

FIND YOUR ROOTS



Photo by National Homestead Monument of America

PICTURE YOUR ANCESTOR IN HOMESTEAD HISTORY

Was your ancestor one of the more than 75,000 people whose existing records prove they received free land in Nebraska through the Homestead Act of 1862? Are you looking to use the homestead records for scholarly research? Experts at the National Archives and Records Administration, who preserve and care for these records, have stated that the Homestead Case Files are an extraordinarily information rich data set with wide-ranging research value. However, over the years they have been an under-used collection by scholars and family historians alike.

And now, for the first time, the Nebraska Homestead Land Entry Case Files have been completely digitized and are accessible online.

HERE'S HOW:

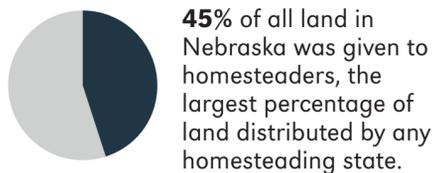
- 1 Visit www.fold3.com and www.ancestry.com, or visit a Family History Center (for locations see <https://familysearch.org/locations/centerlocator>)
- 2 Access the records through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries Electronic Resources
- 3 Visit Beatrice, Nebraska and use Homestead National Monument of America's research computers

These files contain detailed information about our ancestors including what kind of homes they lived in, how many acres of crops they grew, and in some instances, they contain naturalization information, military service documents and much more. This project was only possible through the partnerships Homestead National Monument of America had with The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Family Search, Fold3.com, and Ancestry.com, along with the cooperation of the National Archives and Records Administration.

ABOUT THE RECORDS



The first homestead ever claimed in the U.S. was in Nebraska.



104,260

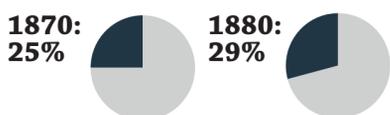
The number of people who received land in Nebraska via the Homestead Act – this is the fourth largest of any state, trailing only Montana, North Dakota, and Colorado.

In the first 7 years (1863 - 1870) after the passage of the Act, Nebraska's population increased more than 425%, jumping from 29,000 to 123,000 people.



The Homestead Act increased diversity throughout the state by allowing immigrants to Homestead.

PERCENT FOREIGN BORN



Nebraska's peak year for homesteading was 1913 when 5,134 homesteads were distributed equaling 2,476,575 acres.

For more information about this project, please contact Homestead National Monument of America at 402-223-3514 or visit www.nps.gov/home or Homestead's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HomesteadNM.



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