

## Gove County organization records

In order for an unorganized county to be recognized by the state of Kansas, a certain number of householders/legal electors had to petition the governor. The governor would appoint a census taker. Initially, unorganized counties were required to document that they had at least 600 inhabitants in order to be recognized as a county by the state legislature. Over time the number of residents needed to organize a county changed to 1500 and later to 2500 residents. The census was submitted to the governor who then issued a proclamation indicating that the requirements had been met, appointing county commissioners and a county clerk, and naming a county seat. Not all of these documents are available for each county.

Included in this file is a letter from the Ellis County Clerk pertaining to Gove County, a proclamation from the governor appointing a census taker, and the proclamation by the governor appointing Gove County officials and designating Gove City as the temporary county seat.

Creator: Kansas. Secretary of State

Date: 1880-1886

Callnumber: Kansas. Secretary of State's Office, County Organization files, ca. 1861-1912

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[www.kansasmemory.org/item/216868](http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/216868)

KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



JAMES REEDER,  
County Clerk.

### COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, Ellis County, Kansas.

Hays City, October 27th 1880

Hon James Smith.  
Sec. State.

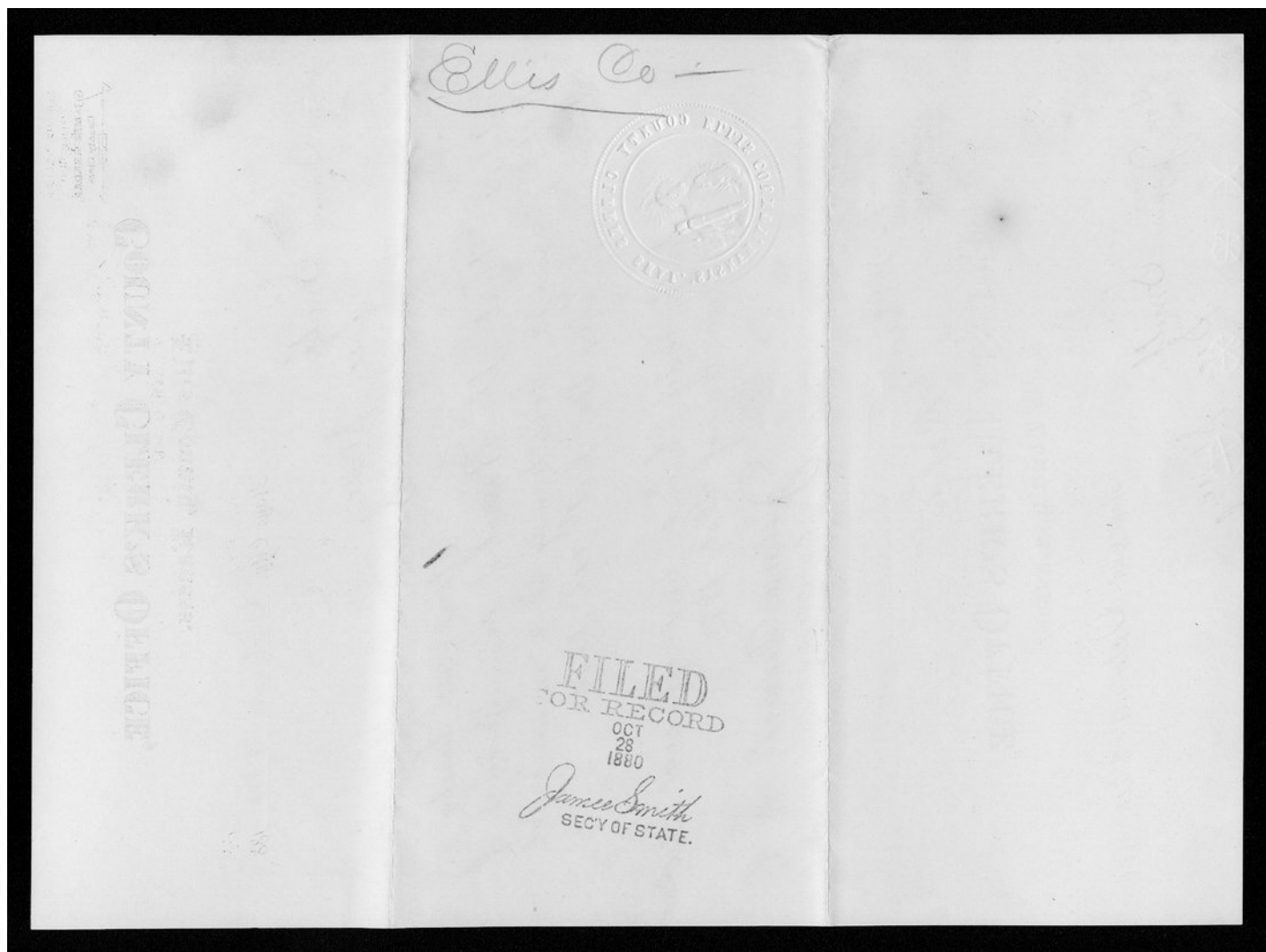
Sir.

You are hereby  
notified that the Board of commissioners of  
Ellis<sup>County</sup>, organized Gove County as a municipal  
township of Ellis Co., Oct 7th 1880.

Witness my hand and official seal  
this 27th day of Oct. 1880.

James Reeder  
Co. Clerk

By  
L. W. Reeder  
Deputy







G O V E R N O R ' S   P R O C L A M A T I O N .

-----)o(-----  
Appointing Census Taker for Gove county.  
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STATE OF KANSAS,  
Executive Department,  
Topeka, July 7th, 1886.

WHEREAS, A memorial has been presented to the Governor, signed by four hundred house-holders, who are legal electors of the State, of the unorganized county of Gove, showing that there are two thousand five hundred bona fide inhabitants in said county, and that four hundred of said two thousand five hundred are house-holders, residing in said county, praying that said county may be organized, accompanied by an affidavit of five free holders, showing that the signatures to said memorial are genuine signatures of house-holders and bona fide residents within said unorganized county, and that the affiants do believe that there are two thousand five hundred bona fide inhabitants in said county, as stated in the memorial;

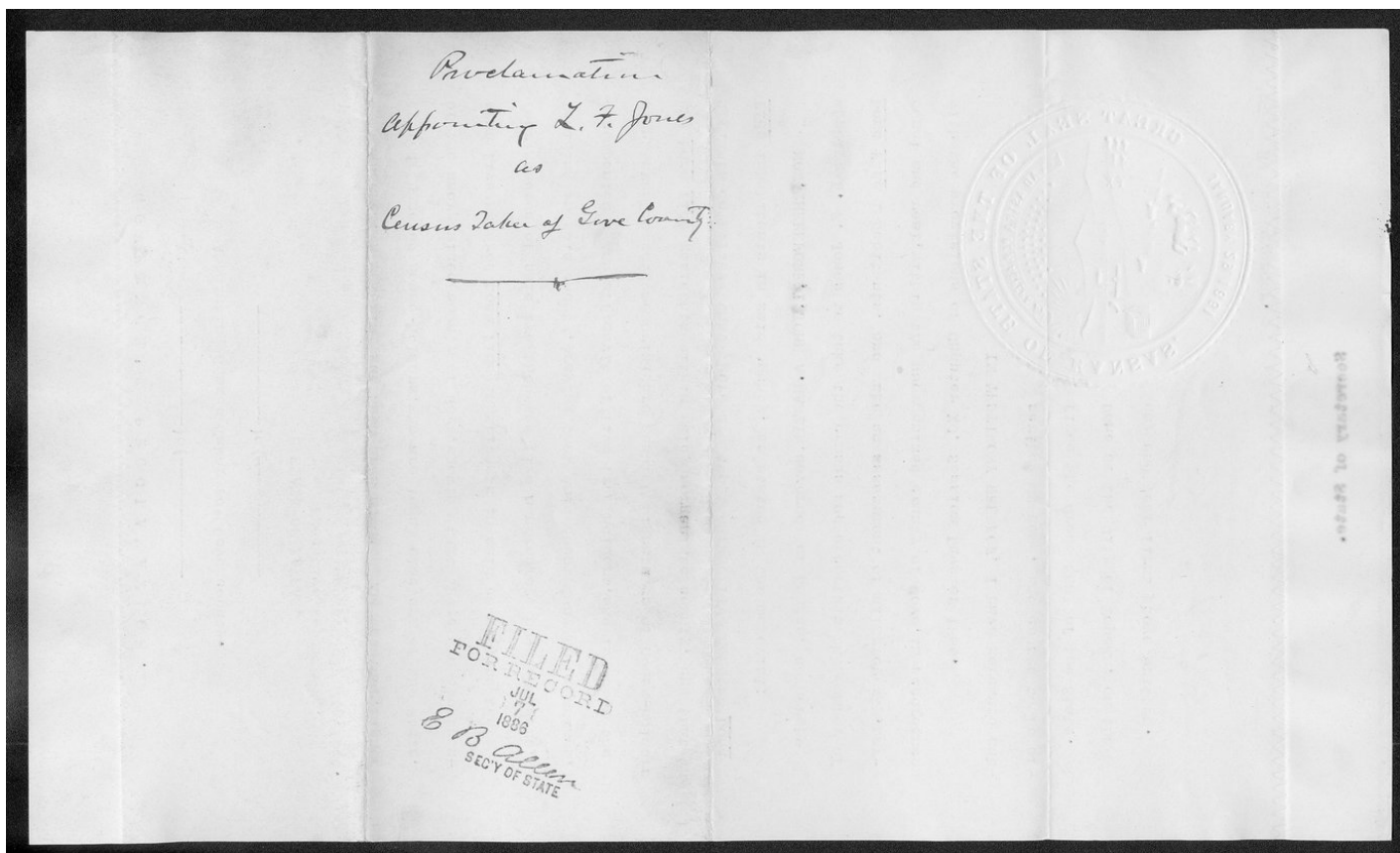
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN A. MARTIN, Governor of Kansas, do hereby appoint L. F. Jones to take the census and ascertain the number of bona fide inhabitants, and make an assessment of all property, personal and real, within the unorganized county of Gove, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XC, Session Laws of 1886.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State.  
Done at the City of Topeka, on the  
day and year first above written.

By the Governor.

*E. B. Allen*  
Secretary of State.  
*By M. A. Caraway* *Asst Sec'y of State*

## Gove County organization records







GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION.

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STATE OF KANSAS,  
Executive Department,  
Topeka, Sept. 2nd, 1886.

WHEREAS, On the 7th day of July, A.D. 1886, on presentation to me of a memorial, signed and authenticated as required by law, I appointed L. F. Jones to take the census of the unorganized county of Gove, ascertain the number of bona fide inhabitants therein, and to do and perform each and every duty under such appointment required by law; and

WHEREAS, The said L. F. Jones did, on the 28th day of August, A. D. 1886, return to the Governor the census enumeration and assessment required, with his affidavit sworn to before the Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State attached thereto, that the census and enumeration and assessment contained in said return are true; and

WHEREAS, It appears by said return, that there are in the unorganized county of Gove three thousand thirty-two bona fide inhabitants, and that eight hundred fifty-one of them are householders, and that there is five hundred forty-one thousand nine hundred nine dollars worth of taxable property in excess of the legal exemptions, excluding railroad property, of which three hundred sixteen thousand seven hundred thirty-one dollars worth is real estate; and

WHEREAS, A memorial signed by a majority of the legal voters of the said county has been presented to me recommending that the town of Gove City be declared the temporary county seat;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN A. MARTIN, Governor of the State of Kansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by law, do here-

## Gove County organization records

by appoint Jerome McLanahan, William T. Stokes and Lyman Raymond County Commissioners, and John H. Borah County Clerk, and designate and declare the City of Gove City to be the temporary county seat of said County of Gove.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto sub-

scribed my name, and caused to be af-

fixed the Great Seal of the State.

Done at the City of Topeka, on the

day and year first above written.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor.



Secretary of State.



Proclamation  
Organizing Gove  
County  
— 21 —  
Gove City  
County Seat.

FILED  
FOR RECORD  
SEP  
2  
1886  
E. B. Allen  
SECY OF STATE