

Blaine County, Nebraska

film
RG280

Blaine County, Nebraska

Records on Microfilm: 1881-1979

Cubic ft.: .25

No. of Items: 16 reels of microfilm

HISTORICAL NOTE

Blaine County is located in the sandhills region of north central Nebraska bordered by Brown and Cherry counties to the north, Thomas county to the west, Custer and Logan counties to the south, and Loup county to the east. The county is contained in an area of 714 square miles.

The area was first settled by cattle ranchers before it's official opening to settlement. The borders were defined by an act of the Nebraska Legislature March 5, 1885 and the county was organized in 1886. The passage of the Kinkaid Act brought new life into Blaine county. Numerous post offices were established between 1904 and 1910. The first of these post offices was established at Ladora then in Sioux county, Nebraska on June 10, 1884. It was changed to Brewster in September 1884, back to Ladora May 1887 and again back to Brewster in January 1888.

The first meeting of the County Commissioners was on June 24, 1886 at Brewster, Nebraska. The county was divided into three voting precincts. An election was held November 2, 1886 to vote for county officials and to locate a permanent county seat. This election was unsuccessful. At a later election on December 18, 1886, Ladora was chosen as county seat. By a special petition an election held in November 1887 resulted in Brewster being named the permanent county seat.

Brewster came into existence in 1884. It was platted in September 1887 and named for elder William Brewster of Mayflower fame, an ancestor of the first homesteader - George Washington Brewster, a wealthy newspaper publisher. Brewster, population 70 (1956), is the smallest county seat in Nebraska. It was incorporated in 1947. Because of the small population, most offices of the county are handled by one full-time person. The county treasurer is the only other full-time employee.

In January 1888, plans were initiated to erect a courthouse. The contract was awarded in April 1889. This original courthouse burned on September 7, 1907. A petition was filed in September 1907 to relocate the county seat but was unsuccessful and the seat remained at Brewster. The courthouse was rebuilt there in 1908.

ADDED ENTRIES:**

COUNTY COURTS--NEBRASKA--BLAINE COUNTY †
DISTRICT COURTS--NEBRASKA--BLAINE COUNTY †
MARRIAGES--NEBRASKA--BLAINE COUNTY †
PROBATE RECORDS--NEBRASKA--BLAINE COUNTY †
DEEDS--NEBRASKA--BLAINE COUNTY †
Chronological Index - 10 †

Pleasant Valley School District #2 was organized in 1887 and covered the greater part of the county. Other districts were subsequently formed but by 1956 they had dwindled to 24 with only eleven schools in operation, two of them high schools. The 1988/89 Blue Book for Nebraska lists only one school district, Sandhills Public Schools at Dunning, Nebraska.

The county depends on the cattle industry for economic stability. The population remained small throughout the past century and is likely to remain so. Current efforts to diversify economy with irrigation for croplands is being considered as an alternative to ranching. The peak population was in 1920 at 1,778 residents. Population of the county according to the 1980 census was 867 persons.

Blaine county was named for James G. Blaine (1830-1893), an American statesman and candidate for president in 1884.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of the official records of Blaine county on sixteen reels of 35mm microfilm. This microfilm is copied from security film held in the State Archives by permission of Edna Spencer, clerk of Blaine county offices, 1989.

The collection is arranged into five subgroups: 1) Register of Deeds, 1886-1979; 2) County Court, 1886-1979; 3) Records of the County Clerk, 1887-1956; 4) District Court, 1881-1979

Subgroup One, Register of Deeds is divided into four series: 1) Mortgage Records, 1910-1913; 2) Deed Records, 1886-1913; 3) Numerical Indexes, 1886-1979; and 4) General Indices to Deeds, 1886-1967

Subgroup Two, County Court is divided into three series: 1) Marriage Records, 1887-1979; and 2) Probate Records, 1889-1943; and 3) Miscellaneous Court Dockets, 1886-1960. Series One, Marriage Records, is contained on two reels of microfilm which are shelved separate from the rest of the collection and have their own exclusive roll numbers for that series. See note below. The remainder of this subgroup continues the roll sequence of the collection as a whole. Included is a probate record, Series Two, volume A, which was reconstructed in 1950 from original case file papers and includes probate filings for persons deceased in Blaine county or holding property in Blaine county at the time of their deaths for the period 1899-1932. The volume is indexed at the beginning and there is also a separate index available. Also contained in the records of the court is a Judges Docket, 1886-1936; a Justice Docket, 1934-1960; and a Judgement Record (used for District Court & Small Claims also), 1886-1979.

Subgroup Three, County Clerk, consists of a single series of miscellaneous record books including a volume labeled Discharges, Book A. This volume contains miscellaneous fund records of the county, 1890-1908, and then discharges registered in the county, 1919-1956, for members of the military during the period of World War I. Also included in the subgroup is a Clerk's Miscellaneous Book A, 1887-1917, preceded by an Index to Miscellaneous Book A, 1887-1928.

Subgroup Six, Superintendent of Schools, School District #6, 1923-1965

The bulk of records for Blaine county exist for Subgroup Four, District Court. This subgroup is subdivided into six series: 1) Journals, 1887-1914 & 1939-1959; 2) General Index to District Court, 1881-c.1955; 3) Judgement and Execution Dockets, 1886-1979; 4) Complete Record, 1887-1930; 5) Trial Dockets, 1923-1937; and 6) Appearance Dockets, 1902-1954. Journals A & C are a part of the first series. Film for the remainder of the Journals was not copied at this time. Series Two contains a general index to District Court Cases, 1881-1955. Series Three, Judgement and Execution Dockets, contains one Judgement Docket which is described in Subgroup Two, Series Three, and dated 1886-1979; and one Execution Docket which covers cases from approximately 1915 to September 1949. Included in Series Four is the Complete Record Books for Blaine County dating 1887-1930. Series Five consists of two trial dockets for cases filed from April Term 1923 thru September Term 1937. The film which contains Trail Docket A which appears to be the first Appearance Docket of the District Court was not copied at this time. Patrons are referred to the General Index for cases in Blaine county, 1881-1923. The final series includes the Appearance Dockets for Blaine county, 1902 through 1954.

NOTE:

Since this collection was obtained by copying from security film, the Historical Society has no control of what is contained on each roll. This microfilm was produced for the county by an outside service bureau. No distinction is made between the different offices of the county. Records from two or more different offices may appear on individual rolls. To facilitate use of this microfilm, rolls have been numbered consecutively throughout all subgroups except marriages in the county court. Marriages are contained on two separate rolls of film and are not shelved with the rest of the collection under RG280 but are shelved in the West Reference room with the rest of the marriage records for Nebraska.

Naturalization Records for Blaine county have not as yet been accessioned by the State Archives. Patrons are referred to the Clerk of the District Court for Blaine County at Brewster, Nebraska.

DESCRIPTION

See note in Scope and Content above relating to numbering of reels for this collection. Roll numbers the county assigned appear in parentheses after the roll numbers the Archives assigned. The county number is the number you will see on the individual rolls.

film

SUBGROUP ONE REGISTER OF DEEDS, 1886-1979

film

SERIES ONE MORTGAGE RECORDS, 1910-1913

Reel #1 (15) Mortgages, Book F, p.300 (12/24/1910)
thru
Mortgages, Book G, p.639 (10/6/1913)
NOTE: pages 610-615 are blank

film

SERIES TWO DEED RECORDS, 1886-1913

Reel #1 (15) Deed Record A, p.1 (Apr. 8, 1886)
thru
Deed Record A, p.479 (Sept. 7, 1889)

Reel #2 (16) Deed Record B, p.1 (Sept. 19, 1889)
thru
Deed Record D, p.299 (Apr. 5, 1900)

Reel #3 (17) Deed Record D, p.300 (Apr. 7, 1900)
thru
Deed Record G, p.199 (Apr. 28, 1909)

Reel #4 (18) Deed Record G, p.200 (Apr. 28, 1909)
thru
Deed Record I, p.399 (Feb. 26, 1913)

Reel #5 (19) Deed Record I, p.400 (Feb. 26, 1913)
thru
Deed Record I (end), Oct. 29, 1913

film

SERIES THREE NUMERICAL INDICES, 1886-1979

Reel #5 (19)

Vol. 1 Numerical Index - Lots (typed), 1886-1979 †

Vol. 2 Numerical Index - Lots (Villages), 1886-1947 †

Reel #6 (20) †

Vol. 3 Numerical Index - Lands #1, 1890-1921 †

Vol. 4 Numerical Index - Lands #2 Books A-L †

film †

SUBGROUP ONE REGISTER OF DEEDS (cont) †

film †

SERIES THREE (cont) †

Reel #6 (cont) †

Vol. 5 Numerical Index - Lands #3A Books L-Q

Reel #7 (21) Numerical Index - Lands #3A (cont)

film

SERIES FOUR GENERAL INDEX TO DEEDS, 1886-1967

Reel #7 (21) General Index to Deeds

Vol. A 1886 - December 1910

Vol. B Jan. 1911 - July 1924

Reel #8 (22) General Index to Deeds

Vol. B (cont), Jan. 1911 - July 1924

Vol. C Sept. 1924 - July 1967

film

SUBGROUP TWO COUNTY COURT, 1886-1979

film †

SERIES ONE MARRIAGE RECORDS, 1887-1979 †

NOTE: Roll numbers for Marriage Records do not relate to
other roll numbers in the collection.

Reel #1 (33) Marriage Book A (indexed)

p.1, March 31, 1887

thru

Marriage Book A, p.259 (Feb. 28, 1917)

Reel #2 (34) Marriage Book A (cont)

p.260, May 18, 1915

thru

p.376, June 22, 1923

p.377, Poling-Fincke, May 18, 1915

Marriage Book 2, p.1 (May 4, 1924) †

thru †

Marriage Book 2, p.319 (July 24, 1971) †

Marriage Book 3, p.1 (Nov. 4, 1917) †

thru †

Marriage Book 3, p.41 (June 6, 1979) †

pp.41a&b - Coffman-Bailey, June 30, 1979

film

SUBGROUP TWO COUNTY COURT (cont)

film †

SERIES TWO PROBATE RECORDS, 1889-1943 †

Reel #8 (22) Probate Book A (indexed)

Cases filed 1891-1933 for deaths in and related to Blaine county, 1889-1932

Inclusive filing dates range from

Jan. 22, 1891 thru Sept. 10, 1943

NOTE: External Index to this record is available. See Records Officer. Records are arranged for the most part in alphabetical order on this roll.

film

SERIES THREE MISCELLANEOUS COURT DOCKETS, 1886-1979

Reel #9 (26)

Vol. 1

Judgement Record Book A (indexed)

NOTE: Used for Court, District Ct., and

Small Claims cases, 1886-1979

p.1 #1 (12/1/1886-2/3/1890) thru

p.259 (#1309), Jan. 25, 1978 and

p.261 (August 23-25, 1979)

Vol. 2

County Court Docket B - Justice Business Index, beginning of volume

pp.1-7, D. C. Norris, County Judge

August 7, 1934 - Nov. 21, 1934

pp.8-9, Albert Arms, County Judge

Nov. 28, 1934 - Jan. 21, 1935

Restart, Docket B, p.1-9

pp.8-209, Albert Arms, County Judge
Nov. 28, 1934 - July 25, 1944

pp.210-342, Charles H. Rice, Co. Judge
Sept. 19, 1945 - n.d. (c.1954)

pp.343-399, Donald L. Guggenmos, Judge
Apr. 12, 1955 - Dec. 31, 1956

pp.401-640, R. G. Harris, County Judge
Jan. 10, 1957 - Aug. 30, 1960

film †

SUBGROUP TWO COUNTY COURT (cont) †

film †

SERIES THREE (cont) †

Reel #10 (27)

Vol. 3

Judge's Docket A, 1886-1943

pp.1-67, Robert Smith, Co. Judge
December 23, 1886 - Oct. 2, 1888

pp.68-103, Samuel A. Dailey, Co. Judge
Jan. 10, 1889 thru Oct. 20, 1891

pp.104-106, Hiram Polley, Co. Judge
Apr. 1, 1892 - Mar. 7, 1893

pp.107-115, A. Barton, County Judge
May 22, 1894 - Sept. 7, 1896

pp. 116 thru 119 are Blank

p. 120, W. Irwin, Judge
February 7 thru April 5, 1898

p. 122 is Blank

pp.123-161, William Turner, Co. Judge
Nov. 24, 1899 - Aug. 24, 1908

NOTE: pp.125 & 126 are Blank

p.162, Charles B. Wright v. C.B.&Q, n.d.

p.163, Blank

pp.164-170, Albert Arms, County Judge

Apr. 22, 1935 - Apr. 20, 1936

pp.171-172, William Turner, Co. Judge

February 7 - March 2, 1908

pp.173-182, Albert Arms, Co. Judge

May 4, 1936 thru June 10, 1943

NOTE: pages 183-186 are Blank

film
SUBGROUP THREE COUNTY CLERK, 1887-1956

film
SERIES ONE MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS, 1887-1956

Reel #10 (27)
Vol. 1 Discharges, Book A

NOTE: Page numbers not listed are blank

pp.2-7 Warrants Drawn, General Fund
June 13, 1890 - January 14, 1891
p.9 Clippings re Bridges, 1908
p.11 Clipping re Omaha Cattle Loan Co.
vs. Northrup, 1908
pp.20-21 Bridge Notices, 1908-1911
pp.29-30 Homestead Clippings, 1908
pp.34-36 Index to Discharges, 1919-1956

Remainder of volume is register of
discharges recorded in Blaine County
1919-1956 for those in military during
period of World War I.

Vol. 2 Clerk's Miscellaneous Index - Book A
September 6, 1887 thru December 1928

Vol. 3 Clerk's Miscellaneous Record - Book A
February 11, 1887 thru December 13, 1917

film
SUBGROUP FOUR DISTRICT COURT, 1881-1979

film
SERIES ONE DISTRICT COURT JOURNALS, 1939-1957

Reel #10 (27)
Vol. 1 District Court Journal C
p.1 (9/13/1939) thru p.194 (9/9/1957)
NOTE: Vol. 1 follows Co. Court Judge's
Docket on reel from SG above.

Reel #11 (28)
Vol. 2 District Court Journal A
p.1 (6/17/1887) thru p.478 (5/20/1914)

film †
SUBGROUP FOUR DISTRICT COURT (cont) †

film
SERIES TWO GENERAL INDEX TO DISTRICT COURT, 1881-c.1955

Reel #11 (28)
Vol. 1

General Index Book A, 1881-c.1955
NOTE: Index covers Complete Record
Books, A thru F-p.63 and Appearance
Dockets A thru 4.

Case #1 (12/22/1881) thru
Case #1196 (4-26), n.d.

film
SERIES THREE JUDGEMENT AND EXECUTION DOCKETS, 1886-1979

Reel #9 (26)
Vol. 1

Judgement Record Book A, 1886-1979
See volume 1, Subgroup Two, Series Three
for description.

Reel #11 (28)
Vol. 2

Execution Docket B (indexed)
Covers cases c. July 1915 thru
September 15, 1949

film
SERIES FOUR COMPLETE RECORD, 1887-1930

Reel #11 (28)
Vol. 1

Complete Record Book A (Civil & Criminal)
pp. 1-6, Sawyer v. Kaizer
June 14, 1887 - Aug. 20, 1888
thru
pp.184-199, Nebraska Loan and Trust v.
Green, et al, May 30 - Dec. 9, 1890

Reel #12 (29)
Vol. 1

Complete Record Book A (cont)
pp.200-206, Nebr Loan & Trust v. Green
et al (cont), 9/6/1890-9/27/1892
thru
p.474, Nebr Loan & Trust v. Sales et al
May 10, 1890 thru May 25, 1897

film †
SUBGROUP FOUR DISTRICT COURT (cont) †

film †
SERIES FOUR COMPLETE RECORD (cont) †

Reel #12 (cont)

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Vol. 2 | Complete Record Book B
pp.1-32, L. B. Williams v. Brewster et al
February 29, 1892 - Feb. 14, 1894
thru
p.383, American Trust Co. v. Emfield et al
Dec. 5, 1922 - Apr. 17, 1924 |
| Vol. 3 | Complete Record C
pp.1-8, Meyers v. Weld et al (#610)
March 6, 1923 - June 27, 1924
thru
pp.499-500, Foote v. Ewing et al
May 8 thru June 9, 1930 |

film †
SERIES FIVE TRIAL DOCKETS, 1923-1937 †

NOTE: Trial Docket A appearing on roll 31 (agency) was not copied at this time (see General Index for cases, 1881-1923 not listed here.

Reel #13 (32)

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Vol. 1 | Trial Docket B
April Term 1923 thru October Term 1927
#583 (4/20/1923) thru #757 (12/15/1927) |
| Vol. 2 | Trial Docket C
April Term 1928 thru September Term 1937
#670 (4/30/1928) thru #996 (12/15/1937) |

film †
SERIES SIX APPEARANCE DOCKETS, 1902-1954 †

NOTE: See General Index for cases, 1881-1902

Reel #13 (32)

Vol. 1

Appearance Docket #2 (#1 is Trial Docket A)
Index, beginning of Docket
p.1 - #250 (June 6, 1902) thru
p.125 - #485 (March 18, 1920)

film †
SUBGROUP FOUR DISTRICT COURT (cont) †

film †
SERIES SIX APPEARANCE DOCKETS (cont) †

Reel #14 (33)

Vol. 1	Appearance Docket #2 (cont) (Index roll 13) p.126 - #486 (4/5/1920-6/13/1921) thru p.288 - #890 (1/18-9/11/1933)
Vol. 2	Appearance Docket #3 Index, beginning of Docket p.1 - #891 (2/20-3/6/1933) thru p.288 - #1170 (10/9-16/1954)

SUBGROUP SIX
SUPT. OF SCHOOLS

SERIES ONE
School District #6,
1923-1965, Box 1

END OF INVENTORY
PMC/Wp50 12/12/1990
GMK 9/2019