

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid 3.8

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

MEREDITH MILES MARMADUKE, 1844

Abstract: Records (1843-1844) of Governor Meredith Miles Marmaduke (1791-1864) include correspondence.

Extent: 0.2 cubic ft. (1 half-size Hollinger)

Physical Description: Paper

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

Publication Restrictions: Copyright is in the public domain. Items reproduced for publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.

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HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Meredith Miles Marmaduke was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia on August 28, 1791 to Vincent and Sarah Porter Marmaduke. Educated in public schools, Marmaduke was a civil engineer before the outbreak of the War of 1812. Marmaduke served as a colonel of a Virginia frontier defense regiment and after the war, President James Madison appointed him a U.S. marshal for the Tidewater District of Virginia. Following his term as Westmoreland County Circuit Clerk, Meredith relocated to Franklin, Missouri in 1823 for reasons of health.

On January 4, 1826, Marmaduke married Lavinia Sappington, the daughter of Dr. John S. Sappington of Arrow Rock. Partnering with other businessmen in Saline County, Missouri, Marmaduke made the first of numerous trips on the Santa Fe Trail. He maintained his interest in the trading venture until the mid

1830s. He was appointed surveyor of Saline County and platted the site for Arrow Rock in 1829; and operated a general store with his father-in-law in nearby Jonesboro. Marmaduke settled onto a farm west of Arrow Rock around 1835 where he and Lavinia raised their ten children.

Active in Missouri's Democratic party and central Missouri politics, Marmaduke was elected as Lieutenant Governor on the ticket headed by Governor Thomas Reynolds. After Governor Thomas Reynolds committed suicide while in office on February 9, 1844, Lieutenant Governor Meredith Miles Marmaduke (D) became the eighth governor of Missouri.

During his tenure, Marmaduke advocated vigorously on behalf of mental health reforms. He refused to pardon three abolitionists who had assisted in the escape of a slave; and as a consequence, the Democratic Party chose another candidate to run for a full gubernatorial term. Governor John C. Edwards succeeded Marmaduke on November 20, 1844.

In 1845 he was elected as Saline County's delegate to the upcoming Missouri Constitutional Convention in an unsuccessful attempt to reform the 1820 Missouri Constitution. A firm ally of U.S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton, Marmaduke again sought the nomination for governor in 1848 but lost out to Austin A. King. Marmaduke served as president of Saline County's first agricultural society and of the district fair association.

A slave owner, Marmaduke openly condemned secession and remained a strong Unionist throughout the Civil War. Four of his sons would fight for the Confederacy, two dying in battle. Meredith Miles Marmaduke died on March 26, 1864 at his Saline County farm and is interred at the Sappington Cemetery State Historic Site near Arrow Rock along with his wife; brother-in-law Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson; and father-in-law, Dr. John Sappington.

Timeline

August 28, 1791	Born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, to Vincent and Sarah Porter Marmaduke
January 4, 1826	Married to Lavinia Sappington, daughter of Dr. John S. Sappington
1840	Elected Lieutenant Governor of Missouri
February 9, 1844	Succeeded as Governor upon the death of Governor Thomas Reynolds
1845	Delegate in the Constitutional Convention
March 26, 1864	Died at Arrow Rock, Saline County, Missouri

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Bibliography

Anders, R. Leslie, "Marmaduke, Meredith Miles (1791-1864)," in *Dictionary of Missouri Biography* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1999), pp. 521-522.

McClure, C. H., "Meredith M. Marmaduke," in *The Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of the State of Missouri*, Vol. II (Columbia, MO: The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1922), pp. 3-5.

National Governor's Association, Governor's Information-Meredith Miles Marmaduke
[<http://www.nga.org>]

Official Manual of the State of Missouri (Jefferson City, MO: Office of Secretary of State, legislative years 1963-64), pp. 6, 8.

Sappington Cemetery State Historic Site, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
[<http://www.mostateparks.com/sappingtoncem/geninfo.htm>]

Shoemaker, Floyd Calvin, *Missouri and Missourians*, Vol. I (Chicago, IL: Lewis Publishing Company, 1943), pp. 425-426.

Related material

The Missouri Historical Society of St. Louis holds the Sappington-Marmaduke Family Papers, 1810-1941[A1475]. Correspondence and accounts comprise the collection which documents Marmaduke's involvement in Missouri Democrat politics. Also includes material pertaining to Marmaduke's Santa Fe trading ventures.

The Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library-Central, holds the following Marmaduke materials:

Goff, William A., "Meredith Miles Marmaduke," *Westport Historical Quarterly*, June 1970, pp 19-24.

Jackson, William Rufus, *Missouri Democracy: A History of the Party and Its Representatives Members*, 1935

Sampson, F.A., "Santa Fe Trail: M.M. Marmaduke Journal," *Missouri Historical Review* (Columbia, Missouri: State Historical Society of Missouri, volume VI, Number 1, October 1911), pp 1-10.

White, David A., *William Becknell Travel Journals*, (1905)

The Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia, University of Missouri, holds:

C 1021 Meredith Miles Marmaduke (1791-1864), Papers, 1823-1886 (C 1021)
The collection includes miscellaneous personal and business papers.

C 1772 Meredith Miles Marmaduke (1791-1864), Papers, n.d., 1844, (C1772)
Petitions to the governor requesting pardons of prisoners currently in the penitentiary comprise
the collection.

RECORDS OF GOVERNOR MEREDITH MILES MARMADUKE, 1843-1844

Scope and Content

The records remaining from the administration of Governor Meredith Miles Marmaduke consist mainly of routine correspondence. Topics include the annexation of Texas, the Iowa-Missouri border dispute, and the Bank of Missouri. The folders are arranged chronologically.

When the collection was microfilmed, it was determined that some of the collection required rehousing. As a result, all box and folder numbers have changed. Original box and folder numbers are noted within parentheses. For example, box 4 is now box 1. Under the box heading, the new box number is listed first (original box number in parenthesis) or 1(4). Under the folder heading, 2 (5) indicates that the item originally in folder 5 is now located in folder 2.

All references to places are within the state of Missouri unless indicated, and county is specified when known. The spelling of proper names varies greatly. When correct spelling could not be determined the original spelling was retained. Officeholders are Missouri officials unless noted (U.S. Senator, U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Attorney General, U.S. Supreme Court, etc). State Representatives are referred to as Representative. U.S. Representatives are noted with the title Congressman.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1B/1/1	1 (4)	1	December 25, 1843	Governor George W. Crawford: resolution relative to repudiation of Georgia state debts
1B/1/1	1 (4)	2 (5)	December 25, 1843	Governor George W. Crawford, Georgia: transmittal of state documents
1B/1/1	1 (4)	3 (2)	February 24, 1844	Secretary John Palpey, Commonwealth of Massachusetts: resolutions for losses in French Revolution
1B/1/1	1 (4)	4 (12)	February 28, 1844	H. Shurlds, Bank of Missouri St. Louis: bonds of Bank of Missouri
1B/1/1	1 (4)	5 (13)	March 1, 1844	H. Shurlds, Bank of Missouri St. Louis: expenses of Bank of Missouri

1B/1/1	1 (4)	6 (3)	March 15, 1844	Secretary John Palpey, Commonwealth of Massachusetts: U.S. annexation of Texas
1B/1/1	1 (4)	7 (4)	March 25, 1844	J. N. Elby, Sheriff Adair County: Missouri northern boundary dispute, Iowa
1B/1/1	1 (4)	8 (6)	April 10, 1844	Governor James Fenner, Rhode Island: copy of Rhode Island protest and declaration against interference by Congress in state disputes
1B/1/1	1 (4)	9 (7)	April 22, 1844	U.S. Secretary of the Treasury J. C. Spencer: transmittal of reports
1B/1/1	1 (4)	10 (8)	May 1844	Resolution, Connecticut: assumption of debts
1B/1/1	1 (4)	11(14)	July 1, 1844	Statement of interest as of July 1, 1844
1B/1/1	1 (4)	12 (9)	July 25, 1844	T. L. Smith, register of the U.S. Treasury: establishment of Bureau of Statistics
1B/1/1	1 (4)	13 (17)	August 12, 1844	Edwin Toah, Savannah, Andrew County: resignation of Sheriff Cornelius Gilliam, Andrew County
1B/1/1	1 (4)	14 (15)	August 22, 1844	Commission of William V. N. Bay to examine the Bank of the State of Missouri
1B/1/1	1 (4)	15 (10)	September 9, 1844	Francis Clark, Perryville, Perry County: resignation from legislature
1B/1/1	1 (4)	16 (11)	October 11, 1844	Henry Field & Jarvis Gallaher, St. Louis: request to designate a day of Thanksgiving
1B/1/1	1 (4)	17 (16)	October 24, 1844	H. Shurlds: transmittal of transcript, State Bank Board meeting