Biographical Note

Silas Garber, the son of Martin Garber, was born in Logan County, Ohio on September 21, 1833. He received his early education in the common schools, and at the age of 17, moved to Clayton County, Iowa where he engaged in farming. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Garber enlisted in the 3rd Missouri Regt. and later became Lieutenant of Co. D, 27th Iowa Infantry. After the close of the war, Garber moved to California where he remained for four years. In 1870 he came to Nebraska and settled in Webster County, which was at that time largely unpopulated. Garber took an active role in the affairs surrounding the organization of the county government and in 1872 the town site of Red Cloud was laid out on his homestead.

Garber’s first public office in Nebraska was that of Probate Judge of Webster County and in 1872 he won election to the Nebraska House of Representatives. In 1873 Garber was appointed Register of the United States Land office at Lincoln and was serving in that capacity when he received the Republican nomination for Governor. He was elected as Nebraska’s third State Governor in 1874 and won re-election to a second term in 1876.

In many respects, Governor Garber’s administration was among the most important in the new State’s history. It saw the adoption of the constitution of 1875 and also encompassed a highly critical period in the development and settlement of Nebraska. The year of his election had brought one of the worst grasshopper plagues in Nebraska history. When he assumed office, many citizens were destitute. Throughout Garber’s terms in office, he stressed the importance of immigration and agriculture to the future of Nebraska and did much to promote the settlement of the state. At the completion of his administration, Garber returned to Red Cloud where he engaged in farming and stock raising.

Silas Garber was first married to Rosella Dana who died in 1863. He later married Lyra C. Wheeler, daughter of Nathan and Susan Niles Wheeler, natives of Columbus, Georgia. Garber’s only son, W. S. Garber, was born of the first marriage. Silas Garber died in Red Cloud, Nebraska, on January 12, 1905.
Scope and Content Note
This subgroup consists of three boxes of papers of Governor Silas Garber arranged in three series: 1) Incoming Correspondence, Chronological, 1875-1879; 2) Incoming Correspondence, by Subject, 1875-1878; and 3) Outgoing Correspondence, Letterpress, 1874-1883.

Subjects include grasshoppers, immigration, social problems, conflicts with Native American tribes, crime and criminals, the Paris Exposition of 1878, railroads and agriculture. Also included are applications for Commissioners of Deeds and Notary Publics during this period.

Of particular interest are the papers concerning law enforcement. These documents relate information on the capture, arrest and extradition of law violators, including some correspondence relating to the murder of Mitchell and Ketchum in Custer County; the capture of S. D. Richards for murder in Kearney, Neb.; the murder of four men of Kearney, Nebraska, on the dismal river and the arrest of the perpetrators; and information on the kidnapping of Jennie White from Howard County in 1878. The requisition/extradition files from other states include a requisition from Texas for Sam Bass and gang, and an oversize requisition for thieves who stole 1,000 head of cattle from Colorado.

Description
Series One    Incoming Correspondence, Chronological, 1875-1879
Scope and content: Incoming correspondence arranged chronologically. See Series 3 for outgoing replies to these letters.

Box 1  
| f.1  | January - June 1875 |
| f.2  | July - December 1875 |
| f.3  | January - March 1876 |
| f.4  | April - September 1876 |
| f.5  | October - November 1876 |
| f.6  | December 1876 |
| f.7  | January - February 1877 |
| f.8  | March - April 1877 |
| f.9  | May - July 1877 |
| f.10 | August - September 1877 |
| f.11 | October - December 1877 |
| f.12 | January - February 1878 |
| f.13 | March - April 1878 |
| f.14 | May - July 1878 |
| f.15 | August - October 1878 |

Box 2  
| f.16 | November 1878 – January 1879 |
| f.17 | Incoming Correspondence, n.d. |
Series Two  Incoming Correspondence, by Subject, 1875-1878
Scope and content: Incoming correspondence arranged alphabetically by subject. See Series 3 for outgoing replies to these letters.

Box 2
f. 1 Applications for Commissioners of Deeds, 1875-1878
f. 2 Appointments and Resignations, 1875-1878
f. 3 County Organization - Attorney General's Opinion, 1876
f. 4 County Organization - Garber County, 1875
f. 5 County Organization - Holt County, 1876
f. 6 County Organization - Polk County, 1875
f. 7 Guardianship - Agnes Williams, Adams County, 1876
f. 8 Law Enforcement - Correspondence, 1875-1878
   including reports from prison and Attorney General's opinion on rewards and extraditions, 1875
f. 9 Law Enforcement - Offenders, 1875-1878
   (Letters re: capture, arrest and request for pardons and paroles)

ALLEN, Harper H. - warrant for embezzlement - Douglas Co. 1877
BERRY, James - Douglas Co. arrest for train robbery, 1877
BURTNETT, Frank & Geo. Redner-warrant, Plattsough, 1878
CANNON, Turner - account of his murder at Kearney, 1877
CARR, John - letter for parole, 9/1/1878
CARROLL, P. H. - letter for commutation, 1/19/1878
CASLER, Orlando - Murder of Geo. Monroe, Seward Co., 1878
CLARK, John B. - fugitive - Nuckolls Co., 1877
CLAYTON, Harry B. - letter for pardon, 11/6/1876
CLOUGH, Warren - concerning commutation, York Co., 1878
CROOK, John & Wm. McWater /Attempted murder, 1877
DODGE, Hank & Walter Hardin, State vs. 1874-1875
DUNBAR, James A. - fugitive, Fairmont, Neb., 1877-1878
EDMUNDSON, John W. - fugitive - May 1877
FILLION, Michael - Murder - Lincoln Co., 1877
GILLESPIE, George Ross - Horse theft - Saline Co., 1878
HARGRAVES, Henry et al - murder - Dismal River, 1878
   (correspondence and accounts of murder of four men on Dismal River and arrest of Hargraves et al)
HAYNES, Josiah Eugene - warrant - Nebr. City, 1878
HINTENISCH, Henry - arrest - Lincoln Co., 1878
KELLY, Samuel, Joseph Sweden & Charles Veers
   (stealing mules in Hall County), 9/10/1877
KITCHELL, H. C. - extradition - Nemaha Co., 1877
LITTLE, Levi C. & Louisa A. Thurston, Burt Co., 1877
LYND, Olof - letters for pardon, 1877
MARBACH, August - German Minister writes for Clemency, April 10, 1876
MC ELROY, Frank - for commutation, 1877
MC KELLAR, George - Murder - Loup City, 1877
MC LAIN, Thomas - Murder- commutation, Oct. 1877
MC MILLEN, Charles D. - Douglas Co., pardon request, 1878
MEHAFFEY, George - capture, Douglas Co., grand larceny, 1876
MENSHALL - prisoner - Hamilton re extradition, 1876
MUMFORD, Walter - Warden to correct record, 1877
MURPHY, James C. - Franklin Co., Liquor Violation, 1876
NOLAN, Jack & Joe Johnson - capture, Oct. 1878
NORRIS, Thomas, Territory of Neb. vs. letter 3/8/1878
OLIVE, I. P. - Ketchum and Mitchell murder, Custer County
(correspondence and petitions), 1878
O’NEILL, Thomas - letter for commutation, July 1875
PARISH, Joseph C. - extradition, 1878
PERRY, Freeman E. - Horse theft, Custer Co., capture, 1877
RICHARDS, S. D. - murder - Kearney, 1878
(letters and reward proclamation)
ROCKWELL, Stephen - arrest, 1877
RUNION, Oscar - coroner’s report, 8/26/1878
SCHAFFER - Nemaha County, request for pardon, 1877
SCHMIDT, Valentine - Richardson Co. - Liquor violation, 1877
SCHREYER, Frederick - Dawson Co. - letter for pardon, 1878
SEND, Frank - murder - letter from Mo. for reward, 1878
SHAFER, Michael - money for capture, 1877
SMALLEY, Harry - Letters for parole, 1878
SMITH, Horave B. - letter for pardon, 1877
SMITH, Jordan P. - Murder- Adams Co.
Correspondence & transcripts, 1876-1877
SPARKS - prisoner - Warden concerning release, 1877
STEWARD, John, Stockton, KS writes concerning murder of his son in Hitchcock
County, 1876
STOESSEGER et al, State vs. - extradition, 12/24/1878
STORM, Monroe, Kansas. Corres. re kidnapping of Storm
by Nebr. persons and return to Nebraska to attend court, Dec. 1876
THOMPSON, George C. #214 - Warden concerning, 8/19/1878
THOMPSON, Grant - letters re pardon, 1877-1878
TURTLE, William & Jesse H.Bull - letter from Illinois re extradition to Nebraska,
10/14/1878
WARD, Charles - Fillmore County fugitive, 1878
WHITE, Jennie L. - letter re kidnapping of, 1878
WILLIAMS, John - Murder - Kearney, letter for pardon, 1878
WOODS, Joshua P. - letter for pardon, 1877

f. 10  Law Enforcement - Requisition/Extraditions, 1875-1878
       including oversize document, State of Colorado for capture of cattle
       thieves who stole 1000 head of cattle, 1877
f. 11  Law Enforcement Correspondence, 1875-1878
f. 12  Lincoln, NE land correspondence, 1875
f. 13  Notaries Public, 1875-1878
f. 14  Petitions
       for Simon O’Whaley for Polk County Surgeon, 1877 against relief fraud,
       1875
f. 15  Probate - Peter Anderson, Kearney Co., 1878
f. 16  Seehusen, Heinrich H. - missing in America

Series Three  Outgoing Correspondence, Letterpress, 1874-1883
Physical Access note: These volumes are very delicate – use digitized copies for reference purposes.
Handle original volumes with care.
Finding aids: Letters are indexed by the name of the correspondent at the front of each volume.

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  Vol. 1  Letterpress, 1874-1876
  Vol. 2  Letterpress, 1876-1878
  Vol. 3  Letterpress, 1878-1883, bulk 1878-1879
         Note: Spans multiple governors but bulk of volume is Garber

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