



John J. Babka

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

John J. Babka (1884-1937) was born near Cleveland, Ohio, the son of Czech immigrants. Babka went to night school while working at a foundry, gaining his law degree in 1908. That same year he married Mary H. Kubu and was admitted to the bar. Babka worked as special counsel to the attorney general and assistant prosecuting attorney in Cuyahoga County. In 1919, Babka became a U.S. Representative from Ohio, serving only one term. Following this term, he served twice as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Babka was also involved in Czech organizations in the Cleveland area. He died in 1937, survived by his wife and three children; his wife and a son would both serve in political office in the 1940s.

Important Dates

- March 16, 1884: John Joseph Babka is born just outside Cleveland, Ohio.
- January 8, 1908: Babka marries Mary H. Kubu.
- 1908: Babka graduates from the Cleveland Law School.
- 1908: Babka is admitted to the bar and starts practicing law in Cleveland.
- 1911-1912: Babka serves as special counsel to the attorney general.
- 1912-1919: Babka serves as assistant prosecuting attorney of Cuyahoga County.
- March 4, 1919: Babka begins his term in the U.S. House of Representatives from Ohio's 21st district.
- March 3, 1921: Babka's term in the House ends as he lost re-election; he returns to his law practice.
- 1920, 1932: Babka serves as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.
- 1934: Babka becomes president of the League of Czech Democratic Clubs.
- March 22, 1937: Babka dies in Cleveland, Ohio.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: John Babka, Jan Babka, J. Babka.
- Limit your search by date to find information about specific parts of Babka's career.
- Search newspapers in all states, not just Ohio.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[Former Senator Dick a Candidate](#)" *Evening Star* (Washington, DC), July 30, 1918, Image 4, col. 1.
- "[Naši Kandidáti do Kongresu](#)" *Svět* (Cleveland,OH), August 10, 1918, Image 6, col. 1-3.
- "[Cleveland Protestants Must Not](#)" *The Menace* (Aurora, MO), October 26, 1918, Image 4, col. 1.
- "[Do Národní Konvence Demokrátu](#)" *Svět* (Cleveland,OH), February 18, 1920, Image 1, col. 4.
- "[Ohio's Primary Occurs Tuesday Big Fight is On](#)" *The Democratic Banner* (Mt. Vernon, OH), April 27, 1920, Image 1, col. 1-2.
- "[Willis Nominated for Seat in Senate](#)" *The Washington Times* (Washington, DC), August 11, 1920, Image 1, col. 6.