

Governor James W. Dawes records

Identifier: RG001, SG013
Creator: Dawes, James William, 1845-1918
Nebraska. Governor (1883-1887 : Dawes)
Date: 1883-1887
Extent: 7 archival boxes, 5 volumes; 3.5 cubic feet

Biographical Note

James W. Dawes was born in McConnellsville, Ohio on Jan. 8, 1845. He spent two years at Western Reserve College in Ohio and one year at a Milwaukee business college before he began training for the legal profession in the law office of a cousin. He was admitted to the Wisconsin bar and became a lawyer. In 1871, Dawes moved to Nebraska. He settled in Crete where he went into the mercantile business. However, he soon began practicing law, establishing the firm of Dawes and Foss.

Dawes early took an interest in politics and soon rose to a position of prominence and influence in the Republican party of Nebraska. He was a member of the state constitutional convention of 1875, and in 1876 he was elected state senator. He held the position of chairman of the Republican state central committee until 1882, when he was first elected governor. In each campaign he defeated J. Sterling Morton, who was also an influential figure in early Nebraska history. Governor Dawes' administration coincided with part of the period of Nebraska's greatest development. He was interested in the progress of Nebraska's state institutions, and it was during his administration that the first appropriation was made for the State Historical Society.

Following his retirement from the governorship, Dawes went back to his law practice in Crete. He was particularly interested in the welfare of Doane College and for 37 years was a member of their board of trustees. In 1898, Dawes was appointed paymaster in the Army for the duration of the Spanish American War. Later the assignment was made permanent and Dawes was stationed in Cuba and the Philippines until his retirement from the Army in 1909.

Dawes married Francis Anna Dawes, cousin, in 1871. Mrs. Dawes died in 1908, and Dawes spent the remaining years of his life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he died on October 8, 1918.

Scope and Content

This subgroup consists of 7 boxes of the records of Governor James W. Dawes, arranged in four series based on record type:

1. Correspondence, 1883-1886
2. Applications for Commissioner of Deeds, 1883-1886
3. Petitions and Proclamations, 1883-1887

4. Miscellaneous

These records relate to the affairs of the Governor's office during the administration of James W. Dawes, dating 1883-1887. Records are arranged chronologically within each series. The bulk of this subgroup consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence of the Governor's office relating to such matters as county organization; eradication of cattle diseases; cattle quarantines; state institutions; appointments; crime; railroads; the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial; and construction of dams.

Additional material within the collection consists of applications for the position of commissioner of deeds for Nebraska, petitions and proclamations regarding the organization of counties, and proclamations relating to rewards for criminals. Miscellaneous material includes certificates and Governor's Annual Messages.

Description

Series One Correspondence, 1883-1886

Box 1

- Folder 1. Jan. 2, 1883-Jan. 31, 1883
- Folder 2. Feb. 1, 1883-Feb.28, 1883
- Folder 3. Mar.1, 1883-Mar. 15, 1883
- Folder 4. Mar. 16, 1883-Mar. 31, 1883
- Folder 5. Apr. 9, 1883-May 28, 1883
- Folder 6. June 1, 1883-July 30, 1883
- Folder 7. Aug. 3, 1883-Oct. 31, 1883
- Folder 8. Nov. 1, 1883-Dec. 31, 1883
- Folder 9. Jan. 1, 1884-Jan. 31, 1884
- Folder 10. Feb. 1, 1884-Mar. 31, 1884
- Folder 11. Apr. 5, 1884-May 30, 1884

Box 2

- Folder 12. June 2, 1884-June 30, 1884
- Folder 13. July 1, 1884-Aug. 30, 1884
- Folder 14. Sept. 1, 1884-Sept. 29, 1884
- Folder 15. Oct. 1, 1884-Oct. 31, 1884
- Folder 16. Nov. 1, 1884-Nov. 30, 1884
- Folder 17. Dec. 1, 1884-Dec. 31, 1884
- Folder 18. Jan. 1, 1885- Jan. 31, 1885
- Folder 19. Feb. 1, 1885-Feb. 28, 1885
- Folder 20. Mar. 4, 1885-Mar. 30, 1885
- Folder 21. Apr. 1, 1885-Apr. 30, 1885
- Folder 22. May 4, 1885-May 29, 1885

Box 3

Folder 23. June 1, 1885-June 30, 1885
Folder 24. July 1, 1885-July 31, 1885
Folder 25. Aug. 1, 1885-Sept. 30, 1885
Folder 26. Oct. 3, 1885-Oct. 31, 1885
Folder 27. Nov. 1, 1885-Nov. 30, 1885
Folder 28. Dec. 1, 1885-Dec. 31, 1885
Folder 29. Jan. 3, 1886-Feb. 27, 1886
Folder 30. Mar. 1, 1886-Mar. 31, 1886
Folder 31. Apr. 2, 1886-Apr. 30, 1886
Folder 32. May 1, 1886-May 31, 1886
Folder 33. June 1, 1886-June 29, 1886

Box 4

Folder 34. July 2, 1886-Aug. 30, 1886
Folder 35. Sept. 5, 1886-Oct. 29, 1886
Folder 36. Nov. 2, 1886-Dec. 31, 1886
Folder 37. Not Dated
Volume 1. Outgoing Correspondence (letterpress), 1883
Volume 2. Outgoing Correspondence (letterpress), 1883-1884

Box 5

Volume 3. Outgoing Correspondence (letterpress), 1884-1885
Volume 4. Outgoing Correspondence (letterpress), 1885-1886

Box 6

Volume 5. Outgoing Correspondence (letterpress), 1886

Series Two Applications for Commissioner of Deeds, 1883-1886

Box 6

Folder 1. Application, 1883-1886

Series Three Proclamations and Petitions, 1883-1887

Box 6

Folder 1. Proclamations

Box 7

Folder 2-4. Petitions, 1883-1887

Series Four Miscellaneous

Box 7

Folder 1. Includes appointments, certificates, and Governor's annual messages
Folder 2. Certificates (oversize)

Finding aid updated by ABH on 3/22/2022