

## Boyd, James E., 1834-1906

RG1

SG15 Boyd, James E., 1834-1906

Papers, etc., 1891-1892

Approximate No. of Items: 600

Cubic Feet: 1

### HISTORICAL NOTE

James E. Boyd, born in Tryone County, Ireland on September 9, 1834, emigrated with his parents, Joseph and Margaret Boyd, to a farm in Belmont County, Ohio and later to Zanesville, Ohio. Learning the carpentry trade in his youth, he migrated with his brother to Omaha, Nebraska in 1856 where he became involved with a carpentry firm. Two years later, Boyd moved to Buffalo County and began farming and ranching operations near Gibbon. These operations together with general merchandise stores in Gibbon and Kearney, government contracts for hay and grain with Fort Kearney, freighting operations on the plains enabled him to amass a large personal fortune. In 1868, he returned to Omaha and entered into various financial and business activities.

Boyd served in various political positions prior to his ascendancy to the governorship in 1890. Soon after his arrival in Nebraska, he served as the county clerk of Douglas County in 1857. Such political activities on his part continued throughout his life. He represented Buffalo County in the first state legislature in 1866, was a delegate from Douglas County in both of the constitution conventions in 1871 and 1875, served as a member of the Omaha city council in 1889, Omaha mayor in 1881-1883, 1885-1887, was a delegate to the Democratic national convention several years, and served as a Democratic national committeeman from Nebraska.

Mr. Boyd was nominated for governor by the Democratic party in 1890 and narrowly defeated his nearest opponent, John H. Powers, 71,331 to 70,187. After he had taken his oath of office and filed his bond on January 8, 1891, Governor John M. Thayer refused to vacate the office to Boyd on the grounds that the newly elected governor was not a citizen and therefore legally unqualified. The State Supreme Court advised otherwise and Thayer surrendered the office pending the judicial determination of the case. Boyd finally gave his inaugural message on February 6, 1891. However, the State Supreme Court rendered a decision in May, 1891 sustaining Thayer whereupon he was reinstated in the office. Boyd appealed the decision to the United States Supreme Court and on February 1, 1892 the Nebraska Court's decision was reversed, declaring Boyd a citizen. Boyd then reassumed his position as governor for the remainder of his term.

Upon leaving office, Boyd returned to his business activities in Omaha, St. Louis, and Chicago. Fourteen years after retiring, Boyd died at his home in Omaha on April 30, 1906 after a lingering illness. His wife, Anna Henry who he had married on August 22, 1858, along with three children survived him.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This subgroup consists of two boxes of papers of Governor James E. Boyd, arranged in three series. (1) General Correspondence, 1891-1892; (2) Applications, 1892; and (3) Miscellaneous, 1892. This material relates to the affairs of the Governor's office during the administration of James E. Boyd, 1891, 1892-1893. The bulk of the collection consists of general correspondence, incoming and outgoing, regarding Thayer's suit against Boyd in the Supreme Court, diseases among horses within the state; pardons; appointments and applications. Additional material of note includes a bill passed by Congress to increase the number of state representatives.

#### DESCRIPTION

#### SERIES ONE GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1891-1892

##### Box 1

- Folder 1. January 13, 1891-November 22, 1892
- Folder 2. February 18, 1892-March 31, 1892
- Folder 3. April 1, 1892-April 15, 1892
- Folder 4. April 16, 1892-April 30, 1892
- Folder 5. May 1, 1892-May 31, 1892
- Folder 6. June 1, 1892-June 15, 1892
- Folder 7. June 16, 1892-June 30, 1892
- Folder 8. July 1, 1892-July 15, 1892
- Folder 9. July 16, 1892-July 30, 1892
- Folder 10. August 1, 1892-August 29, 1892
- Folder 11. September 1, 1892-September 30, 1892

##### Box 2

- Folder 12. October 1, 1892-October 15, 1892
- Folder 13. October 16, 1892-October 31, 1892
- Folder 14. November 1, 1892-November 30, 1892
- Folder 15. December 1, 1892-December 15, 1892
- Folder 16. December 16, 1892-December 31, 1892
- Folder 17. General Correspondence, undated
- Folder 18. Letter Press Book: Feb. 1892-Jan. 1893

#### SERIES TWO APPLICATIONS, 1892

##### Box 2

- Folder 1. Position Applications at the Hospital for the Insane, 1892
- Folder 2. Applications for Commissioner of Deeds, 1892

#### SERIES THREE MISCELLANY, 1892

##### Box 2

- Folder 1. Resolutions and Petitions, 1892
- Folder 2. Reports and Proclamations, 1892

ADDED ENTRIES:

CRIME AND CRIMINALS NEBRASKA

Pershing, John Joseph, 1860-1948

POLITICS NEBRASKA

Horses-NEBRASKA

Thayer, John Milton, 1820-1906