

# Dawes, James William

RG1 Nebraska. Governor  
SG13 Dawes, James William, 1845-1918  
Papers, etc.  
State Governor; McConnellsville, Ohio; Crete, Nebr.  
Linear ft: 38.5

## HISTORICAL NOTE

James W. Dawes, who served as governor of Nebraska from 1883 to 1887, was born in McConnellsville, Ohio, Jan. 8, 1845, and moved to Nebraska in 1871, settling at Crete. Spending two years at Western Reserve College in Ohio, and one year at a Milwaukee business college, he went on to train for the legal profession in the law office of a cousin. He was later admitted to the Wisconsin bar. Shortly after he was later admitted to the Wisconsin bar. Shortly after he arrived in Crete, Dawes went into the mercantile business, but soon began the practice of law, establishing the firm of Dawes and Foss.

He early took an interest in politics and soon rose to a position of prominence and influence in the Republican party of Nebraska. He was a member of the state constitutional convention of 1875, and in 1876 was elected state senator. Chosen chairman of the Republican state central committee, he held that position until 1882 and 1884 Dawes was elected governor. In each campaign he defeated Nebraska's most eloquent man prior to William J. Bryan, J. Sterling Morton. Governor Dawes' administration coincided with part of the period of Nebraska's greatest development. Gov. Dawes was much interested in the progress of Nebraska's state institutions, and it was during his administration that the first appropriation was made for the State Historical Society.

Following his retirement from the governorship, Dawes went back to his law practice at Crete. He was particularly interested in the welfare of Doane College and for 37 years was a member of that institution's board of trustees. In 1898, Dawes was appointed paymaster in the Army for the duration of the Spanish American War. Later the assignment was made permanent and Dawes was stationed in Cuba and the Philippines until his retirement from the Army in 1909.

James W. Dawes married Francis Anna Dawes, cousin, in 1871. Mrs. Dawes died in 1908, and Dawes spent the remaining years of his life in Milwaukee, Wis. Where he died on Oct. 8, 1918.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This subgroup consists of 7 boxes of the papers of Governor James W. Dawes, arranged in four series: (1) General Correspondence, 1883-1887; (2) Applications for Commissioner of Deeds, 1883-1887; (3) Petitions and Proclamations, 1883-1887; and (4) Miscellany.

These records relate to the affairs of the Governor's office during the administration of James

W. Dawes, 1883-1887. The bulk of this material consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence of the Governor's office relating to such matters as county organization; eradication of cattle diseases; cattle quarantines; state institutions; appointments; crime; railroads; the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial; and construction of dams. Additional material within the collection consists of applications for the position of commissioner of deeds for Nebraska, petitions and proclamations regarding the organization of counties, and proclamations relating to rewards for criminals. Miscellaneous material includes certificates and Governor's Annual Messages.

## DESCRIPTION

### SERIES ONE GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1883-1887

#### Box 1

- Folder 1. Jan. 2, 1883-Jan. 31, 1883
- Folder 2. Feb. 1, 1883-Feb.28, 1883
- Folder 3. Mar.1, 1883-Mar. 15, 1883
- Folder 4. Mar. 16, 1883-Mar. 31, 1883
- Folder 5. Apr. 9, 1883-May 28, 1883
- Folder 6. June. 1, 1883-July 30, 1883
- Folder 7. Aug. 3, 1883-Oct. 31, 1883
- Folder 8. Nov. 1, 1883-Dec. 31, 1883
- Folder 9. Jan. 1, 1884-Jan. 31, 1884
- Folder 10. Feb. 1, 1884-Mar. 31, 1884
- Folder 11. Apr. 5, 1884-May 30, 1884

#### Box 2

- Folder 12. June 2, 1884-June 30, 1884
- Folder 13. July 1, 1884-Aug. 30, 1884
- Folder 14. Sept. 1, 1884-Sept. 29, 1884
- Folder 15. Oct. 1, 1884-Oct. 31, 1884
- Folder 16. Nov. 1, 1884-Nov. 30, 1884
- Folder 17. Dec. 1, 1884-Dec. 31, 1884
- Folder 18. Jan. 1, 1885- Jan. 31, 1885
- Folder 19. Feb. 1, 1885-Feb. 28, 1885
- Folder 20. Mar. 4, 1885-Mar. 30, 1885
- Folder 21. Apr. 1, 1885-Apr. 30, 1885
- Folder 22. May 4, 1885-May 29, 1885

#### Box 3

- Folder 23. June 1, 1885-June 30, 1885
- Folder 24. July 1, 1885-July 31, 1885
- Folder 25. Aug. 1, 1885-Sept. 30, 1885
- Folder 26. Oct. 3, 1885-Oct. 31, 1885
- Folder 27. Nov. 1, 1885-Nov. 30, 1885
- Folder 28. Dec. 1, 1885-Dec. 31, 1885
- Folder 29. Jan. 3, 1886-Feb. 27, 1886
- Folder 30. Mar. 1, 1886-Mar. 31, 1886
- Folder 31. Apr. 2, 1886-Apr. 30, 1886

Folder 32. May 1, 1886-May 31, 1886  
Folder 33. June 1, 1886-June 29, 1886

Box 4

Folder 34. July 2, 1886-Aug. 30, 1886  
Folder 35. Sept. 5, 1886-Oct. 29, 1886  
Folder 36. Nov. 2, 1886-Dec. 31, 1886  
Folder 37. Not Dated

Volume 1. Outgoing Correspondence (letterpress), 1883  
Volume 2. Outgoing Correspondence (letterpress), 1883-1884

Box 5

Volume 3. Outgoing Correspondence (letterpress), 1884-1885  
Volume 4. Outgoing Correspondence (letterpress), 1885-1886

Box 6

Volume 5. Outgoing Correspondence (letterpress), 1886

SERIES TWO APPLICATIONS FOR COMMISSIONER OF DEEDS, 1883-1886

Box 6.

Folder 1. Application, 1883-1886

SERIES THREE PROCLAMATIONS AND PETITIONS, 1883-1887

Box 6

Folder 1 Proclamations

Box 7.

Folder 2-4. Petitions, 1883-1887

SERIES FOUR MISCELLANY

Box 7

Folder 1. Includes appointments, certificates, and Governor's annual messages  
Folder 2. Certificates (oversize)