A Finding Aid to the
Frank and Greenhall Family Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 292
Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

The Frank and Greenhall Family papers contain information on the Frank, Greenhall and Silverstein families of St. Louis, Missouri.

By far the most famous of those included in this collection is Nathan Frank (1852-1931). Frank was an attorney, former Congressman, former owner of the St. Louis Star and one of St. Louis' most distinguished civic leaders. He was a philanthropist, author, legislator and political leader. He was a foe of prohibition and was looked upon by the Jewish community as one of their foremost leaders.

Frank was born in Peoria, Illinois, February 23, 1852, the son of Abraham and Branette Frank, who came from Germany in 1849. He received his early schooling in the public schools of Peoria. In 1867, upon graduation, his parents moved to St. Louis. Frank later attended Harvard University Law School where he received a bachelor of laws degree in 1871. After an additional year of work after graduation at Harvard, Frank returned to St. Louis where he was admitted to the bar in 1874. For several years he devoted himself to commercial and bankruptcy law, on which he became a renowned authority. He compiled and edited Frank's Bankruptcy Law, which was published in four editions, and later formed the basis of the Bankruptcy Act of 1898.

Frank joined the Republican party as a young man, and after receiving the Republican nomination and unsuccessfully contesting the election of his opponent, John M. Gloyer, to the 50th Congress, he was elected to the 51st Congress from the central district of St. Louis.

As a legislator Frank served on several important committees and was active in securing the passage of some notable legislation. He framed the bill for reapportionment of members to Congress based on the eleventh decennial census, the first reapportionment bill ever enacted by a unanimous vote of Congress. Chairman of the Republican State Committee in 1896, Frank joined the coterie of Republican leaders headed by Mike Hanna. Frank ran for United States Senate in 1910, 1916, and 1928, but failed to win the Republican primaries.

Frank never married and was a life member of his father's Reform synagogue, Temple Shaare Emeth in St. Louis. He was a supporter of both local and national charities. In 1920 he served as general chairman of the Jewish War Relief Committee.

Frank's last public appearance was just before his death when he, along with several thousand Jews from St. Louis, met to protest British policies forbidding further immigration or land purchases in Palestine. Although not a Zionist, Frank was tireless in his efforts to aid and support the homeless and displaced of Europe.

Nathan Frank died on April 5, 1931 after bequeathing money for the construction of the Nathan Frank Chapel at Temple Shaare Emeth. He was buried in Mount Sinai Cemetery in St. Louis.

Scope and Content

The Frank and Greenhall Family papers contain information on the Greenhall and Frank families of St. Louis, Missouri. Prominent in this collection is information about and memorabilia on Nathan Frank, A. Frank Greenhall and Charles Greenhall. Quite notably, there is a signed letter to Nathan Frank from then president Benjamin Harrison and several from John W. Noble, the Secretary of the Interior (1889-1893).

The bulk of the collection is correspondence to and from family members. There is also genealogical information for the Blumenthal, Rozand, Hausman, Grossman, Neuman, Weinberger and Weil families.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged alphabetically.

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
Preferred Citation  Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Frank and Greenhall Family Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows: [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-292. Frank and Greenhall Family Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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Index Terms

Subjects  Jews -- Missouri -- Saint Louis

Personal Names  Greenhall family

Corporate Names  Frank family

Media  Genealogical tables / Scrapbooks

Series A. General, 1853-1987

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Annotated Bankrupt Law: The Bankrupt Act of 1898 as amended by the Act of 1903 by Frank, Nathan, 1903

Box 1. Folder 2. Blumenthal, Rozand family trees.

Box 1. Folder 3. Columbian Exposition World's Fair, 1893

Box 1. Folder 4. Frank, Abraham. Naturalization certificate and will, 1853, 1892

Box 1. Folder 5. Frank, August. Money, undated

Box 1. Folder 6. Frank, August to Greenhall, A. Frank, 1905

Box 1. Folder 7. Frank family correspondence, 1887-1929

Box 1. Folder 8. Frank, Nathan. Cemetery plot deed, undated


Box 1. Folder 10. Frank, Nathan. Law license, diploma., 1869, 1871

Box 1. Folder 11. Frank, Nathan. Correspondence with Harrison, Benjamin, Noble, John W. and other government officials, 1893-1917

Box 1. Folder 12. Frank, Nathan. Lunch with William Howard Taft (St. Louis, Mo.), 1910

Box 1. Folder 13. Frank, Nathan. Speeches, 1892, undated

Box 1. Folder 14. Greenhall, Abraham. Death certificate, 1898

Box 1. Folder 15. Greenhall, A. Frank. Articles, 1935


Box 1. Folder 18. Greenhall, A. Frank. Notes on the Wasch family, undated

Box 1. Folder 19. Greenhall, Charles L. Eulogies and obituary, 1919

Box 1. Folder 20. Greenhall, Charles L. Military discharge, 1898

Box 1. Folder 21. Greenhall, Grace Frank. Oil stock, 1901
Box 1. Folder 22. Greenhut and Stern family trees, undated
Box 1. Folder 23. Hausman and Grossman family trees, undated
Box 1. Folder 24. Jewish Hospital of St. Louis (St. Louis, Mo.), 1902, 1956, 1974
Box 1. Folder 25. Neuman and Weinberger family trees, undated
Box 1. Folder 26. Scrapbook.
Box 1. Folder 27. Silverstein, Bernard. Obituaries, death certificate and photograph, undated
Box 1. Folder 29. Weil family tree, undated