Keith County, Nebraska records

Identifier: RG273
Records: 1873-1990
Extent: 150.8 cubic feet

Approx. 277 volumes, and 24 vols. on 8 reels of 35mm microfilm

Historical Note

At the time of its organization in western Nebraska, Keith County lay south of unorganized territory of the state and its western boundary stretched to the Colorado border. The county was organized May 3, 1873, by local stockmen. For judicial, revenue and election purposes, the county had been attached to Lincoln County prior to organization. Today the county is bordered on the south by Perkins County, on the West by Deuel, on the east by Lincoln County, and by Garden, Arthur and McPherson counties on the north.

Keith County was populated by stockmen and cattle at the time of organization. The climate is dry and raising crops was almost impossible without irrigation. Because of the poor climate conditions, the population remained sparse. By 1877 there were only three precincts, Alkali (later Paxton), Ogallala, and Brule. A fourth precinct was added in 1884. The population that year was sixty-three. The next year four more precincts were established. Peak population was recorded in 1980 at 9,365.

Trailing cattle to Ogallala, the county seat, from Texas began in 1867. From 1867 to 1895, 98,250,000 cattle moved from that state to northern markets. Ogallala was a main shipping point for these cattle and a main supply point for the area. The town lied on the main route of the Union Pacific Railroad which traversed the county while building the main track in 1867. The town was a station on the line of the road, and the railroad was responsible for advertising and populating the area in later years.

Ogallala was incorporated as a village November 25, 1884. It had been the only town in the county at the time of organization and was made the county seat in 1873. It is now a popular tourist stop on the route of the interstate through Nebraska. It features a western main street and old Boot Hill Cemetery.

The first courthouse in Ogallala was a residential home that had been moved from Brule in 1873. The jail was constructed as a separate building in 1875. A new courthouse was constructed in 1888. This courthouse has since been replaced by a new courthouse constructed in 1963. The first term of the District Court took place in April of 1878. The first schoolhouse was frame building in

Ogallala. In 18i87 a four-room brick structure was erected. A new school was built in 1910.

The county was named in honor of Morrill Case Keith, a prominent cattle man and capitalist of North Platte until he died in 1899. Mr. Keith was the grandfather of later governor Keith Neville, who served in that office, 1917-1919.

Lake McConaughy, a popular resort in Nebraska is located in the area. It was created by the construction of Kingsley Dam in the 1930s.

Scope and Content Note

This record group consists of the records of Keith County, Nebraska arranged in the following subgroups and series based on creating entity and type of record:

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The early records for personal and real estate assessments in Keith County remain at the county courthouse. The archives has accessioned five year samples of personal assessment schedules, 1975, 1980, 1985, and 1990.

Records of Subgroup Two, County Treasurer, include the personal and real estate tax lists, 1873-1961. Also included are motor vehicle tax lists; motor vehicle registrations, 1931-1937; delinquent tax lists, 1874-1956; tax sale books, 1886-1912; and school land ledgers, 1886-1968.

Subgroup Three, County Board of Commissioners, exists on 35mm microfilm shelved in the reference room. Microfilm contains the minutes of the County Board, 1873-1968. The minute volumes were loaned to the Historical Society in 1976 for filming.

The records of the county clerk are arranged in the following series: 1) Marriage Records (no records); 2) Election Records, 1887-1944; 3) Bond Records (no records); 4) Professional Registers, 1884-1940; 5) Brand and Estray Records, 1878-1939; and 6) Miscellaneous, 1887-1928. The election records of series two exist on microfilm which is shelved in the reference room under RG273 and

includes the volumes of abstracts of votes cast in county elections, 1887-1944. The professional registers include registers for physician and dentist licenses.

The records of the Register of Deeds office, Subgroup Five, include numerical indexes of rural lands and town lots, 1873-1948, and miscellaneous volumes of this office.

Subgroup Six, County Court, consists of 3 volumes of Delayed Birth Registration Dockets

Subgroup Seven, District Court, is divided into the following series: 1) Naturalization Records, 1874-1929; 2) General Index and Calendars, 1878-1940; 3) Appearance Dockets, 1878-1970; 4) Daily Journal, 1878-1966; 5) Complete Record, 1886-1968; 6) Case Files (no records); 7) Bills of Exception and Depositions, 1968-1990; 8) Judgement & Execution Dockets (no records); 9) Insanity Records, 1887-1964; and, 10) State Tax Suit, 1906.

The naturalization records of series one were accessioned with other county records in 1976 and microfilmed by the Historical Society in 1980. These records are contained on one reel of 35mm microfilm. Final certificates of naturalization, 1908-1939, were accessioned by the archives in 1993 and are not microfilmed with the other naturalization records.

The remaining records of the District Court have not as yet been enumerated and sorted. No volume by volume inventory is available at this time. Reference to dates should be as accurate as possible to retrieve the desired records. Patrons are referred to the General Index on microfilm under RG273. Also, the appearance dockets are very much chronological and arranged by case number. Early appearance dockets include criminal cases. The bills of exception and depositions, 1968-1990, accessioned in 1993 are listed in Appendix A.

The Insanity Records of Series Nine are restricted from public reference in compliance with Nebraska Revised Statute 71-961. Permission must be obtained from the courts or the Board of Insanity of the county. Access will not be granted without proper written authorization.

No records have been accessioned from the Keith County Superintendent of Schools. This includes the school census of the county.

One series is included in Subgroup Nine, School District Records. This is the records of School District #27 on one reel of microfilm and shelved under RG273. These are the record volumes of the director of that school district, 1888-1922.

The bulk of the records of Keith County were accessioned in 1975 and 1976. Additional records from the district court were added in 1993.

Description

Subgroup One County Assessor

Series One Precinct Assessments

The precinct assessments for the county remain at the Keith County Courthouse.

Subgroup Two County Treasurer, 1873-1961

Series One Tax Lists, 1885-1961

Series Two Motor Vehicle Tax Lists, 1930-1952

V.01	Treasurer's Automobile Cash Book, 1930-1936
	Delinquent MV Tax List, 1936-1952
	(loose in volume)
V.02-19	Motor Vehicle Tax Lists, 1935-1952
	(one volume per year)

Series Three Delinquent Tax Lists, 1874-1956

V.01	Delinquent Tax List
	Precinct RE, 1885-1906
V.02	Real Estate-Lands, 1924-1956

V.03	Delinquent Personal Tax List, 1904-1930
	(used for 1936-1941)
V.04	Delinquent Real Estate, 1927-1956
V.05	Delinquent Personal, 1910-1941
	(used for 1925-1941)

Series Four Tax Sale & Redemption Records, 1887-1913

V.01 Tax Sale Record, 1887-1913

Series Five School Land Ledgers, 1886-1968

V.01	School Land Ledger, 1886-1906
V.02	School Land Leases #2, 1886-?
V.03	School Land Leases #3, ? – 1968

Series Six Motor Vehicle Registers, 1931-1937

V.01	Motor Vehicle Numerical Index, 1931-1935
V.02	Motor Vehicle Register, 1935-1937

Series Seven Miscellaneous Volumes, 1888-1960

V.01	Treasurer's Account Ledger YA', 1888-1889
V.02	Treasurer's Account Ledger YB', 1889-1907
V.03	Audited Accounts, 1917-1932
V.04-05	Distress Warrants, 1870's -1941
	(v.4, address lists, pp. 1-80)
V.04	Road District Journal, 1945-1960

Subgroup Three County Board of Commissioners, 1873-1968

Series One County Board Proceedings, 1873-1968

Access note: The following volumes have been microfilmed. See here for an inventory of the microfilm reels.

V.01	County Board Minutes, Vol. A
	June 9, 1873 - Dec. 11, 1889
V.02	County Board Minutes, Vol. B
	Dec. 17, 1889 - Dec. 11, 1903
V.03	County Board Minutes, Vol. C

	Jan. 5, 1904 - Jan. 10, 1913
V.04	County Board Minutes, Vol. D
	Nov. 30, 1926 - Oct. 1, 1937
V.05	County Board Minutes, Vol. E
	Nov. 30, 1926 - Oct. 1, 1937
V.06	County Board Minutes, Vol. F
	Oct. 5, 1937 - Dec. 26, 1947
V.07	County Board Minutes, Vol. G
	Jan. 2, 1948 - Dec. 29, 1958
V.08	County Board Minutes, Vol. H
	Jan. 2, 1959 - Apr. 19, 1968

Series One County Board Proceedings Microfilm Record

Identifier: Project number MP3063

Roll #1	County Board Proceedings, Vol. A
1096 pp.	p.1 - June 8, 1873
E 40 L .	.1

548 shots thru

#16,464 County Board Proceedings, Vol. B p.527 - January 28, 1902

Roll #2 County Board Proceedings, Vol. B (cont) 1498 pp. p.528 - January 28, 1902 (cont)

749 shots thru

#16,465 County Board Proceedings, Vol. D (complete) - November 23, 1926

NOTE: Vol. D, pp.118A & B follow p.318 on reel

Roll #3 County Board Proceedings, Vol. E 1478 pp. p.1 - November 30, 1926

739 shots thru

#16,466 County Board Proceedings, Vol. F (complete) - December 26, 1947

Roll #4 County Board Proceedings, Vol. G 1450 pp. p.1 - January 2, 1948

723 shots thru

#16,467 County Board Proceedings, Vol. H

(complete) - April 19, 1968

CORRECTION: Vol. H, pp. 639 thru 642 are filmed out of order. Watch page numbers

Subgroup Four County Clerk, 1878-1944

Series One Marriage Records

The marriage records of Keith County remain at the county courthouse.

Series Two Election Records, 1887-1944

Access note: The following volumes have been microfilmed. See here for an inventory of the microfilm reels.

V.A Abstracts of Votes Cast

November 8, 1887 - November 4, 1919

V.B Abstracts of Votes Cast

April 20, 1920 - November 17, 1944

Series Two Election Records Microfilm Record

Identifier: Project number MP3063

Roll #4	Abstracts of Votes Cast, Vol. A
(part)	p.1 - November 8, 1887

118 pp. thru

61 shots Abstracts of Votes Cast, Vol. A

#16,467 p.59 - June 17, 1895

Roll #5 Abstracts of Votes Cast, Vol. A

882 pp. p.60 - November 5, 1895

441 shots thru

#16,468 Abstracts of Votes Cast, Vol. B

(complete) - November 7, 1944

Series Three Bond Records

Officials Bonds and County Bond Records remain at the county courthouse.

Series Four Professional Registers, 1884-1940

V.01	Physician's Register A, 1884-1891
V.02	Physician's Register B. 1891-1914

V.03	Medical Register, 1916-1940
V.04	Dental Register, 1906-1915

Series Five Brand and Estray Records, 1878-1939

V.01	Mark & Brands for Stock Vol. A, 1878-1899
V.02	Estray Record A, 1885-1911, 1939

Series Six Miscellaneous, 1887-1928

V.01	Index to Contracts & Leases Vol. A, 1887-1903
V.02	Irrigation Record, 1895, 1912
V.03	Farm Home & Ranch Names, 1912-1928
V.04	Chattel Mortgages, 1892

Subgroup Five Register of Deeds, 1873-1948

Series One Numerical Indexes, 1873-1948

V.01	Numerical Index - Lots	Brule
V.02	Numerical Index - Lots	Brule & Keystone
V.03-04	Numerical Index - Lots	Ogallala
V.05-16	Numerical Index - Lands	
	Townships 9 thru 16	

Series Two General Index to Deeds, 1888-1918

V.01 Registration of Deeds V.A, 1888-1918

Series Three Deed Records

The Deed Records of the county remain at the county courthouse.

Series Four Mechanics Liens, 1884-1919

V.01 Mechanics Liens Vol. A, 1884-1919

Series Five General Index to Mortgages

The General Index to Mortgages remain at the county courthouse.

Series Six Mortgage Records

The Mortgage Records remain at the county courthouse.

Series Seven Miscellaneous Record

The Miscellaneous Record & indexes remain at the county courthouse.

Series Eight Miscellaneous Volumes, 1875-1918

V.01 Transfer Book, B & M RR, 1875-1885 V.02-03 Mortgage Indebtedness Record, 1891-1918

Subgroup Six County Court, 1941-1985

Series One Delayed Birth Registration Docket Books, 1941-1985

Vol. 1—Issued March 1941 thru June 1944

Vol. 2-Issued July 1944 thru July 1959

Vol. 3-Issued Aug. 1959 thru June 1985

Subgroup Seven District Court, 1874-1970

Series One Naturalization Records, 1874-1939

Access note: The following volumes have been microfilmed. See here for an inventory of the microfilm reels.

V.A Index to Naturalizations, 1874-1929
in alphabetical order.

V.01 Naturalization Record, V.1 (1874-1903)
pp.1-39, Declarations of Intention
October 1, 1874 - April 15, 1903
pp.213-411, Final Papers
April 13, 1887 - April 20, 1892

NOTE: p.410, naturalization record

September 29, 1884

back cover - copy of final papers

Henry Stamm, Livingston County,

Illinois, March 9, 1899

NOTE: pp.39-212	are blank	
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V.02		Naturalization Record, 1903-1906 pp.1-12, Declarations of Intention October 21, 1903 - June 11, 1906
V.02		Naturalization Record, V.2 (1894-1906) pp.230-235, Final Papers August 4, 1894 - June 1, 1906
		NOTE: pp.13-229 are blank
V.03		Petition & Record, V.3 #1 (Nov. 6. 1907) - #50 (Aug. 6, 1920)
V.04		Petition & Record, V.4 #52 (Sept 20, 1920) - #101 (Mar. 22, 1929)
V.05		Declarations of Intention, V.5 #1 (Feb. 27, 1907) - #100 (June 1, 1922)
V.06		Declarations of Intention, V.6 #101 (July 5, 1922) - #136 (Dec. 1, 1928)
V.01	-05	Certificates of Naturalization, 1908-1939
Miscellany		
ltem	#1	Rules Governing issuing of passports in U.S. issued 1929
Item	#2	Legal cases re naturalizations in U.S. U.S. vs. Skow (Merrick Co., NE) U.S. vs. Poulsen (Washington Co., NE) U.S. vs. Johnson (Merrick Co., NE) in re Patrick Joseph Manning (Calif) U.S. vs. Bercu (Douglas County) U.S. vs. Gulliksen (Wyoming)
Item	#3	General corres. from U.S. Bureau of Naturalization, 1929
Item	#4	Public Law #962, 70th Congress, 1929 Naturalization Law
ltem	#5	Report of Actions taken on petitions, 1929

Series One Naturalizations Microfilm Record

Identifier: Project number MP3323

Roll #1 Declarations of Intention, V.1 (1874-1903)

1240 images Oct. 1, 1874 (see p.4)

620 frames thru

#18,833 Declarations of Intention, V.6 (1922-1928)

#136 (December 1, 1928)

NOTE: Declarations of Intention, V.1

is not arranged in strict chronological order NOTE: Reel ends with miscellaneous items 1-5, 1929

ORDER OF FILMING:

Declarations V.1 begins at fr. #31
Final Papers, V.1 follows above record
Declarations V.2 begins at fr. #184
Final Papers, V.2 follows above record
Petition & Record, V.3 begins at fr. #209
Petition & Record, V.4 begins at fr. #343
Declarations V.5 begins at fr. #480
Declarations V.6 begins at fr. #548
Miscellaneous begins at fr. #590

Series Two General Index and Calendars, 1878-1940

Access note: The following volumes have been microfilmed. See here for an inventory of the microfilm reels.

V.01 General Index, Vol. A (1873-1918)

Appearance Docket A, #1 (1878) thru Appearance Docket F, p.279 (#1586)

V.02 General Index, Vol. B (1918-c.1940)

Appearance Docket F, p.280 (#1587) thru Appearance Docket K, p.230 (#3102)

Series Two General Index to District Court Microfilm Record

Identifier: Project number MP3399 (1981)

Roll #1 General Index to District Court, V.A

374 pp. YA' (1873-1918), #1 - #1586

378 frames thru

#19,402 General Index to District Court, V.B

YZ' (1918-1940), #1587 - #3102

NOTE: Vols. A & B were unbound, interfiled and

filmed in straight A-Z sequence.

Vol. #1 Bar Docket A, 1887-1888

Series Three Appearance Dockets, 1878-1970

V.A-Q Appearance Dockets, 1878-1970

(unprocessed)

Series Four Daily Journals, 1878-1966

V.A-I Daily Journals, 1878-1966

(unprocessed)

Series Five Complete Record, 1886-1968

V.A-T Daily Journals, 1878-?

(unprocessed)

V.1-3 Daily Journals, ? - 1968

(unprocessed)

Series Six Case Files - Civil & Criminal

The Archives has not accessioned civil or criminal case files from the District Court.

Series Seven Bills of Exceptions and Depositions, 1880s-1990

B.1-12	Bills of Exception & Depositions
	Cases in range of #70 (1880s) thru
	#8296 (1990)
B.01	Civil, Abts, thru Bateman, 1922-1990
B.02	Civil, Batterman thru Busteed, 1888-1987
B.03	Civil, Carlson thru Dyer, 1917-1990
B.04	Civil, Ecker thru Feltz, 1916-1981

Civil, Fenske thru Goodman, 1920-1983
Civil, Gregory thru H & B Development
1894-1980
Civil, Hadder thru Hoover, 1916-1992
Civil, Hulinsky thru Keyes, 1924-1988
Civil, Keystone thru Kramer, R. 1922-1987
Civil, Kramer, W. thru Krueger, 1942-1976
Civil, Kuhlman thru Lee, 1966-1980
Civil, Ledoit thru Mahan, 1945-1982
Civil, Major thru McQueen, 1914-1985
Civil, Meade thru Morrow, 1917-1990
Civil, Morrow thru Nebr Nat'l Bank, 1922-1981
Civil, Newcomb thru Peters, 1912-1982
Civil, Peterson thru Powell, 1912-1976
Civil, Pribyl thru Schroeder, 1921-1980
Civil, Scully thru Softly, 1922-1990
Civil, Southern thru State ex rel, 1968-1982
Civil, Steadman thru Thompson, 1912-1986
Civil, Thompson thru Walker, 1920-1987
Civil, Walker thru Yale, 1915-1981
Criminal Case Files, 1924-1990

NOTE: Index available

Series Eight Judgement & Execution Dockets

The Judgement & Execution Dockets of Keith County remain at the county courthouse.

Series Nine Insanity Records, 1887-1964

Access note: These records are confidential per Nebraska Revised Statute 71-961. Please contact our reference department for more information.

V.A-B Insanity Record, 1887 - ?
(unprocessed)
V.1 Insanity Record, ? - 1964
(unprocessed)

Series Ten State Tax Suit, 1905-1911

V.01 Confirmation Record, 1906

Subgroup Eight Superintendent of Schools

Note: No records of the county superintendent of schools have been accessioned into the archives, including the county school census.

Subgroup Nine School District Records

Access note: The records of School Dist. #27 were loaned to the Historical Society in 1977 by the superintendent of Ash Hollow State Park. There were microfilmed and returned to the lender. We retain the microfilm but not the original records. See here for an inventory of the microfilm reels.

Series One School District #27, 1887-1923

V.1 Director's Record, 1887-1894
Annual meeting minutes
Feb. 18, 1888 - June 29, 1891
School Officers list, 1888-1893
Dist. Board Meetings, 8/17/1889-6/17/1892
Special Meeting, May 18, 1889 to
discuss erection of school, p.43
p.44 - special meeting Feb. 1, 1899
Teachers contracts, Oct. 1888 - Jan. 1894
Orders Drawn, 1887-1894
Annual Reports, 1889-1891
School Census, 1892-1894

V.2 Director's Record, 1893-1900
(targeted on microfilm, 1894-1899)
Annual Meetings, 6/24/1894-6/26/1899
School Officers list, 1893-1899
Dist. Board Minutes, June 1895
Special Meeting, 8/9/1899 to elect
a new director
Teachers Contracts, 1895-1899
Teachers list, 1895-1899
Expenses, July 1895 - June 1900
Orders Drawn, 1893 - June 1900
Annual Reports, 1894-1900

V.3 Director's Record, 1900-1908
Annual Meetings, 6/25/1900-6/29/1908
School Officers list, 1900-1908
Teachers Contracts, 1900-1903
Expenses, 1900-1904

V.3 Director's Record, 1900-1908 (cont)
Orders Drawn, 1900-June 1908

Annual Reports, 1901-1905

V.4 Director's Record, 1909-1916

Annual Meetings, 6/28/1909-6/12/1916

School Officers list, 1909-1916 Teachers Contracts, 1908-1914 Teachers register, 1908-1915

Orders Drawn on Co. Treas., 1908-1916

Orders Drawn, 1908-June 1916 Annual Reports, 1909-1916

V.5 Director's Record, 1916-1923

(targeted on microfilm, 1917-1922) Boundary description, June 10, 1916 Annual meetings, 6/11/1917-6/12/1922

School officers list, 1917-1922

Orders drawn on Co. Treas., 1920-1923

V.5 Director's Record, 1916-1923 (cont)

Orders drawn on Dist. Treas., 1917-1923

Annual Reports, 1917

Teachers contracts, 1916-1918

Series One School District #27 Microfilm Record

Roll #1 School District Director's Record, Vol. #1

357 pp. Record of Annual Meetings, June 1909-June 1916

182 frames thru

#16,861 School District Director's Record, Vol. #5

Teachers contracts, 1916-1918

NOTE: For order of filming, see next page

Roll #1 School Dist. #27 records

ORDER OF FILMING:

Record #2 begins at frame #042 Record #3 begins at frame #084 Record #4 begins at frame #120 Record #5 begins at frame #160

End of Inventory

DDS/cat 4/27/1977 PMC/WP6.1 3/20/1998 PMC WORD 2000 2/14/2007 ABH 10/15/2021