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Griffin Smith papers, 1919-1932

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Griffin Smith papers

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Arkansas State Archives
Title	Griffin Smith papers
Date [inclusive]	1919-1932
Extent	0.02 Cubic feet 1 reel microfilm
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation

Griffin Smith papers, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Biographical/Historical Note

Griffin Smith, Sr., (1885-1955) was Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court from 1937-1955 and an influential Arkansas newspaperman, business leader, and attorney. He was born in DeKalb County, Tennessee, on July 13, 1885, the son of Napoleon and Louisa Watkins Smith. He lost both parents before he turned sixteen and was raised by a distant relative, Rutledge Smith, a Cookeville, Tennessee, newspaper publisher who taught the younger Smith the trade.

Smith moved to Arkansas in 1911 and married Amelia Daggett (1889-1982) of Marianna. They had two children, a daughter, Sheffield (Mrs. Drew) Lander (1913-2003), and a son, Griffin Smith, Jr. (1915-2000).

The Smiths lived briefly in Bonham, Texas, where Smith worked as a linotype operator, but returned to Arkansas after he became editor and part owner of the Paragould Daily Press and the weekly Paragould Soliphone, two publications that he eventually owned outright. When World War I broke out, Smith reported from France to the Paragould newspapers. The Arkansas Gazette, the Memphis Commercial Appeal, and the United Press also carried his dispatches from the trenches.

After ten years as an editor, Smith decided to pursue a law degree at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee. He passed both the Tennessee and Arkansas bar exams and then moved his family to California, where he studied more law at Stanford University and bought a newspaper at Paso Robles. The family returned to Arkansas in 1926 and Smith opened a law practice in Marianna.

In 1932, Governor Harvey Parnell named Smith to fill an unexpired term as State Comptroller. Smith announced himself as a candidate for governor in 1936 but then changed his mind and instead campaigned successfully for chief justice.

Smith was speaking at First Christian Church in El Dorado, Arkansas, when he suffered a heart attack and collapsed. He died about six hours later, on April 29, 1955, and is buried in Little Rock's Roselawn Cemetery.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of correspondence and other papers belonging to Griffin Smith, Sr.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 03/16/2010

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use. The ASA possesses the material listed in this finding aid in the original format, but due to preservation concerns this collection is accessible to the public through microfilm format.

Conditions Governing Use

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17-U.S. Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The person using this material is liable for any infringement.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Richard Frothingham, Little Rock, Arkansas, 1966.

Professional and political correspondence

Collection Inventory

Professional and political correspondence	Reel	Folder
	MG00217	3
		Reel
1. 1919 June 11: Griffin Smith, Paragould, to Edgar Herrick, Electra, Texas		MG00217
2. 1919 December 6: Griffin Smith, Paragould, to W.E. Pevehouse, Burkburnett, Texas		
3. 1919 December 17: Harvey G. Combs, Little Rock, to Para-Tex Oil Company, Paragould		
4. 1919 December 19: Colter Hamilton Moses, Little Rock, to Sam McHaney, Paragould		
5. 1920 January 5: Colter Hamilton Moses, Little Rock, to Griffin Smith, Paragould		
6. 1920 April 3: Griffin Smith, Paragould, to G.A. Burr, Paragould		
7. 1920 May 8: Sam McHaney, Paragould, to Griffin Smith, Paragould		
8. 1920 June 25: Griffin Smith, Paragould, to B.F. Lewis, Peach Orchard, Arkansas		
9. 1920 September 10: Griffin Smith, Paragould, to the Southwestern Press Clipping Bureau, Topeka, Kansas		
10. 1920 September 23: Mrs. Tom Summers, Peach Orchard, Arkansas, to the Paragould Soliphone		

Professional and political correspondence

11. 1920 September 25: Griffin Smith, Paragould, to Mrs. Tom Summers, Peach Orchard, Arkansas

12. 1926 October 20: Griffin Smith, Marianna, to Thaddeus Horatius Caraway, Jonesboro

13. 1926 October 21: Thaddeus Horatius Caraway, Jonesboro, to Griffin Smith, Marianna

14. 1926 October 22: T.H. Caraway, Jonesboro, to Griffin Smith, Marianna (telegram)

15. 1926 October 22: Griffin Smith, Marianna, to T.H. Caraway, Senath, Missouri (telegram)

16. 1926 October 23: Caraway, Senath, Missouri, to Smith, Marianna (telegram)

17. 1926 October 27: Thaddeus Caraway at Daughters of American Revolution commemorative site marking (speech)

18. 1926 November 3: T.H. Caraway, Jonesboro, to Griffin Smith, Marianna

19. 1926 December 9: T.H. Caraway, Washington, District of Columbia, to Griffin Smith, Marianna

20. 1926 December 11: Griffin Smith to T.H. Caraway

21. 1926 December 14: T.H. Caraway to Griffin Smith

22. 1926 December 17: Griffin Smith to Mrs. A. Bertig and family

23. 1927 January 13: William P. Sadler, Little Rock, to Griffin Smith, Marianna

Professional and political correspondence

24. 1927 May 31: Charles Ebenezer Daggett, Marianna, to Griffin Smith, Marianna

25. 1927 June 6: R.Q. Lillard, Nashville, Tennessee, to Griffin Smith, Marianna

26. 1927 June 16: Griffin Smith, Marianna, to T.H. Caraway, Jonesboro

27. 1927 June 17: T.H. Caraway to Griffin Smith

28. 1927 November 17: T.H. Caraway, Washington, District of Columbia, to Griffin Smith, Marianna

29. 1927 November 21: Griffin Smith to T.H. Caraway

30. 1927 November 25: T.H. Caraway to Griffin Smith

31. 1927 December 3: Griffin Smith to T.H. Caraway

32. 1928 January 3: Griffin Smith, Marianna, to T.H. Caraway, Washington, District of Columbia

33. 1928 January 18: T.H. Caraway to Griffin Smith

34. 1928 January 23: T.H. Caraway to Griffin Smith

35. 1928 January 23: Griffin Smith to T.H. Caraway

36. 1928 January 28: Griffin Smith to T.H. Caraway

37. 1928 March 20: T.H. Caraway, Washington, District of Columbia, to Griffin Smith, Marianna

Professional and political correspondence

38. 1928 March 29: Griffin Smith to T.H. Caraway

39. 1931 January 9: T.H. Caraway, Washington, District of Columbia, to Griffin Smith, Marianna

40. 1931 January 12: Griffin Smith to T.H. Caraway

41. 1931 February 4: Griffin Smith, Marianna, to T.H. Caraway, Washington, District of Columbia (letter and report)

42. 1931 February 28: [Griffin] Smith and Fitzsimmons, Marianna, to T.H. Caraway, Washington, District of Columbia

43. 1931 November 21: Hatty [sic] Wyatt Caraway, Riverdale, Maryland, to Griffin Smith, Marianna

44. 1931 November 28: Mid-South Cotton Growers Association, Memphis, to Griffin Smith, Marianna (invoice)

45. 1931 November 28: "Federal Compress Company warehouse receipts"

46. "Arkansas Official Register, 1931-1932, compiled by Jim B. Higgins, Secretary of State"

47. 1932 January 2: Garrett Whiteside, Washington, District of Columbia, to Griffin Smith, Marianna

48. 1932 January 5: Griffin Smith to Garrett Whiteside

49. 1932 February 16: Griffin Smith, Marianna, to Eugene A. Skillern, St. Louis

50. 1932 February 16: Griffin Smith, Marianna, to H.W. Caraway, Washington, D.C.

War Risk Insurance Claims correspondence

51. 1932 March 16: Griffin Smith, Marianna, to H.W. Caraway, Washington, District of Columbia

52. Undated: T.H. Caraway to Griffin Smith on appointment of Griffin Smith, Jr., to United States Naval Academy

53. 1932 March 23: H.W. Caraway to Griffin Smith

54. 1932 May 15: Griffin Smith, Marianna, to H.W. Caraway, Washington, District of Columbia

55. 1932 May 27: H.W. Caraway to Griffin Smith

56. 1932 June 1: Griffin Smith, Marianna, to H.W. Caraway, Washington, District of Columbia

War Risk Insurance Claims correspondence

57. 1919, 1922, 1931-1932: Between H.W. Caraway, Griffin Smith, and officials from United States Treasury, United States Veterans Administration, United States Adjutant General's Office, United States Veterans Bureau, and American Red Cross