Kearney County is located south of the Platte River, which is its northern boundary, in south central Nebraska, about 24 miles from the Kansas state line. The county's early history began near the time of the establishment of Fort Kearny in 1848. It was formally organized by the Territorial Legislature in 1860 and included the present-day counties of Kearney, Franklin, Harlan, and Phelps. Kearney City (now extinct) became the county seat. After the Union Pacific Railroad was completed in 1866, this town disappeared and when Fort Kearny was abandoned in 1871 nearly all the old settlers left the county. This early settlement was concentrated in the northern part of the county near Fort Kearny and the Oregon Trail. Kearney county was named for this fort.

In 1871 the legislature redefined the boundaries and divided Kearney County into the four counties listed above. Settlers began arriving again and in 1872 an election was held to locate the county seat and to elect county officials. Lowell, the oldest town in the county located in the northeastern part and on the line of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad, was chosen as the county seat. However, in November of 1876 the citizens voted to move it to the more centrally located "Minden." At that time, Minden was open land without a building or a residence. This move was halted by an injunction until 1878.

By 1882, Minden's population had grown to almost 300 and today has a population of nearly 3000. This town is also famous for its Christmas lights on the courthouse since 1915 and has been dubbed "Christmas City" for many years. It is also the location of Harold Warp's famous "Pioneer Village" established in 1952 and covering 20 acres with about 30,000 historic items housed in 25 building including the personal collection of Senator Carl Curtis, to which the Nebraska State Historical Society was a contributor.

When settlers first began to move through the area, the eastern farmers thought the land was worthless for agricultural purposes. They were more interested in hunting gold. Today, the area has been almost completely devoted to farming and stock
ADDED ENTRIES:

COUNTY COURTS--NEBRASKA--KEARNEY COUNTY
DISTRICT COURTS--NEBRASKA--KEARNEY COUNTY
MARRIAGES--NEBRASKA--KEARNEY COUNTY
NATURALIZATIONS--NEBRASKA--KEARNEY COUNTY
School District #11 (Kearney County, Neb.)
School District #62 (Kearney County, Neb.)
raising. The Kearney County Canal, built for power and irrigation purposes grew into the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains records of Kearney County for the following Subgroups: 1) Assessor (no records); 2) Treasurer (no records); 3) County Board of Commissioners (no records); 4) County Clerk, 1872-1968; 5) Register of Deeds (no records); 6) County Court, 1873-1917; 7) District Court, 1872-1982; 8) Superintendent of Schools (no records); and 9) School District Records, 1879-1925. Records have not yet been transferred to the State Archives for those subgroups listing no records. For records not listed in this inventory patrons should contact the county courthouse at Minden, Nebraska.

Subgroup Four, County Clerk, contains microfilm of the marriage dockets of Kearney County, Nebraska, 1872-1968. Dockets for the years 1969-1986 contain confidential records and have been removed from the reference copies of the microfilm. This microfilm was produced by the Genealogical Society of Utah in 1994 with the cooperation of the Nebraska State Historical Society and the county clerk.

Subgroup Six, County Court, is arranged in one series: 1) Probate Records, 1873-1917. This series includes two probate entry books for the years mentioned. These two volumes were transferred to the State Archives in July of 1973 and microfilmed by the Historical Society in 1982.

Subgroup Seven, District Court, is divided into two series: 1) Naturalization Records, 1872-1929 and 2) Bills of Exception, 1915-1982. Series One, Naturalization Records, were loaned to the State Archives August 27, 1990 for the purpose of microfilming. There is a card index available on 16mm microfilm. Series Two, Bills of Exception, 1915-1982 contain miscellaneous exhibits and testimony for selected cases tried in the Kearney County District Court. All case files remain with the court and you must contact them for this record.

Subgroup Nine, School District Records, is divided into two series: 1) School District #11, 1879-1923; and 2) School District #62, 1907-1925. School District #11 records were a gift of W. H. Lebar of Lincoln, Nebraska in 1940 and were microfilmed by the Historical Society in 1982. The records of School District #16 were loaned for microfilming in April of 1974.
NOTE: Reorganization of this collection after certain records were microfilmed changes old series numbers as targeted on these rolls. Patrons are requested to ignore Series numbers on the rolls and refer to the inventory for accurate citations.

SUBGROUP ONE   ASSESSMENT RECORDS

No available records for this subgroup at the State Archives at this time. Patrons should contact the Kearney County Assessor's Office at Minden.

SUBGROUP TWO   TREASURER'S RECORDS

No available records for this subgroup at the State Archives at this time. Patrons should contact the Kearney County Treasurer's Office at Minden.

SUBGROUP THREE  COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

No available records for this subgroup at the State Archives at this time. Patrons should contact the Kearney County Clerk's Office at Minden.

SUBGROUP FOUR   COUNTY CLERK'S RECORDS

film
SERIES ONE   MARRIAGE RECORDS, 1872-1968

Vol. #1  Marriage Docket, Vol. #1 (indexed)
         p.1 (Workman-Scott), Oct. 11, 1872 thru
         p.446 (Plummer-Hurst), May 30, 1885

Vol. #2  Marriage Docket, Vol. #2 (indexed)
         p.1 (Anderson-Olson), November 4, 1885 thru
         p.476 (Peterson-Holst), Feb. 27, 1892

Vol. #3  Marriage Docket, Vol. #3 (indexed)
         p.1 (?), March 18, 1892 thru
         p.420 (Holsten-Oberg), Dec. 17, 1897
Vol. #4  Marriage Docket, Vol. #4 (indexed)
        p.1 (Green-Rapp), Dec. 17, 1897
        thru
        p.355 (Fernow-Miller), Jan. 12, 1904

Vol. #5  Marriage Docket, Vol. #4 (ibid), indexed
        p.1 (Blakeman-Ayers), June 21, 1902
        thru
        p.422 (Hansen-Bjork), May 8, 1907

Vol. #6  Marriage Docket, Vol. #5 (indexed)
        p.1 (Wendell-Holfeldt), May 20, 1907
        thru
        p.421 (Merrell-Anderson), Oct. 14, 1912

Vol. #7  Marriage Docket, Vol. #6 (indexed)
        p.1 (Nash-Miller), Oct. 16, 1912
        thru
        p.478 (Conyers-Moone), Sept 23, 1919

Vol. #8  Marriage Docket, Vol. #7 (indexed)
        p.1 (Olson-Rodine), Sept. 23, 1919
        thru
        p.293 (Wilson-Pettit), Aug. 1, 1923

Vol. #9  Marriage Docket, Vol. #8 (indexed)
        p.1 (Brooks-Pedler), Aug. 11, 1923
        thru
        p.640 (Thomas-Rosso), Jan. 15, 1934

Vol. #10 Marriage Docket, Vol.#9 (indexed)
        p.1 (Sander-Svendesen), Jan. 18, 1934
        thru
        p.628 (Mattison-Spargo), June 3, 1943

Vol. #11 Marriage Docket, Vol. #10 (indexed)
        p.1 (Stegemann-Kujath), June 7, 1943
        thru
        p.668 (Westesen-Anderson), Nov. 25, 1956

Vol. #12 Marriage Docket, Vol. #11 (indexed)
        p.1 (Thompson-Podewitz), Nov. 17, 1956
        thru
        p.636 (Kort-Armstrong), Dec. 28, 1968
** SUBGROUP FOUR     COUNTY CLERK

film
SERIES ONE     MARRIAGE RECORDS (cont)

** Vol. #13  
Marriage Docket, Vol. #12 (indexed)  
p.1 (Pierce-Cole), January 2, 1969  
  thru  
p.620 (Carmony-Hedstrom), Aug. 30, 1980

** Vol. #14  
Marriage Docket, Vol. #13 (indexed)  
p.1 (Custer-Dannull), Sept. 10, 1980  
  thru  
p.160 (Flynn-Madsen), May 4, 1983

Vol. #15  
Index to Marriages, 1987-1994

Vol. #16  
Marriage Docket, Vol. #14 (see index above)  
p.1 (52-87-00001), January 19, 1987  
  thru  
p.309 (52-93-00036), Dec. 20, 1993

NOTE: This microfilm was produced by the Genealogical  
Society of Utah in the spring of 1994 with the cooperation  
of the Nebraska State Historical Society and the county  
clerk.

Roll #1  
Item #1 - Marriage Docket, Vol.#1  
637 pp.  
Index & p.1 (October 11, 1872)  
475 shots  
GSU Project  
Item #2 - Marriage Docket, Vol. #2  
#26,318  
p.191 (Smith-Wertz), June 29, 1888

NOTE: Vol. #1, pp. 384 & 385 were  
missing from original volume at  
time of filming.

NOTE: Illegible or poor copies on  
microfilm: Original records are  
housed with the County Clerk.

** Volume is restricted by Section 71-612, R.R.S. Nebraska  
as it contains confidential material restricted from  
public view or duplication. Contact County Clerk or  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roll #2</th>
<th>Item #1 - Marriage Docket, Vol. 2 cont.</th>
<th>p.190 (Broderson-Thorsen), June 11, 1888</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Item #4 - Marriage Docket, Vol. #4-2</td>
<td>p.51 (Emmerson-Lyden), Feb. 19, 1903</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GSU Project #26,351</td>
<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> Some documents on microfilm may be illegible or will make poor copies. For original record, contact County Clerk.</td>
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<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> Vol. #3, p.1 - Splattstosen-??, several different names appear for the bride - Schoen, Chan, Gramm (1892)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> Vol. #4-1, pp. 356-480 were blank and not microfilmed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roll #3</td>
<td>Item #1 - Marriage Docket, Vol. #4-2 cont.</td>
<td>p.50 (Bang-Wise), February 17, 1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item #3 - Marriage Docket, Vol. #6</td>
<td>p.391 (Johnson-Rasmussen), May 1, 1918</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GSU Project #26,319</td>
<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> Vol. #4-2 may contain illegible or hard to copy documents. For original record contact the County Clerk.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roll #4</td>
<td>Item #1 - Marriage Docket, Vol. #6 cont.</td>
<td>p.390 (April 29, 1918)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item #3 - Marriage Docket, Vol. #8</td>
<td>p.513 (Faber-Henry), June 1, 1932</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GSU Project #26,320</td>
<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> Vol. #7, pp. 294-480 were blank and not microfilmed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roll #5</td>
<td>Item #1 - Marriage Docket, Vol. #8 cont.</td>
<td>p.512 (Peterson-Olson), May 6, 1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item #3 - Marriage Docket, Vol. #10</td>
<td>p.191 (Jorgenson-Clabaugh), Feb. 8, 1948</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUBGROUP FOUR    COUNTY CLERK

film
SERIES ONE     MARRIAGE RECORDS - MICROFILM RECORD

Roll #6 Item #1 - Marriage Docket, Vol. #10 cont.
  595 pp.  p.190 (Fritson-Barry), Feb. 5, 1948
  924 shots thru
 GSU Project Item #2 - Marriage Docket, Vol. #11
  #26,322  p.117 (Jones-Holst), June 7, 1959

Roll #7 Item #1 - Marriage Docket, Vol. #11 cont.
  519 pp.  p.117 (Jones-Holst), June 3, 1959
  559 shots thru
 GSU Project Item #1 - Marriage Docket, Vol. #11
  #26,323  p.636 (Kort-Armstrong), Dec. 28, 1968

film
SERIES ONE     MARRIAGE RECORDS - RESTRICTED RECORDS

NOTE: The following two reels of Marriage Records is restricted from public use by Section 17-612, R.R.S. Nebraska, because of the presence of confidential material.

Roll #7 Item #2 - Marriage Record, Vol.#12
  954 shots thru
 GSU Project Item #3 - Marriage Record, Vol. #13
  #26,323  p.160 (Flynn-Madsen), May 28, 1983

NOTE: Vol. #11, pp. 637-644 were blank and not microfilmed.

Roll #8 Item #1 - Marriage Record, Vol. #13 cont.
  554 pp.  p.160 (Flynn-Madsen), May 4, 1983
  618 shots thru
 GSU Project Item #3 - Marriage Record, Vol.#14
  #26,324  p.309 (52-93-00036), Dec. 20, 1993

NOTE: Vol. #13, pp. 321-602 were blank and not microfilmed.

SUBGROUP FIVE    REGISTER OF DEEDS

No available records for this subgroup at the State Archives at this time. Patrons should contact the Kearney County Clerk's office at Minden.
SUBGROUP SIX  RECORDS OF THE COUNTY COURT, 1873-1917

SUBGROUP SEVEN  DISTRICT COURT RECORDS

SERIES ONE  NATURALIZATION RECORDS, 1872-1929

NOTE: A card index is available on 16mm microfilm, roll #1. Also, an index appears at the beginning of each vol. The clerks registering Naturalizations in Kearney County at certain times were inaccurate in writing names of individuals. Names can change numerous times on one document. Original signatures of individuals appear on Declarations of Intention and Petitions for Naturalization. Patrons are advised to check different variations of the surname they are searching for to be sure that ancestors are not missed. These records were loaned to the Historical Society for microfilming, August 27, 1990.

Vol. 1  Naturalization Record Vol. 1
Declarations of Intention:
  no pages 239-240
Naturalization Record:
  p.241 (10/17/1882) thru
  p.462 (4/3/1893)

Vol. 2  Declarations of Intention Vol. 2:
  p.1 (8/19/1886) - p.199 (11/9/1903)
  pp.200-640 Blank

Vol. 3  Affidavits and Oaths of Allegiance
  pp. 1-15 Blank
  p.16 (12/14/1882) thru p.95 (3/5/1886)
  Last entry, p.16, Peter Olafsson, 10/16/1882 (entered 7/10/1923)
pp. 96-206 Blank
SUBGROUP SEVEN DISTRICT COURT (cont)

SERIES ONE NATURALIZATIONS (cont)

Vol. 4 Declarations of Intention Vol. 3:
  p.41 void
  pp. 42-318 Blank

Vol. 5 Declarations of Intention Vol. 4:
  #1 (10/27/1906) thru #300 (2/28/1923)

Vol. 6 Declarations of Intention Vol. 5:
  #301 (3/23/1923) thru #328 (4/20/1929)

Vol. 7 Declarations of Intention Vol. 6:
  #329 (2/21/1931) thru #350 (8/13/1942)

Vol. 8 Declarations of Intention - Kearney County (loose)
  A-W (no X-Z), 1874-1885

Vol. 9 Declarations of Intention - Kearney County (loose)
  A-E (no X-Z), 1886-1900

Vol. 10 In re Naturalizations of Kearney County, 1906-1942
  (includes correspondence & legal papers
  involving certain naturalizations taken
  out in Kearney County. See index for names
  appearing in this volume of loose documents.

Vol. 11 Declarations of Intention - Not Kearney County
  A-Z  1855-1885 (loose)
  NOTE: These declarations are from other
  Nebraska counties or other states and are
  meant to accompany the petition for naturali-
  zation or declarations of intention.

Vol. 12 Declarations of Intention - Not Kearney County
  A-V (No w-z), 1886-1900
  NOTE: same as for above volume

Vol. 13 In re Naturalizations - not Kearney County
  Ferdinand Christensen, Franklin Co., 1941

Vol. 14 Naturalization Record #2
  p.1 (11/14/1893) thru p.96 (11/8/1905)
  p.97, Peter C. Engaard, 1888
  pp. 98-610 Blank
SUBGROUP SEVEN

DISTRICT COURT (cont)

SERIES ONE

NATURALIZATIONS (cont)

Vol. 15  Naturalization Record #4 (# changed from 3)
         p.1 (11/23/1903) thru p.90 (9/21/1906)
         p.91 Blank
         pp. 92-108 (9/22/1906)
         pp. 109-240 Blank

Vol. 16  Petition and Record Vol. 5:
         #1 (11/5/1906) thru #149 (11/25/1914)

Vol. 17  Petition and Record Vol. 6:
         #150 (1/12/1915) thru #250 (6/3/1925)

Vol. 18  Petition and Record Vol. 7:
         #251 (6/3/1925) thru #269 (6/25/1929)

Vol. 19  Petition and Record Vol. 8:
         #270 (7/16/1930) thru #274 (4/20/1937)

Vol. 20  Certificates of Naturalization, Vol. 1
         Vol. 914, Dept of Commerce and Labor
         #9131 (2/25/1907) thru #9140 (9/23/1907)

Vol. 21  Certificates of Naturalization, Vol. 2
         Vol. 3138, Dept of Commerce and Labor
         #33426 (9/23/1907) thru #33450 (9/17/1908)

Vol. 22  Certificates of Naturalization, Vol. 3
         Vol. 3400, Dept of Commerce and Labor
         #39976 (9/17/1908) thru #40000 (9/16/1909)

Vol. 23  Certificates of Naturalization, Vol. 4
         Vol. 3590, Dept of Commerce and Labor
         #44726 (9/16/1909) thru #44750 (9/18/1911)

Vol. 24  Certificates of Naturalization, Vol. 5
         Vol. 9154, Dept of Commerce and Labor
         #232826 (9/18/1911) thru #232850 (2/16/1914)

Vol. 25  Certificates of Naturalization, Vol. 6
         Vol. 13987, Dept of Labor
         #434801 (2/16/1914) thru #434850 (12/4/1916)

Vol. 26  Certificates of Naturalization, Vol. 7
         No Cover
         #702801 (12/4/1916) thru #702850 (10/11/1923)
SUBGROUP SEVEN     DISTRICT COURT

film          SERIES ONE     NATURALIZATION RECORDS (cont)
Vol. 27    Certificates of Naturalization, Vol. 8
Vol. 47383, U.S. Dept of Labor
#1975101 (10/11/1923) thru #1975130 (12/26/1928)
#1975131 thru 1975150 (not used)

Vol. 28    Hearings, Petitions Granted, and miscellaneous certificates, 1882-1941

Vol. 29    General Correspondence (Administrative), 1906-1941

film          SERIES ONE     NATURALIZATION RECORDS - MICROFILM RECORD   MP4092
Roll #1    Index to Naturalizations, "A"
2504 shots  Aabel, Barthoudt S.
16mm Diazo thru
91-8-81  Index to Naturalizations, "Z"
#24,307  Zoble, Phillip Henry

Roll #2    Vol. #1 - Naturalization Record, Vol. #1
708 shots  Index & p.1 (Declarations of Intention)
1416 pp.
#24,361  thru
Vol.#5 - Declarations of Intention, Vol. #4
#300 (February 28, 1923)

Vol. #2 Index begins at frame #282
Vol. #3 Index begins at frame #412
Vol. #4 Index begins at frame #470
Vol. #5 Index begins at frame #506

NOTE: Vol. #3, documents are light on microfilm and may not make good copies. For original record, contact the County District Court.
Roll #3
917 shots
1834 pp.
#24,364

Vol. #6 - Declarations of Intention, Vol. #5
#301 (March 23, 1923) thru

Vol. #15 - Naturalization Record, Vol. #4
p.45 (Mads Madsen), September 21, 1906

Vol. #7 Index begins at frame #065
Vol. #8 Index begins at frame #123
Vol. #9 Index begins at frame #322
Vol. #10 Index begins at frame #435
Vol. #11 Index begins at frame #541
Vol. #12 Index begins at frame #738
Vol. #13 Index begins at frame #775
Vol. #14 Index begins at frame #777
Vol. #15 Index begins at frame #842

Roll #4
759 shots
1518 pp.
#24,388

Vol. #15 - Naturalization Record, Vol. #4 cont.
p.46 (Peter Steffensey), Sept. 21, 1906 thru

Vol. #17 - Petition & Record Vol. #6
p.71 (#221), February 11, 1921

Vol. #16 Index begins at frame #075
Vol. #17 Index begins at frame #561

NOTE: Operator's Certificate, end of roll, in error. Date of ending record should read February 11, 1921 not June 30, 1914.

Roll #5
541 shots
1082 pp.
#24,390

Vol. #17 - Petition & Record, Vol. #6 cont.
p.72 (#222), February 16, 1921 thru

Vol. #29 - Administrative Correspondence, 1941

Vol. #18 Index begins at frame #081
Vol. #19 Index begins at frame #157
Vol. #20 begins at frame #186
Vol. #21 begins at frame #198
Vol. #22 begins at frame #250
Vol. #23 begins at frame #301
Vol. #24 begins at frame #346
Vol. #25 begins at frame #360
Vol. #26 begins at frame #387
Vol. #27 begins at frame #413
Vol. #28 begins at frame #431
Vol. #29 begins at frame #452
SUBGROUP SEVEN    DISTRICT COURT
SERIES TWO    BILLS OF EXCEPTION, 1967-1981

Box 1
7091 (1977)    Madsen vs. Forden
Deposition of Joseph F. Gross
Deposition of Phillip E. Getcher


(1915) Bridget McNea v. Thomas Moran, et. al
38051 (1971) State of Nebr. v. Charles Eickmeier
36627 (1967) NE Dept. of Roads & Village of Axtell
v. Nickel Grain Co.

SUBGROUP EIGHT    SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

There are no records for this subgroup in the State Archives
at this time. Patrons should contact the Supt of Schools Office
at Minden, Nebraska.

SUBGROUP NINE    SCHOOL DISTRICT RECORDS

film
SERIES ONE    SCHOOL DISTRICT #11, 1879-1923

NOTE: Microfilmed under MP3474, 1982, as Series One

Box 1
f.1 General Correspondence, 1886-1914
f.2 School Census, 1881-1900 & n.d.
f.3 Director's Annual Report and
Classification Record, 1885-1895
f.4 Teacher's Contracts, 1879-1909
f.5 Free High School tuition and
Student Transfer Statements, 1896-1916
f.6-7 Receipts and contracts for school
supplies, 1881-1914; 1895-1923
f.8 Insurance policies, deeds, 1878-1909
f.9 Miscellaneous printed matter
SUBGROUP NINE    SCHOOL DISTRICTS (cont)

film
SERIES ONE    SCHOOL DISTRICT #11 - MICROFILM RECORD     MP3474

Roll 1    School District #11
158 shots    Folder 1, General Corres., Nov. 30, 1886
316 pp.    thru
#20,176    Folder 9, Miscellaneous Printed Matter
f.2 School Census - Frame #25
f.3 Annual Reports - Frame #36
f.4 Teacher's Contracts - Frame #51
f.5 Tuition & Transfers - Frame #70
f.6 Receipts/Contracts - Frame #75
f.7 Receipts/Contracts - Frame #88
f.8 Insurance/Deeds - Frame #113
f.9 Miscellany - Frame #126

film
SERIES TWO    SCHOOL DISTRICT #62 (WILCOX), 1907-1925

Vol. 1    School District Record, 1907-1908
Includes minutes, teachers contracts, and fiscal records
Vol. 2    School District Record, 1916-1922
same as above
Vol. 3    School District Record, 1923-1925
Includes minutes and Director's annual reports.

film
SERIES TWO    SCHOOL DIST. #62 - MICROFILM RECORD     MP3474

NOTE: Microfilmed, 1974, as Series Three

Roll 1    School District #62, 1907-1925
116 shots    Vol. 1, School District Record, 1907-1908
232 pp.    thru
#14,349    Vol. 3, School District Record, 1923-1925

END OF INVENTORY
SRW/pmc/cs/WP50
8/28/1990
PMC/GSU/WP51 9/15/1994