

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid 3.15

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

CLAIBORNE FOX JACKSON, 1861

Abstract: Records (1861) of Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson (1806-1862) consists of four items of correspondence.

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

Physical Description: Paper

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

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Preferred Citation: [Item description], [date]; Claiborne Fox Jackson, 1861; Office of Governor, Record Group 3.15; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Processing Information: Processing completed by Becky Carlson, Local Records Field Archivist, on July 1, 1996. Finding aid updated by Sharon E. Brock on September 2, 2008.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Claiborne Fox Jackson was born on April 4, 1806 in Fleming County, Kentucky to Dempsey Carroll Jackson and wife Mary Orea Pickett. The family moved to Franklin, Howard County, Missouri, then later to Saline County. There he met and married Jane B. Sappington, daughter of the influential and well-connected Dr. John S. Sappington. When Jane died in 1831, he married her sister Louisa. When she died in 1838, Jackson married yet another sister, Eliza.

First elected to the general assembly in 1842, he was named speaker of the house in 1844 and 1846. Senator Jackson was chair of the ways and means committee in 1848 when he presented the "Jackson

Resolutions," which stated that US Senators and Representatives from Missouri should call for extending the Missouri Compromise line into the territories.

Claiborne Fox Jackson defeated Sample Orr in the 1860 general election and was sworn in as Missouri's 15th governor on January 3, 1861. Jackson aligned himself with the pro-Southern majority and continued to urge compromise. A state convention was called to decide whether Missouri would secede or remain in the Union. The assembly first met in Jefferson City on February 28, 1861, and then adjourned, to meet again in St. Louis on March 4th.

On May 10, 1861, after Jackson had established a military training camp on the outskirts of St. Louis, Nathaniel Lyon led federal troops to seize the camp. On June 12, 1861, Jackson failed to reach a compromise with General Lyon. The governor called for 50,000 volunteers to defend the autonomy of the state. He and Sterling Price withdrew to southwest Missouri to organize volunteers and meet with Confederate forces in Arkansas. Jackson believed that the state convention would vote for secession. Instead, they nullified the militia law; vacated the offices of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and the assembly; appointed Hamilton Rowan Gamble as the provisional governor; and called for a statewide election in November.

Jackson issued a proclamation August 5, 1861, declaring Missouri a free republic and dissolving all ties with the Union. He unsuccessfully summoned the old assembly to meet (less than a quorum of either house responded in November) and they passed a formal ordinance of secession and appointed senators and representatives to the Confederacy. On November 28, 1861, the Confederate States of America admitted Missouri and Confederate senators and representatives were elected.

Following the Battle of Pea Ridge, Jackson removed with the southern sympathizing members of the state government into southern Arkansas. Many of Missouri's wealthier citizens had fled to Marshall, Texas and Governor Jackson met with the group sometime in the spring of 1862. In November, Claiborne Jackson traveled to Little Rock to plan the winter military campaign but died on December 6, 1862 of cancer in a rooming house near Little Rock. Jackson was interred in Mt. Holly Cemetery in Little Rock; after the war, his remains were re-interred in the Sappington Family Cemetery in Arrow Rock, Missouri.

Timeline

April 4, 1806	Born in Fleming County, Kentucky, to Dempsey and Mary Pickett Jackson
1826	Moved with his older brothers to Franklin, Missouri
1832	Organized and was captain of a company in the Black Hawk War
1836	Elected to General Assembly
1857	Appointed State Bank Commissioner
January 3, 1861	Sworn in as the fifteenth governor of the state of Missouri

December 6, 1862 Died of cancer at Little Rock, Arkansas

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Bibliography

Clark, Charles, "Claiborne Fox Jackson," on-line, *Kansas BogusLegislature.org*
http://kansasboguslegislature.org/mo/jackson_c_f.html

Official Manual of the State of Missouri (Jefferson City, MO: Office of Secretary of State, legislative years 1963-64), pp. 12-14.

Pearman, Robert, "Claiborne Fox Jackson: the Great War, 1861-1865" in the *Kansas City Times*, June 13, 1961, on-line, <http://mocivwar.mogenweb.org/claibornefoxjackson.htm>

Phillips, Christopher, "Jackson, Claiborne Fox (1806-1862)," in *Dictionary of Missouri Biography* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1999), pp. 423-426.

Shoemaker, Floyd Calvin, *Missouri and Missourians* Vol. II (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1943), pp. 821-829.

Viles, Jonas, "Claiborne Fox Jackson," in *The Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of the State of Missouri*, Vol. III (Columbia, MO: The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1922), pp. 317-327.

Related material

Elmer Ellis Library, University of Missouri in Columbia holds:

Phillips, Christopher, *Missouri's Confederate: Claiborne Fox Jackson and the creation of southern identity in the border West*, (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2000)

West, Alma Merle, *The Earlier Political Career of Claiborne Fox Jackson, 1836-1851*, Thesis, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1941.

The Missouri Valley Special Collection, Kansas City Public Library [<http://www.kchistory.org>] holds the following Jackson material:

Claiborne Fox Jackson: Conscience of a Conservative, newspaper article, vertical file

Phillips, Christopher. "Calculated Confederate: Claiborne Fox Jackson and the Strategy for Secession in Missouri" in the *Missouri Historical Review*, (Columbia: State Historical Society of Missouri) Number 4, Volume 94, July 1, 2000, pp. 389-414.

Schnitzer, Wayne. "A History of the Missouri State Guard with General Parsons East of the River," in *The Blue and Grey Chronicle*, Number 1, Volume 8, October 1, 2004, pp. 1-7.

RECORDS OF GOVERNOR CLAIBORNE FOX JACKSON, 1861

Scope and Content

The records remaining from the administration of Governor Claiborne Fox Jackson consist of four letters, three of which are copies of outgoing correspondence. The fourth letter is a request for an appointment to continue the state survey.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1B/1/1	1	1	January 16, 1861	Claiborne Fox Jackson, Jefferson City, Cole County to Col. H. K. Craig, chief of Ordnance Bureau, Washington D.C: requisition for arms
1B/1/1	1	2	March 19, 1861	George C. Swallow, Jefferson City, Cole County: request for appointment to continue as state geologist
1B/1/1	1	3	April 1, 1861	Claiborne Fox Jackson, Jefferson City, Cole County to George R. Taylor, president, Pacific Railroad, St. Louis: failure of the General Assembly to pass legislation regarding the railroad; Board of Directors resolutions; payment of salaries; State Treasury; railroad construction; Railroad Bill of March 28, 1861
1B/1/1	1	4	April 8, 1861	Claiborne Fox Jackson, Jefferson City, Cole County to Governor Henry Massey Rector, Little Rock, Arkansas: future of the Union; slavery; abolition; states' rights; southern men; secession; Black Republicans; inquiry to the Governor of Arkansas as to what actions Arkansas will take (Arkansas seceded from the Union on May 6, 1861)