



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives

Senator Frank D. Fuller Papers, 1920-1923

RG 440

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:

Fuller, Frank D., 1869-1947

Inclusive Dates:

1920-1923

Scope & Content:

Consists almost entirely of incoming correspondence from Fuller's Memphis constituents and Shelby County business concerns. Many letters written on striking company stationery comprise a decent portion of the papers. Memphis seafood wholesaler Jas. J. Carrigan & Co. decorated its letterhead with a colossal red fish and announced the business shipped "everything that swims." Numerous letters depict factories, banks, and hotels. These may be especially significant because those buildings no longer exist.

The many colorful or detailed letterheads inform as well, such as the Alabama State Fair, Memphis Coffin Company, Gayoso Oil Works, Dudley Gum Company (Nashville), International Sugar Feed Company, P. Milton Benswinger Company, and S.C. Toof and Company, printers. A.R. McNees & Company advertised its Studebaker line of agricultural and logging wagons on stationery featuring those conveyances with color lithography.

Telegrams, newspaper clippings, circulars, programs, and a book of speeches round out document types.

Lively correspondence populates these papers. The South Dakota State Fair complimented Fuller on his Tri-State Fair for having "one of the best Women's

Rest Rooms...on your grounds.” In reply, one citizen cried, “And gracious me! Where is [this] ideal rest room on the Fair grounds?” Another resident, a Christian Scientist, deeply opposed a school bill that would mandate physical education and provide for “periodical medical inspection, and compulsory medication.” She did not object to the physical education part, but a major tenet of Christian Science abjures medical treatment.

The Foreign Corporation Tax measure, “labor agitators,” workers’ compensation, and the issues of minimum wage and fewer hours for factory women worried several business managers. What would be next, maids demanding a shorter day? Businessmen argued that a shorter day would be detrimental to women, especially around the Christmas holidays when they needed more paid hours.

A few writers took up social issues like the proposed act to partially fund support of the children of indigent mothers. A Yazoo & Mississippi Rail Road employee wrote of the “pernicious business of the Loan Sharks” cheating desperate people in the state’s major cities. D.H. Crump opposed Sunday laws (blue laws) pertaining to baseball, saying you can’t legislate morals into people. The Sunday afternoon pass time, in Holly Springs, where I used to live was to shoot craps in the cemetery.... How much better it would have been for these boys to have seen a game of base ball.”

A copy of “An Act to prohibit the use of a hotel or public inn for immoral purposes” forbade hotel employees “to use or knowingly aid, permit, encourage, abet or assist, or connive at the use, hire or renting (rooms) for purposes of adultery, fornication or prostitution” (f. 5).

A book of speeches in honor of the late Senator J. Parks Worley of Sullivan County resides in folder 6. That book features a photograph of the deceased on the front cover.

Physical Description/Extent:

.5 cubic feet

Accession/Record Group Number:

RG 440

Language:

English

Permanent Location:

RG 440

Repository:

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

Administrative/Biographical History

Frank Darwin Fuller, the son of George W. and Mary Augusta (Aldrich) Fuller, was born in Michigan in 1869. Frank attended Nashville public schools and the University of Nashville. He married Agnes Dodson and she bore him one child, Elizabeth. According to Tennessee historian John Trotwood Moore, Fuller “worked in the office of a private capitalist in Cleveland, Ohio (*Tennessee: The Volunteer State, 1769-1923*, vol. 4). The Fullers returned to Tennessee in 1910 and operated a farm in Wilson County. They next moved to Memphis, where Frank became Secretary of the Tri-State Fair. As well, he served in the 60th-62nd (1917-1923) and 64th (1925-1927) Tennessee General Assemblies representing Memphis and Shelby County.

Fuller enjoyed baseball, football, and horse racing. His public-spirited zeal for the general good distinguished his reputation. Frank Darwin Fuller died on July 13, 1947, in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and is buried there in Oaklawn Cemetery.

J. Parks Worley served in the House and Senate of the Tennessee General Assembly for fourteen years (1906-1920). Upon Worley’s death in 1921, Fuller remembered, “Of all the relationships that I have formed, as a member of the General Assembly in the past, I know of none that I might value as highly...as the association formed in serving with Senator Worley” (Memorial to J. Parks Worley, f. 6).

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

The papers reside in original order.

Conditions of Access and Use**Restrictions on Access:**

No restrictions

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Index Terms

Personal Names:

Fuller, Frank D., 1869-1947
Worley, J. Parks, 1873-1921

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:

Alabama State Fair
South Dakota State Fair

Subjects:

Banks and banking -- Tennessee
Child labor -- Government policy
Dogs -- Law and legislation
Eminent domain -- Tennessee
Fairs -- Alabama -- 20th century
Fairs -- South Dakota -- 20th century
Fairs -- Tennessee -- 20th century
Labor policy -- Tennessee
Labor disputes -- Tennessee
Labor unions -- Tennessee
Liberty -- Religious aspects -- Christian Science
Revenue -- Tennessee
Sunday legislation -- Tennessee
Workers' compensation -- United States

Geographic Names:

Nashville (Tenn.) -- Politics and government -- 20th century
Memphis (Tenn.) -- Politics and government -- 20th century
Tennessee -- Politics and government -- 20th century

Document Types:

Booklets
Books of speeches
Circulars (fliers)
Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Programs (documents)
Telegrams

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:

The full provenance of the records is unknown. Staff discovered the papers among the archives' unprocessed collections in 2014.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

Senator Frank D. Fuller Papers, 1920-1923, RG 440, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Processing Information:

Completed by Susan Gordon, February 2020

DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

CONTAINER LIST

Contents/Item Title	Date	Box	Folder
Correspondence -- Fuller, Frank D.	1921	1	1
Correspondence -- Fuller, Frank D.	1921	1	2
Correspondence -- Fuller, Frank D.	1920-1921	1	3
Correspondence -- Fuller, Frank D.	1920-1921	1	4
Correspondence -- Fuller, Frank D.	1921	1	5
Books of speeches -- Worley, J. Parks	1921	1	6