

## **MS-86, Frank Somers Papers**

**Collection Number:** MS-86

**Title:** Frank Somers Papers

**Dates:** 1860-1981 (Bulk 1958-1965)

**Creator:** Somers, Frank, 1897-1978

**Summary/Abstract:**

Frank Somers served as the mayor of Dayton, Ohio from 1962-1965. Before and after his political career, he and his wife were involved in Dayton civic affairs. The papers of Frank Somers cover the political life of Frank Somers approximately from the years 1958 to 1966 as well as family information and world travels.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** 2 lin. ft.

**Language(s):** English, German, Hebrew, Russian

**Repository:**

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

**Restrictions on Access:** There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

**Restrictions on Use:**

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**Preferred Citation:**

[Box #, Folder #], MS-86, Frank Somers Papers Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

**Acquisition:**

This collection was donated to the Wright State University Special Collections and Archives on April 6, 1979 by Frank Somers widow, Mrs. Katherine Somers.

**Revisions:**

The Finding Aid was reformatted and additions to the collection were incorporated in October 2012 by Victoria Penno.

**Related Material:**

MS-322 James H. McGee Papers, 1929-1995

MS-409 Congressman Edward G. Breen Collection, 1910-1990, bulk 1940-1950

**Processed by:** Judith McCune, May 26 1981, and Victoria Penno, October 2012.

**Arrangement:**

This collection consists of two series:

Series I: General Information

Series II: Travels

**Biographical/Historical Note:**

Frank R. Somers was born in Brookville, Ohio, in 1897. He attended Otterbein College, Miami University, and graduated from Ohio State University. His wife, the former Katherine Graff Hankee, worked with him and was also active in Dayton civic affairs. Mr. Somers founded the Certified Public Accounting firm of Somers and Vallo. He served for two years as president of the Dayton Chapter of the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Mr. Somers was elected to the Dayton City Commission during the city elections on November 5, 1957. He was an early advocate of expanding the city commission powers. He served as mayor of Dayton from 1962 until 1965, after which he declined to run again.

While serving as major, Mr. Somers fostered the Sister City Program between Dayton and Augsburg, West Germany. He also visited Berlin, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Cairo, Beirut, Madrid, Warsaw, Belgrade, and Moscow. He felt that such visits were important to expand people-to-people contacts. In 1965 Mr. Somers received a plaque from the late President Eisenhower in honor of his fostering the Sister City Program.

Frank Somers died in Dayton, Ohio, in 1978.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection contains a variety of materials. There are photos of Mr. and Mrs. Somers at various events or world sites. Newspaper clippings follow Mr. Somers during his time as mayor of Dayton. Even after his death in 1978, Mrs. Somers stayed involved with the Dayton community and there is some material about her activities. The other half of this collection talks about the Somers' world travels and their activities.

Series I, General Information, is separated into two major sections: Family and Political Career. The Family section contains information about some of Mr. Somers's family, Mrs. Somers, and himself. There are some items that relate to his pre-political career as well. In the Political Career section, there is a biographical sketch of Mr. Somers as well as information regarding his political career as mayor and his interest in the Sister Cities Program.

Series II, Travels, consists of photo albums and souvenir books from his Middle Eastern and European travels in 1964 and 1965, respectfully. It also covers his activities while abroad.

## Subject Terms:

### Persons/Families

Somers, Frank, 1897-1978

### Places

Dayton (Ohio) – Politics and government – 20th century

### Subjects (General)

Politics and Government

### Material Types

Paper

Newspaper

Photographs

### Occupations

Mayor

## Collection Inventory

<b>Series I : General Information</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Family</b>			
1	1	Sabbath work by W. J. Prunder	1860-1877
	2	First Commencement United Biblical Seminary	1874
	3	Photographs-Unidentified Banquet Event	Sep. 29, 1943
	4	Notebook of Personal Notes, Church Related Notes	1955-1966
	5	Notebook of Personal Notes and Research	1955-1966
	6	10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Forum Affiliation Conference Photograph	Sep. 12, 1966
	7	Pre-Political Career	1924, 1957
	8	Yearly Quote Booklets	1964, 1968
	9	Mrs. Somers Material	1955, 1958, 1962, 1965
	10	Unidentified Photographs	Undated
<b>Political Career</b>			
1	11	Biographical Sketch	1960
	12	Campaign Materials- City Commissioners Race	1961
	13	Newspaper Clippings	1939-1981
	14	Dayton Council on World Affairs Welcomes the Honorable W. Randolph Burgess	June 1960

	15	Photographs-Defense Electronics Supply Center Activation Ceremony	July 2, 1962
	16	News Release and Press Conference	1962, 1963
	17	Correspondence to Mr. or Mrs. Somers	1960, 1965
	18	Report to the People	Dec. 8, 1965
	19	Certificates	1964, 1966
	20	Dinner at the White House	Mar.-Apr. 1965
	21	Photograph of President and Mrs. Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Somers	1965
2	1	Photograph Album	Undated
	2	Photograph of Mayor and Mrs. Somers	Nov. 8, 1961
<b>Series II: Travels</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	1	Speeches by Frank Somers-Augsburg and Jerusalem	1964
	2	Reports Sent to Dayton Newspapers- Cairo, Lebanon, Madrid	1964
	3	Postcards and Maps of Jerusalem and one photo	1964
	4	Newspaper Clippings-European Trip	1964
	5	Negative of a Certificate to Dr. Klaus Müller	Apr. 18, 1964
	6	Schedules for Europe and USSR Trip	1965
	7	Trip to USSR and Meeting the Mayor of Moscow	1965
	8	Photographs European Trip	1965
	9	St. Paul's Cathedral Pictorial Guide	1965
4	1	Photograph Album-Berlin	Jun. 16-21, 1964
	2	Photograph Album-Augsburg	Jun. 1964
5	1	Souvenir Book-Tel Aviv	May 26, 1964
	2	Souvenir Book-Augsburg	Jun. 9-10, 1965
	3	Souvenir Book-Moscow	Jun. 1965