



**1862-1865**

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## **Benjamin F. Harding (1823-1899)**

Benjamin F. Harding was born in Pennsylvania and became a lawyer in 1849. He practiced law in Joliet, Illinois and traveled to Oregon 1850. Harding was elected to the Oregon Territory Legislature in 1850 and later was elected Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives. He served in the U.S. Senate from 1862 to 1865.<sup>1</sup> Harding's second wife, F. W. Bush, was a relative of Asahel Bush.<sup>2</sup> After serving in the U.S. Senate, he retired to his farm near Salem, Oregon and later died in Cottage Grove, Oregon.

### **Letters to Bush from 1851 to 1899**

Harding supported Joseph Lane in 1851 and requested the help of Bush and the Salem Clique. There are letters regarding various political issues and conventions. Harding attempted to help Bush with his salary as the Territorial Printer. There are personal letters regarding mutual friends, Bush's house in Salem, the *Oregon Statesman* and the success of Ladd & Bush Bank.

<sup>1</sup> Biographical Directory of the United States Congress. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=H000189> (accessed 4/20/17).

<sup>2</sup> Howard M. Corning, *Dictionary of Oregon History* (Hillsboro: Binford & Mort Publishing, 1956).