ADAMS RECORD

RG0001  Nebraska. Governor
SG0029  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 Seostris 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.
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
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
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
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
    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
DJU/ht    2/16/1973
PMC/PMC   6/21/2005    Word 2000