

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG2623.AM: Nebraska Farmers' Alliance

Records: 1887-1901
Nebraska: Agrarian organization
Size: 5.0 cu.ft.; 10 boxes and 7 reels microfilm

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The Farmers' alliance was one of the most prominent agrarian protest groups in Nebraska during the last two decades of the 19th century. Organized along the lines of the national Alliance movement, the first state Alliance met on January 5, 1881, in Lincoln. The new organization elected officers, executive and finance committees, and adopted a number of resolutions protesting the violation of the rights of the farmer. The issues behind the Alliance movement were diverse and included national and local contemporary problems, such as a desire for currency inflation, the denunciation of the middlemen, and opposition toward industrial companies which the Alliance considered monopolistic and many topics of local significance, including the demand for lower interest rates, the advocacy of prohibition, railroad regulation and other matters related to the growth and development of rural economic and social life. One of the first alliances was established in Nebraska on June 21, 1880, in York County at the Granger School House. Other early subordinate alliances were at Filley, Gage County, and Alda, Hall County, and they spread rapidly thereafter until there were twenty-four county alliances represented at the state convention in early 1881. The work of the Alliance was to be social, educational, financial and political, but the members often disagreed as to which of these interests was the most important. Although members of the Alliance disagreed on the advisability of becoming politically active, the turbulent political era of the 1890's was to direct the movement. Closely allied with the precepts and doctrine of Populism, the Farmers' Alliance relinquished its independent organization and was absorbed by the Populist Party.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is arranged in four series comprising one shelved volume and ten manuscript boxes of material. Series one through three consist of the papers of the Farmers' Alliance as they were arranged and microfilmed by the Nebraska State historical Society under the auspices of the national Historical Publications Commission during the period from 1965 to 1967. Series (1) Correspondence, 1887-1901, Reels 1-2; Series (2) Reports and miscellaneous material, 1887-1901, Reel 3; Series (3) Bound Volumes, 1889-1897, Reels 3-7; Series four consists of the unfiled papers of the Farmers' Alliance. Series (4) Miscellaneous, 1887-1901

This collection relates to the organizational development of the Nebraska Farmers' Alliance, including membership rolls, organizational records, correspondence and financial accounts. The papers offer an insight into the structure of the movement during its active existence in Nebraska.

The bulk of the papers of the Farmers' Alliance are arranged and described on microfilm. This

microfilm is contained in the Archives Reference Room of the Society and is readily accessible to the researcher. In order that the integrity and preservation of the papers be maintained, it is asked that the researcher use the microfilm. If the microfilm does not meet the needs of the researcher, they may ask to view the original documents.

DESCRIPTION

Series 1 - Correspondence, 1887-1901

Box 1 (Reel 1)

Folder

1. 1887-1893
2. 1894 January-February
3. 1894 March-April
4. 1894 May-June
5. 1894 August-December & undated

Box 2 (Reel 2)

Folder

6. 1895 January-April
7. 1895 May-August
8. 1895 September-December
9. 1906 January-April
10. 1896 May-December
11. 1897-1901
12. undated

Series 2 - Reports and miscellaneous material, 1890-1894

Box 3 (Reel 3)

Folder

1. Quarterly Reports, 1890-1893
2. Quarterly Reports, 1894
3. Quarterly Reports, 1895
4. Quarterly Reports, 1896-1897
5. Report of the Treasurer, 1892
6. Report of the Secretary of State, 1892-1893
7. The Platform of the Alliance, 1890
8. Application for Chapter
9. Miscellaneous Reports, Receipts
10. Mailing list
11. Petitions

12. Manuscripts, Luna E. Kellie
13. Convention Credentials
14. Notes, Luna E. Kellie
15. Receipts and Expenditures, 1890-1891
16. Treasury Agreements
17. Minutes, Norma, Nebraska, 1890-1892
18. Miscellany, House Rolls, Official Proceedings, Officers of Alliances, and Organizational material

Series 3 - Bound volumes, 1887-1897

Box 4
Volume

1. Organizational Record of Local Alliances, 1890
2. Membership Journal, Adams-York Counties, 1889
3. Membership Journal, Boone-York Counties, 1890-1892
4. Membership Journal, Adams-York Counties, 1890-1892

Box 5
Volume

5. Membership Journal, Adams-Johnson Counties, 1890-1897
6. Membership Journal, Jefferson-York Counties, 1891-1896

Box 6
Volume

7. Daybook, July-October 1890
8. Daybook, March-July, 1890
9. Daybook, July-October, 1890
10. Daybook, October, 1890-March 1891
11. Daybook, March, 1891-July, 1892
12. Daybook, July, 1892-November, 1896

Box 7
Volume

13. Account Book, January, 1887-April, 1891
14. Ledger, 1887-1891
15. Ledger, 1889-1895

Box 8
Volume

16. Account book, fees and dues of Alliances, 1891-1896 (see oversize)
17. Ledger, 1890-1895
18. Ledger, 1890
19. Ledger, 1890-1892

Box 9
Volume

20. Ledger, 1892-1896
21. Cash Journal, 1890-1892
22. Cash Journal, 1892-1894

Series 4 - Miscellaneous

Box 10
Folder

1. Alliance Pamphlets, 1889-1896
2. Receipts, Vouchers, 1893
3. Receipts, Vouchers, 1894
4. Receipts, Vouchers, 1895
5. Quarter Reports, 1893-1895
6. Miscellaneous Reports, Receipts

Subject headings:

Agricultural laborers
Agricultural laws and legislation
Agriculture -- Economic aspects
Allen, William Vincent, 1847-1924
Burrows, Jay, 1833-1900
Cookley, S.D.
Dole, Walter F.
Farmers' Alliance. Nebraska
Gaff, Helen M.
Kellie, Luna E. (Sanford), 1857-1940
Lynn, George
McKeighon, William A.
Nebraska -- Agriculture
Populist Party
Powers, John R.
Railroads -- Rates
Taylor, Asa
Thompson, James M.
Transportation -- Laws and regulations
Union Reform Party -- Nebraska
Wright, W.F.