

ARCHIVES RECORD

RG001 **Nebraska. Governor**
SG011 **Garber, Silas, 1833-1905**

Papers: 1875-1878
Governor of Nebraska, 1874-1878
Cubic ft.: 1.5

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 constitution of 1875 adopted 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, 1875-1878; 2) Topical Files, 1875-1878; and 3) Outgoing Correspondence, 1874-1878.

The material relates to the affairs of the Governor's office during the administration of Silas Garber, 1875-1878. The bulk of the collection consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence. Included are subject relating to grasshoppers, immigration, social problems, Indian depredations, crime and criminals, 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, 1875-1878

- | | | |
|------|-----|-------------------------|
| B.01 | 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 |

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SERIES ONE INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE (cont)

- B.02 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
f.16 November - December 1878
f.17 Incoming Correspondence, n.d.

SERIES TWO TOPICAL FILES, 1875-1878

- B.02 Applications for Commissioners of Deeds, 1875-1878
Appointments & Resignations, 1875-1878
Guardianship - Agnes Williams, Adams County, 1876
Law Enforcement - Correspondence, 1875-1878
including reports from prison and Attorney General's
opinion on rewards and extraditions, 1875
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

SERIES TWO TOPICAL FILES, 1875-1878

- B.02 Law Enforcement - Offenders (cont)
- 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
 - MENSHALL - 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

SERIES TWO TOPICAL FILES, 1875-1878

B.02 Law Enforcement - Offenders (cont)

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

SHAFFER, 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

STOESSEGER 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

B.02 (cont) Law Enforcement - Requisition/Extraditions, 1875-1878

including oversize document, State of Colorado for capture
of cattle thieves who stole 1000 head of cattle, 1877

Notaries Public, 1875-1878

Petitions

for Simon O'Whaley for Polk County Surgeon, 1877

against relief fraud, 1875

Probate - Peter Anderson, Kearney Co., 1878

Seehusen, Heinrich H. - missing in America

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SERIES TWO TOPICAL FILES, 1875-1878

B.03 County Organization - Attorney General's Opinion, 1876
County Organization - Garber County, 1875
County Organization - Holt County, 1876
County Organization - Polk County, 1875

SERIES THREE OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE, 1874-1878

B.03
V.01 Letterpress, 1874-1876
V.03 Letterpress, 1876-1878
V.04 Letterpress, 1878

End of Inventory

JEP/kkn/6/8/1971
PMC/pmc Word 2000, 5/13/2005