HISTORICAL NOTE

As a result of the drought and grasshopper plague of the summer of 1894, many settlers in Nebraska, principally in the western portion of the state, were caused hardship. As a result, Governor Robert W. Furnas examined the situation and in the fall of 1874 asked the formation of a general committee which was to receive and distribute all private contributions (late state funds were also appropriated) to those in need. On September 18, 1874, the Nebraska Relief and Aid Association was officially organized with headquarters located in Omaha, Nebraska. Its purpose was to collect “…money, provisions, clothing, seeds, and other necessary articles of supplies, and transporting and distributing the same to and among the inhabitants of the State of Nebraska who have been rendered destitute by reason of the drought and grasshoppers of the past season.” At the local level, county or local societies in those regions requiring assistance were to organize and distribute supplies to needy individuals. Although the Association, according to its articles of incorporation, was to remain in existence until September 1900, apparently its activities were discontinued in 1875.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of records of the Nebraska Relief and Aid Association, 1874-1875, arranged in four series: 1) Correspondence, 1875; 2) Minutes and proceedings, n.d.; 3) Grain Inspection records, 1875; and 4) Business records, 1875.

The bulk of this collection consists of correspondence and business records which contain principally vouchers paid by the State Treasurer for various seed supplies. Of special significance are the undated minutes and proceedings of the society.
DESCRIPTION

Box 1

SERIES ONE   CORRESPONDENCE

f.1  Correspondence, 1875

SERIES TWO   MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS

f.1  Undated minutes and proceedings

SERIES THREE  GRAIN INSPECTION RECORDS

f.1  Grain Inspection records, 1875

SERIES FOUR   BUSINESS RECORDS

f.1-5  Business Records
f.6  Bids received, 1875
f.7  Receipts, 1875

END OF INVENTORY

JEP/DJJ/PMC  1/3/1972