

# Governor Silas Garber records

Identifier: RG0001, SG011  
Creator: Garber, Silas, 1833-1905  
Nebraska. Governor (1874-1878 : 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri Regt. and later became Lieutenant of Co. D, 27<sup>th</sup> 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 - Correspondence, 1875-1878  
including reports from prison and Attorney General's  
opinion on rewards and extraditions, 1875
  - f. 9 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. 10 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. 11 Law Enforcement Correspondence, 1875-1878
- f. 12 Lincoln, NE land correspondence, 1875
- f. 13 Notaries Public, 1875-1878
- f. 14 Petitions  
for Simon O'Whaley for Polk County Surgeon, 1877 against relief fraud,  
1875
- 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

JEP/kkn/6/8/1971

PMC/pmc Word 2000, 5/13/2005

ABH 12/15/2021

#### 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, d.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.)]