

The county's population increased barely 1% between the 1910 and 1920 censuses. It grew from 9,274 in 1910 to 9,370 in 1920—a gain of 96. 1920 census figures for Sarpy County cities were as follows: Bellevue 695, Papillion 666, Springfield 413, and Gretna 491.

Prohibitionists had thought (or at least hoped) that since it was illegal to drink that people would not drink; but the Roaring Twenties brought on bootleggers and speakeasies. Ole's Rooftop Garden, a humorous reference to the Sarpy County jail run by Sheriff Olderog on the roof of the Courthouse, was inhabited mostly by bootleggers. If one speakeasy were closed by law officers, another was sure to pop up almost immediately.

The Twenties witnessed many activities of a more constructive nature. Papillion gained a new courthouse, replacing the one built in 1875. Two new church buildings were erected by the congregations of First Lutheran Church and St. Columbkille's Catholic Church, a new bridge was constructed over Papillion Creek, and a Boy Scout log cabin was built in City Park. Springfield received its first paved streets.

In Bellevue, the Chinese Mission Society Headquarters was dedicated in 1922. The Chinese Mission Society operated a seminary for the training of missionary priests. The cornerstone for the seminary had been laid in 1919. One interesting note is that St. Columban's operates its own Post Office. St. Columban's was built on over 200 acres of land, which had been owned by old Bellevue College. The college had closed in 1919. Also in Bellevue they still had cattle grazing in front of the old courthouse.

Linoma Beach, a former sand pit in the western part of the county, was recycled into a recreational area featuring boating and fishing as well as a restaurant and dance hall.

In the political arena, Mabel Gillespie of Gretna was the first female from Sarpy County to win state office. She was elected to the Nebraska House of Representatives in 1924 and was re-elected several times to that office.

Meanwhile, back at the Fort . . . In 1921, the first permanent steel hanger and dirt runways were completed at Fort Crook, thus allowing the landing of its first aircraft, two DeHaviland DH-4Bs. Three years later the air field was named Offutt Field in honor of Omahan Jarvis Offutt, who had been killed in WW I