

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid 3.6

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

LILBURN WILLIAMS BOGGS, 1837-1841

Abstract: Records (1837-1843) of Governor Lilburn Williams Boggs (1796-1860) include appointments, correspondence, and state bonds.

Extent: 0.4 cubic feet (1 Hollinger)

Physical Description: Paper

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

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HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Although the sixth governor of the state of Missouri, Lilburn W. Boggs is the first for whom the Missouri State Archives holds records.

Lilburn Williams Boggs was born in Lexington, Kentucky on December 14, 1796 to John M. and Martha Oliver Boggs. At the age of 16, he served with Kentucky troops during the War of 1812. The company, under the command of Captain Levi Todd, fought at the Battle of Tippecanoe.

After moving to St. Louis at the age of 18, Boggs married Julia Bent, the daughter of Judge Silas Bent and relocated to Franklin, Missouri. The mercantile business he operated failed and Boggs obtained a position as deputy factor at Fort Osage. After the death of his wife, Boggs remarried

in 1823 to Panthea G. Boone, a granddaughter of Daniel Boone. He removed his growing family to a farm near Fort Osage in Jackson County and later to Independence. In 1829, Boggs embarked with other leading merchants on a trading trip down the Santa Fe Trail to New Mexico. The trip solidified his interest in the West.

Representing the Jackson County area, Boggs was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 1826; and as Missouri State Senator in 1830. He also served as Lieutenant Governor from 1832 to 1836. Governor Daniel Dunklin resigned in 1836 upon his appointment as surveyor general for Illinois and Missouri by President Andrew Jackson. Boggs filled the remaining three months of Dunklin's term and was elected in his own right as the sixth Governor of Missouri.

Tensions escalated between the increasing numbers of Mormons immigrating to Missouri in the 1830s and settlers already residing in the state marked Boggs' gubernatorial term. After incidents of increasing violence, and in an attempt to diffuse the situation, the state Legislature created Caldwell County in 1836 as a "home" for Mormon believers. As Mormons poured into Caldwell and neighboring counties, bands of Mormon and Anti-Mormon militia clashed with predictable results. On October 27, 1838, Boggs ordered Mormons driven from the state.

Re-elected to the Missouri State Senate in 1842, Boggs was shot through an open window while reading a newspaper at his home in Independence. Orrin Porter Rockwell, an associate of Mormon prophet Joseph Smith, Jr., was arrested, tried, and acquitted of the crime in 1843. Senator Boggs survived the attempted assassination and four years later, left Missouri for California. Among the company on the wagon train with Boggs and his family were most of the emigrants who separated from the group to form the Donner Party.

Boggs settled in Sonoma and operated a successful store during the California Gold Rush. He was a member of the first California Constitutional Convention; served as a California state assemblyman from the Sonoma District in 1852; and retired in 1855 to Napa County. Boggs died on March 19, 1860 and is buried with his wife in Tulocay Cemetery in Napa, California. (Boggs' tombstone in California gives his date of birth as December 14, 1796 and his date of death as March 19, 1860).

Timeline

December 14, 1796	Born in Lexington, Kentucky, to John M. and Martha Oliver Boggs
1812	War of 1812 military service
1816	Moved to Missouri Territory
1817	Married Julia Anne Bent, daughter of Judge Silas Bent
1823	Married Panthea Boone, granddaughter of Daniel Boone

1826	Elected to Missouri House of Representatives
1830	Elected to Missouri State Senate
1832	Elected Lieutenant Governor and filled last three months of Governor Daniel Dunklin's term in the summer of 1836
1836	Elected the sixth Governor of the State of Missouri
1842	Elected to Missouri State Senate
1846	Moved to California
March 4, 1860	Died in Napa Valley, California

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Bibliography

Boggs, William M., "A Short Biographical Sketch of Lilburn W. Boggs by His Son," published in the *Missouri Historical Review*, Vol. IV (October 1909-July 1910): 106-110. Placed on-line by *Far West History.com* [<http://www.jwha.info/mmff/boggs.htm>]

Launius, Roger D., "Boggs, Lilburn W. (1792-1860)," in *Dictionary of Missouri Biography* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1999), pp. 91-92.

Missouri Mormon War, Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative
<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/mormon.asp>

Napa County Biographies

<http://www.napacountygenealogy.com/Biography/BoggsGovernorLilburnW.htm>

Biography taken from *History of Napa and Lake Counties* (San Francisco, CA: Slocum, Bowen & Company, 1881)

Official Manual of the State of Missouri (Jefferson City, MO: Office of Secretary of State, legislative years 1963-64), pp. 2, 5, 7.

Southern, William, Jr., "Lilburn W. Boggs," in *The Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of the State of Missouri*, Vol. I (Columbia, MO: The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1922), pp. 303-306.

Related Material

See the series *Mormon War Papers* (1838-1841) in Record Group 5, Special Collections and also *Missouri Mormon War*, available on-line at the Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative site [<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/mormon.asp>].

The Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia, University of Missouri holds C 1753 Lilburn W. Boggs(1796-1860), Papers, 1838-1839. Includes acts of the General Assembly during the administration of Governor Boggs, concerning organization and boundaries of Clark, Buchanan, Grundy and Platte Counties, declaration of Ni-chi-ne-ba-to-na River as a navigable stream; and payment for services of grand jurors.

RECORDS OF GOVERNOR LILBURN W. BOGGS, 1837-1843

Scope and Content

The records remaining from the administration of Governor Lilburn W. Boggs include correspondence to the governor from state legislators, county officials and federal officials, residents, and officials from other states. Also included are appointments and state bonds.

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	1	September 17, 1837	Edmund P. Gaines: raising troops for the Seminole War
1B/1/1	1	2	September 27, 1837	Major General Edmund P. Gaines, St. Louis: failure to raise troops, Seminole War
1B/1/1	1	3	September 28, 1837	Brigadier General H. Atchison, Steamboat Howard, near Jefferson City: request for Boggs to supply troops for the Seminole War, Florida, Seminole Indians, Jefferson Barracks, Tampa Bay
1B/1/1	1	4	January 2, 1838	State Senator Elliot Lee, St. Louis: resignation
1B/1/1	1	5	November 12, 1838	Henry Austin, Randolph County sheriff: resignation of State Representative Joseph Rutherford
1B/1/1	1	6	November 21, 1838	Lt. Governor Franklin Connor and Speaker of the House William H. Harvey: election of Thomas Hart Benton as U.S. Senator from Missouri
1B/1/1	1	7	December 1, 1838	Henry Austin, Randolph County Sheriff: changes in election
1B/1/1	1	8	March 1839	Anonymous, Randolph's Grove: the abolition of slavery

1B/1/1	1	9	March 1839	Humes Porter, private secretary to the Governor of Michigan: Missouri legislation
1B/1/1	1	10	April 04, 1839	Isaac Curd, Fulton: B. B. French, clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington D.C.; transmittal of Journal of the 25 th Congress
1B/1/1	1	11	April 1, 1839	C. W. Dreihslser & Edmund P. Gaines: improvements on Mississippi, letter issued to the Chamber of Commerce
1B/1/1	1	12	April 19, 1839	N. S. Clark, Mountain Bluff Arkansas: Indian treaty verification
1B/1/1	1	13	May 4, 1839	Deputy Sheriff J. Lamar, Union: reward for escaped prisoner Joseph T. Murphy
1B/1/1	1	14	May 31, 1839	Deputy Sheriff J. S. Million, Lewis County: fine imposed on Home & Tate for selling goods without a license
1B/1/1	1	15	June 9, 1839	Julius Lenult, Hermann, Gasconade County: power of attorney; Justice of the Peace Thomas Roark
1B/1/1	1	16	July 27, 1839	Thomas M. Allen, curator, University of Missouri, Boone County: appointment, call for a meeting of the Board
1B/1/1	1	17	August 25, 1839	John Genter, Washington County, Arkansas: redress for stolen property
1B/1/1	1	18	August 26, 1839	David Powell, Lewis County: release of his brother (Elijah Powell) from prison
1B/1/1	1	19	September 10, 1839	Thomas Mosley, clerk, Newton County Circuit Court: request for copies of Missouri laws
1B/1/1	1	20	September 13, 1839	Governor (acting) Charles A. Wickliffe, Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky legislature, resolution on silk culture
1B/1/1	1	21	September 17, 1839	Leonard Case, Cleveland Ohio: admission of "deaf & dumb" resident to asylum at Hartford, Conn.

1B/1/1	1	22	October 3, 1839	M. G. Wilson, Independence, Jackson County: delayed commissions
1B/1/1	1	23	October 5, 1839	Brigadier General Arbuckle: raising of troops to quell possible problems with Cherokee Nation; trial of the murderers of the Ridge & Boudinot families; defense of southwest portion of the state of Missouri; western expansion, Indians
1B/1/1	1	24	October 18, 1839	C. H. Bailey, Brigadier Inspector, 2 nd Brigade 11 th Division, Missouri State Militia: instruction books for officers
1B/1/1	1	25	November 30, 1839	Congressman John Jameson, Washington D.C: northern boundary of state; election of democratic speaker; Brown's Survey Plats
1B/1/1	1	26	December 21, 1839	William Dwyer, St. Louis: verifying documents
1B/1/1	1	27	March 3, 1840	Thornton Grimely: resignation as state senator
1B/1/1	1	28	September 3, 1840	George Penn: resignation as state senator
1B/1/1	1	29	September 23, 1840	Representative Nathan B. Harris, Madison County: resignation from House of Representatives
1B/1/1	1	30	February 4, 1843	J. A. Richardson of near Monticello, Lewis County: trial of thief; slaves, blacks
1B/1/1	1	31	1837 - 1840	Miscellaneous resignations from government officials & appointees
1B/1/1	1	32	October 15, 1839	Appointment: Abram J. Williams, curator, University of Missouri
1B/1/1	1	33	September 17, 1840	Appointment: William W. L. Campbell
1B/1/1	1	34	May 17, 1840	\$1000 bonds at 5 1/2% per annum to charter the State Bank of Missouri (five signed, one unsigned)
1B/1/1	1	35	July 1, 1837	\$10,000 bond 6% per annum to provide for a state capitol
1B/1/1	1	36	August 7, 1837	\$1000 bond 6% per annum to charter the State Bank of Missouri (five signed)

1B/1/1	1	37	July 1, 1839	\$10,000 bond 6% per annum for pay for service by volunteers and militia for the state
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