

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 Williams Boggs is the first for whom the Missouri State Archives holds records.

He was born in Lexington, Kentucky on December 14, 1796 to John M. and Martha Oliver Boggs. At the age of 16, Boggs 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. His mercantile business failed and he 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 in 1836 as the sixth Governor of Missouri.

Escalating tensions between the increasing numbers of Mormons immigrating to Missouri and settlers already residing in the state marked Boggs' gubernatorial term. After violent incidents and in an attempt to diffuse the situation, the state Legislature created Caldwell County in 1836 as a "home" for Mormon believers. Mormons poured into Caldwell and neighboring counties and bands of Mormon and Anti-Mormon militia clashed. 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 in 1846, 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. (On Boggs' tombstone in California, his date of birth is given 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

The Missouri State Archives holds additional material on Governor Boggs. Please 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 site [<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/mormon.asp>].

Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, holds a vertical file on Governor Boggs which contains material on the Honey War between Iowa and Missouri.

Missouri History Museum, St. Louis holds the following Boggs related information:

A0144 Lilburn W. Boggs Papers, 1827-1859 includes family correspondence and biographical materials.

A1162 Oregon-California Collection, 1832-1943

Folder 3 contains a 3 page, typescript copy of St. Louis Weekly Reveille newspaper article titled "Route to the Pacific," containing a letter by Boggs written from Sonoma, California.

A1475 Sappington-Marmaduke Family Papers contains limited Boggs correspondence.

Des Moines Historical Library and Iowa City Historical Library, both affiliated with the State Historical Society of Iowa hold Derek R. Everett, "To Shed Our Blood for Our Beloved Territory: the Missouri-Iowa Borderland", *Annals of Iowa*. Volume 67, no. 4 (Fall 2008), p. 269-297.

State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, holds the following:

Belli, Casus. Ten Factors That Contributed to the Outbreak of the 1838 Mormon War in Missouri (James H. Jenkins: Independence, Mo.), 1999

Boggs, William Montgomery. A Short Biographical Sketch of Lilburn W. Boggs by His Son (Columbia, Mo.), 1910

Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of the State of Missouri, 1: Alexander McNair, Frederick Bates, Abraham J. Williams, John Miller, Daniel Dunklin, Lilburn W. Boggs, Thomas Reynolds (Columbia, Mo.), 1922

Manuscript Collection

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.

Elmer Ellis Library, University of Missouri, Columbia holds The Public Career of Lilburn W. Boggs by Joseph F. Gordon, 1949 in print and microfilm.

RECORDS OF GOVERNOR LILBURN WILLIAMS BOGGS, 1837-1843

Scope and Content

Correspondence comprises the records remaining from the administration of Governor Lilburn Williams Boggs. Topics covered include abolition of slavery, education of the deaf mute, election of Thomas Hart Benton to the United States Senate, cultural importance of the Mississippi River, raising troops for the Second Seminole Indian War, and miscellaneous appointments. The collection also includes commissions, resignations, resolutions, and state bonds.

Of particular note is a letter from General Matthew Arbuckle written from Fort Gibson, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) in which he discusses the 1839 murders of Major Ridge and the Boudinot families and the escalating tensions within the Cherokee Nation.

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). State Representatives are referred to as Representative. U.S. Representatives are noted with the title Congressman.

Container List

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1	1	September 17, 1837	Correspondence: Edmund Pendleton Gaines; raising troops for the Seminole War
1	2	September 27, 1837	Correspondence: Edmund Pendleton Gaines, St. Louis; previous correspondence with governor; U. S. Secretary of War Gentry; bound to the wishes of President Martin van Buren; failure to raise troops for the Seminole War, requests assistance, Jefferson Barracks; Battle of New Orleans
1	3	September 28, 1837	Correspondence: H. Atchison, Steamboat Howard, near Jefferson City; request from the brigadier general for Boggs to supply troops for the Seminole War, Florida; Seminole Indians; Jefferson Barracks; Tampa Bay
1	4	January 2, 1838	Correspondence: Senator Elliot Lee, St. Louis; resignation from the 7 th Senatorial District

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1	5	November 12, 1838	Correspondence: Henry Austin, Randolph County; resignation of Representative Joseph Rutherford; await further orders pertaining to a special election
1	6	November 21, 1838	Correspondence: Franklin Connor and William H. Harvey; election of Thomas Hart Benton as U.S. Senator from Missouri (Connor is Lt. Governor; Harvey is Speaker of the House)
1	7	December 1, 1838	Correspondence: Henry Austin, Randolph County; receipt of writ of election; changes in election
1	8	March 1839	Correspondence: Anonymous, Randolph's Grove, county unknown; the abolition of slavery
1	9	March 31, 1839	Correspondence: Humes Porter, Lansing, Michigan; in receipt of copies of Missouri legislation (note: Porter is private secretary to the governor of Michigan)
1	10	April 04, 1839	Correspondence: Isaac Curd, Fulton, Callaway County; B. B. French; transmittal of Journal of the 25 th Congress
1	11	April 9, 1839	Correspondence: C. W. Drechsler, New Orleans, Louisiana; improvements on Mississippi
1	11	April 9, 1839	Correspondence: Edmund Pendleton Gaines, New Orleans, Louisiana; letter to the Chamber of Commerce pertaining to improvements on the Mississippi River; importance to culture, commerce of New Orleans
1	12	April 19, 1839	Correspondence: N. S. Clark, Morrisons Bluff Arkansas; Indian treaty verification
1	13	May 4, 1839	Correspondence: J. Lamar, Union, Franklin County; reward for escaped prisoner Joseph T. Murphy, wanted for assault; facts of case
1	14	May 31, 1839	Correspondence: J. S. Million, Monticello, Lewis County; fine imposed on Home & Tate for selling goods without a license
1	15	June 9, 1839	Correspondence: Julius Lenult, Hermann, Gasconade County; power of attorney; Justice of the Peace Thomas Roark

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1	16	July 27, 1839	Correspondence: Thomas M. Allen, Boone County; appointment to Board of Curators, University of Missouri; call for a meeting
1	17	August 5, 1839	Correspondence: John Genter, Washington County, Arkansas; redress for stolen property
1	18	August 25, 1839	Correspondence: David Powell, Lewis County; release of his brother Elijah Powell from prison
1	19	September 1, 1839	Correspondence: Thomas Mosley, Newton County; request from the clerk of the Newton County Circuit Court for copies of Missouri laws
1	20	September 13, 1839	Correspondence: Governor Charles Anderson Wickliffe, Frankfort, Kentucky; Kentucky legislature, resolution on silk culture
1	21	September 17, 1839	Correspondence: Leonard Case, Cleveland, Ohio; admission of deaf and dumb resident to asylum at Hartford, Connecticut; man had recommendation reportedly signed by Boggs
1	22	October 3, 1839	Correspondence: M. G. Wilson, Independence, Jackson County; delayed commissions
1	23	October 5, 1839	Correspondence: Brigadier General Matthew Arbuckle, Fort Gibson, Indian Territory; raising of troops to quell possible problems with Cherokee Nation; trial of the murderers of the Ridge and Boudinot families (Major Ridge, Elias Boudinot, John Ridge); defense of southwest portion of the state of Missouri; western expansion, Indians
1	24	October 18, 1839	Correspondence: C. H. Bailey, Troy, Lincoln County; instruction books for officers, 2 nd Brigade, 11 th Division, Missouri State Militia
1	25	November 30, 1839	Correspondence: Congressman John Jameson, Washington D.C; northern boundary of state; election of democratic speaker; Brown's Survey Plats
1	26	December 21, 1839	Correspondence: William Dwyer, St. Louis; verifying documents

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1	27	March 3, 1840	Correspondence: Thornton Grimely, St. Louis; resignation as state senator
1	28	September 3, 1840	Correspondence: George Penn, St. Louis; resignation as state senator; accepted another position
1	29	September 23, 1840	Correspondence: Representative Nathan B. Harris, Madison County; resignation from House of Representatives
1	29	November 17, 1840	Correspondence: Report from New Franklin trustees on town road
1	30	February 4, 1843	Correspondence: J. A. Richardson, Monticello, Lewis County; trial of thief; slaves, blacks
1	31	November 17, 1838	Resignations: G. W. Miller, Jefferson City, Cole County; resignation from Commissioners of the Permanent Seat of Government
1	31	February 19, 1839	Resignations: William Barclay Napton, Jefferson City, Cole County; resignation as attorney general
1	31	February 7, 1840	Resignations: Thomas C. Maupin, Columbia, Boone County; resignation from Missouri Senate
1	31	October 5, 1840	Resignations: A. W. Turner, Columbia, Boone County; resignation from Missouri Senate
1	32	November 9, 1837	Appointments: Montgomery Blair, St. Louis; recommends Edward E. Archer for tobacco inspector
1	32	October 3, 1839	Appointments: William Shields, Boone County; requesting appointment to Board of Curators to replace member who resigned
1	32	October 4, 1839	Appointments: William H. Duncan, Columbia, Boone County; resignation of Spalding, St. Louis from the University of Missouri Board of Curators; requests the appointment
1	32	October 24, 1839	Appointments: Priestley Haggins McBride, Paris, Monroe County; gratitude for appointment to the University of Missouri Board of Curators

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1	32	January 27, 1840	Appointments: Irvine O. Hockaday, Fulton, Callaway County; resignation from University of Missouri Board of Curators; recommends sufficient numbers from Boone County to form a quorum
1	32	March 25, 1840	Appointments: Warren Woodson and William Shields, county unknown; acceptance of appointments to the University of Missouri Board of Curators
1	32	April 23, 1840	Appointments: William H. Duncan, Columbia, Boone County; accepts appointment on University of Missouri Board of Curators
1	32	October 15, 1840	Appointments: Abram J. Williams, location unknown; commission, appointment to University of Missouri Board of Curators
1	32	November 1, 1840	Appointments: William M. Campbell, location unknown; commission, appointment to University of Missouri Board of Curators
1	33	March 1, 1840	Prison: Gordon and Burch, Jefferson City, Cole County; running out of room, provisions, list of convicts to be sent later
1	34	May 17, 1837	Bonds: \$1000 bond at 5 1/2% per annum to charter the State Bank of Missouri; signed by Boggs and Secretary of State John Cummins Edwards (Governor, 1844-1848); five signed, one unsigned
1	35	July 7, 1837	Bonds: \$10,000 bond 6% per annum to provide for the construction of the state capitol; also signed by Secretary of State Peter Garland Glover (note: marked Certificate Number 1, appears to be a draft; signatures are marked with an X)
1	36	August 7, 1837	Bonds: \$1000 bond 6% per annum to charter the State Bank of Missouri; marked Certificate Number 1; signed by Boggs and Secretary of State Peter Garland Glover (note: certificates 2-5 were issued on the same day; all five are marked through with an X)
1	37	July 1, 1839	Bonds:\$1,000 bond 6% per annum for pay for service by volunteers and militia for the state

Box	Folder	Date	Contents
1	38	June 25, 1840	Writ of election: Petition from governor to Secretary of State for special elections in several state legislative vacancies.