

## ARCHIVES RECORD

**RG0001**      **Nebraska. Governor**  
**SG019**        **Dietrich, Charles Henry, 1853-1924**  
                **Papers: 1888-1924**  
                **State Governor, U.S. Senator, Nebraska: 1901-1904**  
                **Cubic ft.: 2**  
                **Approx. No. of Items: 1000**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

---

Charles Henry Dietrich was born November 26, 1853 in Aurora, Illinois, the son of Leonhardt Dietrich, a shoemaker and patriot who fled Germany in 1848 to the United States.

Charles received his early education in Aurora. At age 16 he went to St. Joseph, Missouri, and later to Chicago, to engage in the hardware business. After being robbed of everything he went to the Black Hills as a prospector and merchant. He was one of the locaters of the town of Spearfish, South Dakota. He later opened the Aurora mine near Deadwood which he sold and came to Hastings, Nebraska, in 1879. He was president of the Hastings Board of Trade and founder of the German National Bank at Hastings.

In May, 1900, Dietrich was nominated by the Republicans to run for Governor. After a hard-fought campaign against William A. Poynter, he was elected and assumed office January 3, 1901. Early in 1901, when the legislative session began, Dietrich was selected to replace U.S. Senator M. L. Hayward (deceased). He resigned as Governor on May 1, 1901 to serve as Senator, a post he held until 1905. His term as Governor lasted only five months, the shortest term in the history of the state.

Dietrich's legislative interests while in the Senate centered on the need for enlarged homestead bill for Nebraska, the advocacy of a commission form of government for Alaska, development of the beet sugar industry in the United States, and his work on the committee which drew up the famed Newland Reclamation Act.

His first wife, Elizabeth (Slaker) Dietrich, died in 1887. He married Margaretta Shaw (Stewart) in Philadelphia on October 27, 1909. Governor Dietrich died in Hastings on April 10, 1924 and is buried in Parkview Cemetery in Hastings. He had one daughter, Gertrude, who married Herbert Knox Smith in Washington, D.C., 1908.

---

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of four manuscript boxes of material arranged into Four series: 1) Correspondence of the Governor, 1901; 2) Correspondence of Senator Dietrich, 1901-1904; 3) Scrapbooks and Miscellany, 1901-1905; 3) Dietrich personal papers and Dietrich Family, 1888-1924.

Much of the Series One relates to applications for positions with the state and endorsements made to Dietrich on his election in 1900. Correspondence and reports concerning the business of the state include reports on public land transfers, the various institutions, requests for extraditions, and appointments and resignations.

RG0001 Nebraska. Governor  
SG0019 Dietrich, Charles H., 1853-1924

i

**ADDED ENTRIES:**

Agriculture  
Alaska--Government  
Beet Sugar Industry--Cuba  
Beet Sugar Industry--Hawaii  
Beet Sugar Industry--Nebraska  
Cuba--Trade and Commerce  
Dietrich, Margaretta Shaw (Stewart), 1881-  
SMITH, GERTRUDE (DIETRICH),  
SMITH, HERBERT KNOX,  
Employment Applications--Nebraska  
Holdrege, George W. (George Ward), 1847-1926  
Homesteads--Law and Legislation  
Land Sales and Transfers  
Livestock--Quarantines--Nebraska  
Manderson, Charles F. (Charles Frederick), 1937-1911  
Morton, J. Sterling (Julius Sterling), 1832-1902  
Nebraska Land Transfer Commission  
Philippine Islands  
Politics  
Republican Party  
United States. Congress. House  
United States. Congress. Senate  
United States Post Office Department

---

Correspondence relating to his term as U.S. Senator concerns his interests in irrigation, sugar beets, leasing of public lands, Cuban reciprocity, Alaska, and the Philippine Islands. There is also information on the charges brought against Dietrich in 1903 alleging bribery in case of selection of postmaster at Hastings.

## DESCRIPTION

### SERIES ONE CORRESPONDENCE OF THE GOVERNOR, 1900-1901

B.01 Applications and Endorsements, 1900-1901

Misc., A-Z  
State Penitentiary  
Alderman, Frank B. - Oil Inspector  
Bowers, H. M. - Oil Inspector  
Brown, E. A. - Oil Inspector  
Carter, George L. - Game Warden  
Counsman, P. C. - Game Warden  
Dobson, Adna - State Engineer  
Fox, G. W. - School for the Deaf  
Glasgow, Hugh - Oil Inspector  
Hannibal, Rasmus - Labor Commission  
Harris, William H. - Engineer  
Hass, John C. - Oil Inspector  
Houston, James L. - Pure Food Commission  
Jenal, Julius F. - Oil Inspector  
Johnson, Swan J. - Oil Inspector  
Kilian, Col. J. N. - Adjutant General  
Langley, James - Oil Inspector

B.02 Applications and Endorsements, 1900-1901

Massey, W. C. - Soldiers & Sailors Home - Grand Island  
Morey, J. T. - School for the Blind  
Nippell, Charles A. - Boundary Commission  
Osborne, R. C. - Oil Inspector  
Randall, H. L. - Soldiers & Sailors Home - Grand Island  
Shields, W. D. - Surgeon  
Spencer, John T. - Board of Education  
Thomas, W. A. - State Veterinarian  
Todd, W. Z. - Oil Inspector  
Watson, C. E. - Labor Commission  
Wright, A. J. - Oil Inspector  
Appointments and Resignations, 1900-1901

**SERIES ONE CORRESPONDENCE OF THE GOVERNOR, 1900-1901**

- B.02 General Correspondence, 1901
- 
- Agriculture
- Drought
  - Fairs and Expositions
  - State Veterinarian
- Attorney General
- Auditor
- Banking
- Beatrice Institute
- Boundary Commission (mostly applications)
- Boxing
- Budget
- Clippings
- Commissioners of Deeds
- Complaints
- 
- Corrections
- Crime and Criminals
- Economic Development
- Election Correspondence
- Equipment and Supplies
- Gadsen, Fannie (Guardianship), 1901
- Game and Fish Commission
- Conference of ex-governors, Lincoln, Feb. 22, 1901
- Governor's Office
- Board of Health
- Home for the Friendless
- Institutions
- Invitations
- Labor
- 
- B.03 Nebraska Land Transfer Commission, 1901
- Legislation
- Legislature
- Media
- Military Department
- Morton, J. Sterling
- Notaries Public (appointments)
- Pardons and Paroles
- Political
- Proclamations
- Public Lands and Buildings
- Requests
- 
- School for the Blind
- School for the Deaf
- Social Services
- Soldiers and Sailors Homes
- State Surveyor
- Taxation

**SERIES ONE CORRESPONDENCE OF THE GOVERNOR, 1900-1901**

B.03 (cont), 1900-1901  
State Treasury  
U.S. Presidential Inaugural  
University of Nebraska  
Letterpress Book, 1901

**SERIES TWO CORRESPONDENCE OF SENATOR DIETRICH, 1901-1905**

B.03 Senator Dietrich - Congrats, 1901  
Agriculture, 1903  
Alaska, 1903-1905  
Certificate of Election, 1901  
Endorsements, 1901-1904  
Foreign Relations, 1905  
Cuba, 1902-1905  
Philippine Islands, 1901-1903  
GAR, 1904  
Holdrege, George Ward, 1903-1904  
Invites, 1904

B.04 Legal (relating to charges against Dietrich), 1903-1904  
Clippings, 1903-1904  
Letters of Support, 1903-1904  
Congratulations, Jan-Apr 1904  
Legislature - Nebraska, 1902-1904  
Legislation - U.S., 1902-1905  
Manderson, Charles F., 1903, 1905  
Mc Kinley (letter of appreciation for condolences)  
Media, 1901  
Prison Survey, 1904  
Republican Party, 1902-1905  
U.S. Armed Services  
U.S. Congress - House, 1902-1903  
U.S. Congress - Senate, 1902, 1905  
U.S. Post Office, 1901-1902  
University of Nebraska, 1905  
White House, 1901-1905  
General Correspondence, n.d.

RG0001 Nebraska. Governor  
SG0019 Dietrich, Charles H., 1853-1924

5

**SERIES THREE SCRAPBOOKS AND MISCELLANY, 1901-1905**

- Item #1 Scrapbook (indexed)  
Alaska and Philippine Islands
- Item #2 Scrapbook  
relating to railroad rates, beet sugar, and irrigation
- Item #3 The Boston Budget: The Senate  
(contains autographs of U.S. Senators, 1905)

**SERIES FOUR CHARLES DIETRICH AND DIETRICH FAMILY, 1887-1924**

- B.04 Dietrich Correspondence, 1887-1900  
Campaign for Governor, 1900  
Campaign Clippings, 1900  
Congratulations, May 1900  
Congratulations, Nov. 1900  
Dietrich Correspondence, 1904-1908  
Dietrich, Gertrude  
Dietrich Family  
(includes obituaries of Charles and wedding accounts of daughter, Gertrude)  
German National Bank, Hastings, 1888-1900  
Hastings Board of Trade, 1888-1890  
Mapes, W.S., 1901  
Receipts, 1901  
Dietrich, Margaretta - Tribute to Charles H. Dietrich  
(Nebraska State Historical Society, 1928)  
Political clippings  
Misc. clippings, 1889-1924 & n.d.  
Miscellaneous, n.d

End of Inventory

DAB/ab 8/30/1967  
JEP/pmc 10/12/1971  
PMC/pmc 1/24/2006 WORD