

List of Archives Regarding the Assassination of Governor William Goebel

The Filson Historical Society

List of All Related Material to the assassination of Goebel: <http://filsonhistorical.org/special-collections/manuscript-card-catalog/?search=william%20goebel>

Creator/Title

Goebel, William. Assassination records, 1900.

Call No.

Mss. BO G593

Content

Walker, Clarence E., d. 1936. Official stenographic reports of trials connected with the assassination of William Goebel, Feb. 3, 1900. By Clarence Walker, official reporter. 16 packages. The reports are arranged as follows: Scott Circuit Court Commonwealth of Kentucky v. Caleb Powers. 1st trial - 14 vols. - 2 packages. 2nd trial - 9 volumes - 1 package. 3rd trial - 11 volumes - 1 package. 4th trial - 10 volumes - 1 package. Scott Circuit Court Commonwealth of Kentucky v Henry Youtsey 1 package Franklin Circuit Court Commonwealth of Kentucky v. W. H. Culton 1 package Commonwealth of Kentucky v. Berry Howard 1 package Commonwealth of Kentucky v. James Howard 1 package. Commonwealth of Kentucky v. James B. Howard 2 packages Commonwealth of Kentucky v. Garnett D. Ripley 1 package Speeches of Caleb Powers and Hon. R. B. Franklin. 1 package.



Creator/Title

Goebel, William. Assassination records, 1900.

Call No.

Mss. BO G593 L5 Vault

Content

Walker, Clarence E.?, d. 1936. General index to witnesses in all cases growing out of assassination of Senator William Goebel. Prepared by or for Clarence E. Walker. 17 cm. Copy. 19 cm. Leather. Inscribed on fly leaf: Mr. Arthur Goebel Dec., 1907.

Creator/Title

Armstrong, Dee and William G. Harding Papers, 1900. 34 items and 2 note books

Call No.

Mss. BE G593 / 2

Content

Papers of Dee Armstrong and William G. Harding of the Department of Police of Louisville, Ky., who were employed as detectives in the case of the assassination of William Goebel. They consist of a report on the case; notes on information obtained from witnesses in cases against Caleb Powers, Henry Youtsey, James Howard, and others letters from attorney T. C. Campbell to Dee Armstrong, 1900; letter from Dee Armstrong to the Board of Commissioners, dated June 25, 1900, giving facts and particulars in the Goebel case; and letter from Armstrong and Harding to the Fiscal Court of Franklin County, Ky. (n.d.), claiming the reward offered for the arrest and conviction of the murderer or murderers of William Goebel.

Kentucky Historical Society Archives

General Material

<http://www.kyhistory.com/cdm/search/searchterm/goebel/order/nosort>

KentuckyHistoricalSociety

MSS 78 Goebel Assassination Scrapbooks, 1900-1910

OVERVIEW

Number: MSS 78
Title: Goebel Assassination Scrapbooks
Dates: 1900-1910
Media: Scrapbooks
Quantity: 9 volumes
Location: Archival Storage. Kentucky Historical Society, 100 W. Broadway,
Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601-1931, Phone: (502) 564-1792, Email:
khsrefdesk@ky.gov, <http://history.ky.gov>

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE COLLECTION

William Justus Goebel, the son of German immigrants, was born in Covington, KY in 1856. While awaiting the final results of the highly contentious gubernatorial election of 1900, Goebel was shot while walking to the Kentucky State Capitol. One day later on 31 January 1900, he was sworn in as the 34th Governor of Kentucky. He died from his wounds on 3 February 1900. The subsequent investigation into the assassination focused on several individuals, including Caleb Powers, Henry Youtsey, Jim Howard and William S. Taylor.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

This collection contains nine scrapbook volumes of political newspaper cuttings concerning the assassination of Gov. William Goebel. The volumes cover the Democratic convention and Populist movement, the 1899 election, the election investigation and assassination of Goebel, the assassination's aftermath effect on Frankfort and the State, and the numerous trials and verdicts of those accused of the assassination.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

Chronological

RELATED MATERIAL

Researchers are encouraged to search the Online Collection Catalog for additional related materials.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item]. Goebel Assassination Scrapbooks, 1900-1910, MSS 78, Kentucky Historical Society.

Separated material: The book *The Battle for Governor in Kentucky* was removed from this collection and cataloged individually. More information about this item can be found in the [KHS Library Catalog](#).

Property rights: The Kentucky Historical Society owns the property rights to this collection.

Copyrights: Copyrights have not been dedicated to the public. Consideration of the requirements of copyright is the responsibility of the author and publisher.

CONTAINER LIST

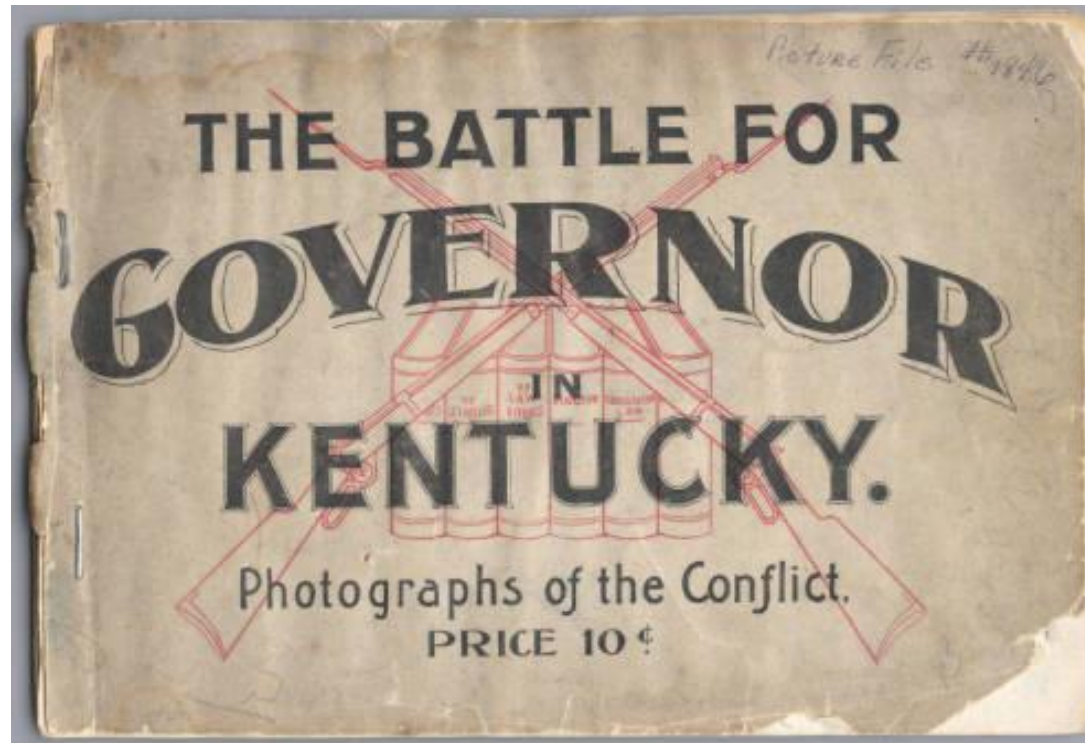
Title	Dates	Notes
Volume 1	1900	This scrapbook documents the political fights regarding the Gubernatorial election of 1900. The articles from the Louisville Evening Post concern the Democrats fight for control in the election. It is also noted that the race for procuring a nomination for the senate is heated due to the conflicting free silver views of the candidates. This political battle was watched throughout the country and this scrapbook includes articles from 12 individual newspapers from around the country in 8 different states.
Volume 2	1900	This scrapbook documents the public reaction to the assassination of Governor Goebel. Compiled by Annie Crutcher of Louisville. A flier displaying Goebel's supposed last words and a numerous articles concerning the death of Goebel on February 3, 1900 give an account of Goebel's final hours. A group of letters printed in the newspaper entitled "Personal Recollections of William Goebel" gives the reader insight to how others saw Goebel on a personal and political level.
Volume 3	1900	This scrapbook made from a Ballard & Ballard Company of Louisville ledger. It contains newspaper articles from the beginning of the courts' indictments in the Goebel Assassination case in 1900 and concludes after the end of the first trial of Caleb Powers. Along with newspaper articles from the Louisville Courier and the Louisville Evening Post are many photographs of the army of mountain men in front of the old capitol with their threatening Gatling guns. The earlier activities of the courts are chronicled in this scrapbook. Included is the grand jury indictment list of 16. The man hunt for the indicted was recounted. It also includes detailed accounts of the first trials of Caleb Powers and Jim Howard.

Title	Dates	Notes
Volume 4	1903	Mrs. John Mastin of Frankfort compiled this scrapbook in a ledger. This scrapbook contains articles on the Jett-White trial as well as the beginnings of Caleb Powers' third trial in August of 1903. Testimony by Robert Noakes states that the Mountain Men were brought to Frankfort in order to block the Democrats in the legislature and to cause a riot that would ensure a Republican majority. Taylor continued to deny involvement and defended Caleb Powers.
Volume 5	1903-1910	The newspaper articles included concern the problems involved in selecting a jury in such a political trial. Articles from the 3rd and 4th trials of Caleb Powers detail the politics behind the trial. The most unique article is from September 17th, 1910, when Powers won the Republican nomination for congress by over 10,000 votes. A congratulatory telegram from W.S. Taylor in Indianapolis is included within this article.
Volume 6	1908	The Louisville Evening Post article, announcing Powers and Howard freedom in 1908 as well as the recounting of the conspiracy theory by Wharton Golden dominate this scrapbook. The testimony of many individuals was read from transcripts of the previous trials during the fourth and final trial because they had died in the 4 years that passed between the third and fourth trials. Henry Youtsey's testimony is also included in print form and the murder weapon was finally "found" and presented as evidence against Henry Youtsey. There is also an article claiming that Judge Morris gave the jury a warning against drinking alcohol while on the jury. The fourth trial, which lasted 7 weeks, held court on Christmas day in hopes of ending sooner.
Volume 7	1908	There are a few articles concerning the 500,000-signature petition to procure a pardon for Powers and Howard. This was achieved on June 13, 1908 (Taylor was not pardoned until April 23, 1909 and Youtsey was pardoned three years after his parole in 1919).
Volume 8	Ca. 1900	Compiled by Mrs. John Mastin. A headline from the Louisville Evening Post reads, "I did not kill William Goebel" "I did not harm hair of his head" denies that Jim Howard was the assassin. The same paper announced that it was Henry Youtsey that fired the fatal shot. The controversy over where to place the proposed statue of Goebel is discussed in a newspaper article. A detailed chronology of the eight years of proceedings is also included within this scrapbook. Numerous articles calling for the pardoning of Powers and Howard are also within this book.
Volume 9	Ca. 1900	Newspaper clipping scrapbook which includes religious text and images; articles on politics and news events of the day; fashion images; immigration, etc. This item reflects political and social views of the time period.

Pamphlet: The Battle for Governor in Kentucky (Full Digital Copy Online)

<http://www.kyhistory.com/cdm/compoundobject/collection/RB/id/1121/rec/64>

Book Title	The Battle for Governor in Kentucky: Photographs of the Conflict.
Description	The pamphlet is entitled " The Battle for Governor in Kentucky ". It was compiled by Carl Dailey in 1900, the year of Governor William Goebel's assassination. It contains images of the assassination's aftermath, including troop placement on the State Capitol grounds and the chase between the state militia and the Kentucky General Assembly which tried to meet following the shooting of Goebel .
Author	Dailey, Carl -- Compiler Wolff, E. Carl -- Photographer
Publisher	Dailey, Carl -- Publisher Kentucky Historical Society -- Digital Publisher
Date	1900
Places	Frankfort (Ky.) Franklin County (Ky.)
Subjects	Goebel, William, 1856-1900 -- Assassination Governors Politics & government
Type	Text and Image
Format	jpg ; orig. format [20] p. : chiefly ill., ports. ; 14 x 20 cm.
Source	The Battle for Governor in Kentucky: Photographs of the conflict, pamphlet, 2000SC15
Call number	976.9 B335 Pamphlet
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Physical Artefacts from the Assassination—including, although not limited to, Goebel’s clothing at the moment of his assassination, court evidence, and campaign materiality.

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives holds records for Kentucky agencies at both the state and local level. This includes case files from the circuit courts. The Scott County Circuit Court cases files include 21 cubic foot boxes containing the Caleb Powers Trial. The Court of Appeals records also contain the case file for Cable Powers appeal to that court. These records may be requested and viewed in the Original Records Room at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

- Kentucky Court of Appeals, Court Cases. Maintained on three microfilm rolls. The reels hold additional appellant cases.
- Scott County Circuit Court Files

University of Kentucky Special Collections Research Center

William Goebel Papers

Caleb Powers was born near Williamsburg in Whitley County, Kentucky, on February 1, 1869. He attended several public schools in Kentucky, including Union College in Barbourville, the University of Kentucky in Lexington, and Centre College in Danville. He eventually graduated from Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana. After attending West Point from 1890-1891, Powers studied law and was admitted to the Bar in 1894. He served as superintendent of public schools in Knox County from 1894-1899 and was elected secretary of state on the Republican ticket in 1899. The results of the 1899 election were contested by the Democrats and when the legislature convened in January 1900, Democratic candidate William Goebel was declared elected governor over William S. Taylor, Republican incumbent. Goebel was shot outside of the old State Capitol building in Frankfort on January 30 and died four days later on February 3.

Powers was charged with complicity in the assassination of Governor Goebel. He was tried four times, with the first two trials resulting in a life sentence and the third in the death penalty. All three sentences were reversed by the Kentucky Court of Appeals and new trials granted. The fourth trial resulted in a hung jury and Powers was eventually pardoned by Kentucky Governor Augustus E. Willson in 1908. Powers went on to be elected as a Republican to three succeeding Congresses (1911-1919). He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1912, and later moved to Washington, D. C., where he served as assistant counsel for the United States Shipping Board from 1921 until his death on July 25, 1932 (Source: UK Special Collections Research Center).

Biography / History

Politicians. William Goebel was born near Pennsylvania, but grew up in Covington, Ky. He attended a Cincinnati law school. He established a successful practice in Covington and fought many lawsuits against the railroads, particularly the Louisville and Nashville line. Goebel built a large following based on his opposition to the railroad interests and image as a friend to the common man. After sponsoring a controversial elections bill that left ultimate decisions in closely contested races to the Democratic- controlled legislature, Goebel ran for governor in 1899. His Republican opponent, William S. Taylor, was certified the winner in the close race. The Democrats appealed it to the General Assembly. Goebel was shot in front of the state capitol before a decision had been reached. Knowing that a victory by his opponent was imminent, Governor Taylor ordered the legislature to adjourn and meet in London, Ky.

He further sought to prevent the Democratic members from assembling elsewhere in Frankfort. Nevertheless, the Democratic majority did meet and declare Goebel the winner. The dying man was sworn in, along with his lieutenant governor, J. C. W. Beckham. When Goebel died four days later, Beckham succeeded him.

Scope and Content

The Goebel family papers (dated 1865-1942; 0.1 cubic feet; 2 reels) consist of a microfilm copy of William Goebel's letters to his brothers, Arthur and Justus. They discuss the 1899 elections (primary and general), political issues of the 1890's and family news. Other materials include letters to William from his constituents, clippings about the assassination, letters of condolence sent to the family, and announcements for monument fundraisers.

There are also materials relating to family business, including Lowry and Goebel and the Cincinnati Ice Company. The collection also has copies of the letters exchanged by Justus Goebel and James Garrett, Kentucky Attorney General, over the question of railroad tax assessments.

Box 1

Testimony and Witness Material from mostly the third trial

Box 2

Testimony and Witness Material from mostly the third trial, in addition to letters of correspondence from/to Caleb Powers.

Box 3

Testimony and Witness Material from mostly the third trial, in addition to letters of correspondence from/to Caleb Powers.

Box 4

Testimony and Witness Material from mostly the third trial, in addition to letters of correspondence from/to Caleb Powers.

Box 5

Testimony and Witness Material from mostly the third trial, in addition to letters of correspondence from/to Caleb Powers.

Box 6

Testimony and Witness Material from mostly the third trial, in addition to letters of correspondence from/to Caleb Powers.

Box 7

Testimony and Witness Material from mostly the third trial, in addition to letters of correspondence from/to Caleb Powers.

Box 8

Testimony and Witness Material from mostly the third trial, in addition to letters of correspondence from/to Caleb Powers.

Box 9

Voting Numbers (large containment file) and Newspaper Files

Box 1

Lexington Herald Leader News

Goebel Family Papers: Microfilm Reel 1

Letters, 1865–1909

Goebel Family Papers: Microfilm Reel 2

Letters, 1897–1942

William Sylvester Taylor Papers: Microfilm Reel 1

1899–1937 (Letters of Commentary on the Politics of Jury Selection)

William Stuart Lester Letters: Dealing with the Goebel Assassination Reel 1

1952

Comments and correspondence about the writing of a book on Goebel. Also provides key insights into the assassination.

William Sylvester Taylor Papers

Biography / History

Governor of Kentucky, politician, lawyer. William S. Taylor (1853-1928) was, after serving a term as Kentucky's attorney general, chosen as the Republican Party nominee for the 1899 gubernatorial contest. His opponents, in what was probably the most tumultuous election in Kentucky history, included representatives of two Democratic factions: state senator William Goebel (1856-1900) and former Governor John Young Brown (1835-1904). After a heated campaign the two front runners, Taylor and Goebel, waited over a month for the election commission's announcement of the official results. Shortly before inauguration day Taylor was declared the winner by about two thousand votes.

While a complaint filed by Goebel's supporters was pending before the legislature, an assassin wounded Goebel outside the capitol building. Taylor, ensconced in the state house and surrounded by militia, barred the heavily Democratic legislature from the building. They met in a hotel instead and declared Goebel as governor. Following a hasty inauguration, Goebel died and was succeeded by his lieutenant governor, J. W. C. Beckham. While the election results were being considered in the courts, Taylor and his Secretary of State, Caleb Powers, were accused of being accessories in the assassination. After the courts decided in favor of the Goebel-Beckham ticket, Taylor fled to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he practiced law and resisted extradition until he was pardoned by Governor Augustus E. Willson in 1909.

Scope and Content

The William Sylvester Taylor papers (dated 1899-1937; 0.1 cubic feet; 1 reel) consist of materials related to the Kentucky gubernatorial election of 1899 and its aftermath. The collection is comprised of clippings, typescripts of newspaper clippings, legal documents and articles from Kentucky newspapers. Also present are certificates from the secretary of state's office, from Governor William O. Bradley (1847-1914) declaring that Taylor had won the election, and Willson's pardon of Taylor. Typescripts of the Democratic and Republican Party's platforms from 1899 and of Taylor's inaugural address are also present as are materials relating to and typescripts from a few of Caleb Powers' hearings.

William Stuart Lester letters dealing with the Goebel affair, 1952

Biography / History

Historian. Lester, who did graduate work at the University of Kentucky, was apparently researching the Goebel killing for a proposed book in 1952 (presumably never published).

Scope and Content

This is a microfilmed copy of letters about the 1900 assassination of Governor William Goebel. The letters were sent to W. S. Lester of Silver Springs, Maryland as part of his research on the subject. The materials include a paper on assassination written by a member of the Christopher Gist Historical Society and several letters from notables in Kentucky, such as Lucien Beckner, state geologist and historian, and Tom Wallace, then editor emeritus of the COURIER-JOURNAL. Other letter writers include Charles H. Morris and Stephens Blakley.

Digital Archival Records

General assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky : William Goebel, contestant, vs. William S. Taylor, contestee, counter notice.

Creator

Taylor, William S., 1855-1928.

Our Martyred Governor, William Goebel scrapbook

1900-1911

Creator

Wallis, Robert G.

The Last Words on Goebel's Deathbed, Louisville Courier-Journal