

ARCHIVES RECORD

film
RG609

Nebraska City Volunteer Fire Department
Nebraska City (Neb)

Records: 1871-1977

Cubic ft.: frac.

No. of Items: 19 volumes and 100 pages on
three reels of 35mm microfilm.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Nebraska City Volunteer Fire Department is composed of three companies: The Otoe Hook and Ladder Company; the Nebraska City Fire Company, No. 1; and the Great Western Fire Co., No. 1. The first fire company was organized in Nebraska City for mutual protection by a group of merchants in that part of the city along the river front known as the Kearney Addition. A. F. Mollring had organized a bucket brigade in 1856 which called itself "Otoes." The first hook and ladder company was formed in 1857 and took the name of Otoe Hook and Ladder Company. In 1865, the Nebraska City Fire Company No. 1 was organized and the Great Western Fire Company in 1869. The three companies joined to form the Nebraska City Fire Department in 1905. Each company continues to maintain its own identity, holds meetings, and functions within the general framework of the department.

Before 1923 funds to support the organization were raised by sponsoring dances, carnivals, and similar functions. In that year the city established a levy for the Volunteer Fire Fund which supplies money for insurance, entertainment and other needs of the members. Equipment is now purchased from another municipal fund.

Because of the need for additional fire fighting equipment, the Nebraska City Rural Fire District was organized in the early 1960s.

It is governed by a board of five persons who reside in the district. This board has the power to levy a tax against the property owners of the district to provide funds for the purchase and operation of fire fighting equipment. All of the equipment which is owned by the Rural Fire District is housed in the Nebraska City Fire/Rescue Complex and is manned by the members of the Fire Department at no cost to the rural district. In exchange, this equipment is available for use inside the city limits if the need arises.

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Currently there are three full time paid firemen in the department. The maximum number of volunteers is set at 45. The city has four pieces of fire fighting equipment with access to five additional pieces owned by the Rural Fire District. All of the equipment is housed in a modern station built in 1972.

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ADDED ENTRIES:

FIRE DEPARTMENTS--NEBRASKA CITY (NEB)
FIRE DEPARTMENTS--OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES
FIRE DEPARTMENTS--OTOE COUNTY (NEB)
FIRE FIGHTERS--OTOE COUNTY (NEB)
FIRE PREVENTION
OTOE COUNTY (NEB)--HISTORY
NEBRASKA CITY (NEB)--HISTORY

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records of the Nebraska City Volunteer Fire Department, contained on three reels of microfilm, are arranged into five subgroups: 1) Otoe Hook and Ladder Company, 1872-1976; 2) Nebraska City Fire Company No. 1, 1872-1977; 3) Great Western Fire Company No. 1, 1870-1977; 4) Nebraska City Volunteer Fire Department, 1893-1977; and 5) Miscellany, 1871-1977.

Subgroup One contains the records of the Otoe Hook and Ladder Company including minute books, roll call books, and a copy of the constitution and by-laws.

The records of the Nebraska City Fire Company No. 1, Subgroup Two, consist of seven volumes of minute books which also include roll calls. The text of the constitution and by-laws adopted in June 1877 can be found in volume one.

Subgroup Three consists of the records of the Great Western Fire Company No. 1. This subgroup is divided into three series: 1) Minutes, 1888-1977; 2) Treasurer's Reports, 1870-1882; and 3) Constitution and By-Laws, 1896.

The records of the Nebraska City Volunteer Fire Department contain a series of minute books from 1906-1977. The original constitution and by-laws as amended to 1915 is recorded in volume one. Volume Four includes the constitution and by-laws adopted in 1972 as amended to 1976. Volume One of the minutes also contains roll calls to 1933. Subgroup Four also contains a volume of individual membership employee history records and roll calls. Most list dues paid and years volunteering. Some include resignations, deaths, and movements of the firemen. This volume is divided into two sections: V.1, A-M and V.2, Mc-Z. It is arranged alphabetically by name of volunteer.

Subgroup Five is a set of miscellaneous loose papers in three series: 1) Equipment and Inventory, 1875-1906; 2) Petitions, Ordinances and Statutes, 1871-1922; and 3) "History of Nebraska City Fire Department," by Larry L. Wiles, 1977.

This record group was loaned to the Historical Society for microfilming in January of 1978 by the Nebraska City Volunteer Fire Department.

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DESCRIPTION

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SUBGROUP ONE OTOE HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY, 1872-1976

SERIES ONE MINUTES, 1872-1976

Vol. 1 Minutes, 1872-1889
pp.1-6 Membership List, The Mechanics and
Workmen's Assn of Nebraska City.
p.7 Minutes, August 12, 1872
thru
p. Minutes, April 4, 1889

Vol. 2 Minutes, 1889-1976
Minutes, May 2, 1889 - Dec. 21, 1976

SERIES TWO ROLL CALL, 1905-1976

Vol. 1 Roll Call, July 1905 - Dec. 21, 1976

SERIES THREE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS, n.d.

Item 1 Constitution and By-Laws, n.d.

film

SUBGROUP TWO NEBRASKA CITY FIRE COMPANY NUMBER ONE, 1872-1977

SERIES ONE MINUTES, 1872-1977

Vol. 1 Minutes, 1872-1875
pp.1-7 Member lists
p.8 blank
p.9 Minutes, May 15, 1872
thru
p.61 Minutes, April 5, 1875
pp.63-79 Constitution & By-Laws, 1877
pp.82-84 Amendments
pp.86-105 Receipts & Disbursements
pp.106-107 Special joint meeting with
Otoe Hook & Ladder Co., Mar. 20
pp.108-end Fiscal Records and dues, 1873-1875

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Vol. 2 Minutes, 1882-1886
 pp.1-2 Missing
 p.3 Dues, n.d.
 p.4 Minutes, January 30, 1882
 thru
 p.121 Minutes, December 20, 1886

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SUBGROUP TWO

NEBRASKA CITY FIRE COMPANY NUMBER ONE (cont)

SERIES ONE

MINUTES (cont)

- Vol. 2 Minutes, 1882-1886 (cont)
pp.122-139 Blank
p.140-end Fiscal, Roll Call & Dues, 1882-1886
- Vol. 3 Minutes, 1887-1895
pp.1-2 Missing
p.3 Minutes, Jan. 17, 1887
thru
p.89 Minutes, February 5, 1895
p.90-217 Blank
p.218-236 Roll Call & Dues, 1887-1895
p.241-end Fiscal Notes, 1888-1890
- Vol. 4 Minutes, 1895-1943
p.1 Minutes, May 1, 1895
thru
p.178 Page numbers discontinue
thru
fr. #190 Treasurer's Report, Jan. 4, 1943
fr. 191-207 Roll Call & Dues, 1914-1947
p.425 Page numbers resume
p.438-451 Roll Call & Membership, 1895-1914
p.452-453 Honorary Members, 1894-1930 & n.d.
- Vol. 5 Minutes, 1951-1953
No page numbering (using frame nos)
Start Dues, 1951-1952
fr. 219 Minutes, Dec. 3, 1951
thru
fr. 226 Minute notes, December 1953
- Vol. 6 Minutes, 1953-1957
No page numbering (using frame nos)
fr. 227 Minutes, Sept. 21, 1953
thru
fr. 248 Minutes, April 1, 1957
fr. 250 Dues, n.d.

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Vol. 7 Minutes, 1955-1977
p.1 Minutes, April 1955
 thru
p.99 Minutes, November 27, 1977
pp.100-123 Blank
pp.124-end Roll Call, 1956-1978

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SUBGROUP THREE GREAT WESTERN FIRE COMPANY NUMBER ONE, 1870-1977

SERIES ONE MINUTES, 1888-1977

Vol. 1 Minutes, 1888-1921
Start Mutual Agreement, Jan. 1, 1907
p.1 Minutes, Jan. 4, 1888
thru
p.230 Minutes, Apr. 4, 1921
pp.231-239 Blank
p.240 Honorary List, 1917-1919

Vol. 2 Minutes, 1920-1977
p.1 Minutes, Sept. 13, 1920
thru
p.98 Minutes, August 1977
p.99 Clipping (1942) & Mutual Aid list
pp.100-288 Blank
pp.289-298 Missing
p.299 Stock Certificates
p.300 Trustees List, 1918-1929

SERIES TWO TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORTS, 1870-1882

Loose documents December 5, 1870 - Jan. 5, 1882

SERIES THREE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS, 1896

Item 1 Constitution & By-Laws, 1896

film
SUBGROUP FOUR NEBRASKA CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, 1893-1977

SERIES ONE MINUTES, 1906-1977

Vol. 1 Minutes, 1906-1934
p.3 Preamble, Constitution and
By-Laws, 1907-1908
pp.11-24 Members Lists & Roll Call, 1906-1935
p.25 Minutes, March 14, 1906
thru
p.181 Minutes, December 12, 1934

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pp.182-267 Blank

p.268 Roll Call, Co. #1, 1922-1924

p.269 Roll Call, Otoe Hook & Ladder, ibid

p.270 Roll Call, Great Western Co. #1, ibid

pp.271-277 Blank

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SUBGROUP FOUR

NEBRASKA CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT (cont)

SERIES ONE

MINUTES (cont)

Vol. 1

Minutes, 1906-1934 (cont)

pp.278-281 Benefit Certificates, Nebraska

Volunteer Firemen's Association
1918-1961 (lists dates of

death)

attachment Newsclippings re firemen

pp.282-285 Burial Record, 1912-1961

pp.288-290 Honorary Members, 1908-1931

Cover Corres. & notes, 1935-1937

Vol. 2

Minutes, 1938-1954

pp.1-6

Missing (see pp.173-268)

p.7

Minutes, January 14, 1948
thru

p.10

Minutes, April 14, 1948

pp.11-62

Missing (see pp.153-172)

p.63

Minutes, March 12, 1952
thru

p.108

Minutes, November 12, 1952

pp.109-110 Missing

p.111

Minutes, December 10, 1952
thru

p.126

Minutes, March 10, 1954

pp.127-152

Missing

p.153

Minutes, Apr. 14, 1948

cont. from p.10

thru

p.172

Minutes, September 10, 1952

p.173

Minutes, Sept. 13, 1944

thru

p.218

Minutes, December 10, 1947

p.219

Minutes, June 2, 1944

thru

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p.220 Minutes, August 23, 1944

p.221 Minutes, April 12, 1944
thru

p.268 Minutes, March 9, 1938

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SUBGROUP FOUR

NEBRASKA CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT (cont)

SERIES ONE

MINUTES (cont)

- Vol. 3 Minutes, 1954-1972
pp.1-2 Missing
p.3 Members List, Dec. 12, 1934
Inserts Members, 1918-1967
Minutes, State Convention, 11/8/1961
p.109 State Convention, Aug. 3, 1952
pp.110-126 Missing (or not used)
p.127 Minutes, Apr. 14, 1954
thru
fr. #938 Minutes, March 8, 1972
- Vol. 4 Minutes, 1972-1977
Cover Constitution & By-Laws, 1972-1976
fr. #950 Minutes, Apr. 12, 1972
thru
fr. #1004 Minutes, Dec. 14, 1977

SERIES TWO

ROLL CALL (MEMBERS RECORDS), 1933-1977

- Vol. 1 Roll Call (Membership Record)
Allen, Millard F. (1948-1953)
thru
Roll Call (Membership Record)
Murphy, Dayton J. (1957)
- Vol. 2 Roll Call (Membership Record)
McCallum, Howard (1955-1966)
thru
Roll Call (Membership Record)
Wurtele, Thomas R. (1974)

SERIES THREE

FIRE CALL RECORDS, 1893-1912

- Vol. 1 January 5, 1893 - July 5, 1897
(includes record of fires at residence
of J. Sterling Morton & Arbor Lodge)
- Vol. 2 July 26, 1897 - April 4, 1912

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NOTE: pp.44-48 are blank and pp.49-54 are missing.

SERIES FOUR FIREMEN'S REGISTER, n.d.

Vol. 1 Register of Visiting Firemen, n.d.

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SUBGROUP FIVE

MISCELLANY

SERIES ONE EQUIPMENT AND INVENTORY, 1875-1906

Loose correspondence, receipts and inventory, 1875-1906

SERIES TWO PETITIONS, ORDINANCES AND STATUTES, 1871-1922

Item 1 Act to exempt Firemen from Jury & Road Duty, 1871
Item 2 Petition for new hose, 1878
Item 3 Report of Committee to locate water pipes, 1887
Item 4 Resolution re paying water rental, 1894
Item 5 Ordinance #294 - Fire Department Fund, 1922

SERIES THREE FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY, 1977

Item 1 "History of the Nebraska City Fire Department,"
by Larry L. Wiles, 1977

NSHS HAS ON MICROFILM:

Roll #1 Subgroup One, Otoe Hook & Ladder Co.
530 frames Series One, Minutes, Vol. #1 (1872-1889)
#17,409 p.1, Membership - The Mechanics and
Workmen's Association of Nebr. City.
thru
Subgroup Two, Nebraska City Fire Co. No. 1
Series One, Minutes, Vol. #3 (1887-1895)
p.244 - Fiscal Notes, 1890

NOTE:

SG1, S1, V.1 begins at frame #0004
SG1, S1, V.2 begins at frame #0148
SG1, S2, V.1 begins at frame #0295
SG1, S3 begins at frame #0322
SG2, S1, V.1 begins at frame #0325
SG2, S1, V.2 begins at frame #0382
SG2, S1, V.3 begins at frame #0464

Roll #2 Subgroup Two, Nebraska City Fire Co. No. 1
1051 frames Series One, Minutes, Vol. #4 (1895-1943)
#17,376 p.1 - Minutes, May 1, 1895

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thru

Subgroup Four, Nebraska City Vol. Fire Dept.

Series Two, Roll Call, Vol. #1 (A-M)

Gude, Charles J. Jr. (1954-1973)

NOTE: Frame index for Roll #2 begins on next page

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MICROFILM RECORD (cont)

Roll #2

Frame Index:

NOTE:

SG2, S1, V.5 begins at frame #0216
SG2, S1, V.6 begins at frame #0227
SG2, S1, V.7 begins at frame #0251
SG3, S1, V.1 begins at frame #0320
SG3, S1, V.2 begins at frame #0447
SG3, S2, V.1 begins at frame #0510
SG3, S3, Constitution begins at fr. #0523
SG4, S1, V.1 begins at frame #537

NOTE:

SG4, S1, V.2 is in confused order.
see inventory for filming order.
SG4, S1, V.2 begins at frame #0705
SG4, S1, V.3 begins at frame #0820
SG4, S1, V.4 begins at frame #0940
SG4, S2, V.1 begins at frame #1005
cont. to next roll

Roll #3
169 frames
#17,377

Subgroup Four, Nebraska City Vol. Fire Dept.
Series 2, Roll Call, Vol. #1
Gude, Mark (1953-1965)
thru
Subgroup Five, Miscellany
Series 3, "History of the Nebraska City
Fire Department," by Larry L. Wiles, 1977.

NOTE:

SG4, S2, Vol. 2 begins at frame #0042
SG4, S3, Vol. 1 begins at frame #0102
SG4, S3, Vol. 2 begins at frame #0108
SG4, S4, Firemen's Register - fr. #00136
SG5, S1 begins at frame #0148
SG5, S2 begins at frame #0163
SG5, S3 begins at frame #0168

NOTE: SG4, S3, Vol. #2 - Fire Call Record
beginning at frame #108 has no identification
target.
SG4, S2, Vol. #2 - Roll Call beginning

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at frame #0042 with McCallum, has no target

END OF INVENTORY

APD/pjm 1/27/1978
PMC/WP51 5/1/1995