



**COLORADO**

State Archives

1313 Sherman Street, Suite 120  
Denver, CO 80203

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Colorado State Archives  
Territorial Governors Records  
Papers of Jesse Fuller McDonald

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Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Papers of Jesse Fuller McDonald
<b>Dates (inclusive)</b>	1905-1907
<b>Creator</b>	McDonald, Jesse Fuller, 1858-1942
<b>Abstract</b>	This collection holds the papers relating to the administration of Jesse Fuller McDonald, sixteenth governor of the State of Colorado from 1905-1907.
<b>Identification</b>	Collection Number 1000.18 (Collection may have been previously referred to as Collection Number 1027. See additional information in other collections; see Detailed Description below).
<b>Quantity</b>	6 record boxes, 2 bound volumes, 5 legal boxes containing bound volumes, 1 reel of microfilm
<b>Repository</b>	Colorado State Archives
<b>Location</b>	Documents and Bound Volumes: 8847B (Vol. 17), 8847A (Vol. 18), 9364A (Vol. 5), 9364C (Vol. 6), 8923D (Vol. 46), 8924A (Vols. 47-50), 8924 (Vol. 51), 13894, 9872, 13898, 26717, 26718, 26719 Microfilm: S193
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Processing Information</b>	Processed by Siobhan Sims, March, 2021



## Biography

Written by James O. Chipman

Jesse F. McDonald was born on June 30, 1858, at Ashtabula, Ohio, the son of Lyman M. and Caroline (Bond) McDonald. His ancestors came from Scotland during the middle of the eighteenth century, settling first in Maine and then Oneida County, New York, before moving to Ohio. Jesse grew up and was educated at his birthplace. After completing his schooling, he studied civil engineering and surveying. In 1879, at the age of twenty one, he moved west to the turbulent mining camp of Leadville, Colorado, with \$2.00 left in his pocket. He took the first job he could find as a draftsman for a mining company but soon got a job as a chainman for a surveying crew. He quickly realized that this work would familiarize him with the numerous mining possibilities in the region. In the years that followed, he showed a remarkable aptitude for civil and mine engineering and in 1884 formed a lucrative partnership with George M. Robinson. Later, he became the owner of the Penrose Mine in Lake County, the Harvard Mine and other mining properties. He also became interested in local banking enterprises which eventually led him to become director and vice president of the American National Bank at Leadville. In a city normally Democratic, McDonald as a Republican candidate, was elected mayor of Leadville for three successive terms from 1899 to 1905. He was also elected state senator, representing Lake County. In 1904, he was nominated as Lieutenant Governor and was elected to that position by a decisive majority. Alva Adams won as governor and took office in January, 1905. When the legislature met a few days later, Adams' election was contested by James H. Peabody, the Republican candidate. For weeks, legislators at the capitol and citizens of the state seethed as the battle over the governorship continued. Finally, Peabody was seated on condition that he would immediately resign to be succeeded by Jesse F. McDonald. Colorado thus had three governors in a twenty four hour period on March 16, 1905! McDonald's term of office was noted for the quiet and businesslike manner in which he conducted the affairs of state, and it was one of the most prosperous periods the state had enjoyed up to that time. As governor, he was particularly zealous in his protection of state lands. On one occasion, when coal on state land was to be sold, the governor made a trip to Walsenburg himself to put his engineering knowledge to work to appraise the property and assure the state of a fair price. Although urged to run for governor again in 1906, McDonald declined and returned to private life. In 1908, he was prevailed upon to run again, but was defeated by John F. Shafroth. In 1910 he extended his political service by being named chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, a position he filled until 1914. He again served as Republican chairman from 1931 to 1934 and in 1932 headed the Colorado delegation to the Republican National Convention. During these years McDonald divided his interests between politics and mining and devoted years of unstinting effort to the affairs of the Colorado Mining Association, the American Mining Congress and the state metal mining fund. Jesse McDonald married Flora Collins in Leadville on April 26, 1890. Following her death in 1918 he married Madaline Harrington in 1924. There were no children born in either marriage. He died on February 25, 1942, in Denver. Instead of a burial, his ashes were scattered.

Governor Peabody's Resignation from March 17, 1905.



### Bibliography

- Griswold, Don L. and Jean G. History of Leadville and Lake County Colorado. Denver, University Press of Colorado, 1996.
- Records of the Office of the Governor, Jesse F. McDonald, 1905-1907. Colorado State Archives.
- Smiley, Jerome C. Semi-Centennial History of the State of Colorado. Volume II. Chicago, Lewis Publishing Co., 1913.
- Stone, Wilbur Fisk. History of Colorado. Chicago, S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1918. Denver Post. February 26, 1942, pg. 1. Rocky Mountain News, February 26, 1942, pg. 1.

### **Arrangement of the Papers/Scope of Content**

The papers are organized into the following series:

**Executive Record** - This series consists of four volumes containing executive orders, extraditions and requisitions, and proclamations made by Governor McDonald during his term of office.

**Correspondence** - This series is composed of correspondence between Governor McDonald and his constituents, state agencies, and other public officials. Organization of incoming correspondence is roughly sorted alphabetically by last name of sender. Included are four letterpress bound volumes of outgoing correspondence.

**Applications and Appointments** - This series contains gubernatorial appointments to state offices and applications of recommendation.

**Reports** - The biennial reports of state agencies make up this series.

**Speeches and Messages** - McDonald's Biennial Message to the 16th General Assembly comprises this series.

**Proclamations** - This series encompasses executive proclamations deposited as filings of the Secretary of State.

### **Note on Scope of Papers**

Box 26717 missing FF 3 and FF 4.

### **Restrictions on Access**

None

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item]. *Papers of Jesse Fuller McDonald*. Colorado State Archives.

### **Index Terms**

Colorado  
Governors—Colorado  
McDonald, Jesse, 1858-1942



### Detailed Description of the Collection

Collection No.	Series No.	File Unit No.	Description	Location
1000.18	001	001	Executive Record	8847B, Vol. 17, pp. 37-527
1000.18	001	002	Executive Record	8847A, Vol. 18, pp. 1-103
1000.18	001	003	Executive Record- Executive Orders	Box 9364A, Vol. 5
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Microfilm	Microfilm	S193	Executive Record, Vol. 17, pp. 37-527	S193
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Collection not yet indexed.

