

LS 9/9/2 - 10/1/2

## 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<br>to the Nebr. State Relief Commission | 1895 |
| Box 2<br>Vols. 1-2 | Report of the Nebr. State Relief<br>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 1891  
(Also contains Accession Records  
of the NSHS; #26514-27715)Vols. 2-3 Ledger; includes cash and type of  
donation as well as distribution  
by County 1895

Vols. 4-10 Shelved separately with collection

Vols. 4-7 Record of Supply Distribution 1891

Vols. 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 1894-1895Vol. 16 Record of Supply Distribution: Nebr.  
Relief by Methodist Church 1895Vol. 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 1891Vols. 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