

## ARCHIVES RECORD

RG0001 Nebraska. Governor  
SG0020 Savage, Ezra Perin, 1842-1920

Papers: 1901-1902  
State Governor: May 1901 - Dec. 1902  
Approximate No. of Items: 600  
Cubic feet: 1

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ezra P. Savage was born in Connorsville, Indiana, April 3, 1842. Like many pioneers who rose to a position of leadership, he was reared in adversity and achieved success quite largely on the basis of his own courage and industry.

Savage's parents moved to Iowa in 1842. When Ezra was seven his father died, leaving his mother to support a family of five children. Ezra, the oldest, quit school at age ten and went to work on a farm for his board and clothes. After three years he decided he needed more education. He worked his way through Davenport, Iowa, high school by cutting wood. Later he attended Iowa College at Davenport until he enlisted in the Civil War. He was discharged for disability but went south with his company as a scout under General Grant at Vicksburg. After the war he went back to farming in Iowa and in his off time read enough law to obtain admittance to the Iowa Bar. Savage came to Nebraska in 1879 and took out a claim in Custer County. In 1883 he laid out the town of Sargent.

Governor Savage's public career began with his election to the state Legislature in 1883, where he served two terms. After a year as superintendent of the state farm in Lincoln, he went to Omaha to engage in the commission business. He served as the first mayor of South Omaha, a part of current Omaha that he helped to incorporate. He became governor in May of 1901 when Charles H. Dietrich resigned to become United State Senator.

While Governor, Mr. Savage was severely criticized for issuing a pardon to Joseph Bartley who had been sentenced to twenty years in the penitentiary for embezzlement of funds while state treasurer. This criticism so damaged him politically that though he had wanted to run for governor in 1902, he withdrew his name as a candidate. Mr. Savage moved to Tacoma, Washington, where he engaged in the lumber business until his death on January 9, 1920.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This subgroup consists of two boxes of papers of Governor Ezra P. Savage arranged in two series: 1) Correspondence of the Governor, 1901-1902; and 2) Personal Correspondence and Savage Family, 1901-1902.

Series One related to the affairs of the Governor's office during the administration of Ezra P. Savage. Correspondence in this series relates to applications and recommendations for positions; coal discovery in Nebraska; appointments and resignations; Joseph Bartley; the Guardianship of Fannie Gadsden; the establishment of military units and the return of the 1<sup>st</sup> Nebraska from San Francisco; a proposed bull fight at South Omaha; state institutions; death sentence of William Rhea and other pardons and paroles; the Pan-American Exposition; and President McKinley's assassination. Correspondents include Robert W. Furnas; George L. Miller; J. Sterling Morton; and James G. Martin.

Series Two relates to personal correspondence and business of Ezra Savage; Sargent, Nebraska ; land holdings of Savage; and to the Savage Family. Included is correspondence from different members of the family.

## DESCRIPTION

### SERIES ONE CORRESPONDENCE OF THE GOVERNOR, 1901-1902

B.01 General Correspondence  
Agriculture  
Agriculture, State Board of  
Agriculture-Fairs and Expositions  
Applications for positions  
    Agriculture- Oil Inspectors  
    Board of Education  
    Board of Health  
    Boundary Commission  
    Fish & Game Commission  
    Governor's Office  
    State Institutions  
    Library Commission  
    Military Department  
    School for the Blind, Nebraska City  
    School for the Deaf, Omaha  
    Taylor, Laura B.  
    Todd, W. Z. (game warden)  
Appointments and Resignations  
Attorney General  
Auditor of Public Accounts  
Bartley, Joseph  
Beatrice Institute  
Bull Fights  
Clippings  
Coal  
Commissioners of Deeds  
Complaints  
Corrections, Dept of  
Dietrich, Charles Henry  
Drought  
Election Correspondence  
Endorsements  
Extraditions  
Fiscal Records  
Fish & Game Commission  
Furnas, Robert W.  
Gadsden, Fannie (Guardianship)

**SERIES ONE CORRESPONDENCE OF THE GOVERNOR, 1901-1902**

B.01 (cont)

Horticultural Society  
Institutions  
Invites  
Invoices and Receipts  
Judges - Appointments  
Legislation  
Legislature  
Martin, James G.  
McKinley, William  
Media  
Military Department  
Miller, George Lorin

B.02

Pan-American Exposition, NY  
Pardons and Paroles  
Pardons and Paroles - Rhea, William (William Klein)  
Penitentiary  
Public Lands and Buildings  
Railway Commission  
Requests  
School for the Blind, Nebraska City  
School for the Deaf, Omaha  
Soldiers and Sailors Homes  
Supreme Court  
Veterans

Item #1

Letterpress Book, May 8, 1901 - Oct. 26, 1901 (indexed)  
(see Dietrich Subgroup 19 for remainder of letterpress book  
and correspondence of Savage office, May 3 thru 8, 1901)

**SERIES TWO SAVAGE PERSONAL AND SAVAGE FAMILY, 1901-1902**

B.02

Savage, Ezra P. - Personal correspondence, 1901-1902  
Congratulations, 1901  
Legal, 1901  
Savage Family, 1901

End of Inventory

JEP/pmc 8/18/1971

PMC/pmc Word 2000 1/31/2006