

Governor Mark W. Izard records

Identifier: RG001, SG004
Creator: Nebraska Territory. Governor (1855-1857 : Izard)
Izard, Mark W., 1799-1866
Date: 1855-1857
Extent: 4 folders, approx. 100 items

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mark W. Izard was born in Lexington, Kentucky, December 25, 1799, the son of Nicholas Hoffman Izard and Rebecca (Whitaker) Izard. He grew up in Lincoln County, Tennessee. At the age of 21 he married his first wife, Martha Phillips, who died in 1823. In 1825, he resided with his second wife, Pamela Shackelford, and two children in St. Francis County, Arkansas. Despite his ordinary education, he was liked and respected enough to be elected to public office. He served as a member of the Arkansas Territorial Council and as a member of their constitutional convention. He was a member of the Arkansas Senate various times, 1836-1849 and served as president of that body in 1840. Mr. Izard was also a Baptist preacher and was elected moderator of the Missionary Baptist Association in Arkansas.

Izard was appointed United States Marshal of the Territory of Nebraska in October 1854. One of his first official duties was to take the news of the death of Governor Burt to Washington. There he tried to enlist the aid of two Arkansas Senators to have himself appointed to succeed the late governor. In this he was successful and arrived in Omaha the next February to take over the duties which had been held by Acting Governor Thomas B. Cuming. At age fifty-six, he was older than many of his predecessors, members of the territorial council, and other territorial officers. His suggestion to adopt the civil and criminal legal code of Iowa rather than construct an entirely new system of laws was adopted at the first Territorial session.

The three legislative sessions which took place during his administration were marked by a continuing feud between the north and south Platte sections over the selection of the Territorial Capitol. The second session of the Council was marked by the problem of establishing county boundary lines and creating new counties. The third was concerned mainly with bills to charter new banks and to repeal the legal code. Izard vetoed the bills but they were passed over his veto.

Mark W. Izard resigned in October 1857 and returned to the family home in Arkansas where remained until his death in August 1866.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of four folders arranged in four series:

1. Correspondence, 1855-1857
2. Fiscal Records, 1855-1857
3. Appointments and Petitions, 1855-1857
4. Reference Materials

The collection relates to the business, mostly financial, of Nebraska Territory during Izard's administration.

Series one includes typed copies of correspondence of this Governor and his relatives. The letter to Bird B. Chapman, 1857, discusses obtaining an appropriation for the "Catfish War", and glowing prospects for the Territory. A letter to Senator Stephen A. Douglas, January 11, 1857, expresses his concern over the sectional split concerning the location of the capitol. The letter dated July 31, 1857 to his son indicates his intention to resign.

Series Two consists of account statements, warrants, receipts and invoices relating to Nebraska Territory.

Series Three includes appointments and petitions.

Series Four comprises of biographical information compiled by Nebraska State Historical Society staff.

DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE CORRESPONDENCE, 1855-1857

Box 1 Folder 1

Copies of letters, 1855-1857 (see scope and content note)

Letter, Feb. 21, 1855

Jim Izard to Brothers on arrival at Council Bluffs.

Copy of news clipping, Forest City Times,

Arkansas on reproduction of 1st inaugural ball in Omaha, 1855.

SERIES TWO FISCAL RECORDS, 1855-1857

Box 1 Folder 1

Nebraska Territory in Account with U.S.
Disbursements, 1857
Legislative fund and member warrants
Warrants, 1855-1856
Receipts and Invoices, 1855-1857

SERIES THREE APPOINTMENTS AND PETITIONS, 1855-1857

Box 1 Folder 1

Appointment of John M. Enochs as Justice of the Peace for Douglas County, 1855
Petition to appoint surveyor for Washington Co.
Petition for arbitration on Ft. Calhoun Townsite Claim
Notary Commission, Henry S. Duguid, Douglas Co.

SERIES FOUR REFERENCE MATERIALS

Box 1 Folder 1

Biographical information and research compiled by NSHS staff.

END OF INVENTORY

DAB/HEK/ab 7/17/1967

JEP/pmc 10/04/1971

PMC Word 2000 1/16/2007

ABH 9/27/2021