ARCHIVES RECORD

RG33 . Nebraska State Relief Commission

Records: 1891-1895
Cubic Feet: 3
Approx. 400 Items.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Nebraska State Relief Commission, organized initially by executive authority in 1891 and reorganized in 1892 by an act of the State Legislature, was developed to alleviate the hardship caused by drought in Western Nebraska in the 1890's. The first legislative bills created a relief commission and appropriated $100,000 for relief and provided another $100,000 as a loan fund for the purchase of seed grain. Furthermore, county boards were authorized and encouraged by the State Legislature to assist farmers to stay on the land. When, again in 1895, drought struck Nebraska and the Middle West, the relief commission was revived and several direct appropriations were made from the State Treasury which, with other efforts, assisted many farm families to maintain an existence on the land.

The commission then exercised its powers and duties in collecting, receiving, transporting and distributing large amounts of supplies from private citizens throughout the United States, as well as appropriating state funds for seeds, feed and clothing. At the local level, the county commissioners, county clerks, and sheriffs assisted in the final distribution of supplies.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of the records of the Nebraska State Relief Commission arranged in four series: (1) Reports, 1895; (2) Minutes of the Commission, 1891-1892; (3) Business Records, 1890-95; and (4) Miscellany, 1891.

The bulk of the collection consists of business records. Included are ledgers, journals, receipts and cash books, distribution records, etc. which reflect the efforts of the Commission to carry out its assigned duties. Of special importance are the County Central Committee Reports to the State Commission as well as the 1895 annual report of the Commission to the Governor. Furthermore, the Minutes of the Commission, 1891-1892, provide an insight into the creation, organization and early activities of the Commission.

DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE REPORTS

Box 1 County Central Committee Report to the Nebr. State Relief Commission 1895

Box 2 Vols. 1-2 Report of the Nebr. State Relief Commission (2 copies) 1895
SERIES TWO
MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION, 1891-1892

Box 3
Vol. 1 February, 1891-December, 1892

SERIES THREE
BUSINESS RECORDS, 1891-1895

Vol. 1 Ledger
(Also contains Accession Records of the NSHS; #26514-27715)

Vol. 2-3 Ledger; includes cash and type of donation as well as distribution by County

Vol. 4-10 Shelved separately with collection

Vol. 4-7 Record of Supply Distribution 1891
Vol. 8-10 Record of Supply Distribution 1895

Box 4
Vol. 11 Cash Book 1895
Vol. 12 Journal 1894-1895
Vol. 13 Storehouse Receipts and Shipment 1895

Vol. 14 Receipt Record of Supplies 1894

Box 5
Vol. 15 Cash Book: Nebraska Relief by the Methodist Church 1894-1895
Vol. 16 Record of Supply Distribution: Nebr. Relief by Methodist Church 1895
Vol. 17 Receipt Book: Nebr. Relief by the Methodist Church 1895

Boxes 6-7 Receipts 1891

SERIES FOUR
MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS, 1891

Box 8
Vols. 1-2 Index of Donors, i.e., individuals and Communities 1891

Vols. 3-4 Membership list of the Co. Central Committees and sub-committees 1891, undated.

Vol. 5 Unidentified Ledger: although the ledger is marked as part of the Nebr. Relief Commission, 1890-1901, its contents do not contain any material supporting this identification

Folder 1 Perkins County Relief Fund Records 1891