

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG2495.AM: Sanborn, John A., 1850-1942

Diaries, 1881-1898; mostly 1885-1898
Franklin County, Nebraska; farmer
Size: 0.5 cu.ft. and 1 reel of microfilm

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John A. Sanborn was born in Polo, Illinois, on January 21, 1850. He was evidently raised in the community and later married Emma Rubendall on June 7, 1881. Their first child was born in 1882 and a daughter on June 2, 1887, in Franklin County, Nebraska. Sanborn was engaged in farming in Illinois and in March and April, 1885, traveled to Nebraska to look over farming prospects. On April 1 of that year he purchased a quarter section of land in Section 5, Township 1, Range 14, about 2 ½ miles east of the Macon Post Office, from the railroad for \$1,895. He then returned to Illinois and in September loaded his belongings on rail cars and moved to Nebraska. He immediately set out to break land and to build a house with the help of his wife's brother's, Leavitt and Edward, who lived with the Sanborns for several years. During the 1880's he not only farmed his own land, but rented from neighbors and eventually purchased additional acres. In late 1897 he made arrangements to sell his farm and in the next year moved to Mound City, Missouri. In 1908 he moved to Covina, California. He died in Compton, California, on July 24, 1942.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of one manuscript box of material plus 10 feet of microfilm arranged in the following series: (1) Diaries, 1885-1898; (2) Excerpts from Diaries; and (3) Miscellany.

The material consists of diaries written by Sanborn during the period 1885-1898. The 1885 diary is on microfilm only. The entries for 1885 relate his life in Illinois and his movement to Franklin County, Nebraska; while subsequent entries relate to his farming activities. Sanborn was not only a faithful compiler, but noted expenses incurred in farming and for members of his family, weather developments, trips made to neighbors and the problems associated with life in frontier Nebraska. In addition, there are numerous entries relating to crop production, grain yields and occasional year-end totals of his financial situation.

The two folders containing typewritten extracts of the diaries were compiled by Mr. R. E. Dale. The folder of miscellany includes receipts, telegrams and a newspaper article about the assassination of President Garfield.

Note: See also the photo component [RG2495.PH] for images of the Sanborn family and homestead.

DESCRIPTION

Series 1 - Diaries, 1885-1898

Reel 1 Diary, 1885

Box 1

Folder

1. Diaries, 1886-1889
2. Diaries, 1890-1893
3. Diaries, 1894-1897
4. Diary, 1898

Series 2 - Excerpts from Diaries

5. Excerpts from diaries
6. Excerpts from diaries

Series 3 - Miscellany

7. Miscellany (Includes purchase receipts, telegrams, expenditures and a newspaper clipping on the assassination of President Garfield.)

DAB/ab 08-01-1967
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Added entries:

Agricultural history
Agricultural laborers -- Nebraska
Agriculture -- Nebraska
Farm life -- Nebraska -- Franklin County
Franklin County (Neb.) -- History
Frontier and pioneer life -- Nebraska -- Franklin County
Homestead law
Land -- Nebraska
Sandborn, John A., 1850-1942