

**Title:** Backus, August Charles Papers

**Reference Code:** Mss-3244

**Inclusive Dates:** 1901 – 1952

**Quantity:** 0.5 cu. ft. total

**Location:** LM, Sh. 153 (0.3 cu. ft.)  
RC21B, Sh. 001 (0.2 cu. ft.)

**Abstract:** August Backus was born in Kewaskum, Wisconsin, in 1877. He attended the State Normal School at Oshkosh and then earned a law degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1900. He took a position with the Wisconsin Department of Labor until he was appointed assistant district attorney in 1905. In 1908, he was elected district attorney and served in that capacity for 18 months until Governor James Davidson appointed him municipal judge. As judge, he established an adult probation system that was copied by other cities in the U.S. He continued as judge until 1924 when he became publisher of the *Milwaukee Sentinel*. He retired from the newspaper business in 1930 and once again took up the practice of law. Throughout his life he was very civic minded. He taught law at Marquette University and served as a trustee of the Marquette University Medical School and as regent for the University of Wisconsin. In addition, he led numerous charitable and patriotic efforts. He passed away in March 1952.

**Scope and Content:** The collection consists of collected articles, letters and speeches by and about Backus. Also included is a scrapbook with clippings, flyers and other ephemera detailing Backus' 1908 campaign for District Attorney.

**Access and Use:** No restrictions

**Language:** English

**Notes:** Scrapbook was donated by Carl Backus, December 2018.