OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

WILLARD PREBLE HALL, 1864-1865

Abstract: Records (1862-1865) of Governor Willard Preble Hall (1820-1882) include commissions, correspondence, and petitions.

Extent: 0.2 cubic ft. (1 half Hollinger)

Physical Description: Paper

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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Preferred Citation: [Item description], [date]; Willard Preble Hall, 1864-1865; Office of Governor, Record Group 3.17; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.


HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Willard Preble Hall was born May 9, 1820 in Harpers Ferry, Virginia to John Hancock Hall and wife Statira Preble. After graduating from Yale College in 1839, Hall relocated to Missouri to study law under his brother, William Augustus Hall (later a U.S. Congressman), eventually settling in St. Joseph. Hall was married twice; October 28, 1847, to Anne Elizabeth Richardson and after her death in 1862; to Olivia L. Oliver, the daughter of Missouri Secretary of State Mordecai Oliver, on June 22, 1864.

In 1844, Hall served as a presidential elector for Democratic candidate James K. Polk. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1846 while serving with Alexander W. Doniphan and the 1st
Missouri Volunteers during the Mexican War. While in New Mexico, Hall and Doniphan, developed a
code of laws by which the New Mexico Territory would be governed. New Mexico was governed by the
“Kearney Code” for the next 45 years.

Congressman Hall took his seat in 1847 and served two more terms before refusing further election.
Throughout his congressional tenure, Hall advocated the expansion of U.S. territory and the
improvement of railroads and schools in Missouri. In December 1851, Congressman Hall unsuccessfully
introduced legislation to organize the Platte Territory and settle lands immediately west of Missouri.
Stephen Douglas revised the legislation into what became known as the Kansas-Nebraska Act and
consequently, the Kansas and Nebraska Territories were created.

Hall returned to his law practice in St. Joseph, making an abortive attempt at a U.S. Senate seat in 1856.
After the state convention of July 1861 vacated statewide offices, Hall was chosen to serve as lieutenant
governor. After Governor Gamble died in office on January 31, 1864, Lieutenant Governor Hall became
the seventeenth governor of Missouri. He served until Thomas Clement Fletcher was sworn in on
January 2, 1865.

Governor Hall returned to his law practice in 1865 and was elected the first president of the Missouri
Bar Association in 1880. Willard Preble Hall died at his farm in St. Joseph on November 2, 1882 and is
interred in Mount Mora Cemetery.

Timeline

May 9, 1820 Born at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, to John Hancock and Statira Preble Hall
1839 Graduated from Yale College
1840 Moved to Huntsville, Missouri
1842 Moved to Sparta, Missouri
1843 Moved to St. Joseph, Missouri, and was appointed Circuit Attorney
1844 Selected as Presidential Elector
1846 Participated in Mexican War (1st Missouri Cavalry) and was elected to US Congress
October 28, 1847 Married Ann Eliza Richardson
July 31, 1861 Elected as Lieutenant Governor, Missouri Provisional Government at the
State Convention after office had been vacated
January 31, 1864 Became the seventeenth governor of the state of Missouri upon the death of
Governor Gamble
June 22, 1864  Married Olivia L. Oliver

November 2, 1882  Died and buried at St. Joseph, Missouri

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Bibliography


*National Governor’s Association. Governor’s Information—Willard Preble Hall* (on-line) http://www.nga.org


Related Material

Willard P. Hall Papers (A0642), Missouri Historical Society Archives, St. Louis. http://collections.mohistory.org/resource/103334


The State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia holds Missouri Historical Review, Volume 5, pp. 69-82 which contains a biography by John F. Phillip on Willard Preble Hall.

University of Missouri, Elmer Ellis Library, Columbia, holds:


Twitchell, Ralph Emerson, History of the Military Occupation of New Mexico from 1846 to 1851 (Denver, Co.: Smith Brooks Company, 1909).
RECORDS OF GOVERNOR WILLARD PREBLE HALL, 1862-1865

Scope and Content

As one of the smallest collections of governor's records, the records give little insight into the administration of Governor Hall. Documents include commissions, letters of recommendation, a resignation from office, and correspondence relating to prisoners. The records from 1862 are from a period early in that year when he was acting as governor in Gamble's stead. The records are arranged by type of document and thereunder in chronological order.

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.

After the collection was microfilmed, it was determined that some of the collection required rehousing. As a result, some folder numbers have changed. Original folder numbers are noted within parentheses. For example, 1 (3) indicates that the item originally in folder 3 is now located in folder 1.

Container List

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<td>January 17, 1862</td>
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<td>Appointments—Samuel A. Davidson, Phelps County: declining appointment as Phelps County sheriff</td>
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<td>Appointments—Jonathan M. Straat, St. Louis: request for reappointment as notary public</td>
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<td>March 22, 1862</td>
<td>Appointments—A. W. Jeffries, Union, Franklin County: resignation from office</td>
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<td>Appointments—C. P. Walker, Rolla, Phelps County: transmittal of petition on behalf of Joseph Gallagher, recommended for Phelps County sheriff</td>
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April 1, 1862  Appointments—R. B. Owens, Springfield, Greene County: resignation as probate judge; civil unrest

April 11, 1862  Appointments—A. C. Grace, Springfield, Greene County: notification of a vacancy in the office of Greene County sheriff; noncompliance with state law

June 1864  Appointments—petition, board, State Lunatic Asylum, Fulton, Callaway County: recommends Hans Luther and A. C. Shepherd to the board; resignations of Lightner and Robinson

January 13, 1862  Commission—Thomas J. Reedman, Greene County sheriff

February 21, 1862  Commission—R. W. Hamilton, St. Louis, as notary public

May 31, 1862  Commission—R. W. Hamilton, St. Louis: resignation of commission as notary public

January 27, 1862  Correspondence—J. O. Broadhead (James Overton Broadhead), St. Louis: request for clemency for convicted felon John Smith of Pike County; counterfeit money

February 4, 1862  Correspondence—G. B. Douglas, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City: request from the deputy warden for the governor to investigate the case of prison inmate Ueitzh

February 15, 1862  Correspondence—petition, officers of the Missouri State Penitentiary: pardon of inmate Charles J. Hunt, of Platte County

March 22, 1862  Correspondence—E. O. Sayle, Platte City: reappointment as notary public; oath of loyalty requirements

March 25, 1862  Correspondence—J. C. Edwards, Washington, D.C: transmittal of law authorizing the selection of lands given by the distribution law; loan bill; Whigs; Democrats; House gag rule; Arkansas; Illinois; war; abolitionists
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<td>Correspondence—Logan Clark, Sedalia: complaint against H. R. Dobyns, quartermaster of the 40th Regiment, E.M.M.; unaccounted supplies, false enrollment documents, discrepancy in record keeping, railroad agent; Gratz Brown (Governor Benjamin Gratz Brown, 1871-1873); Charles Drake (Charles Daniel Drake); George R. Smith</td>
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<td>Correspondence—R. S. Todd: transmittal of oath of loyalty; appointment to board of curators, University of Missouri</td>
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<td>August 5, 1864</td>
<td>Correspondence—James Dunn, Jr., Fulton, Callaway County to Secretary of State Mordecai Oliver, Jefferson City, Cole County: answer to Oliver’s inquiry about the administration of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum; Missouri Revised Statutes of 1855, page 214</td>
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