

Rock Bluff City, Cass, Nebraska

RG307 Rock Bluff City, Cass, Nebraska

Record Book/Journal: 1857-1877

Cubic ft.: frac.

No. of Items: 1 volume

HISTORICAL NOTE

Rock Bluffs, so named because of the rocky character of the banks of the Missouri River there, was organized as a village on June 10, 1856. The area had been settled as early as 1854. The village was located in Cass County on the Missouri River about four miles east and one mile north of Murray, Nebraska, in section 9, township 10N, range 14E. Its growth was dependent on steamboat travel along the river and developed along with the river trade. Rock Bluffs was a leading point for equipping freighting outfits to cross the plains during the 1850s.

On November 3, 1858, Rock Bluffs and North Rock Bluff were incorporated by the Nebraska legislature as Rock Bluff City. A newspaper, the Cass County Sentinel, was begun at Rock Bluff City but was moved to Plattsmouth in 1859. Rock Bluff vied with Plattsmouth for county seat in the 1860s. By 1877 it had 175 inhabitants, two trading houses, a mill, a blacksmith shop, a methodist church, and a post office which had been established March 12, 1857. The Naomi Institute was organized here in 1870 and ran for three years. The building was later occupied by a local school district.

In 1854, fifty one towns were organized in Cass County which were later abandoned. Rock Bluff City was one of these towns; its post office was discontinued in 1904. One theory for Rock Bluff's demise is that the town was adversely affected when Plattsmouth secured the Burlington railroad.

For additional information on Rock Bluff, see the papers of William Storey Latta (MS518) former mayor of Rock Bluff, Nov. 1860 - April 1861. Church records for Rock Bluff are available in the collection of the Murray, Nebraska United Presbyterian Church (MS2707).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of a single journal, 1857-1877. The first portion of this journal records the ordinances passed by the village board of Rock Bluffs, Cass County, Nebraska, 1857-1867. The ordinances are signed by the then mayor of Rock Bluffs.

The second part of the journal was used as a daily journal by Eleanor Capitola Reed (1859-1929). Cap Reed was the daughter of

ADDED ENTRIES:**

CASS COUNTY (NEB.)--HISTORY

DIARIES

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT--RECORDS AND CORRESPONDENCE

PERU STATE NORMAL SCHOOL [Student]

Rock Bluffs (Neb.)

Latta, William S. (William Storey), 1826-1901

Reed, Francis B., 1828-

Graves, Eleanor C. (Eleanor Capitola Reed), 1859-1929

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the final mayor signing the village ordinances, Francis B. Reed. Francis B. Reed settled at Rock Bluffs in 1859. He was originally from Ohio. He was a physician, mayor, and enlisted in the civil war from Nebraska. By 1877 he had moved his family to Peru, Nebraska, where he practiced medicine and edited a local newspaper with his nephew, Frank D. Reed. His wife, Mary, began charge of Peru State dormitory in 1882.

Eleanor Capitola Reed was born at Rock Bluffs, December 21, 1859. She graduated from Peru State Normal School, June 14, 1882. She went on to receive her medical degree from Rush Medical College in Chicago, April 5, 1885. She took post graduate courses at John Hopkins and interned in New York City. After practicing for a while in Fort Worth, Texas, she returned to Peru, Nebraska to take care of her mother until she died in 1904. She married J. D. Graves, December 30, 1901, at Indianaola, Iowa. She remained in Peru, Nebraska, to practice medicine. She became ill on January 1, 1929 and died at Peru September 5, 1929.

E. C. Reed uses the last portion of this journal as a daily journal, October 24, 1877 through December 23, 1877. She gives a short history of her early years and relates day to day happenings in the family. She mentions studies at Peru and school happenings, but the entries mainly refer to family matters. Dr. Reed was known as Dr. Cap. Some of the entries in the diary are signed Capp.

The source of this diary is not known. This collection appeared in the 1966 Nebraska State Historical Society Guide to Collections. The earliest inventory is dated September 1965.

DESCRIPTION

SUBGROUP ONE ORDINANCES, 1857-1867

SERIES ONE VILLAGE ORDINANCES, 1857-1867

Box 1

v.1

Village Ordinances, October 21, 1857
thru
Village Ordinances, July 8, 1867

SUBGROUP TWO REED FAMILY, 1877

SERIES ONE JOURNAL OF E. C. REED, 1877

Box 1

v.1

Journal, October 24, 1877 thru
December 23, 1877 kept by Eleanor
Capitola Reed while living at Peru,
Nebraska, and attending Peru State
Normal School.

DJJ/ht 11/8/1973

PMC/WP50 12/31/1990