

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG3208.AM: Penniston and Miller General Store (North Platte, Neb.)

Day books: 1867-1871

North Platte, Lincoln County, Neb.: General store

Size: 2 volumes (1 typed copy and one on microfilm)

BACKGROUND NOTE

William S. Penniston was born in Yorkshire England in 1834. He came to Nebraska in 1859 and bought a ranch across from Willow Island, near Cozad. He built a log cabin and was soon selling goods to travelers along the California Trail. Penniston returned to New York in 1865 where he married Anna Webb. In 1866 Penniston and his new partner, Andrew J. Miller moved the store from Willow Island to the Union Pacific end-of-track at North Platte. They bought a lot at the corner of Front Street and Locust, erected a building with materials brought from Denver, and opened for business on November 9, 1866. During the early years they were once driven away by Indians and another time a party of Indians entered the store, shot out the lights and created havoc. Penniston served as Lincoln County judge, county treasurer, and justice of the peace and also served as United States Commissioner. Penniston, a democrat died in October 1906. Penniston and Miller were in business together until 1870 when Mr. Penniston sold out to Miller. Two years later Miller sold out to Otto Uhling.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of two daybooks of the Penniston and Miller General Store at North Platte. These books reflect the prices of commodities and also provide the names of many well known traders, trappers, and scouts who passed that way. The first book is a typed copy of the original. The second book is available on microfilm. The Nebraska State Historical Society does not hold either of the original volumes.

DESCRIPTION

Book 1 - January 1, 1867-July 27, 1867 (**Typed copy of original**)

Book 2 - August 21, 1868-May 27, 1871 (**on microfilm only**)

Subject headings:

Fort McPherson (Neb.)
Indians of North America -- Nebraska
Lincoln County (Neb.) -- History
Merchants -- Nebraska
Miller, Andrew J.
North Platte (Neb.) -- History
Penniston and Miller General Store (North Platte, Neb.)
Penniston, William S.
Rasmussen, Robert D., 1894-
Union Pacific Railway Company