 - f. 7-10 Routine correspondence between Blake and Chairman Allen McReynolds and dated reports of this committee
- f. 11-14 Committee on Preamble, Boundaries, Bill of Rights and Distribution of Powers
 - f. 11 Subcommittee and committee reports
 - f. 13-14 Copies of routine correspondence between Blake and the committee chairman. Letter from Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, Lodge 21 in St. Louis opposing any change in the status of blacks. Constitutional restrictions on religious corporations, requests from Business and Professional Women's clubs requesting elimination of discrimination against women, adequate counsel for indigent prisoners, letter from St. Louis Chamber of Commerce appraising proposals before this committee, and letter from Christian Science Committee on Publications for Missouri urging religious freedom.
- f. 15-22 Committee on Legislative Department. Various bulletins, papers, and correspondence dealing with this committee. Preliminary draft of a constitutional amendment providing for unicameral legislature for Missouri by the Crusaders of Missouri.
 - f. 17 Subcommittee reports, report of Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Constitutional Convention Sub-committee on Legislative Department, and memorandum on legislative proceedings.
 - f. 18-19 Committee chairman reports to the president
 - f. 20-22 Correspondence between Blake and chairman of committee, George D. Clayton, Jr.; letters of appraisal from St. Louis Chamber of Commerce on the file of this committee; and report of the Committee on Third Sub-Division of the Legislative Article.
- f. 23-27 Committee on Executive Department
 - f. 23 Committee chairman reports
 - f. 24 Annotated list of proposals referred to committee
 - f. 25-27 Correspondence. Letters of appraisal of proposals before this committee by St. Louis and Kansas City Chambers of Commerce and letters urging constitutional provisions for the merit system and short ballot. Letter insisting that the new constitution be clear that the governor have no authority to reduce

- appropriations for school purposes. Correspondence on power of governor to pardon but not to parole.
- f. 28-46 Committee on Judicial Department. Material on Proposals No. 351 and No. 21. Correspondence from S.R. Toucey of Kansas City opposing Richard Righter as chairman of the Judicial Committee and copies of Blake's answers.
- f. 32 Report of committee to the convention and report of subcommittee appointed to confer with agriculture and conservation subcommittee on reviews of orders and decrees of administrative boards and commissions.
- f. 33-34 Committee chairman's reports to the president
- f. 35 Final report of the St. Louis County Grand Jury, January 1943
- f. 37 Report of joint committees of Missouri Judicial Conference and Missouri Bar Association on the judiciary articles of the constitution
- f. 39-41 Letters of appraisal from the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce
- f. 42 Proposed act for the establishment of unified justice of the peace courts
- f. 43 Statement of H. Sam Priest, Clerk of Circuit Court, City of St. Louis, in response to Resolution 43 of the constitutional convention
- f. 44 Suggested clause for the Bill of Rights
- f. 45-46 Correspondence on nonpartisan court plan
- f. 47 Committee on Impeachments and Removals from Office. Committee chairman's report to the president and routine correspondence between Blake and chairman of committee, James E. Sater.
- f. 48-50 Committee on Suffrage and Elections
- f. 48 Committee chairman's reports to the president
- f. 49 Correspondence from chapters of the Missouri Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs urging deletion from the state constitution of all reference to sex.
- f. 50 Letters of appraisal from the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, letters from members of the Republican City Central Committee, St. Louis, opposing the short ballot, and routine correspondence between Blake and chairman of committee, E. McD. Stevens.
- f. 51-58 Committee on Local Government (City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and Jackson County)
- f. 52-53 Committee chairman's reports to president
- f. 54 Papers and correspondence on county-city consolidation
- f. 56-58 Correspondence from St. Louis City, St. Louis County and Kansas City Chambers of Commerce
- f. 59-65 Committee on Local Government
- f. 59-60 Committee chairman's reports
- f. 62-65 Letters of appraisal from the St. Louis and Kansas City Chambers of Commerce of an article on "Revising the Constitution" by W.L. Bradshaw, chairman of committee.

- Correspondence in opposition to the fee system for law enforcement officers. Paper by W.L. Bradshaw on "Local Government Finances," written for the National Tax Conference.
- f. 66-77 Committee on Taxation—Levy, Assessment, and Collection
- f. 66-68 Committee chairman's reports
- f. 69 Undated papers
- f. 70-73 Letter urging that taxes on improvements in "blighted areas" not be raised for a certain time. Correspondence on revenue for maintenance and construction of county highways, streets, roads, and bridges, and allocations of taxes for public libraries.
- f. 73-76 St. Louis and Kansas City real estate interests
- f. 77 Letter opposing inequality of taxes on property
- f. 78-85 Committee on State Finance. Correspondence between Blake and Chairman Franc L. McCluer.
- f. 78-80 Committee chairman's reports
- f. 81 Papers on "The Constitution and Control of State Debt" and "State Finance in the New Constitution of Missouri."
- f. 84-85 Letters from St. Louis and Kansas City Chambers of Commerce, letter from United Workers for the Blind of Missouri, and resolution from the Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities approving the revenue bond act.
- f. 86-91 Committee on Education
- f. 86 Chairman's reports
- f. 87 Comparison of the article on education of the 1875 Constitution with that of the proposed constitution and letter from the St. Louis Association of Colored Women's Clubs.
- f. 89 Racial segregation; letters of appraisal from St. Louis Chamber of Commerce; and letter urging liberalization of school and college government.
- f. 90 Letter urging constitutional provision for public libraries
- f. 92-95 Committee on Corporations and Industry. Papers and correspondence pertaining to this committee. Correspondence between President Blake and chairman, John T. Opie.
- f. 92 Chairman's report
- f. 93-95 Letters of appraisal from St. Louis and Kansas City Chambers of Commerce. Report of a sub-committee on railroads and banks. Letter from the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen urging that employees of transportation companies who have free tickets or passes be allowed to hold municipal offices by amending that part of the constitution prohibiting local officers having passes.
- f. 96-100 Committee on Miscellaneous Provisions. Papers and correspondence pertaining to work of this committee, especially the small loan law.
- f. 96 Chairman's reports
- f. 97 Statement by James G. Conzelman, assistant to the president, American Investment Company, opposing constitutional limits

- on interest rates
 - f. 98-99 Letters from St. Louis and Kansas City Chambers of Commerce
- f. 101-107 Committee on Public Health and Public Welfare and Federal Relations with Respect Thereto
 - f. 101 Committee chairman's reports
 - f. 102 Articles dealing with federal bureaucracy and medical freedom
 - f. 103-104 Proposals pertaining to states' rights vs. federal control
 - f. 106-107 Minutes, routine correspondence between Chairman I.A. Smith and Blake, letters from St. Louis and Kansas City Chambers of Commerce, and letters urging adequate provision for old age pensions
- f. 108-111 Committee on Highways
 - f. 108 Tentative redraft of the article on highways in the 1875 Constitution
 - f. 109 "History of the Missouri State Highway Department"
 - f. 110 Letters from St. Louie Chamber of Commerce. Suggested amendments to the article on highways
 - f. 111 Resolution of the joint council of the associated engineering societies pertaining to the article on highways; letter from Missouri Farmers' Association and others opposing power of State Highway Commission to regulate access to and from and across state highways without definite limitations
- f. 112-118 Committee on Agriculture and Conservation
 - f. 112 Committee chairman's reports and "Statement to the Committee on Agriculture and Conservation..." by I.T. Bode, director of the Missouri Conservation Commission
 - f. 113 Statement by E.S. Stephens, chairman of the Missouri Conservation Commission
 - f. 115-118 Resolution and correspondence urging no change in the commission form of management of wildlife and natural resources in Missouri, letters from the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, and copy of letter from Blake to Fred W. Williams explaining his stand on the Conservation Commission
- f. 119 Committee on Military Affairs. Work of the committee, amendments, reports, and letters of appraisal from the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce.
- f. 120-122 Committee on Labor
 - f. 120 Resolution opposing the proposed right of city and state employees to participate in labor organizations and committee chairman reports to the president.
 - f. 121-122 Correspondence urging that chairman of state labor committee be a labor man and letters from St. Louis and Kansas City Chambers of Commerce
- f. 123-124 Committee on Congressional, State Senatorial, and Representative Districts. Correspondence from Marion T. Bennett and Wat Arnold, United States Representatives from Missouri, favoring redistricting and

- letters of appraisal from the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce.
- f. 125-127 Committee on Initiative and Referendum, Revisions, and Amendments
- f. 125 Committee chairman's reports to the president
- f. 127 Proposals before the committee, letters of criticism from St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, and routine correspondence between Blake and chairman, V.E. Phillips.
- f. 128-134 Committee on Information, Submission, and Address to the People
- f. 128 Committee chairman's reports to the president
- f. 129 Financial statement from the Special Committee on Information and Address to the People of Missouri Constitutional Convention of 1922-1923
- f. 130 Unsigned address to the people on the Constitutional Convention of 1943-1944 with corrections by L.E. Meador
- f. 132 Letter urging political organization for creating favorable publicity for the convention
- f. 133 Letters from St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, and letter of criticism from O. J. Ferguson, publisher of *The Democrat News*, members of Missouri Press Association, and others on handling of the convention's publicity
- f. 135 Committee on Phraseology, Arrangement, and Engrossment. Routine papers pertaining to the committee. A nonpartisan judiciary compromise plan by George C. Smith, and a letter from Alroy S. Phillips protesting Blake's recognizing Mr. Shepley instead of him on a certain amendment before the convention.
- f. 136 Committee on Accounts, Employees, Services, and Supplies. Routine papers regarding this committee.
- f. 137 Committee on Printing, Reporting, and Publications. Correspondence and reports on the work of this committee.
- f. 138 Committee on Convention Library, Information, and Research. Papers and correspondence regarding the establishment of the convention library and outline of general research subjects prepared in connection with the convention.
- f. 139-145 Select Committees
- f. 139 Select Committee 1, Ballot and Election. A list of the select committees to serve after sine die adjournment and their membership, and material pertaining to special election for acceptance of proposed constitution.
- f. 140 Select Committee 2, Publications. Material on publicizing proposed constitution.
- f. 141 Select Committee 3, Contracts.
- f. 142 Select Committee 4, Public Relations.
- f. 143 Select Committee 5, Documents, Files, and Supplies.
- f. 144 Select Committee 6, Authentication of the Constitution. Includes procedure for signing of proposed constitution.
- f. 145 Select Committee 7, Executive.
- f. 146 Special Committee on Schedule. Minutes of this special committee and

a copy of the schedule as worked out by the committee.

Correspondence Series

- f. 147-148 Correspondence between Blake and secretary of the convention, R.E.L. Marrs
- f. 149-150 Correspondence between Blake and Don McVay, convention vice-president
- f. 151-153 Correspondence between Blake and Richard S. Righter, attorney from Kansas City and delegate to the convention, written the summer prior to the convention on organization, duration, writing a short simple document, and expeditious handling of proposals
- f. 154-155 Correspondence between Blake and Ernest Kirschten, an editor of the *St. Louis Star-Times*, who was critical of the convention and its work

Missouri League of Women Voters, St. Louis, Missouri Series

- f. 156-157 Official correspondence from the League and letters from individual members giving Blake their support for election to the presidency of the convention and approving his stand on certain matters before the convention and the action of the convention. Criticism of the membership of the League from Louise Grant Smith and a printed criticism of the public relations plans of the convention.

Governmental Research Institute Series

- f. 158-162 Publications of agency supported by voluntary citizens' subscriptions which deal with problems before the convention. Correspondence between Blake, who was a board member of this agency, and officers of the institute, especially Carlton F. Chute, director. Most of the publications deal with problems of taxation and finance.

Amendment Results Series

Amendment results by date of the file of the various committees.

- f. 163 Files 6-13
- f. 164 Files 14-16
- f. 165 Files 17-21 and convention roll calls and voting charts

Committee Papers and Correspondence Series

- f. 166-196 Routine committee papers and correspondence
 - f. 166-170 Committee preferences as expressed by the delegates
 - f. 171 Correspondence requesting committee appointments
 - f. 172-174 Lists of committees, chairmen, and membership

- f. 194 Suggested forms for chairmen's reports, suggested schedules of committee meetings, and lists of referrals to committees
- f. 195 Conferences of chairmen material
- f. 196 Revised files compared with original articles of the constitution

Minutes Series

- f. 197-205 Minutes of convention meetings

Campaign for Adoption Series

- f. 206 Notices publicizing work of the convention
- f. 207-209 List of mayors, city clerks, and councilmen of Missouri towns
- f. 210 Membership list of Missouri Athletic Club
- f. 211-236 Correspondence soliciting and promising active support in the campaign for adoption. Letters critical of certain articles on taxation and labor.
- f. 237 Correspondence to and from International Shoe Company employees urging and promising support for adoption of new constitution

Speeches and Speechmaking Data Series

- f. 238 Bulletins and pamphlets
- f. 239-241 Copies of speeches made on behalf of convention and the adoption of the proposed document

Constitutional Convention Papers Series

- f. 242 A brief for the delegates on the matter of seating delegates who were members of party committees
- f. 243 Review of the Missouri constitutional convention of 1922-1923. "Preliminary Memorandum of Methods of Eliminating Detailed Provisions Statutory in Character from the Body of the New Constitution."
- f. 244 Proposals before the various committees of the convention

General Correspondence Series

- f. 245-282 A charge by Florence Losee against J.O. Bowers for filing a false claim. Correspondence prior to the convening of the convention. Copies of letters from Marion T. Bennett, U.S. Congressman from Missouri, urging Blake's election. List of Blake's file. Letter from D.W. Gamling of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers criticizing the "unfair setup" for choosing delegates. Correspondence with Secretary of State Dwight H. Brown concerning filing of affidavits of receipts and expenditures in connection with the election of Blake and other delegates-at-large. Correspondence favoring Blake as president of the convention.

Correspondence regarding taxes for convention clerical help and deferments from military service for members of convention. Letter from Cleveland A. Newton on current political subjects such as New Deal and appointment of Malcolm Ross as chairman of the Fair Employment Practices Commission. Resignation of B.E. Dickmann from the convention when appointed postmaster of St. Louis. O.K. Armstrong speeches. Letters of appraisal from St. Louis Chamber of Commerce. Letters of application for positions in connection with the convention.

Constitutional Convention News Series

- f. 283 Copies of publication by the Committee on Information, Submission, and Address to the People

Clippings Series

- f. 284-287 Clippings from various papers about the constitutional convention

Bulletins Series

- f. 288-295 Bulletins directly or indirectly pertaining to the convention
 f. 288 37th report of Missouri Library Association
 f. 289 *Missouri Bar Journal*, September 1943
 f. 291-295 *St. Louis Commerce*, publication of St. Louis Chamber of Commerce
 f. 295 Organization manual of Missouri Constitutional Convention of 1943

Political Papers Series

- f. 296-303 Political releases from the Democratic State Committee
 f. 304-305 Form letter sent to Blake by Charles A. Shaw, 1944 Republican candidate for United States Senate, and reprint from Missouri newspapers favoring Charles E. Rendlen as a candidate. Copies of letters sent to Missouri congressmen in 1943 from Blake protesting invasion of the province of Congress by bureaus and boards.

Document Series

- f. 306 Photostat of a document inscribed in longhand on the back "Copy of Document of Ferdernand the 4--February 28, 1800"

Scrapbooks Series [Microfilm]

- v. 1-2 1943-1945. Two volumes of newspaper clippings primarily concerning the constitution and the convention.

INDEX TERMS

Subject	Folders	Other
American Medical Liberty League, Incorporated	102	
Arnold, Wat (1879-1961)	124,253	
Beck, Cornelia	3	
Bennett, Marion Tinsley (1914-2000)	124,246,250,251	
Blake, Robert E. (1885-1962)	1-306	v. 1, 2
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers	95	
Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers	13,95	
Cannon, Clarence (1879-1964)	248	
Chamber of Commerce, Kansas City, Missouri	27,56,58,61,62,85,100,121-122	
Chamber of Commerce, St. Louis County, Missouri	44-48,56-8	
Chamber of Commerce, St. Louis, Missouri	3,4,21-27,49,54-61,71,74,85,100,110,121-127,245,264,267	
Christian Science	14	
Education	86-91	
Elmer, William Price (1871-1956)	251-254	
Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs-- Missouri	49	
Governmental Research Institute, St. Louis, Missouri	158-162	
League of Women Voters, St. Louis, Missouri	156, 157	
Libraries	70-72, 90	
Loans	96-100	
Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities	85	
Missouri Farmers Association	26, 111	
Missouri State Teachers Association	88, 269, 270	
Missouri, Kansas City, Real Estate Board	71	
Missouri, St. Louis	51-58	
Missouri, St. Louis, Board of Religious Organizations	62	
Missouri. Conservation Commission	112-118	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1922-1923	1, 2, 243	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944	1	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Accounts, Employees, Services and Supplies	136	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Agriculture and Conservation	112-118	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Congressional, State Senatorial and	123-124	

Subject	Folders	Other
Representative Districts		
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Convention Library, Information and Research	138	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Corporations and Industry	92-95	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Education	86-91	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Highways	108-111	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Impeachments and Removals from Office	47	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Information, Submission and Address to the People	128-134	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Initiative and Referendum, Revision and Amendments	125-127	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Judicial Department	28-46	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Labor	120-122	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Legislative Department	15-22	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Local Government	59-65	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Local Government (City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and Jackson County)	51-58	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Military Affairs	119	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Miscellaneous Provisions	96-100	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Phraseology, Arrangement and Engrossment	135	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Preamble, Boundaries, Bill of Rights and Distribution of Powers	11-14	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Printing, Reporting and Publications	137	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Public Health and Public Welfare and	101-107	

Subject	Folders	Other
Federal Relations with Respect thereto		
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Rules and Order of Business	1-10	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Schedule (Special Committee)	146	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on State Finance (except Taxation)-- Expenditures, Public Indebtedness and Restrictions thereon	78-85	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Committee on Suffrage and Elections	48-50	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Select Committee No. 1: Ballot and Elections	139	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Select Committee No. 2: Publications	140	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Select Committee No. 3: Contracts	141	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Select Committee No. 4: Public Relations	142	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Select Committee No. 5: Documents, Files, Supplies	143	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Select Committee No. 6: Authentication of Constitution	144	
Missouri. Constitutional Convention, 1943-1944. Select Committee No. 7: Executive	145	
Missouri. Highway Commission	110-111	
Missouri. Highway Department	108-109	
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People	13	
Newspapers, Missouri	154-155	
Ploeser, Walter C. (1907-)	248	
Race relations	13, 67, 77, 88-89	
Religion	13, 62, 88	
Schools	86-91	
St. Louis Real Estate Exchange	73-76	
Suffrage	13, 48-50	
U.S. Selective Service System	259-260	
United Workers for the Blind of Missouri	85	
Women--Suffrage	49	