

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid 3.17

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

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

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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 (1 st 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

Giffen, Jerena East, *First Ladies of Missouri*, revised (Jefferson City, Missouri: Giffen Enterprises, 1996), pp. 88-89.

Hall, Willard Preble in *Biographical Directory of the United State Congress* (on-line) <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

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

Official Manual of the State of Missouri (Jefferson City, MO: Office of Secretary of State, legislative years 1963-64), pp. 12, 15.

Priest, Henry S., "Willard Preble Hall," in *The Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of the State of Missouri*, Vol. IV (Columbia, MO: The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1922), pp. 3-7.

Shoemaker, Floyd Calvin, *Missouri and Missourians* Vol. II (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1943), page 932.

Wilson, Jerry E., "Hall, Willard Preble (1820-1882)," in *Dictionary of Missouri Biography* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1999), pp. 366-367.

Related Material

Hall, Willard Preble, "Speech on the Admission of California" delivered to the U.S. House of Representatives, March 5, 1850 [on-line] (Washington: Congressional Globe Office, 1850) pp. 3-13. [<http://books.google.com>]

Hughes, John T., *Doniphan's Expedition* (Cincinnati, Ohio, 1848). Reprinted by William Elsey Connelley, *Doniphan's Expedition and the conquest of New Mexico and California* (Topeka, Kansas, 1907), self published.

Kansas City Public Library, The Missouri Valley Special Collections, holds "Missouri Heritage: Code of Law from a Young Solider", in the *Kansas City Star*, June 27, 1970.

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:

Green, James Stephen, *Communication from the Ho. James S. Green and Willard P. Hall, Representatives in Congress from the State of Missouri, in relation to bill S. 248, granting the right of way and land for the St. Joseph and Hannibal Railroad: June 19, 1848* (Washington, D. C., 1848).

Launius, Roger D., *Alexander William Doniphan: Portrait of a Missouri Moderate* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1997).

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

Location	Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1B/1/1	1	1	January 17, 1862	Appointments—J.B. Henderson: declining appointment as Missouri Supreme Court judge
1B/1/1	1	1 (3)	February 15, 1862	Appointments—Samuel A. Davidson, Phelps County: declining appointment as Phelps County sheriff
1B/1/1	1	1	February 28, 1862	Appointments—Jonathan M. Straat, St. Louis: request for reappointment as notary public
1B/1/1	1	1	March 22, 1862	Appointments—A. W. Jeffries, Union, Franklin County: resignation from office
1B/1/1	1	1 (3)	March 28, 1862	Appointments—C. P. Walker, Rolla, Phelps County: transmittal of petition on behalf of Joseph Gallaher, recommended for Phelps County sheriff

1B/1/1	1	1 (3)	April 1, 1862	Appointments—R. B. Owens, Springfield, Greene County: resignation as probate judge; civil unrest
1B/1/1	1	1 (3)	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
1B/1/1	1	2 (4)	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
1B/1/1	1	3 (2)	January 13, 1862	Commission—Thomas J. Reedman, Greene County sheriff
1B/1/1	1	3 (2)	February 21, 1862	Commission—R. W. Hamilton, St. Louis, as notary public
1B/1/1	1	3 (2)	May 31, 1862	Commission—R. W. Hamilton, St. Louis: resignation of commission as notary public
1B/1/1	1	4	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
1B/1/1	1	4	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
1B/1/1	1	4	February 15, 1862	Correspondence—petition, officers of the Missouri State Penitentiary: pardon of inmate Charles J. Hunt, of Platte County
1B/1/1	1	4	March 22, 1862	Correspondence—E. O. Sayle, Platte City: reappointment as notary public; oath of loyalty requirements
1B/1/1	1	4 (1)	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

1B/1/1	1	5 (3)	March 20, 1864	Correspondence—Logan Clark, Sedalia: complaint against H. R. Dobyns, quartermaster of the 40 th 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
1B/1/1	1	5 (4)	June 3, 1864	Correspondence—R. S. Todd: transmittal of oath of loyalty; appointment to board of curators, University of Missouri
1B/1/1	1	5 (4)	August 5, 1864	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