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## STATE OF VERMONT

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### Papers of Governor Urban A. Woodbury, 1894-1896

As received and long stored in the State Papers Office, these papers consisted of two basic groups. One was a bound book of transfer copies of outgoing correspondence, the other a body of loose, very jumbled incoming correspondence and related materials. The latter, lacking any apparent order, was organized as follows. First sorted out and gathered together were several groups of materials identified as follows: Examiners of Teachers; Special Prosecutors; Justices of the Peace; and Petitions for Pardons. The remaining materials were identified simply as Incoming Correspondence. The following is a more detailed description of each of these groups, together with the abovementioned bound book.

#### Examiners of Teachers

A law in effect at this time (Chapters 33 and 35, Vermont Statutes of 1894) provided for the governor's (and/State education superintendent's) appointment of an examiner of teachers for each county, such examiners to examine and certify the fitness of individuals to teach in town schools in their respective counties. Materials here relate to vacancies which occurred in examiner's posts in

the following counties, together with recommendations and petitions received by the governor regarding new appointees: Addison, Chittenden, Essex, Grand Isle, Rutland and Washington. Materials are grouped by the individual county and filed alphabetically by the county name, all in one folder. For determination of which examiners of teachers for which counties were appointed by Gov. Woodbury, see Executive Records, Vol. III.

#### Special Prosecutors

Chapter 95 of the Vermont Statutes of 1894 allowed the governor, when properly petitioned, to appoint a special prosecutor of criminal offenses in a town or city. These materials are petitions and related correspondence regarding special prosecutors for the towns and cities of: Barre City, Barton, Fair Haven, Franklin, Greensboro, Manchester, Montgomery, Pownal, Rutland City, and West Rutland. The materials are grouped by the individual town and filed alphabetically by the name of each; those for Rutland City are in one folder, all others are in a second folder. N.B. See also index to general correspondence below under "Prosecutors, special." For determination of which special prosecutors for which towns were appointed by Gov. Woodbury, see Executive Records, Vol. III, p. 284ff.

#### Justices of the Peace

These materials consist of notices of vacancies in the position of justice of the peace in various towns, and correspondence relating to the governor's appointments of persons to fill

those vacancies. Much correspondence relates specifically to justices of the peace who did not qualify for the position, such "qualification" being a procedure spelled out by Chapter 53, Vermont Statutes of 1894, Section 1037. Among these materials are commissions of various justices of the peace executed by the governor but apparently returned (without explanatory letter) by each applicable justice as notification of his resignation under this provision of the law. All justice of the peace materials are grouped by individual counties and filed alphabetically by the county name; but no further arrangement of each county's materials was made.

#### Petitions for Pardon

These materials all relate to petitions for pardon (or, in a few cases, remission of fine) sought by or in behalf of inmates at the Vermont State Prison at Windsor, the Vermont House of Correction at Rutland or the Vermont Industrial School at Vergennes. Included is correspondence from persons who either support or oppose the pardon of a particular individual. Of possible special interest are a small number of letters to the governor by persons who, as a condition of their pardon by Gov. Woodbury, were required to periodically send the governor a report of their current circumstances and activities. The materials are arranged alphabetically by the name of each <sup>e</sup>petitioner for pardon. N.B. See also index under the word "Pardons" for references to same in the governor's general correspondence, specifically the book of outgoing correspondence.

General Correspondence

These materials consist of two parts. One is the abovementioned bound book of transfer copies of outgoing correspondence of Gov. Woodbury. It is identified on the binding as "Governor's Office / Oct. 22, 1894 / to / Oct. 5, 1896" and "Papers of / Gov. Urban A. / Woodbury / Correspondence / Pages 1-442." A few of the original letters from which the copies were made were handwritten and signed by Gov. Woodbury but most were typewritten and bear his signature. They were copied into the book in chronological order. Quality of the transfer copies varies from satisfactory to almost or totally unreadable, the latter principally because of faintness (two particular groups of these are pages 179-211 and 362-365). Pages 22-49 are simply blank.

The other part is the abovedescribed general body of incoming correspondence. These materials were first sorted and arranged in chronological order, then numbered serially, 443-980. (Strictly speaking, it is items, not pages, which were numbered; in some cases two or more very closely related, yet distinct<sup>n</sup> pages were simply stapled together and considered one item for numbering purposes.) The correspondence is grouped and filed in separate folders for each month, which folders are stored in chronological order. Two special notes here: (1) eight items which were undated are grouped together at the end as pages 973-80; and (2) items of correspondence relating to a particular subject which also happened to have been created within a limited time span were simply grouped together and numbered serially; this provided some convenience for indexing and will also simplify retrieval,

though it means some items do not fit the otherwise strict chronological arrangement of the correspondence.

The following is an index to this body of both outgoing and incoming correspondence. It is reasonably comprehensive for both name and subject, but by no means totally so. Liberal use of cross-references was made to minimize repeat listings of page numbers for both a name and related subject. Among the index's limitations: Entries were not made which the undersigned believed dealt with routine or insignificant matters.\* Also, no entries were made for the individual senders of letters about subjects for which an alternate single entry could be made. One example is letters of endorsement or recommendation; these were generally indexed only by the subject of such endorsement, not by the persons giving the endorsement.

In regard to the latter, it might be noted here that the book of outgoing correspondence contains its own index, at least for pages 1-267. This lacks subject entries but apparently does carry entries for names of all individual addressees.

It might also be noted that many letters to the governor have directly-related outgoing letters of response from the governor, and vice versa. But there is by no means a total match-up of incoming and outgoing correspondence. Also, items of incoming and outgoing correspondence which are related are not identified as such in the index; the researcher will simply have to check all page numbers to find such related items (because of the separation of outgoing correspondence from incoming correspondence, such related items necessarily will carry widely-separated page

numbers).

And a final special note: the index includes Gov. Woodbury's own name with entries for two subject categories, one of them "Personal matters or interests."

For records of appointments and commissions made by Gov. Woodbury, see Executive Records, Vol. III, pp. 229-297.

Robert L. Hagerman  
Assistant Editor of State Papers  
January 2, 1980

(The original of this description is with Gov. Woodbury's papers.)

\*These are minimal. One example: a request from an out-of-state newspaper for a picture of the governor.

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