

C Sampson, Francis Asbury (1842-1918), Collection, 1796-1958  
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## INTRODUCTION

This collection, compiled by Sampson, includes Democratic and Republican party campaign literature for national and Missouri elections, 1838-1958; speeches and pamphlets concerning national and state political issues; materials concerning the history of Boone, Schuyler, Pettis, and Ste. Genevieve counties and Sedalia; papers of Garland C. Broadhead and William Switzler; and speeches, notes, bibliographies, and personal papers of Sampson.

## DONOR INFORMATION

The State Historical Society of Missouri received three accessions of the Sampson collection by unknown donor(s) on 1 September 1970 (SHS Accession No. 711), 9 August 1971 (SHS Accession No. 861) and undated (SHS Accession Nos. 566, 2313, and 2371).

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Widely known for his accomplishments as a bibliographer and paleontologist, Francis Asbury Sampson was born February 6, 1842, in Harrison County, Ohio. His father Francis Sampson, a native of Ireland, came to the United States in 1823 and died in 1867. His mother was a native of Wales.

Sampson graduated from the City College of New York in 1865 and later received the degree of Master of Arts. He read law two years at Cadiz, Ohio, and was admitted to the bar. He attended the law school of the University of New York, from which he graduated in 1868 as valedictorian of his class.

Relocating to Sedalia, Missouri, he formed a law partnership with his brother, Archibald J. Sampson. He held the office of United States Commissioner from 1869 to 1873, and in the latter year was commissioned by Governor Silas B. Woodson as representative from Missouri to the World's Exposition in Vienna, Austria. From 1870 to 1872 he was associate editor of the *Sedalia Times*. In 1885 he became a member of the Sedalia Board of Education and was one of the founders of the Sedalia Natural History Society, the Sedalia Public Library, and the Nehemgar Club of Sedalia.

In 1901 Mr. Sampson was elected secretary and librarian of the State Historical society of Missouri. He held those offices until his resignation in 1915 when he became bibliographer of the society. He was editor of the *Missouri Historical Review* from 1906 to 1915.

Although not professionally trained, Sampson was well known to scholars and scientists in the field of paleontology. He specialized in geology and conchology and created valuable collections of specimens throughout America and Europe, including sixty original specimens of fossils and shells in Missouri. Twenty-two of those received his name in recognition of his discoveries. One of his rarest collections was sold to the University of Chicago.

As a bibliographer, he was the preeminent writer of the period specializing in the field of Missouri history. His work covered such subjects as Missouri authors, slavery and the Civil War in Missouri, official Missouri publications, Missouri geological and horticultural publications,

Missouri newspapers, accounts of early travelers in the region, Missouri railroads, and publishing in the state before 1850. His chief collaborator in those fields was William Clark Breckenridge of St. Louis.

Sampson was also an avid collector of books and pamphlets relating to the state of Missouri. His collections included official state reports, minutes of religious organizations, publications of the state bar and press organizations, and advertising and descriptive literature of commercial clubs and real estate companies. Sampson began collecting upon his arrival in Missouri in 1868, and by 1901 he had amassed the largest library on Missouri then in existence. He donated his library to the State Historical Society of Missouri in 1901, where it formed the nucleus of the society's collections.

Sampson was married to Mrs. Harriet Lacey of Cincinnati in 1869 and had a daughter, Maybelle, and two sons, Lacey and Leroy. He died in 1918.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The majority of the collection consists of a wide variety of materials compiled by F.A. Sampson, reflecting his scope of interest in Missouri history. Sampson's speeches, bibliographies, research notes, and personal papers make up the rest of the collection.

The collection is divided into three series: a **Political** series, which concerns national and state elections and political issues, a much more varied series on topics and individuals in **Missouri History**, and **Francis Sampson's** personal papers.

Republican and Democratic parties campaign literature makes up the largest portion of the collected **Political** material. National and state elections from the 1880s to the 1930s are best represented. This section includes campaign books, party platforms, proceedings of conventions, speeches, posters, broadsides, political cartoons, newspaper articles, pamphlets, political handbooks, and press releases concerning presidential, state of Missouri, and local elections. The material is divided by party, then arranged chronologically, with national material preceding state in any given year. A great deal of biographical information on candidates for state and local offices is found in this series.

Speeches of United States senators and representatives from Missouri dating from 1827 through 1844 on a wide variety of national issues are in this series. This section is arranged alphabetically. A section on national issues, especially the tariff and monetary questions of the 1890s, contains pamphlets, newspaper articles, speeches, and reports. There is also information, arranged chronologically, pertaining to the national economy, the civil service, politics, and elections.

Material on Missouri constitutional amendments includes pamphlets, broadsides, campaign buttons, articles, ballots, and other campaign and promotional literature regarding proposed amendments to the Missouri Constitution. Amendment topics include prohibition, taxation, and bond issues to increase funding for road construction, the University of Missouri, and other state institutions. The material is arranged chronologically. Biographical sketches of delegates to the 1875 Missouri Constitutional Convention can be found in this series. The sketches include ancestry, education, occupation, war record, marriages, political party, fraternal organizations, and place and date of death. The Missouri Constitutional Convention of 1941-1943 is represented in this series by pamphlets, articles, delegate lists, manuals, ballots, and campaign and promotional literature.

There are also small sections of this series pertaining to: Missouri legislation dating from

1855 through 1917 and consisting of speeches, bills, analyses of bills, and reports relating to state insurance laws, workman's compensation, and marriage and divorce laws; a correspondence course on government from the Missouri League of Women Voters; and annual banquet programs and yearbooks of the Young Republicans of Missouri. Material was added to this series after Sampson's death in 1918.

The remainder of the collected material is an eclectic compilation concerning aspects of **Missouri History** from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries. This series contains early court records, including a substantial amount of Boone County court records from the 1820s and 1830s, marriage records, and sections on the history of Sedalia and Pettis and Schuyler counties. The series is completed by small collections of personal papers of prominent individuals of central Missouri, the most notable being a small body of correspondence and research notes of geologist Garland C. Broadhead and correspondence of newspaper publisher William F. Switzler.

The majority of Broadhead's correspondence, dating from 1875 to 1905, concerns his professional activities, which includes exchanges with the Geological Survey of Missouri and his advice on the formation of a Geology Department at the University of Missouri. The research material includes notes on Missouri geology and mineralogy and extracts from scientific periodicals on geological topics. Historical research notes concern the Broadhead family, history of Boone County, the history of mining, a short bibliography of articles on anthropology and archeology, and an article pertaining to the history of the region called "Old Louisiana."

The final series consists of some of **Francis Sampson's** notes and research materials used in compiling bibliographies on Missouri history, copies of speeches he gave on various topics concerning the history of the state and westward expansion, and a portion of his personal papers, primarily correspondence, scattered throughout the period 1866 to 1914.

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