

Judges of the District Court and Leading Officials of Douglas County



HOWARD KENNEDY,
Judge of District Court.



WILLIAM A. REDICK,
Judge of District Court.



WILLIS G. SEARS,
Judge of District Court.



LEE S. ESTELLE,
Judge of District Court.



A. I. SUTTON,
Judge of District Court.



A. C. TROUP,
Judge of District Court.



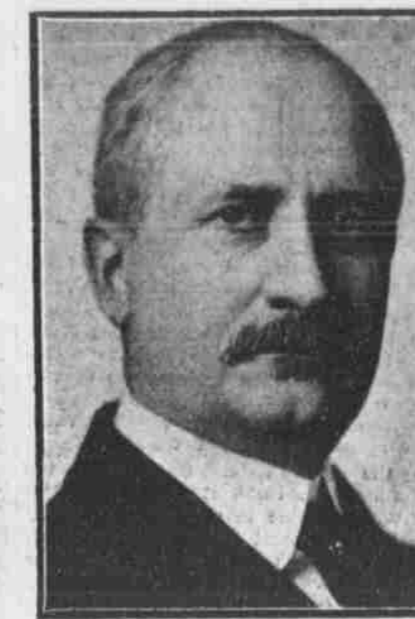
G. A. DAY,
Judge of District Court.



CHARLES LESLIE,
County Judge.



ROBERT SMITH,
Clerk of District Court.



JAMES P. ENGLISH,
County Attorney.



E. F. BRAILEY,
Sheriff.



GEORGE A. MAGNEY,
Deputy County Attorney.



ALFRED G. ELICK,
Deputy County Attorney.



GEORGE MBRIDE,
County Surveyor.



W. G. SHRIVER,
County Assessor.



FRANK A. PURAY,
County and City Treasurer.



D. M. HAVERLEY,
County Clerk.



FRANK W. BANDLE,
Register of Deeds.



W. A. YODER,
Superintendent Public Instruction.



THOMAS MCCLNEGHAN,
Superintendent of County Hospital.



FRED BRUNING,
Chairman County Commissioners.



JOHN GRANT,
County Commissioner.



OSCAR J. PICKARD,
County Commissioner.



JOHN C. TROUTON,
County Commissioner.



JEFF W. BEDFORD,
County Commissioner.



WILLIS C. CROSBY,
Coroner.



FREDERICK RENNER,
Superintendent of Store.

DOUGLAS COUNTY A RICH EMPIRE

Assessed Valuation of \$188,446,935
for 1910 is Twenty Per Cent
of Real Value.

INDIVIDUALITY WELL PRESERVED

Count is an Entity Not to Be Lightly
Reckoned.

NOT OVERSHADOWED BY THE CITY

New Court House One of the Finest in
United States.

VERY COST BIG OUTLAY OF MONEY

Cultural Domain Unexcelled in
Fertility by Any Other in the En-
tire Country—School Sys-
tem Pride of County.

As a rule, city so overshadows county in
wealth and general importance that without
the city, the county amounts to but little.
Remove Chicago from Cook county, or St.
Louis from St. Louis county, and compara-
tively little remains. So it is in many
places, but if the city of Omaha were elim-
inated from Douglas county, there would

still be left an entity not to be lightly reck-
oned. Douglas county is first of all an agricul-
tural ballroom. The price of the land is high,
owing to its proximity to the metropolis, yet
farmers have made it pay handsome returns
upon the investment. In fact, the county of
Douglas is one of the most thoroughly tilled
sections of Nebraska. Splendid farms and
splendid farm houses dot the country, attest-
ing the prosperity of the husbandman, and many
a fortune has been made out of Douglas county
soil.

Douglas is one of the original eight coun-
ties of Nebraska, created by Governor Cum-
mings in 1854, and until 1857, it included the
present county of Sarpy within its limits. After
Sarpy county was segregated, there remained
321 square miles—an area as fertile as any that
can be found in the middle west.

By way of illustrating the expansion of
wealth in Douglas county, comparison of
assessed valuation is interesting. In 1858 the
total assessed valuation of all property, real
and personal, was \$11,116, while the as-
sessed valuation for 1910, real and personal,
is \$188,446,935. Of this \$188,446,935 applies
to Douglas county outside of the city of Omaha.

One of the most recent and most notable
forward movements of Douglas county is the
appropriation of \$1,000,000 for a new court
house which, when completed, will be one of
the finest county buildings in the United States.
No city in the entire country will have a more
ornate, commodious and modern building—not
until they build again and try to outshine

Douglas county. Vexatious delays have
somewhat retarded the building process, yet
it is the hope of the county commissioners
that the new building will be ready for occu-
pancy in the year 1912. That seems now
like a long way into the future, yet con-
sideration must be given to the fact that
there is much work about such a vast
building.

Briefly described, the new court house
is to be seven stories high, with a base
dimension of 157 feet and 4 inches by 233
feet and 6 inches, and a height of 111 feet
from foundation to dome. The building
will not look to be seven stories. Perhaps
it would be more nearly accurate to design-
ate it as a five-story structure, yet by
counting the basement and the sub base-
ment the seven stories are found. On the
top floor will be the jail, and just below it
comes a mezzanine floor which is de-
signed to remove any evidences of the court
prison from the court rooms and the offices
on the floors below. Prisoners will be
brought to the court house through a rear
elevator and hoisted to their cells in a
driveway toward the rear of the building.
Thus all outward suggestion of a prison
will be removed from the building.

While the structure is generally spoken
of as a million-dollar building, the fact
remains that before it is completed, includ-
ing the front parking, the total cost will
run to \$1,300,000. The ground in front of the
old building is to be graded and a retaining
wall much lower and more ornate than the
present one will be built.

When on October 25, 1882, the cornerstone
of the new dismantled but still occupied
building was laid with great ceremony,
the commissioners in charge evidently felt
that Douglas county had a seat of govern-
ment fine enough and large enough for all
time to come. In fact, it was a magnificent
building for that era, but the county has
long since outgrown it and now comes the
new structure to meet the demand.

The court house site consists of an entire
block, bounded on the west by Eighteenth
street, east by Seventeenth street, north
by Farnam street, and south by Harney
street. The value of this block, exclusive
of buildings, is now estimated at \$1,000,000,
but back in 1878 it was purchased by the
county for \$35,913, which in that day was
considered a rather strong figure. The
difference between the purchase price in
1878 and the estimated value today tells
in tabular how real estate values have in-
creased in Omaha. But that is another
story, which will be told in detail else-
where in this issue of The Bee.

In 1880 an election was held for the
purpose of voting in the sum of \$125,000 for
the erection of the court house, which is
now soon to be torn away. It was dis-
covered, however, that \$125,000 was an in-
adequate appropriation, and a year later
another election was held and the bond
issue was increased. Before the finish,
the structure had cost the county \$204,787.
The present roster of county officials
follows.

County clerk, D. M. Haverley; county
treasurer, Frank A. Puray; sheriff, E. F.
Brailey; register of deeds, F. W. Bandle;
county attorney, James P. English; county
judge, Charles Leslie; county surveyor,
George McBride; clerk of the district court,
Robert Smith; coroner, W. C. Crosby;
county physician, Louis Swoboda; county
superintendent of schools, W. A. Yoder;

county assessor, W. G. Shriver; superin-
tendent of county hospital, Thomas Mc-
Clenneghan.

County Commissioners—Fred Bruning,
chairman; John Grant, first district; Fred
Bruning, second district; O. J. Pickard,
third district; J. C. Trouton, fourth district;
J. W. Bedford, fifth district. Henry E.
Ostrom, secretary.

Douglas county takes special pride in the
district schools. There are sixty-three dis-
tricts in the county and the intellectuality
and general capability of the teachers is
high above the average. As a rule the
county school buildings are commodious
and illiteracy in Douglas county is a thing
unknown.

Douglas county is essentially an agricul-
tural county. Near the city there is con-
siderable truck farming, but for the most
part the county is devoted to general farm-
ing. Equipment for tilling the soil is the
very latest of modern invention and the
fact that automobiles are the rule rather
than the exception as a means of transit
attests the prosperity of the farmer. Dairy-
ing is also a leading pursuit and there is
much pedigreed stock of every kind. Ken-
tucky is far famed for the blood of its
horses, but go out into Douglas county
anywhere, any day, and the observer will
find horses that will prance alongside of
anything Kentucky has ever produced, and
suffer none by the comparison. This show-
ing of horses, in view of the ever increasing
popularity of the automobile, may seem
somewhat anomalous, yet it is a fact none
the less. There was a time when Douglas
county roads were not worthy of cheerful
comment, but that day has passed and now
the highways are among the best to be
found in the country. The Douglas county
farmer is more than a mere tiller of the
soil. He has money in the bank. He comes
to town in his automobile, unless perchance



CHARLES L. SAUNDERS,
Supervisor of Census.