

Buffalo County, Nebraska

RG221
& film

Buffalo County, Nebraska

Records: 1871-1994

Cubic ft.: 96.75

Approx. # of Items: 70 boxes, 110 vols., 73

Vols. & 494 pp. on 23 reels of 35mm and
5 reel of 16mm microfilm.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Buffalo County, named for the numerous buffalo herds in the area, is located in what was once Pawnee Indian Territory. This land was ceded to the Government in general October 9, 1833. By treaty of Table Creek, Nebraska September 24, 1857, most of the land north of the Platte was assigned to the government. The remainder was ceded in 1876 when the Pawnee were removed to Oklahoma. Fort Kearny was established in what is now Buffalo county in May of 1848. This fort was abandoned in 1871. The records of Fort Kearny can be found in RG505 collection at the Historical Society.

The boundaries of Buffalo county were defined by the Nebraska Legislature March 14, 1855. After this act Nebraska Center was chosen as the county seat. The first post office was established at Wood River in 1860 and the county seat located here until formal organization and election appointed a permanent county seat. The boundaries were redefined by the legislature in 1873. The county occupies an area of 946 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Sherman county, on the east by Hall county, on the west by Dawson county and to the south lie Phelps and Kearney counties.

Prior to 1870, the boundaries of Buffalo county had been defined and an election of officers held but it was attached to Hall county for judicial and revenue purposes. For information relating to the early records of Buffalo county, 1858-1870, see the Hall County collection, RG260. One of the early elected officials of Buffalo County connected with Fort Kearny and later transferred to Fort Omaha instigated official organization of the county in 1870 by writing the governor. In February of that year, Governor Butler proclaimed Buffalo County to be duly organized and ordered the election of officials. This election took place in October of that same year.

The first settlers in the county were Mormons who made a settlement at Wood River in 1858. However, Boyd's Ranch, operated by James E. Boyd, later governor of Nebraska 1891-1892, had been

ADDED ENTRIES:

BUFFALO COUNTY, NEB.--CENSUS
CENSUS
COUNTY GOVERNMENT--RECORDS AND CORRESPONDENCE
DISTRICT COURTS--NEBRASKA--BUFFALO COUNTY
MARRIAGES--NEBRASKA--BUFFALO COUNTY
NATURALIZATIONS--NEBRASKA--BUFFALO COUNTY
PERSONAL PROPERTY--NEBRASKA--BUFFALO COUNTY
REAL PROPERTY--VALUATION--NEBRASKA--BUFFALO COUNTY
SCHOOL CENSUS--NEBRASKA--BUFFALO COUNTY
School District #34 (Buffalo County, Neb.)
TAXATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY--NEBRASKA--BUFFALO COUNTY
TAXATION--NEBRASKA--BUFFALO COUNTY

established one mile east of Gibbon in 1846. The ranch served as a stage station for the Western Stage Company and a stop-over place for workers on the Union Pacific Railroad during construction. James E. Boyd was also a contractor for the building of the Union Pacific railroad. The Mormon settlement at Wood River became a stop-over and resting place for the Mormons on their way to Utah. The first settler, Joe E. Johnson, also started a newspaper in 1858 called the "Huntsman Echo" which continued about two years until he left for Utah. When the Indian war between the Cheyenne and Sioux broke out in 1864, nearly all Wood River settlers left the area. Farmers began resettling the area after the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1866. After Buffalo county reorganized in 1870, a large colony of settlers from Ohio arrived in April of 1871 and laid out the town of Gibbon, Nebraska. The Burlington and Missouri River Railroad joined the Union Pacific near Fort Kearny in the fall of 1872 and a town named Kearney Junction was laid out.

Prior to this time there was no official county seat. The first meeting of the Commissioners was at Nebraska Center, two miles from present Gibbon, Nebraska on February 26, 1870. The meetings moved around for that first year after organization. In 1872 Gibbon and Kearney Junction vied for the honor of being named county seat. At an election held in October, 1871, Gibbon was chosen. The contract to construct the courthouse was awarded in July of 1872 and was completed at Gibbon in 1873. The county seat fight had already begun, however, and in August, 1874 the commissioners declared the new courthouse to be unsafe and no further meetings were held there. On October 13, 1874, a special election for the relocation of the county seat resulted in its removal to Kearney. The county offices moved around at first until the South Platte Land Company and the Union Pacific Railroad came through with their offer to donate land and build a courthouse for removing the county seat to Kearney. A cheap building was erected in 1875 at Kearney and used as the courthouse until the permanent courthouse was erected in 1886. Today Kearney is a first class city with over 22,000 population.

The first school district was organized while Buffalo County was still a part of Hall County in 1869. After Buffalo County reorganized, eight other districts were organized from October 1871 through March 1872. There are now twenty three school districts in the county. The county as a whole has steadily continued to grow from a population of 193 in 1870 to 34,797 by the 1980 census.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

It is unfortunate but most of the early records of this county were destroyed by the county around 1958 before Records Management in Nebraska was established in 1969. For this reason, different types of records have been compiled to try to compensate for missing original documentation. Buffalo County Historical Society holds many of the early records.

Buffalo County records are arranged into nine subgroups: 1) Assessor, 1874-1920; 2) Treasurer, 1874-1929; 3) County Board of Commissioners, 1900-1917; 4) County Clerk, 1872-1994; 5) Register of Deeds (Security Microfilm only); 6) County Court, 1873-1906; 7) District Court, 1871-1971; 8) Superintendent of Schools, 1902-1925; and 9) School District Records, n.d.

Subgroup One, Assessor, includes personal and real property assessments 1874-1877, 1880, and 1882. Also included are notices of Improvements to Real Estate, 1905-1920 and one box of correspondence, 1904-1908. Additional Assessment Records are housed at the Buffalo County Historical Society. For assessment records relating to Buffalo County prior to 1871 see Hall County records.

Tax Lists, Real Estate & Personal have been accessioned for Buffalo County,

There is one box of correspondence for Subgroup Two, Treasurer, for the years 1908-1911. Highway and Road Ledgers and Tax Lists from 1915 can be found at the Buffalo County Historical Society. Taxes were registered in Hall County prior to 1871.

Subgroup Three contains miscellaneous records of the County Commissioners in series two including county officer's reports, 1900-1917; annual statistical reports, 1909-1917. Security microfilm of the county board proceedings, 1870-1989, was copied for the Reference Room in 1995.

Subgroup Four, County Clerk includes Marriage Dockets, 1872-1986 and indexes to marriages, 1872-1994, on microfilm. The original volumes for these marriages remain at the county clerk's office. This microfilm was produced by the Genealogical Society of Utah in conjunction with the Historical Society and with the permission of the county clerk. Marriage Dockets after 1986 are restricted from public use due to the presence of confidential information as described in section 71-602, R.R.S. Neb. 1990.

There are no records in storage for Subgroup Five, Register of Deeds.

Justice of the Peace Dockets comprise the records of Subgroup Six, County Court. The Dockets are for Kearney Precinct and justice cases held in county court, 1873-1906.

The bulk of the collection can be found in Subgroup Seven, District Court. This subgroup is divided into eleven series: 1) Naturalization Records, 1871-1965; 2) General Index (no records); 3) Appearance Dockets (no records); 4) Daily Journals, 1873-1909; 5) Complete Record (no records); 6) Judgement & Execution Dockets, 1873-1960; 7) Civil Case Files, 1872-1940; 8) Bills of Exception, 1895-1965; 9) State Tax Suit, 1904-1906; 10) Encumbrance Record, 1892-1971; and 11) Miscellaneous, 1889-1959.

The Naturalization Records for Buffalo County are on microfilm and filed in the East Reference Room with other county naturalizations. There is also a card index to these naturalizations, 1871-1929, on microfilm and filed with the other records. Included in these records are Declarations of Intention, 1871-1964; Final Papers and Affidavits, 1873-1961; Petition and Record volumes, 1907-1961; and miscellaneous correspondence and reports, 1910-1977.

The Archives holds the Daily Journals of the court, 1873-1909. However, we do not have the indexes to cases which is necessary to research these volumes. Patrons should request information from the District Court as to which vols. & pages of the journals they would need to see.

Series Seven includes case files #1 (1872) thru #13967 (1940).

The Bills of Exception of Series Nine are for selected cases only and are not complete for each case.

The final Series of Subgroup Seven contains one box of correspondence of the clerk of the district court, 1892-1895, Petit Juror lists, 1889-1959; and an Equity Docket for foreclosures, 1890-1891.

Subgroup Eight, Superintendent of Schools contains a partial school census, 1902-1904 and miscellaneous correspondence of the superintendent, 1913-1925. The census, 1880-current is in the process of being microfilmed by the county. When the film is available we will obtain a copy for our reference room. The bulk of our school district records were returned to the County Superintendent of Schools in 1978.

Subgroup Nine, School District Records, at the present time includes only the records of School District #34 which are housed

at our Kearney Center for Archives and History at Kearney State College. The span of years is not included in our instrument of donation. The records were donated by Fay D. Schroer of Kearney, November 14, 1980. The case files of the District Court were transferred to the Archives in September of 1969 after they were microfilmed by the county. The naturalization records, transferred in June of 1990 were microfilmed by the Nebraska State Historical Society in July of that year. The bulk of the remainder of the collection was transferred here in 1975.

The School Census was loaned to us for microfilming by the County Supt. of Schools April 24, 1978. For additional material relating to settlement and organization of Buffalo County see the Historical Society manuscript collections for the Union Pacific Railroad Company and the Lincoln Land Company. Also, many historical records of the county are housed at the Buffalo County Historical Society.

DESCRIPTION

SUBGROUP ONE ASSESSOR, 1874-1920

SERIES ONE ASSESSMENT SCHEDULES, 1874-1882

Box 1	1874-1877	Real and Personal
Vol. 1-3	1876-1879	Kearney, Real & Personal
Vol. 4-19	1880, 1882	Real and Personal

SERIES TWO MISCELLANEOUS, 1892-1920

Boxes 2-4	1905-1920	Real Estate Improvements Assessor's Field Notebooks
Box 5	1892-1895	Corres. of the Assessor
Boxes 6-7	1909-1917	Assessors Annual Reports

NOTE: Additional Assessment Records can be found at the Buffalo County Historical Society

SUBGROUP TWO TREASURER, 1908-1911

SERIES ONE TAX LISTS, 1874-1879

Vol. 1	1874 - Kearney
Vol. 2	1875 - Kearney
Vol. 3	1876 - Kearney
Vol. 4	1877 - Kearney
Vol. 5	1878 - Kearney
Vol. 6	1879 - Kearney

NOTE: Tax Lists, 1915+ and Road Dist. Ledgers can be found at the Buffalo County Historical Society

SERIES TWO DELINQUENT TAX LISTS

No Delinquent Tax Lists are stored at the Archives for Buffalo County.

SERIES THREE TAX SALE & REDEMPTION RECORDS

No Tax Sale Records are stored at the Archives for Buffalo County.

SERIES FOUR MOTOR VEHICLE TAX LISTS

No Motor Vehicle Tax Lists are stored at the Archives.

SERIES FIVE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT RECORDS, 1914-1929

Vol. 1	Dist. Street Improvement Tax, 1914-1929
Vol. 2	Districts 1-23 Improvement Districts
	Districts 26-33 Improvement Districts
	Districts 38-45 Paving Districts, 1920-1929
	Districts 1-14 Water Districts, 1922-1928
	District 42 Park Curb Districts, 1921-1929

SERIES SIX SCHOOL LAND RECORDS, 1889-1890

Vol. #1	School Land Lease Record, 1889-1890 (District Court Jury List used as above)
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SERIES SEVEN MISCELLANEOUS, 1908-1911

Box 1	1908-1911	Correspondence of the Treasurer
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SUBGROUP THREE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, 1870-1989

SUBGROUP FOUR COUNTY CLERK, 1872-1994

film

SERIES ONE MARRIAGE RECORDS, 1872-1994

- Vol. 1 Marriage Docket, 1872-1879 (indexed)
p.1 (#1) 1872
thru p.183 (#183), Jan. 29, 1879
- Vol. 2 Marriage Docket, 1879-1885 (indexed)
p.1 (#184) February 4, 1879
thru p.638 (#821) April 14, 1885
- Vol. 3 Marriage Docket, 1885-1889 (indexed)
p.1 (#822) April 9, 1885
thru p.584 (#1402) January 13, 1889
- Vol. 4 Marriage Docket, 1889-1892 (indexed)
p.1 (#1403) January 11, 1889
thru p.638 (#2040) September 15, 1892
- Vol. 5 Marriage Docket, 1892-1896 (indexed)
p.1 (#2041) September 15, 1892
thru p.638 (#2673) December 30, 1896
- Vol. 6 Marriage Docket, 1896-1900 (indexed)
p.1 (#2674) December 30, 1896
thru p.638 (#3308) December 12, 1900
- Vol. 7 Marriage Docket, 1900-1904 (indexed)
p.1 (#3309) November 13, 1900
thru p.638 (#3946) July 28, 1904
- Vol. 8 Marriage Docket, 1904-1907 (indexed)
p.1 (#3947) August 10, 1904
thru
p.640 (#4604) December 24, 1907
- Vol. 9 Marriage Docket, 1907-1910 (indexed)
p.1 (#4605) December 24, 1907
thru
p.640 (#5244) October 15, 1910

SUBGROUP FOUR COUNTY CLERK, 1872-1994

film

SERIES ONE MARRIAGE RECORDS, 1872-1994

- Vol. 10 Marriage Docket, 1910-1913 (indexed)
p.1 (#5245) October 15, 1910
thru
p.640 (#5883) October 13, 1913
- Vol. 11 Marriage Docket, 1913-1916 (indexed)
p.1 (#5884) October 15, 1913
thru
p.640 (#6522) January 20, 1916
- Vol. 12 Marriage Docket, 1916-1919 (indexed)
p.1 (#6523) July 19, 1916
thru
p.640 (#7162) March 12, 1919
- Vol. 13 Marriage Docket, 1919-1921 (indexed)
p.1 (#7163) March 11, 1919
thru
p.640 (#7802) June 15, 1921
- Vol. 14 Marriage Docket, 1921-1924 (indexed)
p.1 (#7803) June 14, 1921
thru
p.643 (#8445) September 10, 1924
- Vol. 15 Marriage Docket, 1924-1927 (indexed)
p.1 (#8446) September 6, 1924
thru
p.482 (#8927) June 29, 1927
- Vol. 16 Marriage Docket, 1927-1931 (indexed)
p.1 (#8928) June 20, 1927
thru
p.698 (#9624) January 2, 1931
- Vol. 17 Marriage Docket, 1931-1934 (indexed)
p.1 (#9625) January 3, 1931
thru
p.700 (#10325) August 1, 1934

SUBGROUP FOUR COUNTY CLERK

film

SERIES ONE MARRIAGE DOCKETS (cont)

- Vol. 18 Marriage Docket, 1934-1937 (indexed)
p.1 (#10326) August 3, 1934
thru
p.700 (#11025) August 29, 1937
- Vol. 19 Marriage Docket, 1937-1941 (indexed)
p.1 (#11026) August 30, 1937
thru
p.700 (#11725) April 5, 1941
- Vol. 20 Marriage Docket, 1941-1943 (indexed)
p.1 (#11726) April 9, 1941
thru
p.700 (#12425) November 2, 1943
- Vol. 21 Marriage Docket, 1943-1947 (indexed)
p.1 (#12426) November 4, 1943
thru
p.700 (#13125) May 4, 1947
- Vol. 22 Marriage Docket, 1947-1949 (indexed)
p.1 (#13126) April 28, 1947
thru
p.700 (#13825) October 26, 1949
- Vol. 23 Marriage Docket, 1949-1953 (indexed)
p.1 (#13826) October 28, 1949
thru
p.728 (#14553) July 25, 1953
- Vol. 24 Marriage Docket, 1953-1957 (indexed)
p.1 (#14554) July 28, 1953
thru
p.700 (#15253) June 29, 1957
- Vol. 25 Marriage Docket, 1957-1961 (indexed)
p.1 (#15254) June 28, 1957
thru
p.700 (#15953) August 6, 1961

SUBGROUP FOUR COUNTY CLERK (cont)

film

SERIES ONE MARRIAGE DOCKETS (cont)

- Vol. 26 Marriage Docket, 1961-1965 (indexed)
p.1 (#15954) July 27, 1961
thru
p.700 (#16653) January 9, 1965
- Vol. 27 Marriage Docket, 1965-1967 (indexed)
p.1 (#16654) January 19, 1965
thru
p.700 (#17353) December 20, 1967
- Vol. 28 Marriage Docket, 1967-1970 (indexed)
p.1 (#17354) December 21, 1967
thru
p.700 (#18053) June 14, 1970
- Vol. 29 Marriage Docket, 1970-1972 (indexed)
p.1 (#18054) June 4, 1970
thru
p.700 (#18753) June 3, 1972
- Vol. 30 Marriage Docket, 1972-1974 (indexed)
p.1 (#18754) May 27, 1972
thru
p.700 (#19453) May 11, 1974
- Vol. 31 Marriage Docket, 1974-1976 (indexed)
p.1 (#19454) May 11, 1974
thru
p.700 (#20153) April 28, 1976
- Vol. 32 Marriage Docket, 1976-1978 (indexed)
p.1 (#20154) April 28, 1976
thru
p.687 (#20840) January 1, 1978
- Vol. 33 Marriage Docket, 1978-1979 (indexed)
p.1 (#20841), January 5, 1978
thru
p.700 (#21540), October 19, 1979

SUBGROUP SEVEN DISTRICT COURT (cont)

SERIES SEVEN CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASE FILES (cont)

Box 23 #2301 - #2351
#2352 - #2376 are missing

Box 24 #2377 - #2475

Box 25 #2476 - #2562
#2563 - #2603 not in storage

Box 26 #2604 - #2675

Box 27 #2676 - #2725

Box 28 #177 (Civil), 1/9/1877
#185 (Civil - xerox), 1877
#226 - #250 (Civil & Cr), Nov. 1877 - Apr. 1878
Missing: 231 & 233
(includes #235 1/2)
#401 - #424 (Civil & Cr), 1880
Missing: #410
#592 (Estate of Vance), 1882
#593 (Hawk v. Hawk), 1882
#700 (Estate of Samuel Savidge), 1-217 (1884)

Box 28 In Range of #177 - #997 cont.
#851 - #875 (1884-1885)
Missing: #855, #860, #863
#990 (Carson v. Seaman), 1885
#997 (Downing v. Dunham et al), 1885

Box 29 Cases missing from boxes 11 - 27
#1180 (1886); 1262; 1414; 1515; 1629
#1752; #1841; 1855; 1879; 1913; 1915;
#2052; 2059; 2130; 2215; 2248;
#2263; 2307; 2333; 2455; 2483; 2499;
#2516; 2594; 2599; 2602; 2621;
#2671; #2674; #2700

New accessions:
#2727 (1891) - #2772
MISSING CASES: 2730, 2731, 2733-2736;
2739-2741; 2743-2752; 2755-2760; 2762;
2766-2771

NOTE: Boxes 30-50, missing cases not recorded

Box 30 #2777 thru #2979
Box 31 #2982 thru #3130

Box 32

#3131 thru #3250

