

Governor Albinus Nance records

Identifier: RG001, SG012
Creator: Nance, Albinus, 1848-1911
Nebraska. Governor (1879-1883 : Nance)
Date: 1879-1883
Extent: 6 archival boxes, 3 volumes; 3 cubic feet

Biographical Note

Albinus Nance was only thirty years old when elected, the youngest man ever to be chosen as the state's chief executive (although Thomas B. Cuming and J. Sterling Morton, acting governors of the territory, were both 26 when first appointed). Nance was born in Lafayette, Illinois on March 30, 1848. He enlisted in the 9th Ill. Cavalry when only 16 years of age and fought with the regiment in numerous Civil War battles. After the war, he began to study law at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill., and though he left before securing his degree, he was admitted to the bar of Illinois in 1870 at the age of 22. Nance moved to Nebraska in 1871 and attempted to homestead in Polk County and practice law at the same time. His legal work prospered to such a degree that he decided to give it his full attention, and he moved to Osceola to open an office.

Nance was elected to the state house of representatives in 1874, despite the fact that he had been in Nebraska only three years and was only 26 years old. In 1876, he was re-elected and chosen as speaker of the House of Representatives. He also served as Chairman of the Nebraska delegation to the Republican National Convention in Cincinnati.

The Republican Party nominated Nance for the governorship in 1878. He defeated W. H. Webster, the Democratic nominee, by better than a two to one majority. He was renominated by acclamation in 1880, defeating former Senator Thomas W. Tipton in the general election. At the expiration of his second term, Governor Nance, still not 35 years old, "retired" to his law practice at Osceola. A few years later he moved to Lincoln, and then to Chicago, where he engaged in handling railroad stocks and bonds. He died on December 7, 1911.

Scope and Content Note

This subgroup consists of 6 boxes of the papers of Governor Albinus Nance, arranged into 4 series by type of record:

1. Correspondence, 1879-1882
2. Applications for Commissioner of Deeds, 1879-1883
3. Petitions and Proclamations, 1879-1883
4. Miscellaneous, 1880-1882

These papers relate to the affairs of the Governor's office during Nance's administration, dating 1879-1883. The bulk of the material consists of incoming correspondence relating to such matters as county organization, crime, immigration, military affairs, elections, appointments and politics. Of special interest are numerous letters and documents relating to the activities of outlaw David "Doc"

Middleton in the Holt Co., Nebraska area. Additional material deals with the Olive Murder trial at Hastings, Nebraska. Also included within the correspondence are letters by Phineas W. Hitchcock and Algernon S. Paddock regarding state and national politics. Records are arranged chronologically within each series.

Description

Series One Correspondence, 1879-1883

Box 1

- Folder 1. Feb 4, 1879-Mar 31, 1879
- Folder 2. Apr 1, 1879-May 31, 1879
- Folder 3. June 2, 1879-July 31, 1879
- Folder 4. Aug 4, 1879-Aug 30, 1879
- Folder 5. Sept 1, 1879-Sept 30, 1879
- Folder 6. Oct 1, 1879-Oct 30, 1879
- Folder 7. Nov 1, 1879-Nov 30, 1879
- Folder 8. Dec 1, 1879-Dec 30, 1879
- Folder 9. Jan 1, 1880-Jan 30, 1880
- Folder 10. Feb 1, 1880-Feb 15, 1880
- Folder 11. Feb 16, 1880-Feb 27, 1880

Box 2

- Folder 12. Mar 1, 1880-Mar 31, 1880
- Folder 13. Apr 1, 1880-Apr 30, 1880
- Folder 14. May 1, 1880-May 30, 1880
- Folder 15. June 1, 1880-June 30, 1880
- Folder 16. July 1, 1880-July 31, 1880
- Folder 17. Aug 1, 1880-Aug 31, 1880
- Folder 18. Sept 1, 1880-Sept 30, 1880
- Folder 19. Oct 1, 1880-Dec 31, 1880
- Folder 20. Nov 1, 1880-Nov 30, 1880
- Folder 21. Dec 1, 1880-Dec 31, 1880

Box 3

- Folder 22. Jan 3, 1881-Jan 31, 1881
- Folder 23. Feb 1, 1881-Feb 28, 1881
- Folder 24. Mar 1, 1881-Mar 30, 1881
- Folder 25. Apr 4, 1881-Apr 27, 1881
- Folder 26. May 1, 1881-May 31, 1881
- Folder 27. June 1, 1881-June 30, 1881
- Folder 28. July 5, 1881-July 30, 1881
- Folder 29. Aug. 1, 1881-Aug 31, 1881
- Folder 30. Sept 1, 1881-Sept 30, 1881
- Folder 31. Oct 1, 1881-Oct 31, 1881
- Folder 32. Nov 2, 1881-Nov 30, 1881

Folder 33. Dec 2, 1881-Dec 30, 1881
Folder 34. Jan 1, 1882-Jan 30, 1882

Box 4

Folder 35. Feb 1, 1882-Feb 28, 1882
Folder 36. Mar 1, 1882-Mar 30, 1882
Folder 37. Apr 1, 1882-Apr 29, 1882
Folder 38. May 1, 1882-June 30, 1882
Folder 39. July 1, 1882-Aug 28, 1882
Folder 40. Sept 1, 1882-Sept 30, 1882
Folder 41. Oct 1, 1882-Oct 31, 1882
Folder 42. Nov 1, 1882-Nov 30, 1882
Folder 43. Dec 1, 1882-Dec 29, 1882
Folder 44. Not Dated

Box 5

Vol 1. Outgoing Correspondence. (Letterpress) 1879-1880
Vol 2. Outgoing Correspondence. (Letterpress) 1881
Vol 3. Outgoing Correspondence. (Letterpress) 1881-1883

Series Two Applications for Commissioner of Deeds, 1879-1883

Box 6

Folder 1 Applications, 1879-1883

Series Three Petitions and Proclamations, 1879-1883

Box 6

Folder 1 Proclamations
Folder 2 Petitions
Folder 3 Petitions
Folder 4 Petitions

Series Four Miscellaneous, 1880-1882

Box 6

Folder 1 Includes Land Records of TWPS 25-35, Ranges 21-31;
Congressional Bills; and Transcript of State vs. Muar, 1880
Folder 2 Messages; 1881-1882

Finding aid updated by ABH 3/22/2022

Subject headings:

Middleton, Doc, 1851-1913

Olive, Isom Prentice, 1839?-1886

Crook, George, 1828-1890

Hitchcock, Phineas Warrener, 1831-1881
Elections. Nebraska, 1879 - 1882
Slaughter, Bradner D, 1849-1909
Paddock, Algernon Sidney, 1830-1897
Simmerman, Mathias
Timber Culture Act
County Government. Organization
Holt County, Nebraska. History
Crime And Criminals. Nebraska