

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid 3.30

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### OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### ALEXANDER MONROE DOCKERY, 1901-1905

*Abstract:* Records (1901-1904) of Governor Alexander Monroe Dockery (1845-1926) contain correspondence including appointments, resignations, supporting petitions and telegrams.

*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]; Alexander Monroe Dockery, 1901-1905, Record Group 3.30; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Processing Information:* Processing completed by Sharon E. Brock on July 22, 2014.

### HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Alexander Monroe Dockery was born near Gallatin, Daviess County, on February 11, 1845 to Willis E. and Sarah Ellen Dockery. He attended public schools and Macon Academy before graduating from St. Louis (Mo.) Medical College in 1865. Following a year of post-graduate work at Bellevue Hospital in New York City and Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Dockery returned to Missouri and practiced medicine briefly in Linneus, Linn County, and moved to Chillicothe, Livingston County, where he married Mary Elizabeth Bird in 1869 and served as county physician (1870-1874).

From 1871-1873, Dockery made his first foray into politics, serving on the local board of education. In 1872, Governor Benjamin Gratz Brown appointed him to the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri, a position he held for 10 years. It was during this period that he gave up medicine and with his friend Thomas Bootin Yates purchased a bank in Gallatin. After relocating to Gallatin, Dockery served on the city council and was elected mayor in 1881.

He pursued a more active role in politics and was the chairman of the congressional committee in his district. In 1882 he was elected to the United States House of Representatives, which seat he held for the next 16 years. His service on the House appropriations committee earned him the sobriquet “watchdog of the treasury,” which led to his appointment to the Joint Commission to Inquire into the Status of the Laws Organizing the Executive Departments, called the Dockery-Cockrell Commission (Francis Marion Cockrell, Democratic Senator from Missouri and chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations). The Commission was tasked with looking into government efficiency, and for the first time it employed outside experts as staff—three accountants, two of them, Charles W. Haskins and Elijah W. Sells, later founded the famous accounting firm. The Commission's major accomplishment was the passage of the Dockery Act (28 Stat. 208), which effected a general overhauling of procedures and consolidation of offices in the accounting operations of the Treasury and the Post Office.

Returning to Gallatin in 1899, Dockery secured the Democratic nomination for governor, was elected in November 1900, and was sworn in as Missouri's 30th governor on January 14, 1901. Governor Dockery concentrated his attention on fiscal matters and during his administration Missouri retired its bonded debts. During his administration, appropriations increased for education and charitable institutions, the election system was reformed, and a franchise tax law was passed. Dockery signed the first state legislation to license automobiles. Also, Missouri hosted the 1904 Olympics and participated in the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair.

At the end of his term of office in 1905, Dockery returned to Gallatin and immersed himself in civic affairs. He donated land to Gallatin, which is now known as Dockery Park, and was active in the Masonic Lodge and Missouri Odd Fellows. He was particularly interested in county road improvements and often worked alongside road gangs constructing better roads for Daviess County. Dockery remained committed to state Democratic politics as well, serving as treasurer of the Democratic State Committee in 1912 and 1914. In 1913, on a trip to the inauguration of Woodrow Wilson, the new President asked him to help manage and streamline the U.S. Postal Service. Appointed to the position of third assistant Postmaster General, Dockery helped put the agency's fiscal house in order. He served in the role until March 31, 1921. Dockery died in Gallatin on December 26, 1926 and is interred in Edgewood Cemetery in Chillicothe.

## 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. 121-129.

Christensen, Lawrence O., et al. *Dictionary of Missouri Biography* (Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1999), pp. 243-244.

*National Governor's Association*, Governor's Information—Alexander Monroe Dockery (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), pp. 195-213.

### Related Material

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

C2062 Alexander Monroe Dockery (1845-1926), Letter, 1902  
Dockery to J. H. Frame, Kansas City, Jackson County.

World Cat lists miscellaneous speeches and reports by Governor Dockery and as U. S. Congressman.

## RECORDS, 1901-1904

*Extent:* 1 folder

*Arrangement:* Chronological and thereunder alphabetical

### Scope and Content

Correspondence comprises this collection which also includes appointments, resignations, supporting petitions and telegrams.

### Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1B/1/5	1	1	January 15, 1901	F. D. Roberts, Jefferson City, Cole County; death of W. H. Huffman, Pemiscot County; vacancy in Levee Board; recommends Charles A. Tisdadt of Caruthersville as his replacement; also recommends John A. Cunningham as president of the board; (note: Tisdadt appointed and commission filed, January 22, 1901; Sam Baker Cook, secretary of state)
1B/1/5	1	1	March 14, 1901	Edward T. Orear, Jefferson City, Cole County; resignation as superintendent of Insurance Department; includes note by Sam Baker Cook
1B/1/5	1	1	August 15, 1901	Frank M. Womack, Springfield, Greene County; resignation as notary public; includes note by Sam Baker Cook
1B/1/5	1	1	September 27, 1901	C. L. Ennis, et al, Shelbyville, Shelby County; recommend Charles F. Afflick for unnamed position (likely state board of agriculture); also signed by Abram Kemper, E. M. Damrell, and C. E. Wailes
1B/1/5	1	1	September 27, 1901	James Tilghman Lloyd, Washington, D. C.; recommends Charles A. Afflick to the state board of agriculture
1B/1/5	1	1	November 16, 1901	N. C. Newport, Conway, Laclede County; death of A. Nelson; recommends A. T. Nelson to the state board of agriculture

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1B/1/5	1	1	November 16, 1901	R. S. Phillips, Conway, Laclede County; recommends A. T. Nelson to the state board of agriculture
1B/1/5	1	1	November 16, 1901	T. M. Russell, Conway, Laclede County; recommends A. T. Nelson to the state board of agriculture
1B/1/5	1	1	November 18, 1901	J. W. Farris, Lebanon, Laclede County; recommends A. T. Nelson to the state board of agriculture (letterhead of the Federal Soldier's Home, St. James)
1B/1/5	1	1	November 18, 1901	R. A. Holt, Lebanon, Laclede County; recommends A. T. Nelson to the state board of agriculture; includes notes from Sam Baker Cook, commission issued to Nelson on November 20, 1901
1B/1/5	1	1	December 24, 1901	Edna L. Foster, San Antonio, Texas; resignation as notary public for St. Louis; W. H. Foster; note from Sam Baker Cook that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	1	January 7, 1902	Mamie E. Mead, St. Louis; resignation at notary public; note from Sam Baker Cook that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	1	January 13, 1902	Boston L. McGee, Holt, Clay County; resignation as notary public for Clay County; note from Sam Baker Cook that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	1	January 22, 1902	Charles F. Gallenkamp, Union, Franklin County; resignation as judge of probate court; note from Sam Baker Cook that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	1	March 26, 1902	L. H. Spencer, Davis, Indian Territory (Oklahoma); resignation as Grundy County surveyor; filed with county clerk on March 28, 1902 by John W. Schooler
1B/1/5	1	1	February 3, 1902	Claud E. Smith, Goren, Scotland County; resignation as coal oil inspector; recommends Henry Beckman as replacement; note from Sam Baker Cook that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	1	April 10, 1902	John W. Schooler, Trenton, Grundy County; transmittal of resignation of L. H. Spencer; note from Sam Baker Cook that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	1	April 15, 1902	Harry K. Allen, Gallatin, Daviess County; resignation as county prosecuting attorney; note from Sam Baker Cook that resignation was accepted

1B/1/5	1	1	May 5, 1902	Judge C. A. Petty; Kennett, Dunklin County; resignation from the 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Court, Dunklin County; note from Sam Baker Cook that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	1	June 20, 1902	Samuel M. Carter, Greenville, Wayne County; resignation as Wayne County prosecuting attorney; note from Sam Baker Cook that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	1	June 23, 1902	Appointment, from Alexander Monroe Dockery to Sam Baker Cook, Jefferson City, Cole County; please issue commission O. L. Munger of Greenville as Wayne County prosecuting attorney; note from Sam Baker Cook that commission was issued on June 23 <sup>rd</sup>
1B/1/5	1	1	August 13, 1902	J. M. Seibert, St. Louis; recommends conservative Republican farmer J. J. Conrad to the state board of agriculture
1B/1/5	1	1	August 19, 1902	F. M. Wells, Lutesville, Bollinger County; recommends J. J. Conrad to the state board of agriculture; C. M. O'Connell having left district; note from Sam Baker Cook that commission was issued on August 20 <sup>th</sup>
1B/1/5	1	1	August 28, 1902	H. Beckman, Gorin, Scotland County; requesting reappointment as county oil inspector
1B/1/5	1	1	October 9, 1902	J. C. Huntley, St. Louis; recommends Dr. M. M. Hamlin to state board of health
1B/1/5	1	1	October 9, 1902	W. M. Kinsey, St. Louis; recommends Dr. M. M. Hamlin to state board of health
1B/1/5	1	1	October 9, 1902	G. D. Walker, St. Louis; recommends Dr. M. M. Hamlin to fill the vacancy on the state board of health; death of Dr. E. Lee Standlee
1B/1/5	1	1	November 14, 1902	Judge James D. Fox, Jefferson City, Cole County; resignation from the 27 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit; note from Sam Baker Cook that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	1	January 9, 1903	Telegram, J. A. Delaplain and E. D. Upton, Bolivar, Polk County; requesting that an oil inspector be appointed for Bolivar

1B/1/5	1	1	January 21, 1903	John Adams Lee, Jefferson City, Cole County; notification from the lieutenant governor that William Joel Stone was elected to the U. S. Senate; includes note from Sam Baker Cook that commission was issued on January 23 <sup>rd</sup>
1B/1/5	1	1	January 22, 1903	Robert T. Sparks, Shelbina, Shelby County; requests appointment at oil inspector; includes note from Sam Baker Cook that commission was issued on January 28 <sup>th</sup>
1B/1/5	1	1	January 31, 1903	E. S. Patterson, Marshall, Saline County; resignation as Boone County school commissioner; includes note from Sam Baker Cook that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	1	March 3, 1903	E. B. Fields, Jefferson City, Cole County; recommends John Gable, Jr. of Browning for Fish Commissioner; resignation of John N. Shepler
1B/1/5	1	1	August 10, 1903	Cyrus P. Walbridge, St. Louis; resignation as regent of Kirksville Normal School in Adair County; includes note from Sam Baker Cook that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	1	October 1, 1903	J. L. Tanner, et al, Sikeston, Scott County; recommend James Marshall as coal oil inspector; also signed by William S. Smith and James D. Cook
1B/1/5	1	1	November 2, 1903	Thomas M. Jenkins, St. Louis; resignation from the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration; includes note from Sam Baker Cook that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	1	December 24, 1903	J. P. Tracey, Springfield, Greene County; resignation from the House of Representative; includes note from Sam Baker Cook that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	1	December 29, 1903	J. G. Gallemore, Salisbury, Chariton County; resignation as coal oil inspector for Salisbury; includes note from Sam Baker Cook that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	1	August 2, 1904	Charles J. Walker, Columbia, Boone County; recommends reappointment of J. Ben Weseman of St. Charles as coal oil inspector; thank you for appointing M. B. Greensfelder

1B/1/5	1	1	August 8, 1904	Percy Alexander, St. Charles, St. Charles County; recommends reappointment of J. Ben Weseman of St. Charles as coal oil inspector
1B/1/5	1	1	August 11, 1904	Brice Edwards, St. Charles, St. Charles County; recommends reappointment of J. Ben Weseman of St. Charles as coal oil inspector
1B/1/5	1	1	August 11, 1904	A. E. Hucker, St. Charles, St. Charles County; recommends reappointment of J. Ben Weseman of St. Charles as coal oil inspector
1B/1/5	1	1	August 13, 1904	Charles J. Walker, Columbia, Boone County; transmittal of petition in favor of J. Ben Weseman reappointment
1B/1/5	1	1	August 17, 1904	J. Ben Weseman, St. Charles, St. Charles County; requesting reappointment
1B/1/5	1	1	August 18, 1904	Carr Edwards, St. Charles, St. Charles County; recommends reappointment of J. Ben Weseman of St. Charles as coal oil inspector
1B/1/5	1	1	August 26, 1904	Henry Beckman, Gorin, Scotland County; requests reappointment; encloses \$2.00 fee; includes note from Sam Baker Cook that commission was issued on August 27 <sup>th</sup>
1B/1/5	1	1	August 31, 1904	Petition, businessmen and citizens of St. Charles, St. Charles County; recommend reappointment of J. Ben Weseman as coal oil inspector; includes note from Sam Baker Cook that commission was issued on October 30 <sup>th</sup>