

Adams County Sheriff's Office -- 150th Anniversary

The office of sheriff traces its roots to 9th century England. The kingdom was divided into geographic areas called "shires". A "reeve" was appointed in each region to serve as peacekeeper, tax collector, jailor and process server for the King's Court. Over time, the words were contracted into "shire-reeve", and eventually into "sheriff". The shire-reeve concept spread through the British Empire, including the American Colonies. Virginia was home to the first appointed sheriff in 1634 and the first elected sheriff in 1652. Today there are 3,083 county and parish sheriffs in the U.S., 98% being elected by citizens.

When Adams County government was organized at Juniata in December 1871, Isaac W. Stark was chosen as the first sheriff. Buffalo hunting was not an official duty, but in 1872 Sheriff Stark took part in a hunt with six others near the Little Blue River.

Early sheriffs worked out of offices rented by the county. By 1881, an addition to the Farrell Block (or stone block) was built to serve as the first actual county courthouse. These county offices would see a murder suspect taken from deputies by an angry mob and lynched north of town and the shooting death of a rape suspect right in the courtroom. A brand-new courthouse was constructed 1889-1890 (where the city parking lot is today), and served until 1964.

Sheriff James McCleery, elected in 1905, was the first Adams County sheriff to utilize automobiles (albeit borrowed).

In 1967, the sheriff's office took over ambulance services for the county after the funeral homes abandoned such services.

In celebrating 150 years of service to Adams County by 22 sheriffs, it has been quite interesting to follow the progress from a one-man office in 1871 to the present Adams County Sheriff's Office, which has eighteen deputies, seventeen corrections/communication staff, ten support staff and twenty-five vehicles.

Monty McCord



ADAMS COUNTY SHERIFFS

(Monty McCord, president, Adams County Historical Society)

Isaac W. Stark	----- 1871--1873
James B. McCleery	----- 1873--1877
S. L. Martin	----- 1877--1882
George T. Hutchinson	----- 1882-1884
David L. Barlass	----- 1884--1889
George Crane	----- 1889--1893
John W. Harris	----- 1893--1895
Otto Otten	---(died in office)-----1896
August Berg	--(interim)-----1896--1897
John J. Simmering	----- 1897--1901
John T. Hill	----- 1901--1905
James C. McCleery	----- 1905--1911
William A. Cole	----- 1911--1922
George Harm	----- 1922--1926
Raymond L. Crosson	----- 1926--1934
Worthy B. Wood	----- 1934--1962
Robert G. Anderson	----- 1962--1978
Gregg A. Magee	---(interim)-----1978
Jake Thiel	-----1978--1982
Gregg A. Magee	----- 1982--2018
John S. Rust	----- 2018 -- present

Structure of the Adams County Sheriff's Department.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF – John Rust is the current elected Sheriff and Kevin Mauck serves as his Chief Deputy. When Sheriff Rust became Sheriff he hired a Jail Administrator, Jeremiah Harmon, the first jail administrator for Adams County that was not the Sheriff. The Sheriff and the Chief Deputy oversee all aspects of the Sheriff's Department. The Jail Administrator oversees the day-to-day jail operations. The Sheriff also has an Asst. Administrative Secretary.

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT – This unit operates with one Segreant and 3 certified deputies along with 3 full time support staff. The unit is responsible for Civil Process, Warrants, Distress Warrants, Court Security and prisoner escorts to court, Sex Offender Registry and general courthouse security, responding to alarms within the courthouse and courtrooms as needed.

The Civil Process Division is handled by two full time staff members and overseen by the Segreant. Paper service is one of the first responsibilities of the Sheriff. Civil paper service, tax foreclosures replevins orders, executions, and many more are just some of the very important responsibilities of this division. On average the civil process divisions handles and serves approximately 6,000 civil papers a year and our warrant division receive on average 1,000 warrants a year.

Currently Adams County has 102 registered sex offenders registered as living within Adams County that are monitored by the unit to assure their compliance with the sex offender statues.

On a weekly basis this unit will escort 25-35 inmates to and from court, out of the Jail that is currently located on the third floor of the courthouse.

This unit is also responsible for receiving gun permits, then doing the back ground checks and either approving or denying the permit. We also are responsible for completing vehicle inspections both at the Courthouse and in the community.

ROAD PATROL UNIT - This unit operates with 13 certified deputies, two of which are Sergeants that supervise those under their command. Our main area of responsibility is responding to calls to the public, civil process assistance, traffic enforcement, accident investigation, village ordinance enforcement, and much more.

On average this unit will respond to approximately 250-300 calls for service every month and are also responsible for following up with investigations when necessary.

Our road patrol unit also assists with civil process and are assigned papers for collection and assist with foreclosure duties.

INVESTIGATIONS UNIT - This unit operates with one full-time certified investigator. Some of the areas of responsibility within the Investigations Unit are investigating crimes ranging from theft to homicide. Sgt. G. Kemp is a member of the HIDTA or the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, City County Drug Task Force, and CANDO the Compact for Apprehension of Narcotics, Dealers and Offenders.

Sgt. G. Kemp assist deputies with their follow ups and conducts independent investigations also assisting the surrounding agencies with criminal investigation.

CORRECTIONS/COMMUNICATIONS UNIT - This unit operates with 15 employees. This unit has a Jail Administrator and an Assistant Jail Administrator that supervise this unit. Some of their responsibilities include the security of the Adams County Jail and its inmates, inmate care and enforcement, and much more. In this unit, Officers serve as both Corrections and Dispatchers and they handle all 911 calls, calls for service, communications for the county, and radio traffic for our deputy's. On average, we receive over 140 phone calls per day during business hours. These phone calls range in nature from people checking on their loved ones in the jail to calls for service that the deputies respond to.

The jail processed and booked approximately 1000 prisoners this past year. Our jail currently only houses 40 inmates at a time and no females or juveniles are housed in Adams County. As this is the case Adams County holds many of its prisoners in other counties relying on transport officers to bring prisoners back for court. Currently a new jail is being planned to house up to 154 inmates. The completion date for that project is approximately July of 2023.

EMPLOYEES

Each Deputy is given a badge number when they are hired. Badge numbers for the Sheriff's Departments in Nebraska begin with the number "9" then the next number is the county number, for Adams County it is "14" the following numbers are the Deputy's badge number.

Sheriff John Rust has the most seniority (42 years) than any current employee being hired in 1979, followed by Sgt. G. Kemp (41 years) being hired shortly after in 1980.

Sheriff Rust has served as a Communications Officer, Deputy Sheriff, Investigator and Chief Deputy under Sheriff Magee.

Current Adams County Sheriff's Dept. Roster:

914 Sheriff John Rust
9141 Chief Deputy Kevin Mauck
9142 Investigator/Sgt. G. Kemp
9143 Administrative Sgt. Daniel Furman
9147 Road Patrol Sgt. Richard Fahrenholtz
91412 Road Patrol Sgt. Gary Reed
9144 Deputy John Krantz
9145 Deputy Mike Poplau
9146 Deputy James Konen
9148 Deputy Heath Lemke
9149 Deputy Byron Morrow
91410 Deputy Mike Shafer
91411 Deputy Rick Kemp
91413 Deputy John Caltagirone
91414 Deputy Steve Laird
91415 Deputy Scott Collins
91416 Deputy Tevin Anderson

91417 Deputy Matthew Tinsman
91418 Deputy Forrest Weichman

Corrections Communications:

Jail Administrator Jeremiah Harmon
Asst. Jail Administrator Dave Rutt
Jail Administrator Assistant Doug Ruhter
Officer Brenda Chrise
Officer Marc Walther
Officer Jon Bornemeier
Officer Dan Heuertz
Officer Latisha Morrow
Officer Nathan Benorden
Officer Seth Sorensen
Officer Taylor Hancock
Officer Cheryl Bontz
Officer Sylvia Estes
Officer Tayler McAndrew
Officer Randy Borrell
Cook Valorie Nutz
Cook Corral Calhoun

Support Staff:

Civil Process Secretary Shari Marsh
Civil Process/Front Office Staff Barb Curtis
Administrative Assistant Shari Kriz
Court Officer/Front Office Staff Lyle Stovall
Part-Time Secretary Pam Augustine
Records Clerk Kim Thayer
Records Clerk Dora Leyva

Transport Officers:

Leroy Samuelsson
Dan Childers
Randy Conner