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Thomas McRae papers, 1921-1922

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Thomas McRae papers

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Arkansas State Archives
Title	Thomas McRae papers
Date [inclusive]	1921-1922
Extent	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.
Text [Box]	90
Container	13
Microform [Reel]	MG00249

Preferred Citation

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Biographical Note

Thomas C. McRae was born at Mount Holly, Union County, Arkansas, on December 21, 1851. He studied at Soule's Business College in New Orleans in 1869, then transferred to Washington and Lee University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Law degree in 1872.

Returning to Arkansas, McRae married Amelia Ann White of Nevada County in 1874, and they had nine children. In 1877, the family moved to Prescott, the site of the new Nevada County courthouse.

In politics, McRae was a member of the Arkansas State House of Representatives from Nevada County from 1877 - 1879. He served as a U.S. Congressman from 1885 to 1903 and he was also a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1917-1918. McRae served as Governor of Arkansas from 1921-1925.

Thomas McRae defeated Smead Powell for the Democratic Gubernatorial Primary election in 1920, and later that year defeated Wallace Townsend and J.H. Blount to become the 26th Governor of Arkansas. McRae was inaugurated on January 12, 1921. He worked for the abolishment of the State Corporation Commission, and the reestablishment of the Railroad Commission, as well as the return of control of public utilities to local municipalities. Governor McRae, however, had problems passing his state highway program early in his tenure as governor. The improvement districts were near bankruptcy as Federal funds were withdrawn for highway construction. The governor called a special session in 1923 to pass the Harralson road Law in October 1923. It created an honorary State Highway Commission, which would have sole supervision over construction and maintenance of highways. It also raised the state gasoline tax by four cents. Another special session in 1924 provided help for the state public school system.

State income tax was established in 1923, but it was quickly challenged in the courts. Other improvements included the construction of a tuberculosis sanitorium for African-Americans, an improved National Guard, and a state treasury surplus.

After his tenure as governor, Thomas McRae returned to Prescott, where he lived and worked until his death on June 2, 1929, at the age of seventy-eight.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains three letters from Governor Thomas McRae dated from 1921-1922.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 9/3/2021

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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The copyright law of the United States (Title 17-U.S. Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The person using this material is liable for any infringement.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Unknown.

Collection Inventory

Letter, Gov.'s office to Hon. J.B. Simms, Lake Village, Ark. 1921 June 29

Letter, Gov. Thomas McRae, to Rev. S.J. Alheimer, Pine Bluff, Ark. 1921 October 31

Letter, Gov.'s office, to Hon. H.D. Tomlinson, Butler, Ark. 1922 April 17