

## **Fort Hartsuff, Nebraska**

**RG0504**

**Fort Hartsuff, Nebraska, 1874-1881**

Records: 1874-1939

Cubic ft.: .5

Approx. No. of Items: 200

### **HISTORICAL NOTE**

Fort Hartsuff was established in September 1874 as a barrier against the Indians in the North Loup Valley after the settlers had petitioned the government for military protection.

The Fort was built at a site located by General E. O. C. Ord, and was named in honor of Major General George L. Hartsuff. Co. C, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry was the first garrison under the command of Captain Samuel Munson. Very little actual fighting occurred between the Indians and the soldiers at the Fort, but the presence of the soldiers gave the settlers a sense of security in addition to brightening their social life. The construction of Fort Hartsuff was an economic boon to the area, providing jobs for settlers who otherwise would have been forced to leave.

The War Department ordered the Fort abandoned in May 1881, the land going to private ownership. Some of the buildings still stand at the original site in Valley County and the Fort is now a historical site.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of three reels of microfilm and one box of archival and manuscript materials arranged into five series: 1) Official records (on microfilm); 2) Correspondence, 1930-1938; 3) Manuscripts and notes; 4) Printed matter; and 5) maps.

This collection relates to the history of the fort and to efforts to preserve the Fort as a historical site. The microfilm in series one consists of official records relating to military affairs and activities at Ft. Hartsuff, 1874-1881. Included are a post medical history, letters sent, and documents relating to General Ord and to Captain Samuel Munson.

## ADDED ENTRIES:

Davis, Horace Mansell  
Fort Hartsuff Park Association  
INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA--WARS (1874-1881)  
MEDICINE--MILITARY  
MILITARY POSTS--NEBRASKA  
MUNSON, SAMUEL  
ORD, EDWARD OTHO CRESAP, 1818-1883  
Smith, Thurman Amon, 1877-1956  
VALLY COUNTY, NEBRASKA--HISTORY



The materials in Series two through five consist primarily of correspondence, historical data and printed matter relating to efforts in the 1930's to preserve Ft. Hartsuff as a historical site. Also included are various contemporary maps of the Ft. Hartsuff military reservation.

## DESCRIPTION

### film

#### **SERIES ONE OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1874-1881**

Reel #1 Post Returns, 1874-1881  
NARS  
RG094

Reel #2 Selected documents relating to  
NARS Maj. Gen. Edward O. C. Ord  
RG094 Gen. John J. Coppinger  
Captain Samuel Munson

Reel #3 Medical History of Ft. Hartsuff  
NARS Synopsis of Post History, 1874-1881  
Post Returns

#### B.01 (not on microfilm)

- f.1 Correspondence, 1874-1881  
Xerox copies from letterbooks,  
Headquarters, Dept of the Platte
- f.2 Correspondence, 1874-1899  
Xerox copies, selected letters,  
U.S. War Department; U.S. Dept of the  
Interior relating to fort

#### **SERIES TWO CORRESPONDENCE, 1930-1938**

B.01 f.1 1930-1938 letters pertaining to the  
preservation of the fort as a  
historical site

**SERIES THREE MANUSCRIPTS AND NOTES**

B.01 f.1 Fort Hartsuff, manuscript, n.d.  
by Horace M. Davis  
"Fort Hartsuff," poem by Thurman A. Smith

**SERIES FOUR PRINTED MATTER**

B.01 f.1 Nebraska Legislature, 53<sup>rd</sup> session, 38<sup>th</sup> day  
resolution concerning Ft. Hartsuff  
February 23, 1939  
State House News, Dec. 1, 1939  
contains article concerning fort

f.2 Newspaper clippings

f.3 Fort Hartsuff Park Association broadside  
and certificates

**SERIES FIVE MAPS**

B.01 f.1 Fort Hartsuff site sketch  
Fort Hartsuff, Hay & Wood Reservations, 1874  
Military Reservation, North Loup River, 1874  
Military Reservation and Hay & Wood  
Reservation, 1874

END OF INVENTORY

DJR/JEP/ab 12/7/1967

JEP/cr 9/23/1970

PMC WORD 3/14/2007