

Governor Lorenzo Crouse records

Identifier: RG001, SG016
Creator: Crouse, Lorenzo, 1834-1909
Nebraska. Governor (1893-1895 : Crouse)
Date: 1866-1909
Extent: 7 archival boxes; 3.5 cubic feet

Biographical Note

Lorenzo Crouse was born at Sharon, Schoharie Co., NY, on January 27, 1834. The son of John and Margaret (Van Aerman) Crouse, he was educated in the public schools and later attended the New York Conference Seminary for two years. At the age of 17, he dropped out of the seminary to teach school. Four years later he started to study law at Ft. Plain, NY. In 1857 he was admitted to the bar of the state of New York and began his practice at Ft. Plain.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, he organized and was elected captain of Battery K, 1st Regiment, New York Light Artillery in 1861. He was discharged that same year due to severe wounds received in a battle on the Rappahannock River in Virginia. He returned to the practice of law at Ft. Plain.

Crouse came to Nebraska in 1864 and took a homestead a year later near Rulo, Richardson County, where he resumed his law practice. In the election of 1865 he was chosen a representative in the House of Nebraska Territory. In that same year he was elected to serve as an Associate Justice of the Territorial Supreme Court. He served in that dual position until six years after Nebraska became a state. He was elected to Congress on the Republican ticket in 1872 and 1874 as Nebraska's single state representative. In Congress he incurred the enmity of the powerful railroad interests by taking stands on taxation of railroad land grants and working for the abolition of the heavy tolls on the railroad bridge across the Missouri River at Omaha. The railroad interests were a major reason for his defeat for a Senatorial seat and he returned to Nebraska. He moved to Ft. Calhoun, Washington County, where he assumed his judicial duties in 1865.

In 1879, he was called to Washington by President Hayes to receive an appointment as Collector of Internal Revenue. After his term in this position and until 1891, Crouse was retired from public life. He spent the time managing his farm and traveling abroad until he was named Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in Washington.

In 1892 he returned to Nebraska to successfully head the Republican ticket against Morton and Van Wyck for the governorship of Nebraska. He was elected by a sizable majority. His term of office was marked by an economic drive and certain reforms which he initiated in the operation

and administration of state institutions. After the expiration of his term, Governor Crouse returned to private life, emerging only briefly in 1901 to fill a vacancy in the Nebraska Legislature. He died on May 13, 1909 in Omaha, Nebraska.

Scope and Content

This subgroup consists of 7 archival boxes of material arranged into 3 series:

1. Correspondence, 1892-1895
2. Petitions and reports, 1892-1894
3. Miscellaneous, 1866-1909

This material relates primarily to Crouse's official duties as Governor of Nebraska. Correspondence is largely composed of letters asking for positions, recommendations, and Board of Parole matters. Other subjects of interest include mining bounties, proposed legislation, state institution complaints, the North-South Gulf Railway, impeachment of Joseph Bartley, activities of the American Protection Association, Coxey's Army, irrigation and relief needs.

Series One relates to official correspondence of the Governor. It is arranged by whether it is incoming or outgoing correspondence, and then arranged chronologically.

Series Two included petitions supporting candidates for positions and petitions for parole/pardons of inmates. Included is a petition of residents of Majors, Nebraska, requesting investigation of rumors of impending attack by Catholics on Protestants in 1893. Also included in this series are miscellaneous reports concerning subjects and state departments.

Series Three contains miscellaneous records and printed matter relating to Governor Crouse, elections, railroads, delegates to conferences, convention flyers, and certificates of appointments.

Series Three includes biographical information on Governor Crouse and memorial resolutions of the Supreme Court on his passing. Also included are election records of the 3rd & 12th districts, 1892-1896; material relating to pardons and paroles; legal documents relating to the impeachment of Joseph Bartley, State Treasurer, 1894; and Crouse's certificates of appointments and elections, 1866-1879.

Correspondents include: E. H. Barbour; Samuel Bassett; James E. Boyd; William Jennings Bryan; Amasa Cobb; E. M. Correll; James W. Dawes; Robert W. Furnas; C. H. Gere; G. M. Hitchcock; Silas Holcomb; Church Howe; Thomas J. Majors; Charles F. Manderson; Samuel Maxwell; J. Sterling Morton; A. S. Paddock; John J. Pershing; Edward Rosewater; and Charles H. Van Wyck. Crouse is also a correspondent in the collections of Samuel Chapman; Edwin Augustus Fry; Frederick W. Taylor; and William Henry Woods held by the Nebraska State Historical Society Manuscript Department.

Related Archival Materials

RG001, SG001 - General Governor's Records
RG002, Secretary of State

Series One Correspondence, 1892-1895

- B.01 Incoming Correspondence, Nov. 1892 - Jan. 1893
- B.02 Incoming Correspondence, January - February, 1893
- B.03 Incoming Correspondence, March - June 1893
- B.04 Incoming Correspondence, July 1893 - May 1894
- B.05 Incoming Correspondence, May-December 1894 & n.d.
Letterpress Book, January - June 1893
- B.06 Letterpress Book, June 1893 - Dec. 1893
Letterpress Book, Dec. 1893 - July 1894
includes index to pardons and commutations; prize-fighting legislation;
proclamations
Letterpress Book, July 1894 - Feb. 1895
includes index to delegates to Irrigation Congress, and information on
bonds and ownership

Series Two Petitions and Reports, 1892-1894

- B.07 Petitions for misc. appointments, 1892-1894
Petition - Catholics vs. Protestants, 1893
Petition for State Labor Commissioner, 1892
Petition for Warden of State Pen, 1892-1893
Petition - Afro-Americans for Bartlett, 1893
Petitions for Omaha Fire & Police Commission, 1893
Petitions for Supt of Soldiers & Sailors Home, GI
Petitions for Supt of Hastings Insane Hospital
Petitions for Supt of Lincoln Insane Hospital, 1893
Petitions for Supt of Norfolk Insane Hospital, 1893
Petitions for Judge of 9th District, 1894
Petitions for Pardons and Paroles w/ attachments
Ballard, Thomas, 1893
Bowman, James, 1893
Clausen, Jasper, 1893
Coffey, James, 1894
Dwyer, William, 1893
Hageman, Fred, 1893
Halfacre, W. A., 1893

Haller, Ervin, 1893
 Herron, Alvin & Valentine (w/attachments)
 Hilser, John, n.d.
 Huber, Franklin, 1894
 Mathews, Elsworth E., 1894
 Meddles, James, 1894
 Price, George, 1894
 Reed, George, 1893
 Shatto, Edwin, 1893
 Stevens, Charles, 1893
 Tippey, William, 1894 (w/William Halfacre)
 Towner, Ray, 1894
 Vincent, Thomas, 1893
 Petition for Quarantine re: smallpox, 1894
 Petitions - World's Fair Commission
 Reports
 Beatrice Institute Semi-Annual 1893
 Educational Lands & Funds - School Fund, 1888-94
 Home for the Friendless supply invoice, n.d.
 Nebr Institute for the Blind investigation
 Nebraska National Guard misc.
 Norfolk Hospital for the Insane, 1894

Series Three Miscellaneous, 1866-1909

B.07 Abstracts of Votes for Crouse and election
 affidavits including vote on statehood, 1866
 Livestock quarantine flyers and proclamations, 1893-1894
 Printed Matter including
 publication in German
 editorial re APA delegates, n.d.
 report of funds for civil war, 1893
 flyer, North American Bee Keepers' Assn., 1894
 21st Annual Conference of Charities and Corrections, Nashville, May 1894
 Nebraska State Irrigation Assn flyers, 1894
 Flyer - "Lynching of Negroes in the United States of America," the Friends,
 Yorkshire, England, July 4, 1894.
 Joint Resolution re coal trusts, 1893
 Bulletin, Trans-Mississippi Congress, 1893
 Invitation to reception for Gov. Fishback of Arkansas, 1893
 Miscellaneous news clippings, n.d.
 Barber, M. H. re: Iowa GAR, 1893
 State vs. Joseph S. Bartley, 1894

State vs. George Kerr - Extradition, 1894
Certificates of Appointment
 Crouse as Collector of Internal Revenue, 1879
 Benjamin Benson, State Veterinarian, 1894
 F. M. Logan, Livestock agent, 1894
 Peter Ostergard, Livestock agent, 1894
Conference delegates lists and certificates, 1893-1894
Lorenzo Crouse Biographical material
Memorial Resolutions of Supreme Court on death of Crouse, 1909

DAB/HEK/ab 9/2/1967
PMC Word 2000 10/6/2006
ABH 7/21/2022

Subject headings:

African Americans
Bartley, Joseph S.
Beemer, Alfred D. (Cuming Co.)
Crime And Criminals--Nebraska
Elections--Nebraska
Hill, Isaac A. (Minden)
Hospital for the Incurably Insane, Hastings (Neb.)
Hospital for the Insane, Lincoln (Neb.)
Hospital for the Insane, Norfolk (Neb.)
Institute for Feeble-Minded Youth, Beatrice (Neb.)
Jackson, N. D. (Neligh)
Livestock Quarantine
Mawhiney, William J. (Fullerton)
Nebraska. Board of Educational Lands and Funds
Nebraska. Board of Pardons and Paroles
Nebraska. Department of Agriculture
Nebraska Institute for the Blind, Omaha (Neb.)
Nebraska Soldiers and Sailors Home, Grand Island (Neb.)
Nebraska State Penitentiary
Northrup, Frank M. (Wayne)
Powers, Isaac Jr. (Norfolk)