

Furnas County (Neb.) records

Identifier: RG0284
Creator: Furnas County (Neb.)
Date: 1873-2013
Extent: 223 volumes, 28 reels of microfilm, 7 boxes

Historical Note

Furnas County, in south-central Nebraska, is bounded on the north by Frontier and Gosper Counties, on the east by Harlan County, on the south by the state line, and on the west by Red Willow County.

The first settler to arrive in the area was Benjamin Burton in 1870. He had a place about six miles from the present city of Arapahoe. Other settlers started coming in the fall of that year and continued to occupy the territory. The first homestead was taken out by John Nelson in 1871. In the spring of that year a town company was formed at Plattsmouth, Cass County, to locate a town which is now Arapahoe, Furnas County. The town was surveyed on July 18, 1871. Arapahoe is also the location of the first post office established in 1872. A rival town of Beaver City was located on October 9, 1872. This town later became the county seat at an election held on October 1873.

The boundaries of Furnas County were fixed by the Legislature on February 27, 1873 and the county was named in honor of Governor Robert W. Furnas. A proclamation of the Governor called for county organization March 3, 1873 and Arapahoe was designated the county seat. After much contesting and many court cases, Beaver City became the permanent county seat in 1876.

The county agricultural society was formed in 1875. Furnas County was considered good for grain crops but stock-raising was considered the principal resource of the county. In the 1880's the Denver Extension of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad was completed and enhanced shipping and marketing of farm products. A grasshopper plague from 1874-1876 destroyed all crops and many settlers left the county. A huge relief effort was established to help the settlers who remained.

The first county offices were moved around to different quarters until a little frame building in Beaver City was used for quarters. The present county courthouse was dedicated May 4, 1951.

The population in 1882 was about 7,000 with 500 in Beaver City and 600 in Arapahoe.

George W. Norris, a noted Nebraskan, came to Beaver City, Furnas County in the 1890s as a lawyer.

Scope and Content

Records are arranged into 7 subgroups based on their creator. They are then divided into series based on record type. Most records are paper, although some are on microfilm. Records date from 1873-2013. See specific subgroups and series for further description.

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Access Note

Records are open for research unless otherwise noted at the subgroup or series level.

Description Control

Finding aid revised by Anna Holley October 2023 following DACS. Previous version was last updated in 2000 by Pat Churray.

Subgroup 1: County Assessor

No records have been transferred to the State Archives.

Subgroup 2: County Treasurer, 1873-1939

Series 1: Real Estate Tax Lists, 1873-1939

Scope and Content: Tax lists are arranged in chronological order by year

Volume 1 thru Volume 102, 1873-1939

Subgroup 3: County Board of Commissioners

No records have been transferred to the State Archives.

Subgroup 4: County Clerk, 1876-1961

Series 1: Marriage Records, 1876-1961

Access Note: These records were filmed in 1997 by the Genealogical Society of Utah in cooperation with the Nebraska State Historical Society as a part of the project to put essential early records of Nebraska on microfilm. Below is an inventory of the records that were microfilmed. Following the record inventory is an inventory of the microfilm reels with descriptions of which records are on each reel. The original records are not in History Nebraska's collections. Only the microfilm reels are in History Nebraska's collections. Microfilm can be accessed in the reference room.

Extent: 4 reels of microfilm

Record Inventory

V.A General Index to Marriages (Transcript)
Grooms only, Bks A-8 (1876-1949)

V.B General Index to Marriages
Books A-11 (1876-1980)

V.1 Marriages Bk #1 (indexed)
pp. 1-29 are blank
p.30 (Asky-Thomas), Mar. 30, 1876
thru p.426 (Kimbrell-Copeland), Oct. 25, 1886

V.2 Marriages, Bk #2 (no index)
p.1 (Whitehead-Littler), Oct. 25, 1886
thru p.617 (Leroy-Dahm), Jan. 29, 1902

V.3 Marriages, Bk #3 (no index)
p.1 (#1), Brizendine-O=Brien, Apr. 1, 1901
thru p.637 (#53), Haxton-hardenbrook, June 12, 1907

V.4 Marriages, Bk #4 (no index)
p.1 (#54), Bard-Janett, June 19, 1907
thru p.492 (#240), Crudden-Herren, Apr. 15, 1913
p.493, blank
p.494, Lambert-Heidloff (Mar. 23, 1913)

V.5 Marriages, Bk 5 (3A), no index
p.1 (#1), Aldrich-Herhahn, Apr. 26, 1913
thru p.484 (#479), McKenna-Ruehle, Feb. 15, 1919

V.6 Marriages, Bk 6 (indexed)
p.1 (#480), Schultz-Huff, Mar. 19, 1919
thru p.451 (#928), Shafer-Sevier, Aug. 1, 1923

V.7 Marriages, Bk 7 (indexed)
p.1 (#929), Trowbridge-Hardin, Aug. 7, 1923
thru p.634 (#1546), Hilker-Redpath, Nov. 10, 1935

V.8 Marriages, Bk #8 (no index)
p.1 (#1547), Hays-Lambert, Nov. 26, 1935
thru p.640 (#1795), Ratliff-Mercure), May 3, 1941

V.9 Marriages, Bk #9

Subgroup 4: County Clerk, 1893-1934

Series 2: Election Records, 1893-1934

Access note: Many of these books received extensive water damage. Use care when handling these records.

Extent: 2 boxes

Box 1

Poll Books, 1893-1919

Box 2

- 1) Poll Books, 1920-1932
- 2) Tally List of Votes Casts: 1916, 1926, 1928, 1930, 1932, 1934
- 3) List of Voters, 1912, 1914, 1916, 1918, 1919 (Special Election), 1920

Subgroup 5: Register Of Deeds, 1873-1919

Series 1: Numerical Index

No records have been transferred to the State Archives.

Series 2: General Index to Deeds, 1873-1919

Access Note: Below is an inventory of the records that were microfilmed. Following the record inventory is an inventory of the microfilm reels with descriptions of which records are on each reel. The original records are not in History Nebraska's collections. Only the microfilm reels are in History Nebraska's collections. Microfilm can be accessed in the reference room.

Extent: 3 reels of microfilm

Record Inventory

V.01	General Index to Deeds, Bk A, 1873 - June 1885
V.02	General Index to Deeds, Bk B, June 1885 - Feb. 1889
V.03	General Index to Deeds, Bk C, Feb. 1889 - Jan. 1895
V.04	General Index to Deeds, Bk D, Jan. 1895 - Mar. 1902
V.05	General Index to Deeds, Bk E, Mar. 1902 - Dec. 1906
V.06	General Index to Deeds, Bk F, Jan. 1907 - Dec. 1909
V.06	General Index to Deeds, Bk G, Jan. 1910 - Dec. 1919

Microfilm Inventory

Roll #1 Item #1, Deeds Index Vol. A (1873-1885)
GSU thru
1454 pp. Item #4 - General Index to Deeds, Bk D
747 frames (1895-1902), A-H
Silver Pos.
AR #5
#28,039 NOTE: Index, V.B begins at frame #186
 Index, V.C begins at frame #377
 Index, V.D begins at frame #647

Roll #2 Item #1 - General Index to Deeds, Bk D cont.
GSU Ha (1899-1902)
1987 pp. thru
994 frames Item #4 - General Index to Deeds, Bk G
Silver pos. A-K (1910-1919)
AR # 6
#28,040

Roll #3 Item #1 - General Index to Deeds, Bk G cont.
GSU thru
640 pp. Item #1 - General Index to Deeds, Bk G
Silver pos. p.150 L, June 1910-Dec. 1919
AR #7

Series 3: Deed Records, 1873-1919

Identifier: MP4309

Access Note: Below is an inventory of the records that were microfilmed. Following the record inventory is an inventory of the microfilm reels with descriptions of which records are on each reel. The original records are not in History Nebraska's collections. Only the microfilm reels are in History Nebraska's collections. Microfilm can be accessed in the reference room.

Extent: 19 reels of microfilm

Record Inventory

V.01 Deeds, Bk A, pp. 1-641
 May 22, 1873 thru Feb. 3, 1879
V.02 Deeds, Bk 1, pp. 1-644
 Feb. 10, 1879 - Oct. 23, 1880
V.03 Deeds, Bk 2, pp. 1-640
 Oct. 23, 1880 - June 17, 1882
V.04 Deeds, Bk 3, pp. 1-640

June 16, 1882 - Oct. 16, 1883

thru

V.46 Deeds, Bk 46, pp. 1-169
 July 31, 1916 - Mar. 10, 1919

Microfilm Inventory

Roll #3 Item #2 - Deeds, Bk A (1873-1879)
GSU p.1 (May 22, 1873) filed 7/11/1873
1156 pp. thru
776 frames Item #3 - Deeds, Bk 1 (1879-1880)
Silver pos. p.515 - June 9, 1880

Agency Roll #7

NOTE: Deeds, Bk A begins at frame #168
Deeds, Bk 1 begins at frame #826

Roll #4 Item #1 - Deeds, Bk 1 cont. (1880)
GSU p.514 (June 9, 1880)
1411 pp. thru
750 frames Item #3 - Deeds, Bk 3 (1882-1883)
Silver pos. p.640 (Oct. 16, 1883)

Agency Roll #8

NOTE: Bk 2 begins at frame #85
Bk 3 begins at frame #416

thru

Roll #21 Item #1 - Deeds, Bk 44 (1913-1918)
GSU p.1 (April 9, 1913)
1453 pp. thru
1090 frames Item #3 - Deeds, Bk 46 (1916-1919)
Silver pos. p.169 (Mar. 10, 1919)

Agency Roll #25

NOTE: Deeds, Bk 45 begins at frame #661
Deeds, Bk 46 begins at frame #998

Subgroup 6: County Court, 1878-1943

Series 1: Delayed Birth Registration Docket Books, 1878-1943

Extent: 6 volumes

Vols. 1-6, 1878-1943

Subgroup 7: District Court, 1874-2013

Series 1: Naturalization Records, 1874-1938

Scope and content: These records were microfilmed and later transferred to History Nebraska. The record inventory describes the original records. The microfilm inventory describes the reels of microfilm. The box of loose naturalization records (Box 1) was not microfilmed. An index of the naturalization records can be found on microfilm only (no original index cards were transferred to History Nebraska).

Extent: 11 volumes, 1 box, and 2 reels of microfilm

Record Inventory

- V.01 Naturalization Record, V.1 (index at front)
Declarations, pp. 1-88
July 10, 1874 - April 22, 1905
Final Papers, pp. 1-116
June 22, 1877 - March 15, 1905

- V.02 Petition & Record V.1 (indexed)
#1 (9/23/1907) - #50 (3/11/1920)

- V.03 Petition & Record V.2 (indexed)
#51 (6/4/1920) - #83 (9/29/1928)

- V.04 Naturalization Record, V.3 (Final Papers)
p.1 (12/11/1905) - p.3 (3/15/1905)

- V.05 Naturalization Record, V.4 (Declarations)
p.1 (3/29/1906) - p.3 (3/29/1906)

- V.06 Declarations of Intention (Dept of Labor), V.1
#1 (4/25/1906) - #96 (12/21/1926)

- V.07 Declarations of Intention (Dept of Labor), V.2
#97 (9/14/1932) - #102 (3/10/1938)

- V.08 Certificates - Dept of Commerce & Labor V.1983
#19821 (6/8/1908) - #19830 (11/17/1913)

- V.09 Certificates - Dept of Commerce & Labor V.12359
#364081 (11/17/1913) - #364090 (11/16/1914)

- V.10 Certificates - Dept of Labor V.15781
#498501 (6/7/1915) - #498525 (3/28/1921)
- V.11 Certificates - Dept of Labor
#1615326 (11/28/1921) - #1615345 (3/25/1929)
- Box 1 Loose naturalization records, 1872-1895
Contains various types of naturalization documents from various states and counties. An index for this box exists within the first folder.

Microfilm Inventory

- Roll #1 Item #1 - Index Cards A-Y (743 frames)
GSU thru
1198 pp. Item #6 - Naturalization Record V.4 (Declarations)
1230 frames V.5 on inventory - #3 (3/29/1906)
Silver pos.
- AR #26 ORDER OF FILMING:
Naturalization Record V.1 begins frame #762
Petition & Record V.1 begins frame #908
Petition & Record V.2 begins frame #1045
Naturalization Record V.3 begins frame #1176
Naturalization Record V.4 begins frame #1206
- Roll #2 Item #1 - Declarations of Intention, V.1
GSU #1 (April 25, 1906)
220 frames thru
Silver pos. Item #6 - Certificates of Naturalization
AR #27 #1615345 (March 25, 1929)

Series 2: General Index Books, 1870s-2000s

Scope and content note: General index books are arranged alphabetically from A-Z within each volume. Dates are not exact. Entries may contain case number, plaintiffs, defendants, appearance docket volume and page, court journal volume and pages, judgment record volume and page and amount and date of judgment, execution docket volume and page, fee book volume and page, complete record volume and page, stay bond record volume and page, trial docket volume and page, and remarks. Use the general indexes to access the other types of district court records.

Extent: 5 volumes

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|-------------|
| v.1 | General Index #1 | 1870s-1890s |
| v.2 | General Index #2 | 1880s-1900s |
| v.3 | General Index #3 | 1890s-1910s |

- v.4 General Index #4 1910s-1960s
- v.5 General Index #5 1960s-2000s

Series 3: Appearance Dockets, 1874-2000

Scope and content note: Appearance dockets are arranged sequentially by case number. Early docket entries may contain information such as attorney names, case number, parties, date of summons, date of return of summons, officers return of summons, time of filing, instruments filed, and amount of fees. Later docket entries may contain information such as case number, kind of action, attorneys, parties, officers returns etc, complete record volume and page, judgment record volume and page, execution docket number and page, filings and fees and date, total costs, plaintiffs costs, defendants costs, journal book and page, date of summons, return day, answer day, plaintiffs witnesses, defendants witnesses, fees reported including date reported, check number and amount, item and date, rec. or chk. no., received, disbursed, balance, total clerks fees and non-clerk's costs, and overall total. Use the general indexes to access the appearance dockets.

Extent: 30 volumes

- v.1 Appearance Docket #1, 1874-1886, cases #1 - #84
- v.2 Appearance Docket #2, 1886-1889, cases #85 - #275
- v.3 Appearance Docket #3, 1888-1890, cases #276 - #613
- v.4 Appearance Docket #4, 1890-1892, cases #614 - #929
- v.5 Appearance Docket #5, 1892-1894, cases #930 - #1218
- v.6 Appearance Docket #6, 1894-1897, cases #1219 - #1535
- v.7 Appearance Docket #7, 1897-1900, cases #1536 - #1850
- v.8 Appearance Docket #8, 1900-1904, cases #1851 - #2161
- v.9 Appearance Docket #9, 1904-1908, cases #2162 - #2480
- v.10 Appearance Docket #10, 1908-1910, cases #2481 - #2727
- v.11 Appearance Docket #11, 1911-1914, cases #2725 - #3029
- v.12 Appearance Docket #12, 1914-1918, cases #3030 - #3349
- v.13 Appearance Docket #13, 1918-1922, cases #3350 - #3667
- v.14 Appearance Docket #14, 1922-1925, cases #3668 - #3986
- v.15 Appearance Docket #15, 1925-1928, cases #3987 - #4304
- v.16 Appearance Docket #16, 1928-1931, cases #4305 - #4621
- v.17 Appearance Docket #17, 1931-1933, cases #4622 - #4942
- v.18 Appearance Docket #18, 1933-1936, cases #4943 - #5274
- v.19 Appearance Docket #19, 1936-1939, cases #5275 - #5596
- v.20 Appearance Docket #20, 1939-1944, cases #5597 - #5906
- v.21 Appearance Docket #21, 1944-1950, cases #5907 - #6229
- v.22 Appearance Docket #22, 1950-1959, cases #6230 - #6623
- v.23 Appearance Docket #23, 1959-1966, cases #6624 - #6973
- v.24 Appearance Docket #24, 1966-1974, cases #6974 - #7325
- v.25 Appearance Docket #25, 1974-1980, cases #7326 - #7676
- v.26 Appearance Docket #26, 1980-1984, cases #7677 - #8026

- v.27 Appearance Docket #27, 1984-1989, cases #8027 - #8376
- v.28 Appearance Docket #28, 1989-1993, cases #8377 - #8696
- v.29 Appearance Docket #29, 1993-1997, cases #8697 - #9020
- v.30 Appearance Docket #30, 1997-2000, cases #9021 - #9211

Series 4: Complete Records, 1877-1986

Scope and content note: Complete records are arranged by case number. They summarize the many parts of a case after it has been completed. Use the general indexes to access the complete record volumes.

Extent: 41 volumes

Volumes 1-41, 1877-1986

Series 5: Court Journals, 1876-2000

Scope and content note: Court journals are arranged chronologically and document the daily proceedings of the court. They provide a synopsis of the actions taken on each case heard each day. Cases heard over multiple days will contain multiple entries. Use the general indexes to access the court journals.

Extent: 17 volumes

- v.1 Court Journal #1, 1876-1887
- v.2 Court Journal #2, 1887-1891
- v.3 Court Journal #3, 1891-1893
- v.4 Court Journal #4, 1893-1895
- v.5 Court Journal #5, 1895-1897
- v.6 Court Journal #6, 1897-1899
- v.7 Court Journal #7, 1899-1903
- v.8 Court Journal #8, 1903-1906
- v.9 Court Journal #9, 1906-1919
- v.10 Court Journal #10, 1919-1929
- v.11 Court Journal #11, 1929-1935
- v.12 Court Journal #12, 1935-1940
- v.13 Court Journal #13, 1940-1953
- v.14 Court Journal #14, 1953-1972
- v.15 Court Journal #15, 1972-1984
- v.16 Court Journal #16, 1984-1995
- v.17 Court Journal #17, 1996-2000

Series 6: Judgment Records, 1872-2000

Scope and content note: Judgment volumes are arranged alphabetically by judgment debtor within each volume. Entries may contain information such as case number, judgment debtor

name, judgment creditor name, date of judgment, amount, costs, journal volume and page, and remarks and receipts. Use the general indexes to access the judgment records.

Extent: 3 volumes

- v.1 Judgment Record #1, 1872-1897
- v.2 Judgment Record #2, 1872-1921
- v.3 Judgment Record #3, 1916-2000

Series 7: Mental Health Commitment Records, 1878-2013

Scope and content: These are also known as the Board of Commissioners of Insanity records. This series is separated by format: volumes and case files.

Volumes are arranged chronologically and separated by case within each volume. Dipsomaniac cases from 1910-1952 were recorded in their own volume. Each volume contains an index except for v.3.

Case files are loosely arranged chronologically and by case number. Case files are unprocessed and may require additional time to be accessed.

Records document the process of committing someone to the state hospital due to mental health concerns. Records may include information such as the name of the person being committed, oaths of parties testifying to their incompetence, physician's notes, transcripts of the proceedings, warrant of admission to a state hospital, and the return of the sheriff or substitute. Case files may contain similar information with more detail.

Access note: Records that are older than 85 years are open for research. Records that are 85 years old or newer are closed per Nebraska Revised Statute 84-712.05(2), up to those dated 1976. Records that date 1976 or newer are closed per Nebraska Revised Statute 71-961. Patrons who desire access to records closed by 71-961 can petition the court per 71-961(1)(e).

Extent: 6 volumes, 4 boxes

- v.1 Commissioner of Insanity Record, 1878-1900
- v.2 Insanity Record #2, 1901-1912
- v.3 Insanity Record, 1912-1930
- v.4 Insanity Record #3, 1930-1970
- v.5 Mental Health Record #4, 1970-1986
- v.6 Dipsomaniac Record #1, 1910-1952

Boxes 1-4, unprocessed mental health case files, 1890s-2010s

Series 8: Coroners Records, 1888-1973

Scope and content note: The coroner's inquest record documents the findings of the coroner for certain cases. They are arranged by case and describe the circumstances of death and the coroner's determination of death. An index is located at the front of the volume.

Extent: 1 volume

v.1 Coroner's Inquest Record #1, 1888-1973

Series 9: Trial Dockets, 1876-1885

Scope and content note: This trial docket is arranged by term and case number. Entries may contain case number, attorney, name of parties, clerks notes, and judge's notes. Use the general indexes to access the trial docket.

Extent: 1 volume

v.1 Records #1, April 1876 - Nov 1885