

Finding Aid
Governor Emmett Forrest Branch Collection
(1924-1925)

Indiana State Archives

Accession Number: 1984136
Policy Files and Correspondence

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Governor's Collection, Governor Branch (1924-1925)

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3 manuscript boxes:

Records in this collection pertain to all correspondence filed between Governor Branch, his secretaries, and various groups and individuals seeking to get in touch with the Governor. Branch served as the 31st Governor of Indiana, finishing the term of Warren T. McCray, who resigned on April 30, 1924, after being convicted of mail fraud. Key issues during Branch's term include improvements to Indiana's schools and highways, and public opposition to Defense Day/Mobilization Day in September 1924. He left office on January 12, 1925.

**Oversized documents have been removed to Map Cabinet A-54, Drawer 5. Those documents that were removed are noted throughout the finding aid.

Box 1

- Folder 1: "A"
 - Letter from Albert D. Alcorn (Commander-in-Chief) inviting Branch to the National Encampment of the United Spanish War Veterans, Sept. 1924, as a result of Branch's service as Lieutenant in Company K, 158th IN Volunteer Infantry.
- Folder 2: American Legion
- Folder 3: Appointments
 - Numerous delegates sent to represent Indiana at the American Prison Congress in Salt Lake City, UT, Aug. 1924.
- Folder 4: "B"
 - Short telegram referencing McCray, filed under Crate Bowen, Nov. 26, 1924.
- Folder 5: Banking, Department of
- Folder 6: Blind, Indiana School for the
- Folder 7: "C"
 - Correspondence filed under "Chamber of Commerce," whereby Branch files a protest with the Governor of Ohio due to interferences with interstate commerce in that state.
 - Letter from John L. Clough listing the daily and weekly newspapers of Indiana.
 - Letter from Branch to President Coolidge, whereby Branch endorses the Parent Teachers Assn. of IN in their attempt to enforce a law prohibiting the publication and sale of obscene books and magazines.
- Folder 8: Coolidge Notification Ceremonies
- Folder 9: Crank
- Folder 10: "D"
- Folder 11: Defense Day, September 12, 1924
 - Numerous letters from groups supporting and opposing Defense Day.
 - Branch desires peace, but also wants the nation to be ready to defend itself when necessary.
- Folder 12: "E"

- Editorial sent by Horace Ellis to Branch praising the Governor's inaugural address, in which he stated, "Let's get to work;" featured in the *Chicago Evening Post*, May 3, 1924.
- Folder 13: In Re: Elections
- Folder 14: "F"
 - Letter from Elmer Stout of Fletcher American National Bank informing Branch of money transferred from McCray's name to Branch's.
- Folder 15: "G"
 - Articles from the *Indianapolis Times*, Sept. 1924, filed under Ella Gardner, calling for adequate school facilities for Indiana.
- Folder 16: Governor's Conference
 - The 16th annual conference was held at the Hotel Seminole in Jacksonville, FL from Nov. 17-20, 1924.
 - Branch's subject at the conference was the Indiana Safety Conference.
- Folder 17: "H"
- Folder 18: "I"
- Folder 19: Insurance Commission
- Folder 20: Interstate Commerce Commission

Box 2

- Folder 1: Invitations – Accepted & Declined
- Folder 2: "J" – "K"
- Folder 3: Kiwanis Club, Indiana District
- Folder 4: "L"
- Folder 5: "Mc"
- Folder 6: "M"
 - Letter from Russell Harrison (Mexican consul), filed under "Mexico," detailing unlawful searches, arrests, and convictions of Mexicans in Gary, IN.
 - Correspondence between Branch and J. W. Mullin discussing the need for Americans to stay true to the fundamental ideals and principles of the U.S.
- Folder 7: "N"
 - Protests against Defense Day/Mobilization Day, filed under the "National Council for the Prevention of War."
 - The event was planned to be the greatest peace-time military demonstration in U.S. history.
- Folder 8: New, Honorable Harry S.
- Folder 9: "O" – "Q"
 - Articles filed under "Dr. John C. Quick" (Mayor of Muncie) in the *Muncie Evening Post*, Jan. 8-9, 1925.
 - One of Branch's last acts as governor was planning for Harry Redkey to succeed Lance Coons as City Judge of Muncie, IN.
- Folder 10: Prize Fighting, 1924; State Athletic Commission
 - Letter from F.T. Singleton (secretary) to E.E. Stacey, whereby Singleton says that Branch assures there will be no prize fighting in IN while he is governor.
- Folder 11: Proclamations

- Folder 12: “R”
- Folder 13: Requisition Papers, A – L
 - Larger files removed to Oversize File, Map Cabinet A-54, Drawer 5, Folder 1.
- Folder 14: Requisition Papers, M – Z

Box 3

- Folder 1: Indiana Republican National Committee
- Folder 2: Indiana Republican State Committee
- Folder 3: Riley Hospital
- Folder 4: “S”
 - Letter from Charles Sefrit, July 1924, including an editorial from the *Washington Herald*, praising Branch’s efforts to bring an end to the telephone monopoly.
 - Copy of the *Pennsylvania News* dated Oct. 1, 1924, discussing the importance of railroads; originally attached to correspondence from Frank Strouse; removed to Oversize File, Map Cabinet A-54, Drawer 5, Folder 1.
- Folder 5: “T”
- Folder 6: “U”
- Folder 7: “V”
 - Letter from E.C. Von Tress, Jr. (Office of Alumni Secretary, Indiana University), May 9, 1924. Von Tress plans to write about Branch in the *Indiana Alumnus* and asks for information on Branch and Singleton since they were both alumni of IU.
- Folder 8: State Veterinarian
- Folder 9: Vicksburg National Military Park Monument
- Folder 10: “W”
 - Letter from Elmer Ritchey Waters, May 3, 1924, including an article about Branch effectively taking the Governor role “with high courage, Hoosier simplicity, rare modesty...”
 - Branch jokes about the position versus house-cleaning responsibilities.
 - Letter and editorials from George H. Wilson, in which he claims Klansmen in Elkhart robbed him of the tools he uses to make a living, Oct. 1924.
- Folder 11: Watson, Honorable James E.
- Folder 12: “Y” – “Z”
- Folder 13: Governor’s Message to General Assembly, January 1925
 - Branch discusses topics such as state insurance, penal institutions, education, budget, tax law, conservation, driver’s licenses, plans for a State Library, Grade Crossing Conference, and prohibition.
- Folder 14: Governor’s Messages, Misc.
- Folder 15: Pardons & Paroles, 1923-1925; Report to Assembly
 - Covers pardons, paroles, commutations, reprieves, and remissions of fines granted by Gov. McCray from Jan. 5, 1923 – Apr. 30, 1924, and by Branch from May 1, 1924 – Jan. 7, 1925.
 - Clemency granted in 649 cases, 202 of which were made by Branch.
 - Listings include the prisoner’s name, date, institution, action taken, and individual making the recommendation of such action.
- Folder 16: State Funds Depositories