

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG5852.AM: Jacobsen, James Robert, 1857-1886

Papers: 1865-1886, 1976, n.d.

McCool Junction, York County, Neb.: Cowboy; herdsman

Size: 0.1 cu.ft.; 1 box

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born in Illinois on November 14, 1857, James Robert Jacobsen moved with his parents, Oscar and Azubah (Thompson) Jacobsen, to a homestead on the Big Blue River in eastern Nebraska in the 1860s. In 1879 James Robert Jacobsen was working along the Sidney-Deadwood Trail as a herdsman of oxen, helping to haul freight between Sidney, Nebraska and Deadwood, South Dakota. That same year, after various difficulties, he left the trail as a herdsman and went with three others to the Pumpkin Creek Valley in far western Nebraska to round up and sell wild horses.

After making some money rounding up horses during the summer of 1879, Jacobsen returned to Sidney and went back to working as a herdsman on the Sidney-Deadwood Trail. He would continue to work on the trail until his death near Bozeman, Montana on August 13, 1886. Jacobsen was apparently struck in the eye with the end of a bull whip, sustaining an injury which led to his death. Jacobsen's body was returned to Nebraska and buried at the Greenwood Cemetery at McCool Junction in York County.

Note: For more information about James Robert Jacobsen, see:

Jackson, John C., "A Wild Mustang Campaign of 1879 in Pumpkin Creek Valley: The Memorandum Book of James Robert Jacobsen," *Nebraska History*, vol. 57, no. 3, Fall 1976, pp. 315-330.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of several personal possessions of James Robert Jacobsen that were returned to his father after his death in 1886. Items include a memorandum book containing various entries from 1879, a grade school certificate presented to Jacobsen by a teacher in 1865, and a letter from an insurance agent handling Jacobsen's estate to Jacobsen's father in 1886. Also included are 23 page genealogical paper by John C. Jackson entitle, "The Life and Family of John Jacobsen of Denmark, his son, Oscar Jacobsen and Descendents of Saline and York Counties, Nebraska," and a copy of the Fall 1976 issue of *Nebraska History* containing the published article about James Robert Jacobsen.

Note: See the photo component [RG5852.PH] for a carte-de-visite of a full-length portrait of James Robert Jacobsen, ca. 1880. A leather wallet originally carried by Jacobsen has been added to the collections at the Nebraska History Museum.

DESCRIPTION

Box 1
Folder

1. Memorandum book, ca. 1879-1880
2. Letter, Nov. 15, 1886, from E.M. Gardner to O.A. Jacobsen
3. Grade school certificate, Sept. 8, 1865
4. "The Life and Family of John Jacobsen of Denmark, his son, Oscar Jacobsen and Descendents of Saline and York Counties, Nebraska."
5. *Nebraska History*, vol. 57, no. 3, Fall 1976

TMM 07-25-2013

Added entries:

Cowboys -- Nebraska
Jacobsen, James Robert, 1857-1886
Jacobsen, Oscar A., 1830-1905
Jacobsen family
Sidney (Neb.) -- History
Sidney-Deadwood Trail -- History