

## History

Loup County is trisected by two spring fed, constant flowing rivers, the North Loup River and the Calamus River. Geographically the county is located a short distance north of the center of Nebraska and is the southern edge of the Nebraska Sandhills. The wide valleys, rolling hills, and clear waters made it inevitable that settlers would see this prairie of native grassland and desire to set up their homesteads and pursue agriculture.

Loup County was first seen in 1796 when French explorers came up the North Loup River valley traveling the length of the county. The Loup County territory was surveyed by the government in 1870-1871. Settlers first began arriving in 1873 however the county was not organized until 1883. Loup County is said to have gotten it's name from the French word 'Loup' meaning 'Wolf', named by early French Trappers after the Wolf Pawnee band of Indians who ranged the area and called themselves the 'Wolf People'.

The first settlement established in Loup County was 'Kent' in the southeastern part of the county. Loup County saw the birth of several settlements over the years and has had 18 post offices, some operating for several years and others remaining open only for a short time. County organization began in 1883 and the established settlement of Kent was fixed as the temporary seat of government. An election was held the summer of 1883 and after a hard fight, Taylor won the county seat. Today, Taylor, population 180, remains the only town in existence in Loup County.

Taylor was built on land gifted by Joseph Rusho who is known as the 'father' of Taylor. Rusho named the town 'Taylor' in honor of his friend Edward Taylor. The early years saw a lot of growth and prosperity for the town. In 1887 the historic Pavillion Hotel was erected on the belief that the railroad would be passing through Taylor on it's way westward. It was said to be the finest hostelry west of Grand Island, Nebraska. When the railroad expansion did not happen, the anticipated growth for the town slowly began to dwindle. Early businesses in Taylor were the Pavillion Hotel, The Loup County Bank, and the Loup County Clarion. Over the years Taylor has had a hardware store, a dry goods store, a grocery store, an implement dealer, hair salons, eating establishments and bars. Today Taylor stands as a town proud of its heritage and its willingness to adapt to changing times. You will see evidence of its pride in the Park Square, the quaint older buildings that have been restored, and the friendliness of the people that make up this community.

Loup County is very different today than in the days of its settlement. The settlers saw a vast land with visions of opportunity. Today residents of Loup County still see their county with visions of opportunity. Recreational enthusiasts can enjoy a variety of activities in Loup County while still enjoying fresh air, uncrowded spaces, good food, shopping gems, and the genuine friendliness that the Sandhills are known for. Come see for yourself why Loup County is a destination to discover!

