

ARCHIVES RECORD

RG1 Nebraska. Governor
SG22 Sheldon, George Lawson, 1870-1960

Papers, etc. : 1907-1909
Lincoln, Nebr.: State Governor, 1907-1909
Cubic Feet: 2
Approx. 1200 Items:

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

George L. Sheldon, governor from 1907-1909, was the first native Nebraskan to serve as the state's chief executive. Born at Nehawka, Nebraska, May 31, 1870 Sheldon finished school in his home town, then came to Lincoln, where he received the Bachelor of Letters degree at the University of Nebraska in 1892. Following that he went on to Harvard University, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1893. While at the University of Nebraska, young Sheldon was particularly active in military affairs, and during his senior year, he was captain of the cadet battalion, which later became the Pershing Rifles. Sheldon had been selected to captain the crack rifle outfit by Lt. John J. Pershing, commandant of cadets at the University the young man's military service was put to use in the Spanish-American War, during which he served as a captain in Colonel William J. Bryan's third Nebraska Volunteer Infantry. Returning to Nebr., he was elected to the state senate in 1902, at the age of 32, and re-elected in 1904. Mr. Sheldon was closely identified with the reform element in the Republican Party, and his nomination for the governorship in 1906 was heralded as a victory for that section of the party. He defeated A. C. Shallenberger, the Democratic candidate, by a substantial margin. Mr. Sheldon's elevation to the executive office at the age of 36 gave him a place in Nebraska history as one of the state's younger governors. Only three younger men have served in the post. Governor Sheldon's administration was characterized by the adoption of the mandatory direct-primary law and legislation providing for a two-cent railroad fare. He had strongly urged both measures. Sheldon was defeated on his second bid for the governorship by the Democrat, Aston Shallenberger. Following the expiration of his term of office, Mr. Sheldon moved to Mississippi where some years before he had acquired a plantation. He died there in 1960.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This subgroup consists of four boxes of papers of Governor George L. Sheldon arranged in three series: (1) General Correspondence, 1907-1908; (2) Applications, 1907-1909; and (3) Miscellany, 1907-1908.

This material relates to the affairs of the Governor's office during the administration of George L. Sheldon, 1907-1909. The bulk of the collection consists of general correspondence, incoming and outgoing, regarding such matters as resignations, paroles and commutations of sentences, pension requests, complaints concerning state

institutions, cattle quarantines, appointments, request for settlement of Spanish-American War Claims, a new Pass Bill to conform with the Hepburn Bill; investment of state school funds; litigation problems of Boyd County school lands; statistical data and clippings dealing with the state central bank idea; removal of Wayne city officials from office; appointment of a land judge to represent Nebraska in the allotment to purchasers of 95,000 acres of Texas land. Other materials include the First Annual Report of Insect pest and Plant Disease Bureau; copy of state boundary compact between South Dakota and Nebraska; progress report of the Nebraska Corn Commission, May 20, 1908; petitions and other data dealing with the ouster of officers of the Omaha Board of Fire and Police Commission; copy of the penitentiary labor contract, 1908, grand jury investigative report on Douglas County institutions; copy of certificate and proclamation creating Morrill County; Chase County District Court Docket, November, 1908; and a proposal of T. J. Merryman, M. D., Lincoln, Nebraska for a "Federation of Nations."

ADDED ENTRIES

BOYD COUNTY, NEBRASKA. HISTORY
 CRIME AND CRIMINALS. NEBRASKA
 MORRILL COUNTY, NEBRASKA. HISTORY
 POLITICS. NEBRASKA
 QUARANTINES. VETERINARY
 STATE INSTITUTIONS. NEBRASKA
 WAYNE, NEBRASKA. HISTORY
 COUNTY GOVERNMENT. ORGANIZATION

DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Box 1

Folder 1	January 1, 1907-January 31, 1907
Folder 2	February 1, 1907-February 27, 1907
Folder 3	March 1, 1907-March 30, 1907
Folder 4	April 1, 1907-April 30, 1907
Folder 5	May 1, 1907-May 15, 1907
Folder 6	May 16, 1907-May 31, 1907
Folder 7	June 1, 1907-June 11, 1907
Folder 8	June 12, 1907-June 29, 1907
Folder 9	July 1, 1907-July 15, 1907
Folder 10	July 16, 1907-July 31, 1907
Folder 11	August 1, 1907-August 15, 1907
Folder 12	August 16, 1907-August 31, 1907
Folder 13	September 2, 1907-September 14, 1907
Folder 14	September 16, 1907-September 30, 1907

Box 2

Folder 15	October 1, 1907-October 31, 1907
Folder 16	November 1, 1907-November 12, 1907
Folder 17	November 13, 1907-November 30, 1907
Folder 18	December 1, 1907-December 12, 1907
Folder 19	December 13, 1907-December 31 , 1907
Folder 20	January 1, 1908-January 19, 1908
Folder 21	January 20, 1908
Folder 22	January 20, 1908
Folder 23	January 21, 1908-January 31, 1908
Folder 24	February 1, 1908-February 15, 1908
Folder 25	February 16, 1908-February 29, 1908
Folder 26	March 1, 1908-March 17, 1908
Folder 27	March 18, 1908-March 31, 1908

Box 3

Folder 28	April 1, 1908-April 30, 1908
Folder 29	May 5, 1908-May 28, 1908
Folder 30	June 1, 1908-June 15, 1908
Folder 31	June 16, 1908-June 30, 1908
Folder 32	July 1, 1908-July 15, 1908
Folder 33	July 16, 1908-July 31, 1908
Folder 34	August 1, 1908-September 30, 1908
Folder 35	October 5, 1908-October 30, 1908
Folder 36	November 1, 1908-November 30, 1908
Folder 37	December 1, 1908-December 30, 1908

Box 4

Folder 38	Undated
Folder 39	Letter Press Book, 1907

SERIES TWO APPLICATIONS

Box 4

Folder 1	Applications for Commissioner of Deeds, 1907-1909.
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SERIES THREE MISCELLANY

Box 4

Folder 1	1907-1908; Resolutions
Folder 2	1907-1908; Petitions & Proclamations
Folder 3	Legal Data, Injunctions, Grand Jury Reports, Complaints, etc
Folder 4	Same as above
Folder 5	Mississippi Republican Party, 1947-1960
Folder 6	Poetry, by G. Sheldon, undated

Folder 7 Biographical data, 1929-1968
Folder 8 Miscellany, 1907-1937

JEP/DJJ/pmc 8/25/71
SPB 1/11/07