

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid 3.31

---

### OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### JOSEPH WINGATE FOLK, 1905-1909

*Abstract:* Records (1904-1908) of Governor Joseph Wingate Folk (1869-1923) contain correspondence pertaining to appointments as well as affidavits, certifications, petitions, and resignations.

*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]; Joseph Wingate Folk, 1905-1909, Record Group 3.31; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Processing Information:* Processing completed by Sharon E. Brock on July 24, 2014.

### HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Joseph Wingate Folk was born to Henry and Martha Estes Folk in Brownsville, Tennessee on October 28, 1869. The youngest of 12 children, he graduated from the Brownsville Academy in 1885 after which he worked in Memphis as a clerk, a salesman of patent medicines, and a bookkeeper. Folk returned to Brownsville in 1887 to read law with his cousin, J. W. E. Moore. He graduated from Vanderbilt University Law School in 1890, was admitted to the Tennessee Bar, and opened his own office. In 1893, Folk accepted a law partnership in St. Louis with his uncle Frank M. Estes. He married Gertrude Glass of Brownsville, Tennessee on November 10, 1896.

Credited with settling the St. Louis streetcar strike in the summer of 1900, Folk was elected St. Louis circuit attorney that fall. When St. Louis party boss Edward Butler approached him with a list of men Butler wanted appointed as assistants, Folk refused. He investigated the Combine, a St. Louis organization reputed to pay members of the assembly for favors granted. Folk obtained numerous indictments and convictions, many of which were reversed by the Missouri Supreme Court. Ultimately, Edward Butler received a three year sentence in 1902 but the Supreme Court reversed the decision in January 1903. Folk obtained 39 indictments during his term as circuit attorney and nine men served sentences.

Folk was unanimously nominated on the second ballot as the 1904 Democratic Party gubernatorial candidate. Folk was the only Democrat elected to a statewide office. He was sworn in as Missouri's 31<sup>st</sup> governor on January 9, 1905.

During Folk's administration, education reforms included compulsory school attendance for Missouri children between the ages of eight and fourteen (adopted on April 11, 1905), the fourth district normal school in Springfield and a fifth district normal school in Maryville were founded and the Missouri Library Commission was established. A sanatorium for tuberculosis patients was created in Mount Vernon. Numerous regulatory boards were established including the State Board of Horticulture, the Board of Poultry, State Board of Dental Examiners, the State Veterinarian Examining Board and the office of State Dairy Commissioner. Election reforms passed during the Folk administration included a blanket primary law adopted in 1907 and direct legislation reforms passed in 1909.

After his term, Folk unsuccessfully ran for the United State Senate in 1908, 1910 and 1918. During the Woodrow Wilson administration, he served as solicitor general for the State Department and as chief counsel for the Interstate Commerce Commission. In 1918 Folk served as counsel for the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce and later opened a law office in Washington, D. C. He died on May 28, 1923 in New York City. Folk is interred in Oakwood Cemetery, Brownsville, Tennessee.

## 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. 130-143.

Christensen, Lawrence O., et al. *Dictionary of Missouri Biography* (Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1999), pp. 307-310.

*National Governor's Association*, Governor's Information—Joseph Wingate Folk (online) <http://www.nga.org>

Poitt, Steven L. *Holy Joe: Joseph W. Folk and the Missouri Idea* (Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1997).

Shoemaker, Floyd Calvin. *Missouri and Missourians: Land of Contrasts and People of Achievements* (Chicago, Ill.: Lewis Publishing Company, 1943), pp. 219-231.

Williams, Walter and Shoemaker, Floyd Calvin. *Missouri: Mother of the West* (Chicago, Ill.: American Historical Society, 1930).

## Related Material

Theodore Roosevelt Center, Stoxen Library, Dickinson State University, North Dakota holds:

Folk, Joseph Wingate. *Letter from Joseph Wingate Folk to Theodore Roosevelt, 1903-11-05*

Folk, Joseph Wingate. *Report of Saint Louis Boodle cases by Joseph Wingate Folk, 1903-12-01*

State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia holds the following manuscripts and additional references.

C0101 Joseph Wingate Folk (1869-1923) Papers, 1902-1952  
Unfinished biography of Folk by his sister, Mrs. James Avery Webb. Clippings pertaining to Folk's career as circuit attorney in St. Louis, 1902-1904; Democratic governor of Missouri, 1904-1909; races for Senate and failure to win election, 1918; career in Washington, D.C., 1917-1923, under President Woodrow Wilson; and death in 1923. Letters of sympathy at death, Folk-Bates genealogy, speeches by Folk, and miscellaneous material.

C1980 Joseph Wingate Folk Letter, 1903  
To Louis Wiley, New York, NY, from St. Louis, MO, Nov. 19, 1903. Regretting his inability to address Society of the Genesee.

PO342 Joseph Wingate Jones, Portraits  
Two mounted photographs of Governor Joseph Wingate Folk

World Cat lists miscellaneous speeches and reports made by Governor Folk and as U. S. Solicitor General.

## RECORDS, 1904-1908

*Extent:* 1 folder

*Arrangement:* Chronological and thereunder alphabetical

### Scope and Content

Collections contains correspondence pertaining to appointments. Also includes affidavits, certifications, petitions, and resignations. Correspondents include future governor Herbert Spencer Hadley, Ewing Young Mitchell, Secretary of State John Ephraim Swanger and banker and thoroughbred horse breeder August Belmont, Junior.

### Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1B/1/5	1	2	October 24, 1904	J. H. Law, Scranton, Pennsylvania; certification that Title Guaranty and Trust Company of Scranton, Pennsylvania is fully incorporated and licensed
1B/1/5	1	2	January 12, 1905	Judge Andrew F. Evans, Kansas City, Jackson County; resignation from the 16 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	January 24, 1905	R. S. Lamar, Jefferson City, Cole County to D. B. Lovelace, Fulton, Callaway County; back of letter contains note from Lovelace to Lamar stating he does not want office; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger that D. B. Lovelace refused to qualify for public administrator of Callaway County
1B/1/5	1	2	January 25, 1905	W. D. Beasley and A. M. Payne, Campbell, Dunklin County; requesting coal oil inspector be appointed; note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, Louis McCutchen appointed for a period of 2 years

1B/1/5	1	2	January 31, 1905	H. W. Brickey, et al, Festus, Jefferson County; requesting coal oil inspector be appointed; also signed by A. B. Marbury; note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, Charles C. England appointed June 29, 1905
1B/1/5	1	2	March 4, 1905	Charles W. Hullies, et al, Owensville, Gasconade County; Waters Pierce Oil Company to put tank in city; request coal oil inspector; also signed by M. L. Greenstreet, W. O. Boyd, H. Gibson, and Farley Leuke; note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, that Robert J. Boyd was appointed on March 4, 1905 for 2 years
1B/1/5	1	2	March 10, 1905	James A. Green and John Harris, Cuba, Crawford County; requesting coal oil inspector be appointed
1B/1/5	1	2	March 10, 1905	Petition, city officers of Eldon, Miller County; request coal oil inspector; recommends H. E. Lieurance; note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, that W. A. Reynolds appointed April 1, 1905
1B/1/5	1	2	March 18, 1905	John C. McKinley, Jefferson City, Cole County; certification from the lieutenant governor that William Warner was elected to the U. S. Senate, defeating Francis Marion Cockrell; John Ephraim Swanger
1B/1/5	1	2	March 25, 1905	Joseph Albus, St. Joseph, Buchanan County; resignation from the General Assembly; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	March 30, 1905	Leslie J. Lyons, Kansas City, Jackson County; resignation from General Assembly; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	April 5, 1905	Albert R. Thomson, St. Louis; resignation from the General Assembly; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted

---

1B/1/5	1	2	April 11, 1905	W. E. Ewing, Odessa, Lafayette County; request for coal oil inspector
1B/1/5	1	2	May 1, 1905	Herbert Spencer Hadley, Jefferson City, Cole County; transmittal by the attorney general of bond certification for Elmer E. E. McJimsey (Governor Hadley, 1909-1913)
1B/1/5	1	2	May 1, 1905	Elmer E. E. McJimsey, St. Joseph, Buchanan County; surety bond for \$15,000 from the U. S. Fidelity and Guaranty Company of Baltimore, Maryland; approved by Herbert Spencer Hadley and the governor; Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, Portland, Oregon
1B/1/5	1	2	May 5, 1905	James R. Walton, et al, Scranton, Pennsylvania; affidavit pertaining to net worth of Title Guaranty and Trust Company; also signed by A. H. Christy and J. H. Law
1B/1/5	1	2	May 10, 1905	R. W. Mitchell, Nevada, Vernon County; transmittal of papers pertaining to Title Guaranty and Trust Company of Scranton, Pennsylvania; James R. Walton
1B/1/5	1	2	May 11, 1905	Emma W. Cassity, Butler, Bates County; resignation as Bates County superintendent of schools; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	June 1, 1905	Uel W. Lamkin, Clinton, Henry County; resignation as county school commissioner; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	June 2, 1905	R. F. Schooler, Grundy County; resignation as county clerk for circuit court; also signed by S. S. Kelso, notary public; John W. Schooler; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	June 15, 1905	W. I. Woodson, Troy, Lincoln County; resignation as commissioner of Lincoln County schools; accepted position in Texas; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted

1B/1/5	1	2	July 15, 1905	Representative C. A. Newton, Kansas City, Jackson County; resignation as member of General Assembly from Wright County; have relocated from the county; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	July 26, 1905	August Belmont, et al, New York, New York: request for Missouri to appoint delegates to the National Conference on Immigration, New York; also signed by Charles A. Moore, Samuel B. Donnelly, James P. Archibald; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state (letterhead of the National Civic Federation, New York City)
1B/1/5	1	2	August 4, 1905	O. J. Buford, Denver, Colorado; resignation as Iron County public school commissioner; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	August 16, 1905	M. O. Mothersead, Albany, Gentry County; resignation as public administrator of Gentry County; cannot give enough attention to his duties; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	August 23, 1905	Judge Fred W. Coon, Princeton, Mercer County; resignation from Mercer County Probate Court; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	September 26, 1905	Charles P. Williams, St. Louis; per telephone call, resignation as prosecuting attorney of St. Louis Court of Criminal Correction; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	October 5, 1905	William E. Land, Gilman City, Daviess County; resignation from the General Assembly; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted

---

1B/1/5	1	2	October 16, 1905	W. E. Conner, Sedalia, Pettis County; resignation as public administrator of Pettis County; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	October 30, 1905	W. R. Patterson, Tipton, Moniteau County; request for coal oil inspector; Waters Pierce Oil Company; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, commission issued to L. Q. Swarner, November 8, 1905
1B/1/5	1	2	November 11, 1905	J. N. Cross, Mexico, Audrain County; resignation as county school commissioner; has relocated; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	November 11, 1905	Judge R. A. Warnhoff, Warrenton, Warren County; resignation from Warren County Court; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	November 22, 1905	David S. McCullough, Carr Lane, Stone County; resignation as county surveyor; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	November 26, 1905	E. B. Mowry, Beggs, Indian Territory (Oklahoma); resignation as commissioner of public schools; relocation from Linn Creek, Camden County; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	December 4, 1905	Theodore Heege and John Ruhl, St. Louis County; St. Louis County Court order; request that coal oil inspector be appointed for the county
1B/1/5	1	2	December 30, 1905	Francis M. Harrington, Kirksville, Adair County; resignation from the General Assembly; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted



---

1B/1/5	1	2	April 9, 1906	Charles W. Clarke, Kansas City, Jackson County; resignation from the General Assembly; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	April 16, 1906	Ed Nelson, Milan, Sullivan County; resignation as coal oil inspector since the governor appointed him as county assessor; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted; commission issued to George T. Burham as inspector
1B/1/5	1	2	May 29, 1906	John B. Mynatt, Cameron, Clinton County; resignation as coal oil inspector; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted; commission issued to G. G. Brown
1B/1/5	1	2	September 4, 1906	Charles A. Morris, Odessa, Lafayette County; resignation as coal oil inspector; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted; commission issued to R. D. Crank
1B/1/5	1	2	September 5, 1906	J. R. McLachlan, Kahoka, Clark County; resignation as coal oil inspector; been appointed to high office in the Masonic Lodge; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, resignation accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	December 13, 1906	Forrest Martin, Moberly, Randolph County; recently elected county clerk; resignation as coal oil inspector
1B/1/5	1	2	December 18, 1906	Petition, officers of County Court, Houston, Texas County; requests coal oil inspector be appointed for Texas County; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, commission issued to George R. Pettigrew, December 21, 1906
1B/1/5	1	2	February 6, 1907	J. A. Russell, Hartville, Wright County; certification of court order, Wright County Court; requesting the appointment of a coal oil inspector for Mansfield

1B/1/5	1	2	February 14, 1907	Jeff B. James, et al, Marshfield, Webster County; request for appointment of coal oil inspector; also signed by W. P. McKnight
1B/1/5	1	2	March 20, 1907	Henry Adolph, Ironton, Iron County; poor health forces him to resign as coal oil inspector
1B/1/5	1	2	March 23, 1907	H. H. Lewis, Kahoka, Clark County; relocating to another state; resignation as coal oil inspector
1B/1/5	1	2	March 26, 1907	R. D. Conn, Odessa, Lafayette County; relocating to another state; resignation as coal oil inspector; recommends J. T. Cheatham
1B/1/5	1	2	April 15, 1907	W. B. Cloud and J. H. Langston, Springfield, Greene County; requesting the appointment of a coal oil inspector; H. S. Bennett; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, commission issued to A. T. Weir
1B/1/5	1	2	May 9, 1907	O. F. Wilson, et al, Burlington Junction, Nodaway County; board of alderman requests coal oil inspector; also signed by J. F. Robertson, W. W. Hood, R. R. Staples, J. H. Sewell, and W. N. Jones; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, commission issued to Joseph Faust
1B/1/5	1	2	May 28, 1907	O. L. Thurmond, Kennett, Dunklin County; cannot accept appointment as coal oil inspector as he is moving west
1B/1/5	1	2	July 10, 1907	Julia B. Poole, Rolla, Phelps County; death of Joseph W. Poole, incumbent coal oil inspector; requests appointment for her son, Frank B. Poole; W. J. Salts concurs; includes note from John Ephraim Swanger, secretary of state, commission issued to Frank B. Poole, July 16, 1907

1B/1/5	1	2	April 9, 1908	Nellie Teal, Chicago, Illinois; moved to Chicago; resignation as notary public for St. Louis; includes note from governor that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	September 29, 1908	W. C. Childers, Grant City, Worth County; request coal oil inspector for the county
1B/1/5	1	2	December 1, 1908	A. T. Riddle, Warsaw, Benton County; resignation as notary public; been appointed deputy circuit clerk and recorder; note from governor that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	December 7, 1908	Emil Ganter, St. Louis; resignation as notary public; note from governor that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	December 15, 1908	Harvey D. Dow, Sedalia, Pettis County; resignation as notary public; note from governor that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	December 24, 1908	Ewing Young Mitchell, Springfield, Greene County; resignation as coal oil inspector; note from governor that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	December 28, 1908	Harry D. Dow, Sedalia, Pettis County; resignation as notary public; note from governor that resignation was accepted
1B/1/5	1	2	December 28, 1908	Winfield Miller, Richmond, Ray County; resignation as public administrator; note from governor that resignation was accepted