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Governor George W. Donaghey letter, 1912

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Governor George W. Donaghey letter SMC.037.023

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Arkansas State Archives
Title	Governor George W. Donaghey letter
Date	1912
Extent	0.2 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation

Governor George W. Donaghey letter, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Biographical/Historical Note

George Washington Donaghey (1856-1937) was born July 1, 1856, in Oakland, Louisiana, to C.C. Donaghey and Elizabeth Ingram. The family moved to Union County, Arkansas, in 1858. After spending some time in Texas, Donaghey settled in Conway, Faulkner County, in 1880, where he remained for thirty years. On September 20, 1883, he married Louvenia Wallace, a native of Darlington, South Carolina.

Donaghey spent one year at the University of Arkansas, before becoming a contractor. He was active in local politics and a strong supporter of higher education, responsible for three such institutions moving to Conway. He supported the banning of saloons, making Conway a dry city. He was elected town marshal in 1884 because of his anti-saloon stand but was defeated when he ran for mayor on the same ticket the next year.

From 1899 to 1903, he gained considerable wealth while working as a railroad contractor in Indian Territory. He moved to Little Rock in 1908 and won the Democratic nomination for Governor, defeating Jeff Davis-backed William F. Kirby, and going on to win by a landslide. He was re-elected in 1910. His terms as governor were highlighted by his strong support of higher education, an emphasis on fiscal reform, and the completion of the State Capitol. Donaghey lost in 1912 to Joseph T. Robinson.

After leaving the governorship, he transferred ownership of the Donaghey Building and the Federal Bank and Trust Building to Little Rock Junior College, now the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The endowment was estimated at \$1.5 to \$2 million, making it one of the largest endowments given within the state. He died December 15, 1937, after suffering a massive heart attack two days earlier and never regaining consciousness.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains a letter written by Governor George W. Donaghey after his loss to Joseph T. Robinson in 1912.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 04/25/2012

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use. The ASA possesses the material listed in this finding aid in the original format, but due to preservation concerns this collection is accessible to the public through microfilm format.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

South by Southwest Books, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 1984.

Collection Inventory

Reel

MG00222

1912 April 3: Governor George W. Donaghey, Little Rock, Arkansas to F.F. Freeman,
Rogers, Arkansas