

Governor Silas Garber records

Identifier: RG0001, SG011
Creator: Garber, Silas, 1833-1905
Nebraska. Governor (1875-1879 : Garber)
Date: 1875-1883, bulk 1875-1879
Extent: 2 archival boxes, 3 volumes

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 - Requisition/Extraditions, 1875-1878
including oversize document, State of Colorado for capture of cattle
thieves who stole 1000 head of cattle, 1877
 - f. 9 Law Enforcement Correspondence, 1875-1878
 - f. 10 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, Plattsmouth, 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
 MENSHELL - 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
 STEWART, John, Stockton, KS writes concerning murder of his son in Hitchcock
 County, 1876
 STOESEGER 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. 11 Lincoln (Neb.) land correspondence, 1875
- f. 12 Notaries Public, 1875-1877
- f. 13 Notaries Public, 1878
- f. 14 Petitions, 1875-1878
- Petition for Simon O'Whaley for Polk County Surgeon, 1877; Petition against relief fraud, 1875; petition asking for a reward for the arrest of the murderers of Luther Mitchell and Ami Ketchum, ca. 1878
- 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.

Box 3

- 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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Subject headings:

Abbott, O. A. (Othman Ali), 1842-1935

ANDERSON, Peter [Kearney County (Neb.)]

BASS, SAM

Boyd, James E., 1834-1906

Bruner, Uriah, 1830-1905

BUFFALO COUNTY (NEB.)--HISTORY

Chambers, B. F.

Cobb, Amasa,

Converse, J. H.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION--NEBRASKA
CRIME AND CRIMINALS--NEBRASKA
Cropsey, L. E.
Crouse, Lorenzo, 1834-1909
CUSTER COUNTY (NEB.)--HISTORY
Dilworth, C. J.
ELECTIONS--NEBRASKA
English Sparrow in Nebraska
Gaslin, William, 1827-1910
GRASSHOPPERS--NEBRASKA
HARGRAVES, HENRY
HOLT COUNTY (NEB.)--HISTORY
IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION--NEBRASKA
INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA--NEBRASKA
Ketchum, Ami Whitney, 1855-1878
MITCHELL, LUTHER, d.1878
Morton, J. Sterling (Julius Sterling), 1832-1902
Nebraska. Board of Educational Lands and Funds
Paddock, A. S. (Algernon Sidney), 1830-1897
Paul, N. J. (Nicholas Jay), 1841-1921
RICHARDS, SAMUEL D., 1856-1879
Roberts, George H.
Saunders, Alvin, 1817-1899
Sheridan, P. H. (Philip Henry), 1831-1888
Stocking, Moses.1813-1881
Thayer, J. M. (John Milton), 1820-1906
Touzalin, A. E. (Albert E.), d.1889
United States. General Land Office
Valentine, E. K. (Edward Kimball), 1842-1916
Weaver, A. J. (Archibald Jerard), 1843-1887
WILLIAMS, AGNES [Adams County (Neb.)]