

ARCHIVES RECORD

RG0001. Nebraska. Governor
SG0018 Poynter, William Amos, 1848-1909

Papers, etc.: 1899-1900
State Governor: 1899-1900
Cubic ft.: 3
Approx. No. of Items: 1800

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William A. Poynter was one of the two men elected to the post of chief executive as the result of fusion between the Populists and Democrats. Governor Poynter was born at Eureka, Illinois, May 29, 1848, the son of a pioneer minister. After graduating from Eureka College, he taught school for a few years, and then went into the grocery and hardware business. He emigrated into Nebraska in 1879 and purchased a farm near Albion in Boone County.

Like many other Nebraska pioneers, William Poynter took an active part in politics almost from the date of his arrival. He was one of the organizers of the Farmers' Alliance and in 1884, he was elected to the state house of representatives, the only Independent in the body. The so-called "Populist revolution" of 1890 put Poynter in the state senate. He had enough support in this session to result in his election as president pro-tem of the Senate. The populists nominated him as their candidate for Congress from the Third District in 1892, but he was defeated by Republican George D. Meikeljohn.

In 1898, Poynter was elected governor by the slim margin of 2700 votes over the Republican candidate, Monroe L. Hayward. Though they had elected their state ticket, the fusionists lost the legislature, and Governor Poynter had a hostile majority against him in both houses. As a result, he was unable to get much legislation through. Governor Poynter was re-nominated by the fusion interests in 1900 but was defeated by Charles H. Dietrich. Following his defeat he continued to make his home in Lincoln, where he took an active part in political affairs. He died suddenly on April 5, 1909, in the Governor's office where he had gone as the head of a delegation to urge Governor Shallenberger to sign the much discussed "daylight saloon bill".

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ADDED ENTRIES:

BRYAN, WILLIAM JENNINGS, 1860-1925
CRIME AND CRIMINALS
DEWEY, GEORGE (ADMIRAL), 1837-1917
FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS
FARMERS NATIONAL CONFERENCE (Colorado Springs, Col.)
Greater American Exposition, Omaha
INTERNATIONAL MINING CONGRESS (Milwaukee, Wisc.)
LAW ENFORCEMENT--NEBRASKA
LIVESTOCK QUARANTINES
LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION
National Anti-Trust Conference
National Boer Relief Association
Nebraska Hospital for the Insane, Norfolk (Neb.)
NEBRASKA INFANTRY--1ST REGIMENT, 1898-1899
Nebraska. Military Department
SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR, 1898
Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress (Wichita, Kan.)
TRUSTS
UNITED STATES--HISTORY--WAR OF 1898

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This Subgroup consists of six boxes of papers of Governor William A. Poynter arranged into two series: 1) Incoming Correspondence, 1899-1900; and 2) Outgoing Correspondence, 1899-1900.

The Incoming correspondence of Governor Poynter is arranged in subject folders. Letters relate to agriculture, especially livestock quarantines; the First Nebraska in the Spanish-American War and their return to the states; relief efforts for individuals involved in the Boer War; various conference appointments including the Farmers National Conference, and the National Anti-Trust Conference; the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress of 1900 and the upcoming Pan-American Expo of 1901. There are also letters concerning William Jennings Bryan campaign and defeat. A good deal of correspondence relates to the Governor's appointments to agencies, boards and commissions; and to requests for extraditions of criminals.

DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE, 1899-1900

- B.01 General Correspondence, 1899-1900
- Agriculture
 - General Correspondence
 - Dairy
 - Livestock
 - Pure Food Commission
 - Quarantines
 - Anti-Trust Correspondence
 - Applications and Recommendations
 - Appointments and Resignations
 - Attorney General
 - Auditor of Public Accounts

 - Banking
 - Boundary Disputes
 - Brand Commission
 - Bryan, William Jennings
 - Budget

 - Commissioners of Deeds (appointments)
 - Charities and Corrections

SERIES ONE INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE, 1899-1900

B.01 (cont) Claims

Coal

Conferences

General Correspondence

National Anti-Trust Conference

Farmers National Congress

International Mining Congress

National Pure Food and Drug Conference

Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress

B.02

Corporations

County Business

Crime and Criminals

General Correspondence

Extraditions

Nebraska Dairymen's Association

Dewey, George (Admiral)

Dun (R.G.) and Company

Education

Election Correspondence

Endorsements/Recommendations

Fairs and Expositions

Including report of the Louisiana Purchase Expo;

Correspondence of the Greater American Expo, Omaha;

and information of the Pan-American Expo, Buffalo, 1901;

as well as other fairs and expositions, 1899-1900

Fire Commissioner

Fish and Game Commission

Foreign Affairs

General Correspondence

India Relief

National Boer Relief Association

Galveston Hurricane

Governor - Congratulations

Governor's Office

SERIES ONE INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE, 1899-1900

B.02 (cont)

Health, State Board of
General Correspondence
Barber Examiners
Dental Board
Medical Licenses
Pharmacy Board
Home for the Friendless

Industrial School for Boys, Kearney
Industrial School for Girls, Geneva
Industrial Home for Women, Milford

B.03

Beatrice Institute for the Feeble-Minded
Institute for the Blind, Nebraska City
Institutions

General Correspondence
Hospitals for the Insane
Insurance Department
Invitations
Invoices and Receipts
Irrigation, State Board of

Judges - Appointments
Labor Department
Land Disputes
Legal Correspondence
Legislation

General Correspondence
HR240 - School levies
HR271 - Barber Bill
Legislature

Maxwell, Samuel (see also partial letter, b.5)

Military Department
General Correspondence
Discharge Requests
First Nebraska Regiment

B.04

Military Department (cont)
First Nebraska Regiment Travel Fund
First Nebraska Regiment Travel Fund refunds
War Casualties

SERIES ONE INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE, 1899-1900

B.04 (cont) National Capital Centennial
News Media
Notaries Public

Omaha, Nebraska
Oread Institute

Pardons and Paroles
State Penitentiary
Peru State Normal School
Political Correspondence
Printing
Proclamations
Public Lands and Buildings

B.05 Publications
Railroads
Requests
Roads

School for the Deaf, Omaha
Selevant, J. V.
Soldiers and Sailors Homes
State Governors

Board of Transportation (see also Railroads)
State Treasurer

U.S. Congress
U.S. Dept of the Interior
U.S. Post Office
University of Nebraska

Veterans
Vifquain, Victor
White House Correspondence

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SERIES TWO OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE, 1899-1900

B.05

V.01 Letterpress Book, 1899 (May-October) indexed

B.06

V.02 Letterpress Book, Oct. 24, 1899 – Mar. 14, 1900

V.03 Letterpress Book, Mar 14 – October 22, 1900

V.04 Letterpress Book (part)

October 25, 1900 – Jan. 4, 1901

(torn from next outgoing letterpress book of
Governor's office. Index, see Gov. Dietrich Collection)

END OF INVENTORY

JEP/pmc 8/18/1971
PMC/Word 2/17/2006