



Ross, William Henry Harrison, 1814-1887.

**Document appointing John A. Nicholson to be superintendent of schools in
and for Kent County, Delaware
1851 March 3**

Abstract: Delaware Governor William H. Ross and Delaware Secretary of State Alfred P. Robinson are the signers authorizing this 1851 document, which appointed John A. Nicholson to the position of superintendent of schools for Kent County, Delaware.

Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 098, F177

Creator: Ross, William Henry Harrison, 1814-1887.

Title: Document appointing John A. Nicholson to be superintendent of schools in and for Kent County, Delaware

Inclusive Dates: 1851 March 3

Extent: 1 item (1 p.)

Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

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Shelving Summary: F177: Shelved in SPEC MSS 098 manuscript boxes

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Historical Note

William H. Ross

William H. Ross (1814–1877) served as the Democratic Governor of the state of Delaware from January 21, 1851, until January 16, 1855. Ross, originally a farmer from Seaford, Delaware, was also a member of the State Agricultural Society beginning in the mid-1850s.

Sources:

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Delaware: 1609-1888*. Philadelphia: L.J. Richards, 1888.

John A. Nicholson

John A. (Anthony) Nicholson was appointed superintendent of schools for Kent County, Delaware, in 1851, by Governor William H. Ross.

Nicholson was born in Laurel, Sussex County, Delaware, on November 17, 1827. He graduated from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1847, and studied law with Martin W. Bates in Dover, Delaware, before being admitted to the bar on April 23, 1850. On August 2, 1848, he married Angelica K. Reed. Beginning in 1861, Nicholson served as a brigadier general of the Kent County militia. He was twice elected to the United States Congress as a Representative from Delaware. He served as a Democratic member of the House of Representatives during the Thirty-ninth and Fortieth Congresses (March 4, 1865–March 3, 1869), before retiring to Dover, Delaware, to resume his law career. He died on November 4, 1906, in Dover, Kent County, Delaware, and is buried in the Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

Sources:

Nicholson, John Anthony (1827–1906). In "Biographical Directory of the United States Congress." Available online at <http://bioguide.congress.gov/> (accessed May 28, 2009).

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Delaware: 1609-1888*. Philadelphia: L.J. Richards, 1888.

Scope and Content Note

Delaware Governor William H. Ross and Delaware Secretary of State Alfred P. Robinson are the signers authorizing this 1851 document, which appointed John A. Nicholson to the position of superintendent of schools for Kent County, Delaware.

This printed form is completed with the names, dates, and appointed position filled in by hand. The document bears a blue embossed Great Seal of the State of Delaware, in addition to the signatures of Governor William H. Ross and Secretary of State Alfred P. Robinson. This item was originally housed in a pocket within the bound volume MSS 097 Item 93, Minutes of the meeting of the Committee on Education of the Trustees of the New Castle Common.

Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Nicholson, John A. (John Anthony), 1827-1906.

Topical Terms

Delaware--Officials and employees--Selection and appointment--19th century--Sources.

School superintendents--Delaware--19th century--Sources.

Geographic Names

Kent County (Del.)--History--19th century--Sources.

Form/Genre Terms

State government records.

Occupation

Superintendents.

Personal Contributors

Robinson, Alfred P.

Related Materials in this Repository

This item forms part of MSS 098 Delaware Miscellaneous Historical and Literary Manuscripts.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Document appointing John A. Nicholson to be superintendent of schools in and for Kent County, Delaware, 1851
March 3 [Box 7 F177]
