

**OKLAHOMA TERRITORIAL GOVERNORS
RECORD GROUP 12**

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OKLAHOMA TERRITORIAL GOVERNORS RECORD GROUP 12

Established by an act of Congress passed on May 2, 1906, the Oklahoma Territory was formed from unassigned lands in the center of Indian Territory. Between 1890 and 1906, the area was enlarged by the addition of certain lands previously included in Indian Territory. Under terms of an enabling act approved June 16, 1906, Oklahoma and Indian Territory were joined to form the state of Oklahoma, which was admitted to the Union by presidential proclamation on November 16, 1907. Until it was merged with Indian Territory and accorded statehood, the area known as the Oklahoma Territory was administered by several officials, including Territorial Governors appointed by the President. Between 1890 and 1907, the following persons served as Territorial Governors: George Washington Steele (1890-1891), Robert Martin (1891-1892), Abraham Jefferson Seay (1892-1893), William Cary Renfrow (1893-1897), Cassius McDonald Barnes (1897-1901), William Miller Jenkins (1901), William C. Grimes (1901), Thompson Benton Ferguson (1901-1906), and Frank Frantz (1906-1907).

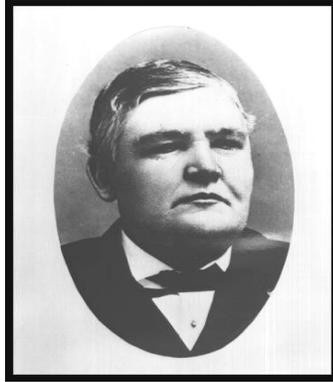
REPORTS
1891-1907

1.33 Cubic Feet
Record Group 12-1

This series consists of reports submitted to the Governor by various territorial officers and published reports issued by the chief executive to territorial legislatures. Included among the reports to the Governor are those of the Treasurer for the years 1891-1892, 1895, 1897-1898, and 1899-1900; the Auditor for 1895 and 1898-1900; the Board for Leasing School Lands, 1895 and 1899; the Attorney General, 1899-1900; the Board of Dental Examiners, 1895; and the Insurance Commission, 1903.

Box 1

- Folder 1:** Rules and Regulations of Board for Leasing School Lands. Adopted May 2, 1899. State Capitol Printing Company, Guthrie, Oklahoma, 1899.
- 2: Report of Board for Leasing School Lands (Exhibit "A") to Third Legislative Assembly, Territory of Oklahoma, January 1, 1895. Guthrie Daily Leader Press, 1895.
- 2a: Statements of School Land Office, 1899-1905.
- 3: Sixth Biennial Report of the Territorial Auditor of Oklahoma for the two years beginning December 1, 1898 and ending November 30, 1900. State Capitol Printing Company, Guthrie, Oklahoma Territory.
- 4: Second Biennial Report of the Territorial Auditor for the two years beginning December 1, 1892 and ending November 30, 1894. Exhibit "F" of Governor's message to the Third Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oklahoma, January 8, 1895.
- 4a: Reports of Secretary and Insurance Commissioner to Territorial Auditor, 1904-1907.
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Abraham Jefferson Seay (1892-1893)

Box 1

- Folder 5:** Treasurer's Report, 1891-1892. Exhibit "G" to Governor's Message.
- 6: Second Biennial Report of the Territorial Treasurer for the two years beginning December 1, 1892 and ending November 30, 1894. Exhibit "G" of Governor's message to the Third Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oklahoma. January 8, 1895.
- 7: Fourth Biennial Report of the Territorial Treasurer to the Governor of Oklahoma for the years 1897-1898.
- 8: Fifth Biennial Report of the Territorial Treasurer to the Governor of Oklahoma for the years 1899-1900.
- 9: Reports of Dental Examiner, Territorial Prisoners, Board of Pharmacy, Territorial Librarian and School Land Department to the Third Legislative Assembly of Territory of Oklahoma. January 8, 1895.
- 10: Biennial Report of the Attorney General to the Governor of Oklahoma Territory 1899-1900.
- 11: Biennial Report of the Board of Dental Examiners of the Territory of Oklahoma, 1899-1900.
- 12: Second Biennial Report of the Territorial Superintendent of Public Instruction for the two years beginning July 1, 1892 and ending June 30, 1894. Exhibit "B" of Governor's Message to Third Legislative Assembly, January 8, 1895.
- 13: Fifth Biennial Report of the Territorial Superintendent of Public Instruction for two years beginning July 1, 1898 and ending June 30, 1900.
- 14: Report of Territorial University to the Third Legislative Assembly, January 8, 1895; Report of Agricultural and Mechanical College to the Third Legislative Assembly, January 8, 1895; Report of Normal School to the Third Legislative Assembly, January 8, 1895.
- 15: Biennial Reports of Oklahoma Educational Institutions, 1899-1900.
- 16: Report of the Territorial Board of Health, Exhibit "F" of Governor's Message to the Third Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oklahoma, January 8, 1895.
- 17: Report of Grain Inspector, 1899.
- 18: Territorial Bond, Normal School, 1893.

Box 2

- Folder 1:** Report of the Insurance Commission of the Oklahoma Territory, December 31, 1903.
- 2: Schedule of Lands, Sac-Fox, Iowan, Pottawatomie, September 1891.
- 3: Territorial Librarian, Inspector of Oils, Dental, Examiner, 1897-1898.
- 4: Secretary of Board of Leasing Territorial Lands, Fourth Biennial Report, 1902.
- 5: Report of Grain Inspector, Oklahoma Territory, 1901.
- 6: Second Biennial Report Dept. Geology and Natural History, 1901-1902; Third Biennial Report Dept. Geology and Natural History, 1903-1914.
- 7: Insurance Laws, Oklahoma Territory, 1905.
- 8: Oklahoma Educational Institutions, Biennial Report, 1899-1900.
- 9: Territorial Laws for Regulation and Support of Common Schools, 1903-1904.
- 10: Roster Territorial Employees, 1906.
- 11: Biennial Reports Territorial Librarian, Inspector of Oils, Dental Examiners, and Bank Examiner, 1897-1898.
- 12: Biennial Reports Board for Leasing Territorial Lands, 1895-1904.
- 13: Reports Territorial Insurance Commissioner, 1895-1903.
- 14: Oklahoma and Indian Territory Bar Association, 1904-1906.
- 15: Report of Oklahoma World Fair Commissioners, 1902.
- 16: Biennial Report Oklahoma Territory Board of Agriculture, 1903 through 1906.
- 17: Official Reports, 1902.



George Washington Steele (1890-1891)

Box 2a

- Folder 1:** Agricultural and Mechanical College and Agricultural Experiment Station, Annual Reports, 1898-1899, 1904-1905.
- 2: Oklahoma Live Stock Sanitary Commission, Biennial Reports, 1897 through 1900.
- 3: Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletins, 2 and 4, 1892; Bulletins 7 and 8, 1893; Bulletins 9-13, 1894; Bulletin 14, 1895.

Box 2a

- Folder 4:** Invitations, 1899.
- 5: Invitations, 1901.
- 6: Invitations, 1905.
- 7: Correspondence Leger of the Territorial Superintendent and Auditor, 1897.

8: Governor's Message to the Second Legislative Assembly of Oklahoma Territory delivered January 19, 1893; Report of William C. Renfrow to the Third Legislative Assembly of World's Columbian Exposition; Exhibit "M" Governor's Message, 1895; Governor's Message to the Third Legislative Assembly of Oklahoma Territory, delivered January 8, 1895; Reports in Governor's Message, Fourth Legislative Assembly of Oklahoma Territory, 1897; Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Legislative Assembly Reports, 1901-1905.

PARDON AND PAROLE FILES
1897-1907

1.67 Cubic Feet
Record Group 12-2

Arranged by applicant names, these files consist of letters from inmates seeking pardons and paroles, petitions and letters in support of or in opposition to clemency, affidavits, court transcripts, proofs of publication by applicants and their attorneys, and letters from parolees to the Governor advising him of their conduct and employment. Persons convicted of felonies were required to advertise their requests for pardons and paroles in newspapers to notify supporters and opponents of their requests for clemency.

Box 1

Folder 1: 577, Talbert W. Goddard, February 9, 1903.
578, Frank Gibson, February 11, 1905.
579, D. M. Green, September 11, 1905.
580, Charles Andrews, June 13, 1901.
581, John Bergstrater, February 12, 1906.
582, Harry Lott, February 11, 1905.
583, N. H. Miller, August 9, 1902.
584, Arthur Church, May 7, 1904.
585, Tube Henderson, September 27, 1900.
586, John King, April 24, 1901.
587, Lewis Webber, October 2, 1903.
588, Louis N. Wesson, December 9, 1903.
589, Richard Granberry, June 9, 1905.

Box 1

Folder 2: 590, Andrew Standfield, June 1, 1900.
591, Gus Lewis, November 24, 1899.
591, Herman Burnhart, December 9, 1899.
592, George Sims, January 16, 1902.
593, Thomas Shelton, October 20, 1903.
594, Garfield Terry, January 12, 1904.
594, Edlow Terry, November 11, 1904.

Box 1

Folder 3: 595, Charles Wilson, April 13, 1897.
596, Edward Kelly, June 29, 1900.
597, Lisle Gary, May 13, 1905.
598, Adolphus Fontray, April 12, 1901.
599, Charles W. Godbold, January 16, 1902.
600, Eugene Hayes.
601, John W. Crandall, November 16, 1906.

Box 1

Folder 4: 604, A. A. Clark, March 21, 1906.
605, Jet Albright, July 13, 1903.
606, John Jones, April 13, 1906.
607, Ed Harvey, June 17, 1903.
608, Vogel H. Albright, October 9, 1905.
609, Z. C. Harding, August 12, 1903.
610, W. H. Draper, March 19, 1902.

Box 1

Folder 5: 611, Wade Moore, February 11, 1905.
612, George Scott, April 15, 1903.
613, White Houston, February 9, 1903.
614, Henry Harmon, November 20, 1904.
615, Henry Pruden, November 20, 1904.
616, Eugene Walker, July 18, 1904.

Box 1

Folder 6: 617, John Hoschler, September 10, 1903.
618, Charles Groves, June 9, 1905.
619, Henry Harmon.

Box 1

Folder 7: 620, Clem Hayes, October 10, 1904.
George B. Ousley, February 1894.

Box 2

Folder 1: 621, James T. Franklin, May 31, 1907.
627, W. A. Hensley, 1909.
630, Charles P. Doolittle, 1906.

Box 2

Folder 2: 631, Richard Coleman, 1907.
632, Andrew J. Le Bow, 1906.

Box 2

Folder 3: 633, Ira N. Terrill, June 12, 1906.

Box 2

Folder 4: 634, Robert Deloach, 1906.
635, Charles Hall, 1907.
636, William F. Reynolds, 1907.
671, Lowe Cole, 1904.

Box 2

Folder 5: 672, Edward Campbell, 1906.
678, Henry Morgan, 1905.
678, Bert Burns, June 1, 1907.

Box 3

Folder 1: 680, George St. Clair, May 31, 1907.
683, James Harmon, September 30, 1907.

Box 3

Folder 2: 686, Charles Egan, July 13, 1907.
687, Roy Kelso, 1907.

Box 3

Folder 3: 688, John Reeves, 1907.
689, William Huff, 1906.
690, James Walsh, September 30, 1907.

Box 3

Folder 4: 692, Henry C. Jacobs, 1907.
699, E. L. Cunningham, May 11, 1907.
700, George Wilson, 1907.

Box 3

Folder 5: 701, Homer Crouch, 1907.
702, Frank Reid, 1907.
703, William Eckart, 1907.
704, Joe McArthur, 1907.

Box 3

Folder 6: 705, Sabin Tucker, June 1, 1907.
706, Joe Runnells, July 21, 1906.



Cassius McDonald Barnes (1897-1901)

Box 4

Folder 1: Eldridge Preston.
John L. Finley, 1901.
Robert B. Kennon, 1898.
J. S. Pickens, 1899.
A. P. Niece, 1899.
Peyton W. Perkins, 1900.
Oliver P. Jewell, 1897.



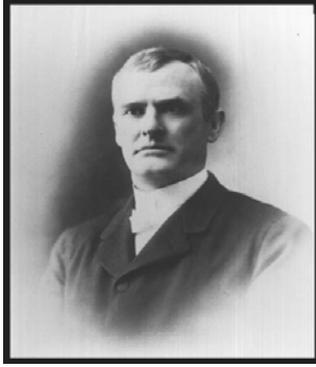
William Miller Jenkins (1901)

Box 4

Folder 2: Rufus Harley Fair, 1901.
Monroe Jackson, 1901.
Ralph Duree, 1901.
Edward Justus, 1901.

Box 4

Folder 3: Rufus Harley Fair, Petition, March 9, 1900.



Thompson Benton Ferguson (1901-1906)

Box 4

Folder 4: George Barclay, 1902.
James Brummet, 1902.
Allen Thompson, 1905.
Perry Beard, 1904.
L. W. Woolridge, 1904.
W. P. Smith, 1904.
Erastis V. Robbins, 1901.
Charley Baker, 1905.
Ed Rodgers, 1903.

Box 4

Folder 5: Will Ruhl, 1903.
B. F. Ellis, 1903.

Box 4

Folder 6: Harvey Richards, 1905.
Charles Lane, 1902.
Joseph G. Grant, 1902.
Lydia Howland, 1904.
Ben Brown, 1905.
William F. Reynolds, 1907.

Box 4

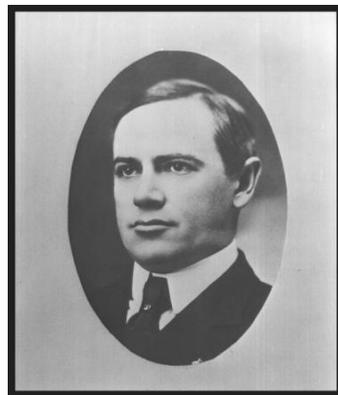
Folder 7: W. F. Shivers, 1904.
John Staples, 1905.
J. M. Lory, 1906.
William Wallace, 1905.
Eldridge Preston, 1902.
Chester Nowles, 1902.
Rufus Harley Fair, 1902.
Oliver P. Jewell, 1902.
O. E. Benham, 1903.

Box 4

Folder 8: John L. Finley, 1901.
James Friend, 1901.
Monroe Jackson, 1901.
Andrew J. Mathis, 1903.
Benjamin Creech, 1903.
Samuel Thompson, 1905.
Joe Thomas, 1904.
Henry Foster, 1902.
Thomas Ferguson, 1904.
*Emmet Dalton, 1901. (See last page of booklet for copy of Pardon request!)
William Heard, 1905.
Annie Haley.
John Brown.
Dexter Baker, 1905.
Dan Shannon, 1905.
W. H. Sitton, 1901.

Box 5

Folder 1: T. S. Bozeman, 1902.
S. M. Baylee, 1903.
George Coakley, 1903.
Ben Clark, 1905.
John Brooks, 1904.
Joe H. Wilson, 1905.
Edward Lane, 1902.
Aron Wharton, 1902.



Frank Frantz (1906-1907)

Box 5

Folder 2: Ralph Wells, 1904.

Box 5

Folder 3: Jim Wilkins, 1906.

Box 5

Folder 4: John Yates, April 7, 1906.

Box 5

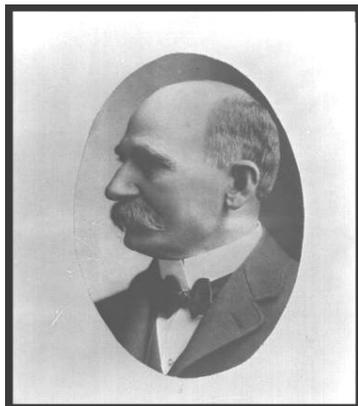
Folder 5: Amos Burch, 1907.
Jessie Weatherley, 1906.
L. W. Woolridge, 1906.
James Baird, 1906.
Sam Wilkerson, 1907.
Jessie Young, 1904.
Rufus Harley Fair, 1907.

Box 5

Folder 6: Charles Lee, 1907.
Joe H. Wilson, 1906.
Andy Fitzwater, 1906.

Box 5

Folder 7: Clarence Cherry, 1906.
Harvey Henderson, 1906.
G. W. Haile, 1907.
Walter Glanton, 1907.
Andrew J. Lebo, 1907.
Bert Scott, 1907.
Richard Shields, 1906.
John Stewart, 1907.
George Stempel, 1907.



William Cary Renfrow (1893-1897)

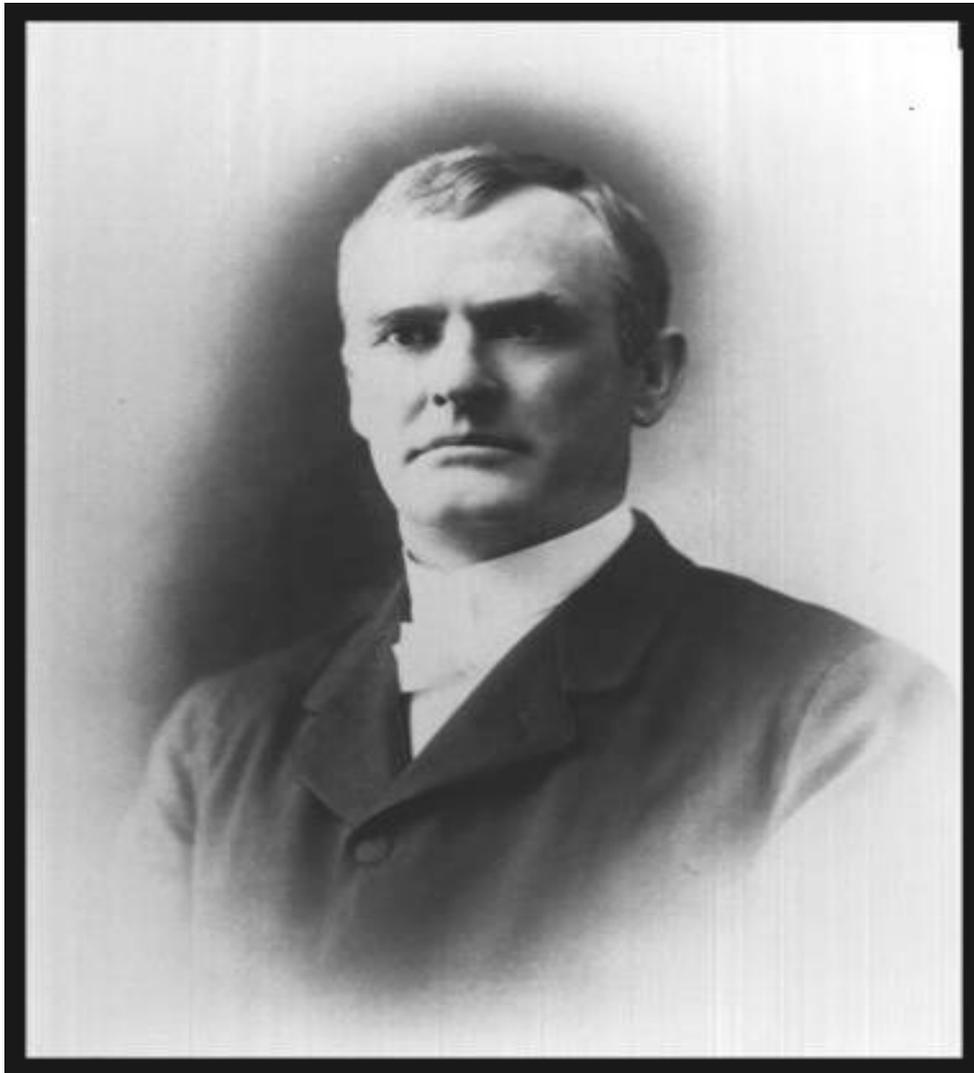
THOMPSON BENTON FERGUSON CORRESPONDENCE
1901-1902

.33 Cubic Feet
Record Group 12-3

Composed of incoming letters and a few copies of outgoing correspondence, the documents in this series relate mainly to requests for executive clemency and the appointment of local officials.

Box 1

- Folder 1:** Appointments, Petitions, and Endorsements, 1902.
2: Bound Correspondence of Governor's, 1901-1902.
3: Case of Thomas Queenan, 1903
4: Case of Thomas Queenan, 1903.
5: Attorney General of Oklahoma Territory, P. C. Simons, including U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, S. E. Louis, 1905.



MORE INFORMATION:

Bibliography:

The Reports noted in this Finding Aid as well as many others can be viewed online through Oklahoma Crossroads website in a collection titled “Forty-Six Important Federal Publications About Oklahoma.” <http://www.crossroads.odl.state.ok.us/>

Further information about Oklahoma’s territorial period and its governors can be found at the National Archives and Records Administration: Southwest Regional Division in Fort Worth, Texas. <http://www.archives.gov/southwest/index.html>

Fischer, Leroy Henry. *Territorial Governors of Oklahoma*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1975.

Meserve, John Bartlett. “The Governors of Oklahoma Territory” 20, no. 3 *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* (September 1942): 218-227.

Perry, Dan. “George W. Steele, First Governor of the Territory of Oklahoma” 12, no. 4 *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* (December 1934): 383-392.

Portraits of Oklahoma’s territorial governors comprise Manuscript Collection 50, housed in the Oklahoma State Archives and may be used freely. See Copyrights and Permissions. <http://www.crossroads.odl.state.ok.us/cdm4/rights.php>

An Agency History:

Oklahoma's unique history is vividly reflected in the records of each state gubernatorial administration. Before the adoption of the Constitution in 1907, Oklahoma found itself administered by a series of territorial governors. The Oklahoma Organic Act, passed by the United States Congress on May 2, 1890, established the Oklahoma Territory from unassigned lands in the center of Indian Territory. As one of the most important laws from which Oklahoma state government evolved, the act provided for a territorial governor appointed by the President of the United States.

President Benjamin Harrison appointed George Washington Steele of Indiana to the office of governor. Between 1890-1907, the following persons served as Territorial Governors, each playing a crucial role in the formation of state government: George Washington Steele (1890-1891), Robert Martin (1891-1892), Abraham Jefferson Seay (1892-1893), William Cary Renfrow (1893-1897), Cassius McDonald Barnes (1897-1901), William Miller Jenkins (1901), William C. Grimes (1901), Thompson Benton Ferguson (1901-1906) and Frank Frantz (1906-1907).



Oklahoma Territory's first Governor George Steele

The Oklahoma Organic Act also called for a territorial Supreme Court, bicameral legislature and delegates to the United States Congress as well as the organization of town and county governments. The act designated Guthrie as the territorial capital. In addition, the territorial government would operate according to the laws of Nebraska until its own code could be adopted.

Not only did the Organic Act establish state government, but it provided for the growth of Oklahoma Territory as well. Between 1890-1906, the area was enlarged by the addition of certain lands previously included in Indian Territory as well as the settlement of No Man's Land. Under the terms of the Oklahoma Enabling Act, approved June 16, 1906, the Oklahoma and Indian Territories were joined to form the state of Oklahoma. A convention of 112 delegates met at Guthrie to draft a constitution for the nation's forty-sixth state.

A people's election held on September 17, 1907, approved the Constitution and on November 16, 1907, Oklahoma was admitted to the Union by Presidential proclamation. Oklahoma's first governor, Charles N. Haskell, took the oath of office that same November day.

The Governor of Oklahoma is chief executive officer of the state. Today, many of the duties, responsibilities, and privileges of the governor remain the same as established by the Oklahoma Constitution. However, the role of governor has also expanded from generation to generation, adapting to the changing needs of the state and Oklahomans.

The Oklahoma Constitution outlines the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, a system of checks and balances, veto and impeachment powers, a bill of rights, and other reforms. The constitution requires officials of the executive branch to be elected on a statewide basis, therefore, reducing the appointive power of the governor. In addition,

gubernatorial elections are held in off years, eliminating the possibility of a candidate riding to office on the coat tails of a popular United States presidential candidate. Initially, according to the constitution, the governor was elected for a four-year term and could not succeed himself, reducing a governor's personal power through long tenure and control of state government. Now, according to constitutional amendment and state statute, Oklahoma governors can be re-elected for a second term in succession.

Each governor's term begins the second Monday of January. Principal powers and responsibilities are outlined by the state constitution and by statute and include certain appointive powers, the authority to veto or approve bills passed by the legislature, to grant pardons and paroles, to summon special sessions of the Legislature, and to call out of the militia. The governor conducts all business and affairs with other states and opens every joint legislative session with the state of state address. Moreover, the governor is directly responsible for the preparation of the state budget, serves as an ex officio member of several boards and commissions, receives reports from various state officers and agencies, and is charged with the duty of seeing that all laws are faithfully executed in the state. For more information on each gubernatorial administration beginning with the state's first governor Charles N. Haskell (1907-1911) to Francis A. Keating (1995-2003), visit the Oklahoma Crossroads website in a collection titled "100 Years of Oklahoma Governors." <http://www.crossroads.odl.state.ok.us/>

Among the notorious outlaws that Oklahoma's territorial governors encountered was Emmett Dalton. Dalton (May 3, 1871-July 13, 1937) was a train robber and member of the Dalton Gang in the American Old West. He was born to Lewis and Adeline Dalton and the youngest of the Dalton brothers.

The Dalton Gang's criminal enterprise ended on October 5, 1892 when they attempted to rob two banks at once in Coffeyville, Kansas. Four of the gang members were killed in the ensuing gun fight. Emmett Dalton survived the raid but received 23 gunshot wounds. He was sentenced for life in the penitentiary in Lansing, Kansas and pardoned after 14 years. He moved to California and became a real estate agent, author, and actor, dying at the age of 66.

Here is the pardon request from Adeline Dalton and citizens of Kingfisher, Oklahoma Territory to Governor Thomas Benton Ferguson (1901-1906) in which they ask him for mercy on her son's behalf.

(Transcript)

Kingfisher, Oklahoma

September 23, 1901

To His Excellency the Governor of Oklahoma

We the Citizens of Kingfisher do here by ask your excellency to help Mrs. Adeline L. Dalton in securing a parole for her son now serving a life sentence in the Kansas Prison by giving her a letter addressed to Governor Staneley asking him to extend clemency to her son Emmet Dalton.

We are fully conversant with the crime and part he took in it. And under all the circumstances connected think he has suffered enough as his youth at time of the deed and other things connected calls for mercy at the hands of his fellow man. Furthermore he has an exceptionally good prison record. We think by doing this it will be the means of helping him to prove if he be worthy further trust. We have given him letters of the same nature as we ask of you. He will have been there ten years by the time she expects anything done for him. We ask this in the name of truth justice and mercy. This foregoing, drawn up by Mrs. Dalton, mother of Emmett, prisoner, is worthy of serious or [illegible] consideration we respectfully sign the same.

[signatures]

Kingfisher Oklahoma
Sept-23rd 1901

To His Excellency the Governor of Oklahoma
We the Citizens of Kingfisher
do here by ask your excellency to help
Mrs Adeline L Dalton in securing a parole for her
son now serving a life sentence in the House Prison
by giving her a letter addressed to Governor Stanley
asking him to extend clemency to her son Emmet Dalton
We are fully conversant with the
crime and part he took in it. And under all the
circumstances connected think he has suffered enough
as his youth at time of the deed and other things connected
calls for mercy at the hands of his fellow men
further more he has an exceptionally good prison record
We think by doing this it will be the means of helping
him to prove if he be worthy further trust
We have all given him letters of the same nature as we ask of you
he will have been there ten years by the time she expects
any thing done for him
We ask this in the name of truth Justice and Mercy
This foregoing is now up by Mrs. Dalton, mother of Emmet,
prisoner, in writing of Minors & Lamesh consultants
we cheerfully sign the same.

J. V. Adair
A. J. Roberts
W. H. Hoffinger

E. H. Silsbee
George H. Loring, Dep. Dist. Clerk
G. D. Moss, Co. Supt.
Jesse C. Judis, Probate Judge.

