

ARCHIVES RECORD

RG320 Nebraska City, Nebraska

Records: 1878-1967

Cu. ft.: 20

Approx. no. of items: 20 volumes and 10,000 items

HISTORICAL NOTE

The present site of Nebraska City was an early "jumping off point" for pioneers heading west to California and Oregon. The federal government soon established a military post in Otoe County on the present site of Nebraska City for the protection of the migrant travelers. Fort Kearny, as it was known, was constructed in 1846 but was moved in 1848 to south central Nebraska on the Platte River upon the onset of the Mexican War and the discovery of Gold in California a year later. It was decided that its new location near present day Kearney, Nebraska was better in relation to the newly developed overland trail routes which converged from the east.

The original settlers and claimants of Nebraska City were squatters, John Boulware, John B. Boulware and Hiram P. Downs. John Boulware's claim was the present Kearney (sometimes spelled Kearny) Addition while Hiram P. Downs took 160 acres upon which old Nebraska City was laid out and John B. Boulware's claim was the present South Nebraska City Addition. In April 1854, Stephen F. Nuckolls along with Allen A. Bradford, who arrived in May, crossed the Missouri River from Iowa, making an agreement with Hiram P. Downs by which they became joint owners of the latter's property.

Soon after May 30, 1854, when President Franklin Pierce signed a bill creating the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska which established organized government and made possible legal settlement, the real development of Nebraska City began. On July 10, 1854, the first stake was driven in the survey of the town. The survey was undertaken by Charles W. Pierce and completed in 1854. The original town of Nebraska City (located where the Table Creek Post Office had stood) was founded by Stephen F. Nuckolls, but it was not incorporated as a city until March 2, 1855. Kearney City was incorporated March 16, 1855 and South Nebraska City was incorporated January 26, 1856.

On December 31, 1857, Nebraska City, Kearney City and South Nebraska City were consolidated and incorporated as Nebraska City. Later Prairie City, Greggport, Hail and Co., Belmont, Elmwood, Anderson's and Edgewood Additions were annexed to Nebraska City. On October 3, 1885, Nebraska City was declared by the Governor of Nebraska to be a City of the Second Class since it had attained a population of over five thousand.

On April 17, 1891, after having achieved a population of ten thousand, the city was declared a City of the First Class.

The Commission of government was adopted on January 16, 1892 and is the only city in Nebraska operating under this form of government.

The City was named after the Nebraska territory. Nebraska is an Otoe Indian word, "Nibrathka," meaning flat water which refers to the shallow Platte River.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of municipal records of Nebraska City, Nebraska arranged in the following series: (1) Police Dockets, 1883-1952; (2) Bond Registers, 1878-1928; (3) Voting Records, 1936-1967; and (4) Financial Records, 1912-1924.

The Police Dockets include the name of the Plaintiff, defendant, docket number, fees, witnesses, and records of proceedings. The Voter's Registers list the voter, his address, party affiliation, term of residence and his date and place of birth. The List of Registered Voters provides a complete list of voters, including address, by ward and party affiliation for Nebraska City. The financial records consist of daily cash books. Shown are daily receipts and disbursements of city treasurer, including balances of cash on hand, disbursements, and bank deposits. These records were transferred to the State Archives by the Nebraska City Clerk in October 1972.

#### DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE	POLICE DOCKETS	1883-1952
	Vol. 1	1883-1887
	2	1887-1890
	3	1890-1892
	4	1892-1894
	5	1894-1897
	6	1900-1904
	7	1904-1905
	8	1905-1907
	9	1907-1910
	10	1910-1914
	11	1914-1922
	12	1917-1922
	13	1923-1928
	14	1928-1935
	15	1944-1947
	16	1947-1948
	17	1948-1949
	18	1950-1952

SERIES TWO BOND REGISTERS 1878-1928

Vol. 1	1878-1928
2	1892-1901

SERIES THREE VOTING RECORDS 1936-1967

Box 1	Voter's Register (1st Ward)	1942-1944	
2-3	" "	2nd "	" "
4-5	" "	3rd "	" "
6-7	" "	4th "	" "
8	" "	1st "	1950-1954
9	" "	2nd "	" "
10-11	" "	3rd "	" "
12-13	" "	4th "	" "
14	" "	1-4 Ward	1956-1960 A-C
15	" "	"	" " D-H
16	" "	:	" " H-O

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PRELIMINARY INVENTORY

film

SERIES FIVE CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Roll 1	1858-Oct. 1872
2	Oct. 1872-Mar. 1890
3	Mar. 1890-Nov. 1903
4	Nov. 1903-Sept. 1930
5	Sept. 1930-Jan. 1951
6	Jan. 1951-Nov. 1957
7	Dec. 1967-May 1969
	Cemetery Book
	City Ordinances #57-850
8	" " #851-1375 (1972)
9	Retakes