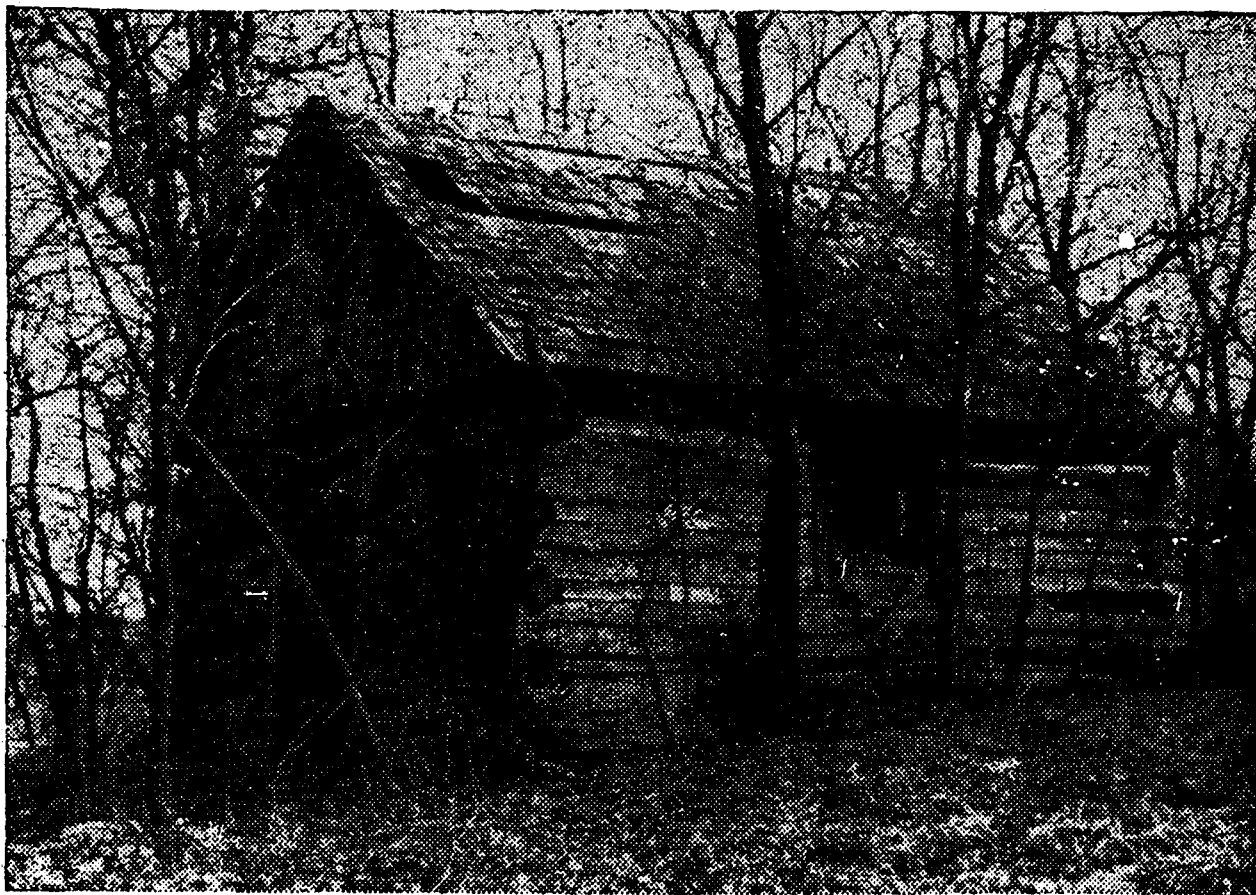


Cass County Historical Society Magazine



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Pioneer Stories of Cass County

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Pioneer Stories of Cass County, Nebraska



Contributed by Present and Former Residents of
Cass County



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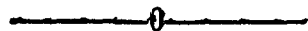
FOREWORD

The Cass County Historical Society was organized May 20, 1936, at Weeping Water, has had a desire to compile the history of Cass county, different from that found in the histories of this kind.

These stories, reprinted in book form, deal with pioneer life in almost every neighborhood of the county and connect the names of many settlers of the early days.

It is quite evident that many writers are able to depict the joys and sorrows, the hardships and reverses, and the incidents and anecdotes of the pioneers, who blazed the way in a new country, in a more interesting way than a single historian could possibly do.

There is no fiction in this book. These stories are true accounts of actual happenings and make valuable historical matter that will be handed down for generations to come.



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CASS COUNTY IN PAST AGES AND PIONEER DAYS

By G. H. GILMORE

Many millions of years ago a turbulent sea covered the territory occupied now by our middle western states which includes Nebraska, and this sea in receding, formed boggy swamps in which ferns, rushes and many plants grew to the size of trees. This murky, cloudy era was followed later by glaciers in which the Missouri valley was covered with a sheet of ice nearly a mile in thickness and in crossing Cass county it left in its course many huge colored boulders which are sought today for rock gardens. Some of these boulders were frozen in the bottom of the glacier and as the ice sheet passed over the layers of limestone, deep grooves were cut in the surface. These glacier scratches in lime stone have been found along the Missouri river and in the old Reed quarry east of Weeping Water.

The loess epoch then followed the ice in which the yellow clay so well known in Cass county was deposited. The bones of deer, elk and buffalo have been found in this stratum and the finding of arrow points and the remains of the Loess Man, by Dr. Robert Gilder near Omaha, show that man was living in this region at that date. On the Loess soil vegetation grew and from its growth and decay through many years, our black top soil was formed—our farm land today.

From the turbulent raging sea many millions of years ago to the beautiful undulating hills covered with prairie

grass and wild flowers and wooded valleys with sparkling streams, we have the plains area in which Nebraska is located. The fertility of the soil and the many wood lined streams attracted to this county a pre-historic agricultural race who came and lived in semi-subterranean houses at peace with the rest of the world and in their passing left many hundreds of burial mounds and house ruins in which are found charred corn, pottery, stone and bone implements as evidence of their occupancy.

Cass county was a part of the Louisiana Territory, which was owned by France and ceded to Spain in 1762 and in 1800 this territory was ceded back to France. It was under the administration of Thomas Jefferson that the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803 for \$15,000,000—560 million acres at less than three cents per acre.

The records of Lewis and Clarke in 1804: "Friday, July 20—We passed, at about three miles distance, a small willow island to the north of a creek on the south, about twenty-five yards wide, by the French called L'eau qui Pleure, or the Weeping Water." From here they passed along the eastern boundary of Cass county arriving at the mouth of the Platte river, Saturday evening, July 21, at 7:00 o'clock during a rain storm.

The Otoe Indians were along the Missouri river in Cass county when

white men first arrived and the Pawnee Indians were on the south side of the Platte river below Ashland. In 1845-46 the Mormons crossed Cass county and were followed in 1849 by gold seekers.

It was on April 17, 1854, that the Indians relinquished their rights to the lands west of the Missouri river and May 30, 1854, an act created the TERRITORY OF NEBRASKA with boundaries: "Beginning at the 40th parallel (the line between Kansas and Nebraska) and westward to the summit of the Rocky Mountains, thence north along the summit of the Rocky Mountains to the 49th parallel (Canadian line,) thence east to the west line of Minnesota, thence down the west line of Minnesota and the Missouri river to the 40th parallel." In the early fifties a startling head line appeared in the eastern papers, "GOLD DISCOVERED IN NEBRASKA." This was a fact, because at that date the Territory of Nebraska included much of Colorado, all of Wyoming, Montana and the two Dakotas.

June 24, 1854, by a proclamation of President Pierce the Territory of Nebraska was thrown open for settlement and land seekers hurriedly crossed the Missouri on many kinds of make-shift rafts and staked out their claims.

Cass county was named in honor of Lewis Cass, the son of Jonathan Cass, a Revolutionary soldier. Lewis Cass started life as a school teacher in Delaware, was admitted to the bar at Zanesville, Ohio, was secretary of war under President Jackson, minister to France and served two terms as U. S. Senator from Michigan and took an active part in the fight over the Kansas-Nebraska Bill. He died at Detroit

June 17, 1866.

Boundaries of Cass County

"Said county is bounded on the north by the Platte river, on the east by the Missouri river, on the south by the Weeping Water to its head waters, thence westward to the west boundary ceded to the United States, and thence by said boundary north to the Platte river." This would take a strip along the north side of Colorado and the south side of Wyoming to the crest of the Rocky Mountains.

"There shall be two precincts or places of voting in Cass county, viz., one at the house of Col Thompson in Kanosha precinct, and one at the house of Samuel Martin in Martin precinct. G. S. Griffith, Thomas Ashley and L. Young shall act as judges of election in Kanosha precinct and Benjamin R. Thompson and Wm. H. Davis clerks of the same. James O'Neil, Thomas L. Palmer and Stephen Wiles shall act as judges of election in Martin precinct and T. S. Gaskell and Levi Todd, clerks of the same."—T. B. Cumming, Acting Governor, November 23, 1854.

The county official organization in the beginning was very inefficient and to give the settlers justice, claim associations were formed with rules and regulations. The following Claim Club was organized at Lewiston, two miles southeast of Murray:

Rock Creek Claim Association

A meeting of the citizens in the neighborhood of Rock Creek, Cass county, Nebraska Territory, was held on the 31st of August for the purpose of protecting settlers in their claims. T. B. Ashley was chosen president and Wm. H. Davis, secretary, after which the following resolutions were passed:

1. A claim is known by actual set-

tlement.

2. A claim may embrace 320 acres 80 acres of which may be timber and may be in detached parts (and no more.)

3. That when the claim lines do not run with the survey of the government, that the person having the over-plus will deed over to the other person, provided they cannot agree to the survey line of the government and the person having the same deeded shall furnish the money necessary for the entrance thereof at Congress price.

4. That a committee of five be appointed to settle difficulties in relation to claims and claim intrusion either by persons at home or abroad.

5. That the following persons be entitled to hold claims: Men 21 years of age or the head of a family, widows and all boys who are 16 years old, but boys are prohibited from taking up more than one claim.

6. Boys are required to build a house or break five acres of prairie on their claim within eight months and if they sell their claim the person purchasing the same are required to conform to the obligations of the Association.

7. (Vacant.)

8. The bounds of the organization are as follows: On the north by Rock Creek Precinct, the west by the head of Rock Creek, south to include the John C. Rakes settlement, on the east by the Missouri river.

9. The committee chosen are as follows: T. B. Ashley, Wm. Young, Elza Martin, John Carroll and Martin Neff. The president may call a meeting of the association at any time but the regular meeting of the association shall be the last Saturday in each month at Lewiston.

10. The proceedings of this meet-

ing shall be published in the Nebraska City News and we hereunto set our hands:

Benedice Spiers, Wm. Frans, Augustus Spiers, Wm. D. Wiley, Lewis H. Young, Wm. T. Ashley, Lawrence Purvis, Elza Martin, A. C. Towner, John Carrol, A. Towner, Jr., H. M. Clousen, Wm. T. Laird, G. W. Winder, John Clemmons, A. Towner, Martin Neff, Thomas Patterson, William R. Ellington, John Louisignont, Samuel Winthrov, Frances Young, John R. Rakes, Isaac Rakes, Benjamin K. Davis and James Gordon.

Thomas Ashley, president.

Wm. H. Davis, secretary.

By Wm. H. Davis, Register of Deeds.

Filed for record, September 1, 1855."

Among the above named members of the ROCK CREEK CLAIM ASSOCIATION we have:

A. C. Towner the first sheriff of Cass county, by appointment. Wm. R. Ellington, the first sheriff by election in 1855.

Lewis Young platted the paper town of Lewiston. Augustus Spiers platted Granada, a suburb of Rock Bluff.

Elza Martin and Sarah Morris, first marriage in Cass county.

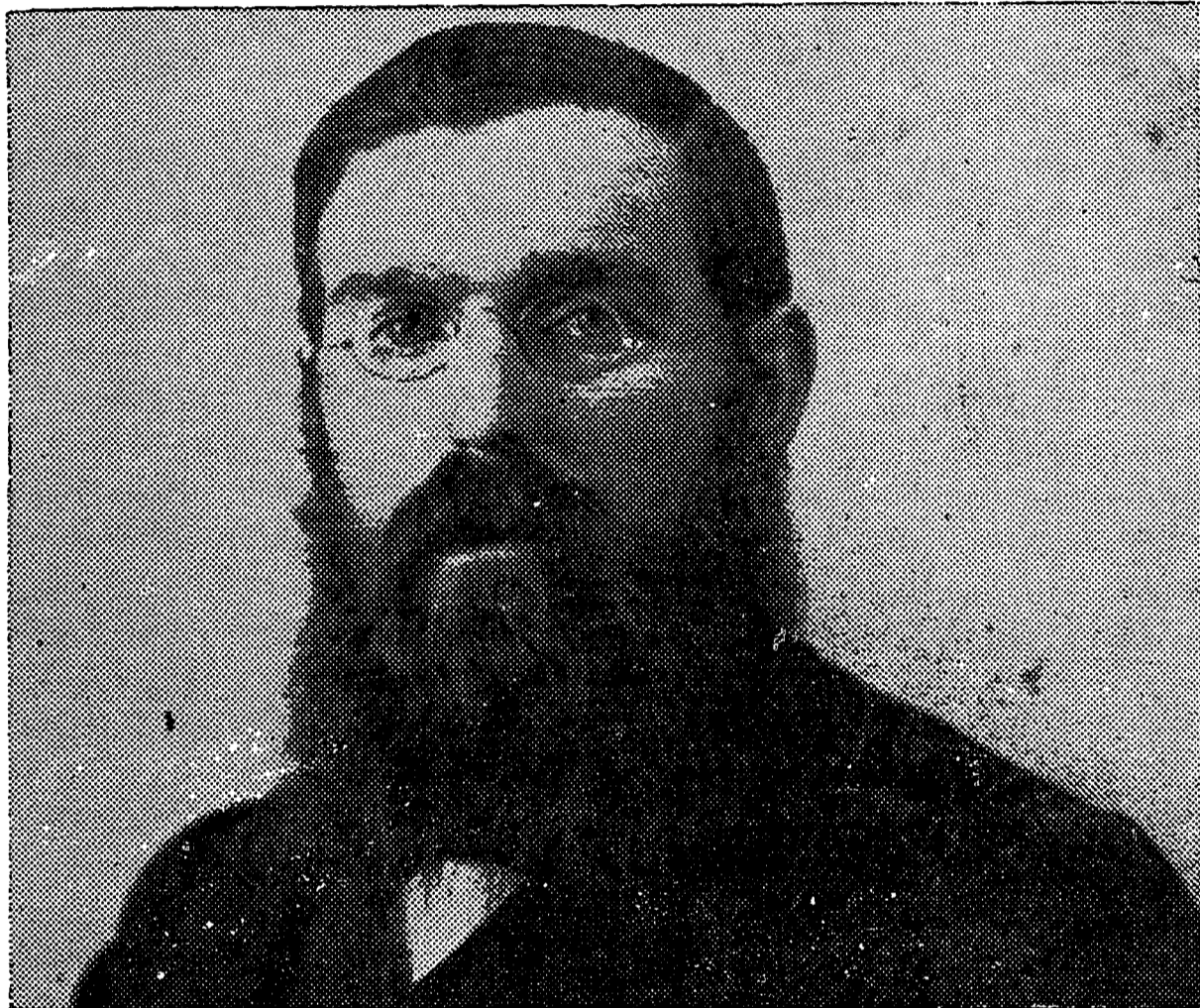
Thomas Patterson, the first resident of Rock Bluff and as government surveyor, sectionized the river tier of townships from Nebraska City to the Platte river.

Wm. H. Davis as the first recorder of Deeds in the county, kept his deeds filed in his log cabin, two miles east of Murray.

Thomas Ashley, a husky black-smoth, one mile southwest of Rock Bluff, was elected the first justice of the peace in Kanosha precinct and held the championship as the biggest story teller in the county.

EXPERIENCES AND WORK OF AN EARLY NEBRASKA PIONEER MINISTER

By MARTHA SPRIEGEL YOUNG



REV. FREDERICK SPRIEGEL
Pioneer Nebraska Minister

When this country was new, everything had its beginning in a small way, for of course at first the settlers were few and widely scattered. So of necessity, church work had to begin in a small way. When the missionaries first began their home mission work in this territory, they located and contacted the settlers and invited them to services at the most centrally located home. Then they would travel on, locate another group and again

have services in some of those homes. They would return as often as they could, but some times it would be three or six months before they could come back, depending on how large a territory they covered. There were no roads at that time, only Indian trails to follow across the prairies and the mode of travel was on horse back.

On account of new customs and most of all the new language, the immigrants from foreign countries usu-

ally settled in groups of the same nationality. As these newcomers mostly came from countries where church work and religious training were well established, they soon began to want the same things here. But because they found little time or opportunity for learning the new language, they preferred to establish their churches in their mother tongue. There being a number of German Lutherans in this community, they wanted church services in their own language and faith, but the native missionaries could not speak their tongue and the settlers could not understand the missionaries language, so some of the seminaries in Germany were contacted and also the more settled east and the result was that the following German Lutheran pastors did home missionary work in this community from 1859 to 1879: These men in the order of their service were pastors Kuhns, Groenmiller, Huber, Peschau and Dietrich. In 1879 my father, Rev. Frederick Spriegel, was sent to Nebraska from Germany by the seminary from which he had graduated, it being St. Chrischanna Seminary at Basel, Switzerland. He had done several years of evangelistic work in Germany and perhaps for that reason was thought to be more prepared for the missionary work he was to do here.

He first came to Fontanelle, in Washington county and there had his first experience of meeting wandering bands of Indians while he was riding his faithful pony across the prairies locating the isolated settlers and arranging for services. His work there was just to acquaint him with conditions as they were there and he worked with or under the supervision of

Rev. Daiss, who was stationed there and who was an old friend of his.

From Fontanelle he came to Nehawka and located along the Weeping Water creek near Nehawka, and from there followed up the work that had been started by the missionaries preceding him. He began his work here in 1880, and by this time preaching places had been established at the Heebner school house, west of Nehawka and the Paap school house near Otoe. He continued preaching at those places and later he also found settlements of Germans near Eight Mile Grove and Avoca and began preaching there. Of necessity, services could not be held often or regularly even then, because distance, and roads, if they could be called such—and transportation were still obstacles to be overcome. Weather often played a large part in those days. In the winter, roads were often blocked by snow drifts for days and days and sometimes even longer than that. In the summer after heavy rains many of the creeks and streams that had to be crossed were so high they could not be forded—this being the way they had to be crossed in many instances. I can well remember hearing my father tell about getting lost in blizzards while riding across the prairies, also of riding late at night when the settlers had gone to bed and he could see no lights to give him his bearings. He had many hours of lonely wandering and riding until he learned that often his pony knew more than he did about the trails and if he let it go where it wanted to, usually it took him to some place of refuge.

But gradually improvements came along all lines, roads became better,

settlements grew larger, which meant larger congregations and churches began to be talked of. After several attempts, two were finally built in my father's territory. One near Otoe, formerly Berlin, was started in the fall of 1882, and finished in the spring of 1883 and one near Eight Mile Grove was completed in 1890.

As these congregations grew, they of course, required more of his time and services until they became his main activities. Of course, at first, the work was carried on in the German language, but as the immigrants gradually learned the new language and mingled more with those of other nationalities that settled here, it became evident that the new language would also have to enter into the church work. So even though difficult at first, the instruction of the young people was begun. Even though my father never really preached in English, he officiated at many baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals in that language. Of course the work now is done almost all together in the English language. In

spite of many obstacles and setbacks, the work seemed to prosper and he remained here in charge of these two congregations for almost thirty-three years. At the charge he served near Otoe, three generations of his family now attend church.

He went from here to Platte Center in 1912, where for nine years he served a congregation there, which, by the way, was the only other pastorate he ever held. He died there in 1921.

His work was very dear to him and he spared neither time nor energy in doing it. It seemed not to have been in vain, because at both of the places he served so long in this territory, and also at the congregation at Platte Center, the work is still progressing nicely.

NOTE—When Rev. Spriegel came to Cass county in 1880, he settled on the present H. P. Sturm farm, a mile north of Nehawka. In 1882 the family moved to what is generally known as the "Spriegel farm," nine miles north of Nehawka, where they resided until August, 1912.

HISTORY OF MURDOCK AND ITS PEOPLE

Establishment of Railroad in 1891 and the Foundation of Present Little City

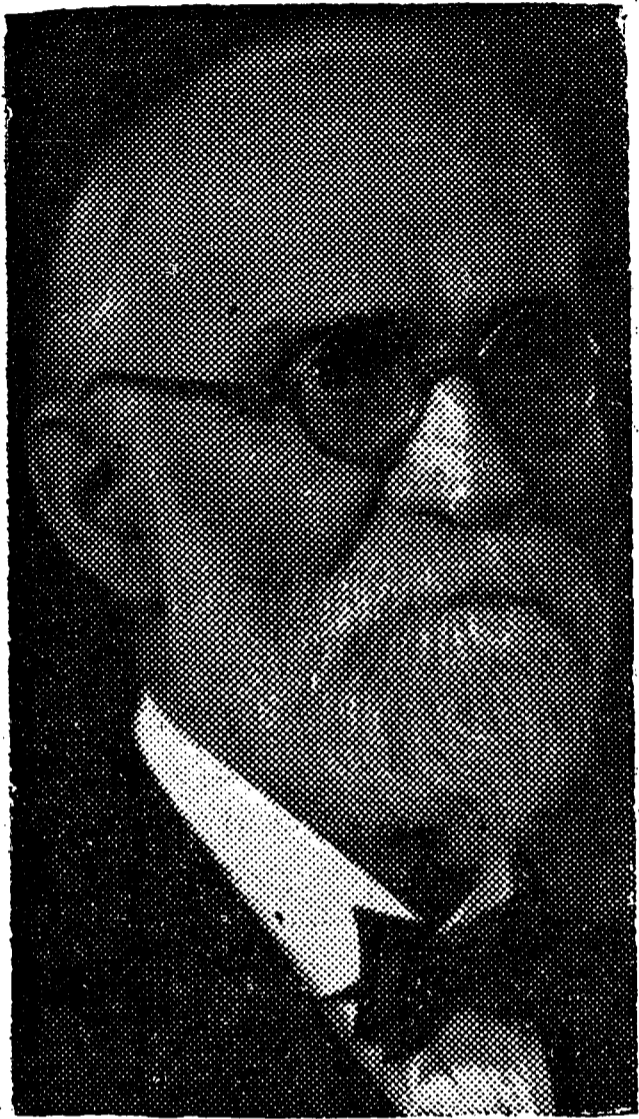
By L. NEITZEL

Note—The following history on the town of Murdock was written by L. Neitzel whose picture appears above. Mr. Neitzel is one of the first residents of Murdock, has made his home there for years and being a leading

citizen of that community, he was asked to supply us with a photograph of himself which is reproduced here.

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The Rock Island railroad company began constructing its main line from



L. NEITZEL

An Early Cass County Settler and
Author of this Article

Omaha west in 1890. The "Kansas Town and Land Co." was formed to purchase right of way and locate the towns. L. Eickhof owned the quarter section where Murdock was later located. A Mrs. Thompson was the agent of the Kansas T. & L. Co., who purchased the land from Mr. Eickhof. The land was surveyed in the fall of 1890 and the depot located, and the first railroad agent came in April, 1891, Mr. E. E. Wees with his wife and little daughter, Loraine. Lots were offered for sale in January, 1891 when L. Neitzel, M. Inhelder, W. F. Schneerin and A. Hass, a minister of the Evangelical church, purchased

lots. Inhelder and Schneerin bought the two lots where the Farmers and Merchants bank now stands, intending to start a bank, which did not materialize. A. Hass put up a two-story frame building and L. Neitzel a story and a half building, the former, a general store and the latter a hardware store.

Building operations were started in April 1891. Jake Cain started the building of the hotel; Ernest and Charley Hilderbrandt built the livery barn east of the hotel. H. Bornemeier and Mr. Fickes of Wabash built a store on unsurveyed land, that is now the first addition to Murdock, but both became dissatisfied over the running of the business, and went to court, closed the store until the court settled the case. The building was finally bought by L. Eikhoff and moved to its present location, and converted into a drug store and pool hall. Mr. Mahoney of Greenwood ran the drug store and Charley O'Brien the pool hall. The next man to run the drug store was Ed Evans, brother of John Evans, the elevator man. The last druggist was H. V. McDonald, who owned it until he died in 1930.

A post office was given to Murdock in 1891 and Fred Hess of Wabash became the first postmaster. A Zabel followed him.

Kounselman & Co., of Kansas City, Mo., erected the first elevator in 1891, with Al Babbit in charge and L. Neitzel paid for the grain. There was no bank there yet. Two years later Evans & Hare built the second elevator; Scott Hare in charge. A Mr. Parks started buying hogs in 1891, but quit soon and Evans & Hare bought livestock thereafter.

Mr. W. A. Savidge started a black-

smith shop but stayed only one year when Jake Geohry came in 1895 from Manley and moved his house here too. In May 1882, E. J. Tool and son Arthur, came from Ackley, Ia., looking over the town and decided to locate. E. J. Tool opened a lumber yard and A. J. Tool a harness shop. Folsom Brothers started a bank in 1891 in Hass Brothers general store, coming from South Bend, Nebr. In 1892 H. N. Meeker and Geo. Meeker started the Bank of Murdock, put up a brick building, with Geo. Meeker as cashier.

The naming of the town was left to L. Neitzel, being the first one to build on the townsite. The K. T. & Land Co., wanted it named "Neitzel" to which L. N. objected; he in turn named it "Eichoff," to which L. Eichoff objected, then L. Neitzel proposed the name of Murdock, after the name of one of the officials of the R. I. R. R. which was adopted.

In 1895 Mr. Dean of Ashland, started the second lumber yard with Lou Sawyer as manager, and a second bank with Lou Sawyer as cashier. Mr. P. Eveland, Chas. Lau, Fred Sheve and Milt Moore as stockholders with a \$5,000 capital. This business did not last over three years when the lumber yard was absorbed by Wood & Tool, and the assets of the Farmers Bank were bought by H. R. Neitzel and added to the Bank of Murdock. The first school was built in 1892. G. V. Pickerell, John Connally and L. Neitzel were the building committee, costing \$1,800, was paid for in two years and did service until 1924, when the present consolidated building was erected, costing over \$45,000.

Preaching services was begun in

1891 in the depot, by a Christian minister, Rev. Jacobs. A Sunday School was also started, but not organized until 1892 in our new school house by Mr. A. J. Hillis. Services were held in the school building until 1904. L. Neitzel did janitor work for twelve years, then the M. E. Church was erected.

The first doctor was a man from Indiana, H. C. Madding, who stayed some three years, then moved to Lincoln. Dr. Friday attended the sick for a while from South Bend, when finally Dr. O. D. Jones located permanently until he died.

Jake Cain soon quit the hotel business and moved back to the farm, and Mr. Sam Kitts bought the hotel and ran it for a number of years. Business never changed hands very much in Murdock. L. Neitzel occupied his location for 42 years; A. J. Tool has resided there for 41 years; H. V. McDonald had held his place some 37 years. (This is written in 1932.)

In 1893 Zabel & Detman dissolved partnership in Wabash, Detman moved to Elmwood, going into the general merchandise business, while A. Zabel came to Murdock, bringing his home with him. John Scheel owns the former Zabel home. The old "Center School" was brought into Murdock in 1893 and stands just east of John Scheel's home.

Murdock had a newspaper for a while, edited by O. P. Stewart in the 90's, with Bertha Geohry as assistant, while O. P. would teach school on the side. Among the first teachers were W. J. Mattez, W. Berge, the Misses Whipple, Mrs. A. J. Tool, all doing excellent work. Some of their pupils occupy high and honorable positions.

In 1892 Arthur Rikli opened up a furniture store. The same year A. Rikli and L. Neitzer embarked in the implement business which was carried on for four years, when N. Neitzel bought Rikli out, and carried on alone until he sold out to Wm. Gerhts. Henry Bornemier built a general store in 1892 which he conducted about two years then sold the stock to Frank Martin of Omaha, who put Steve Tool in as manager.

In 1895 Mr. Martin built his own store at the site of the Mercantile store, adding H. A. Tool, brother of Steve, to the sales force, and has continued ever since

About 1903 H. R. Waldron bought the furniture store from Mr. Rikli, and opened a bank, with Mr. Krink as cashier, which ran about eight years, when it was absorbed by the Bank of Murdock. Mrs. F. Wolf built the first meat market, now owned by Art Ward, and used for a funeral home by Mr. Horton (1932).

The Misses Goodale ran a millinery shop in a lean-to to the meat market.

The first death in Murdock came to the home of E. J. Tool, when his wife passed away six weeks after coming here from Iowa, leaving Mr. Tool with six children. She was buried at Callahan cemetery, in 1892.

The citizens of the new town, who all owned their homes, saw to it that their religion was not neglected. After a Christian minister had preached a little while, all the church people being Evangelicals, but which the Evangelical church preached only in the German language, they decided to call a Methodist minister. An old retired minister was sent us, by the name of Wilkinson, who came from Weeping Water.

Then the presiding elder formed a circuit with South Bend, Murdock and Wabash and an old veteran of the Civil war, David Fetz, was stationed at South Bend. He was a hard worker and very successful, had a great revival in the school house. At that time everybody in Murdock went to church. It was a good atmosphere to raise a family in. Mr. Jim Mattee was our first Sunday school superintendent, who also was a good singer, and soon Murdock was known about its fine singing. Rev. Fetz would hold revival services at South Bend and Wabash, and G. V. Pickwell would come in with his big wagon and eight or ten would go to those places and assist in the service. Those were the happy days. Then the M. E. church decided to build a church. L. Neitzel secured two lots from the K. T. & L. Co., free of charge, and building operation was started in 1903 and the church dedicated in the early spring of 1904 by Rev. Peter Van Fleet. L. C. Meyers was the pastor. The cost was \$2,500. In 1903 Rev. Brooker of the United Evangelical church, held a tent meeting on the ground where Ward's garage stands, organized a class, and built a church, on the site of Mrs. A. Panska's home. The class was small and never grew; after some seven or eight years was closed. In 1905 the Evangelical church located a church in Murdock, which is the only church left (1932.) The M. E. church was virtually wrecked by agitation about a saloon. Unwise acts split the church and alienated the people from the church, in consequence it died, what was left of members were transferred to Elmwood and the property sold.

In 1910 a very disastrous fire con-

sumed L. Neitzel's hardware store, Waldron's bank and the two store frame buildings, then owned by a man named Fish, who had owned it only about two months; this happened on September 10, 1910. L. Neitzel started building the present store, and occupied it inside of three months. Two years later F. Wolf erected the building occupied by G. Bauer. (1932.)

The Bank of Murdock was opened for business October 28, 1892, and continued with Geo. Meeker in charge until June 30, 1894, when Gus Weideman bought the bank, who being a farmer, grew tired of banking and was ready to sell when H. H. Neitzel, brother of L. Neitzel, bought the business July 7, 1895, just one year to date after Weideman had taken over the business from Meeker. H. I. Neitzel conducted the business for thirteen years very successfully until 1908 when he sold out to F. R. Guthmann who continued until 1930 when F. Martin of Omaha bought the bank with H. A. Tool and Mr. Helmer in charge.

During H. R. Neitzel's residence here, Murdock was incorporated as a village with 222 souls. Soon afterward a saloon was established with A. E. Frasher as owner.

A system of cement sidewalks was proposed and carried through, and Murdock had the best sidewalks of any town in Cass county, all laid to grade and uniform in width. Saloon license money was used for crossings and abutting property paid for theirs. The incorporation was completed on March 18, 1905, with the following five trustees: Orlando H. Eggleston, H. A. Tool, Calvin G. Leis, Jacob Goehry, and H. R. Neitzel and the following year, 1905, the laying of sidewalks was

ordered and completed.

Just before the village was incorporated in 1894, Mr. H. W. Eggleston, L. Neitzel, H. V. McDonald, H. A. Tool, A. J. Tool, E. J. Tool and others met and talked over the matter of building a local telephone system. A company was formed with L. Neitzel president, H. V. McDonald secretary and treasurer. Stock was sold at \$25 per share. H. C. Kohlrush was elected manager, who secured stockholders, and in a short time enough stock was sold to begin building the lines. 135 phones were placed, and before January 1, 1895, the company was doing business. It was a success from the beginning and proved a good investment.

In the fall of 1920 the village voted to have electricity in town. An agreement with the Nebraska Power Co., to furnish power was entered into, and the village voted \$10,000 bonds, to be redeemed in ten years. The line was built, and proved of great benefit to the town. The power was obtained from a line running from Louisville to Weeping Water and connection made two miles east of Manley and brought in on No. 1 Highway. In 1926 the village sold out to the Nebraska Power Co., for \$10,000 cash, which left \$4,000 in the treasury

The same year by vote of the people, the streets were ordered graveled which gave Murdock the best streets of any town in the county, and added much to the neat appearance of the village.

In 1926 the Murdock Telephone Co., sold out to the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Co., who rebuilt all the lines which gave excellent service.

In the year when Murdock became of age (18 years old) 1909, the first

street fair was held, continuing three days. It was a great success. It was repeated in 1910 and 1911, then street fairs became so common that no more were held.

The development of the Evangelical church, Rev. A. Fischer tried to open a preaching place in Murdock in 1894, in the school house, but it failed. In 1905 Rev. H. Peiper found a number of Evangelical people in Murdock; Peter Withreft, C. Gurr, Charles Bakemeyer, and Fred Scheve had moved into town, and with families of the Louisville church aided by C. Miller, Otto Miller and A. Rikli, a church was organized and a building erected. The following year the parsonage was built while Rev. A. Branchle served the charge; who was followed by C. Boclter, H. A. Schwab, I. Laipply, C. Strauss and H. S. Knosp in 1932. The charge has grown to 164 members with two Sunday schools with about 250 scholars.

The present school house was built

in 1925. The district was organized the same year into a consolidated school, with 25 sections of land including the town of Murdock and some six miles of railroad, making it one of the richest districts in the county. Eight teachers have about 180 pupils. The property cost \$45,000 with equipment, and the cost per year amounts to about \$13,000.

Only good things can be said about Murdock; it never had any use of a jail; none of her citizens have been arrested; no fighting was ever indulged in, even in saloon days; the citizens are proud of their record and are found to live up to it. It is the best built up town; everybody vies with his neighbor to have the nicest lawn, the best paint on their houses, and the cleanest and nicest place; which adds largely to the moral atmosphere in which to raise a family. All strangers that stop, make remarks about the neat appearance and substantial homes, that the town contains.

FORMER CASS COUNTY PIONEER TELLS OF EARLY LIFE IN NEBRASKA

By WILLIAM COATMAN

Dr. G. H. Gilmore,
Murray, Nebraska.

Dear Sir:

A letter was forwarded to me from Will Timblin, of Alvo, requesting a biographical sketch.

To begin with, I was born August 10, 1858, in the little town of Palantine, Ill. My parents came from England and located there in 1857. The family

consisted of eight children of whom three survive. One sister, born in England, is still living with a daughter near Woodstock, Ill. Brother Asa resides on a farm five miles south-east of Elmwood and owns the old home farm west of Avoca. I reside with a daughter in Grand Island. Two brothers died in infancy in Illinois, the others passed on in Cass county.

After a few years farming and laboring in Illinois, father started for Nebraska in the spring of 1868 in a covered wagon, drawn by two small horses, weighing less than 2000 pounds. We crossed the Mississippi river at Clinton, Iowa. Had bad roads most of the way across Iowa and had to be pulled out of mud holes several times. Crossed the rivers of Iowa on ferry boats, some of them being very crude affairs. We crossed the Missouri river at Nebraska City on a steam ferry boat, landing in Cass county about the first of June.

Father bought a farm four and one-half miles south and one mile west of Weeping Water, building a house on it about twenty rods from where the Pine School stands.

Father worked out a good deal the first two years, hauling wheat to Nebraska City and freighting goods and farm implements from Nebraska City to Lincoln. The first time I saw Lincoln it was a small town, no paving, but a few board side walks.

As there was no school in those early years and being ten years old, I herded cattle to help out with the living—bare footed at that the first two years. The next two years I had a horse to ride. Imagine a barefoot boy picking his way through sloughs with grass in them eight or ten feet high, without getting grass cuts between his toes or stepping on one of those grass spikes sticking up in the grass and they were very sharp and stiff.

To make a living more difficult for a mother and six children, father took pneumonia and died in January 1873. We carried on for one year,

but mother became discouraged and moved to Weeping Water, where she took in washing. I worked out in the summer and went to school three months in the winter. Went one term in the old stone school house in Weeping Water. When I was in my 18th year, I bought a team and started farming on mother's farm. Of the first crop of corn I raised, I took a load to Nebraska City getting twelve cents per bushel for it. I brought back a load of lumber for the Pine School house which still stands. One of the pleasant memories of that school is when I met and fell in love with a Scotch lassie. We later were married at the Nebraska City court house by a Methodist minister.

To this union were born five children, two boys and three girls. One son lives at Elmwood and the other at Alvo. My wife passed away in 1935. I live with my eldest daughter in Grand Island. The second daughter died in 1896. The youngest, born in 1893, is in Ithica, N. Y., where she is superintendent of the English department of Ithica College..

My wife and I were active Sunday School and church workers practically all of our fifty-six years of married life. I taught the men's Bible class in Weeping Water for over twenty years.

We didn't cross any bridges in going to Weeping Water as there were none. We forded the streams and crossed the Weeping Water a block east of the present west bridge. The town was all on the north side of the creek in those days.

William Coatman,
502 W. 10th Grand Island, Nebr.

HISTORY OF PINE SCHOOL—DIST. NO. 50

Located Four and One-half Miles South and One Mile West of Weeping Water, Nebr.

By WM. COATMAN

As I have been asked to give a few facts concerning the early history of this district, I will try to give a few to the best of my memory, as we came in to the neighborhood in the spring of 1868.

There was no district formed or school building. If my memory serves me correctly, about the year of 1870 or possibly 1871, there was a district formed and the men of the district went to Nebraska City and drew the lumber and built the little school house that was 14x16 feet, with two small windows in it. It was built entirely of white pine lumber. That is what gave it the name of Pine School district, by which it is still recognized. The first term of school was of three months in the winter. It was taught by a man named Hardy. He lived on a farm four miles west of the school house and walked the distance morning and night for the entire term. He was about fifty years old and was a brother to the Hardy that established the Lincoln firm of that name. A young man by the name of Alden Burden also taught several terms of school in the little school house. He is still living near Sioux City, and is about ninety years of age.

The names of the families, or part of them at least, were: Brookins, Johnsons, Dickinsons, Smiths, Evans

and Coatman, with possibly a few others. As nearly as I can remember, there were 24 or 25 scholars that attended school in that little school house. How they ever managed with that many in that small room is beyond me.

The branches of studies were reading, spelling, arithmetic, geography, writing, and a few studied grammar. The little building was quite a community center. We had a literary society, and the men of the district had some great old debates. Men from outside the district came to these. We also had spelling schools and declamations.

More settlers located in the county, so in 1876 we had to have more school room. The firm of Ratnour and Rivette had the contract to build a new school house that was 18x30 feet. The lumber was also hauled from Nebraska City. The writer of this article hauled some of it and also dug the trench for the foundation. Nate Everhart built the foundation. An addition 12x18 feet was built later. The writer of this article was a director at one time and remembers there were fifty and sixty persons of school age in the district, with about forty attending school.

The Missouri Pacific Railroad made a survey from Avoca up the south branch of the Weeping Water creek

that runs one mile north of the Pine School house, but later they decided to go up the main branch of the Weeping Water creek and up Stove Creek through Elmwood to Lincoln.

Following are the names of a few of the teachers who taught in the district up to 1910:

Claud Palmer, Sadie McAllister, Florence Cross, Nettie Shearer, Mrs. Henry (Lanham) Canady, Eda Marquardt, George C. Reed, Dave Crabtree, brother of Will Crabtree (Sec. National Educational Council,) Allen Congdon (Prof. of Mathematics, University of Nebraska).

Bert Hardy, a step-son of the Hardy that taught the first school in 1878 and 1879, also taught. We put on a

great play that winter that drew a big crowd for those days, and they couldn't all get in the house, but many looked in the windows. My wife and I took part in that play although we were not pupils at that time. Our four children attended school in this district. And now an old man nearing eighty looks back on those days with a great deal of pleasure.

Editor's Note—Of the above named teachers, William Crabtree is secretary at the present time of the National Educational Council. Allen Congdon is at the head of the department of mathematics, University of Nebraska. Eda Marquardt was formerly our County Superintendent of Schools.

AN EXCURSION BY MR. FRANK KENDLE IN THE FALL OF 1855

The Following Story was Related to the Writer September 16, 1910, when He Stayed All Night at the Kendle Home on a Professional Call

By G. H. GILMORE

"I came from Burlington, Iowa, by stage. My home was in Erie, Pa. My ambition was to get into the unknown west. The trip across Iowa by stage was long and very tiresome. The trail across Iowa in the rainy season was very bad. The men passengers got out when the stage was stuck in a mud hole to "heave and set" and push the stage out with the aid of the six horses attached to the vehicle.

On entering the Territory of Nebraska, the first man I met was a young fellow, by the name of Bobbet.

He came of a good well-to-do family but had turned pretty wild and drank heavily. The first thing on landing in Omaha was to get to a saloon. Here he was soon beastly intoxicated and spent over \$200. He had a fine gold watch, given to him by his mother and by hard work I was able to save this for him. His mother received a big annuity from the old country and consequently supplied him with the best and all the spending money he wished.

I stayed in Omaha but a few days and with two other fellows planned to

take a trip down the Missouri river to St. Joe, about which there was much talk of the prosperity at this place.

We made a deal for a water soaked skiff made from cotton wood. This we purchased for a few dollars and with a few supplies for camp cooking, we started down the river. Our first stop was at Bellvue, then Plattsmouth, Rock Bluff, Kanosha, Liberty and Cleveland. We stopped at each place and cooked our grub and when necessary, bought more supplies. We drifted more than pulling at the oars.

Cleveland was too far up the bluff to go to the town so we drifted on down to the town of Wyoming, below the mouth of the Weeping Water. Wyoming was a hustling place. From Wyoming we drifted to Fort Kearney, now Nebraska City. Here we stopped at a poorly built old hotel and each of us registered. The landlord looked the register over after we had signed up. He came to me and said: "You are not the son of Robert Kendle of Erie, Pa., are you?"

"What do you know about Robert Kendle?" I asked him.

"Why, he was an elder in the Presbyterian church where I attended," he told me.

"That's him all right," I said, and we became close friends.

He persuaded me to stay over for a while and look the country over. I tried to persuade my river friends to stay over and take a look at the country, but they were determined to continue down the river to St. Joe and prosperity. I gave them my part of the outfit, boat and all, they loaded in their stuff and pulled down stream. The country around Fort Kearney did not look good to them. They accepted my part of the outfit with many

thanks. I do not recall their names.

Mr. Michlen's proposition to grub-stake me for a few days until I looked the country over was accepted. One morning I went out from the hotel to the west of the town for a few hours walk, out near where Morton's Park (Arbor Lodge) is now located. Here I beheld one of the most beautiful scenes I ever witnessed. Through the dim light of Indian summer, I could see the rolling hills of green prairie like billows upon a sea. It was a grand sight to behold. I hastened back to the hotel and told Mr. Michlen to have rations for about three days prepared at once.

That forenoon I wandered westward and to the north over grass covered hills, beautiful and grand. I took plenty of time to look the country over. There was no signs of a settler's cabin and no trees. That night I slept out on the prairie, protected by nothing but my overcoat.

The next day I spent on the prairie and drifted eastward and north. That night after dark I came upon trees and rocks on the bluffs of the Weeping Water creek. After traveling for some distance I could see the outline of a cabin against the sky. Not having seen the Weeping Water by day light and not knowing its size I was afraid of falling into it and not knowing how to swim, it was safe to keep away from it.

It was late in the night, but I went to the cabin which was located on what is now known as the Barnum farm northeast of Factoryville, and I knocked at the door.

"Who is there and what do you want?" came a voice from inside.

"A stranger afraid of snakes," I answered him.

"Can you hank up a pin for night?" he asked.

"Yes," I replied.

"All right, come in," he said.

No light was lit, but the man got up, gave me a buffalo robe and I bunked on the floor for the night.

Three men lived in this cabin and the next morning I had breakfast with them. I left fifty cents by my plate and started early on my journey up the Weeping Water.

The next stop was at Reed's cabin near where Weeping Water falls is located. I stayed here for the day.

From here I went over near the Platte and followed it down to near the Missouri river and then cut through to the town of Cleveland. From here I followed the bluffs and trails back to Kearney.

When crossing the Weeping Water on a trip to Nebraska City we had to go north of Factoryville where we could find a ford. We drove ox teams. When a quick trip was to be made we went down the river by boat."

The latter paragraph pertains to the early days after Mr. Kendle settled northeast of Union.

DEFINITE FINDINGS OF MASS INDIAN BURIAL NEAR NEHAWKA IN SPRING OF 1938

By DR. G. H. GILMORE

Readers of The Enterprise will remember a recent article and pictures appearing in this newspaper, telling of the mass prehistoric Indian burial unearthed on the Nelson Berger farm north of town. At that time the identity of the Indians was not definitely known. Since the matter has been gone into thoroughly by Dr. G. H. Gilmore, Alvin McReynolds and the state archeological department we are now able to give an interesting account of this unusual event as written by Dr. G. H. Gilmore of Murray.—Editor.

In the valley of the Weeping Water, Cass county, Nebraska,^o there has been located and mapped over two hundred house ruins of a prehistoric people who in the past centuries inhabited this section of Nebraska, just west of the Missouri river, but locating the burial

places of these primitive unknown races has been more difficult from the fact that the farmer's plow and erosion have destroyed the mounds above the graves; also the artifacts strewn over the cultivated fields where there has been earth lodges, are abundant and plainly visible while no evidence of this character is left when the mound is destroyed.

On the first high point just north of Nehawka where the hill slopes to the south and west was recently located a prehistorical burial by Nelson Berger, owner of the land, while grubbing stumps. This farm was a part of the homestead of the Hon. S. M. Kirkpatrick, who took an active part in the organization of the Territory of Nebraska while serving as Senator from Cass county and his dwelling

house stood a short distance from this burial.

Through the voluntary help of Wm. Ost, Carl Balfour, Warren Munn, Glenn LeDioyt, George Poulos, Jr., Nelson Berger and others, who came to the assistance of Alvin McReynolds and the writer, arrangements were made for careful excavation work and preservation of the skeletons and all material found with them.

A strip of soil 25 feet east and west by 10 feet north and south was removed to a depth of 18 inches when an even layer of thin, flat waterworn limestone was exposed and all were on a level plane except at the northwest corner where they had been raised and tilted by the roots of an oak tree. In general the figure formed by these lime stones: At the east end a triangle 48 inches at the north side and coming to a rounded point six feet to the south. At the west end a round cornered rectangle 8 feet east and west and 7 feet north and south which was united with the triangle by a neck 31 inches wide and 5 feet in length. Flat stones set edgewise extended to the east from the triangle 30 inches and stones from the quadrangle at the south in such a manner as to suggest legs.

When the flagstones were removed the earth beneath presented a mixture of black and yellow soil, intermixed with charcoal and ashes. This layer of soil was removed and at a depth of from three inches to two feet, skeletons were exposed.

Arm and leg bones were intermixed and in close proximity to the skull was found. In one adult a lower right wisdom tooth was found impacted, the crown laying posteriorly. In the aged

the molars were very smooth and worn.

The upper median incisors of the adults were definitely shovel shaped, the lingual side deeply concave and on the labial side a wide groove. Down the front of these teeth between the elevated lateral ridges were stria, pronounced vertical grooves. This type of tooth is described by Ales Hrdlika in his "Medical Observations Among Indians in Southwestern United States." Some authorities classify the shovel shaped tooth as Mongoloid.

Flint chips were found abundantly among the earth surrounding the skeletons but no article made from flint was found. Two pieces of pottery were recovered. One was an undecorated rim-herd of a very small pot and the other a fragment. Both were grit tempered.

Beneath the lower jaw of a male skull was found a pipestone pipe, elbow type, less than an inch in length or height and a half an inch in diameter at the bowl. The stem was at right angle with the bowl. Near by and beneath a female skull was found three cylindrical beads, one inch in length made from a chalky limestone and three shell disc beads.

Smoking was a custom among all prehistoric races in America and the sacred calumet was important in all ceremonies. The pipestone from which this miniature pipe was made was quarried at Pipestone, in southwestern Minnesota, a quarry which has been worked back in prehistoric ages.

What connection these people held in relation to the catlinite quarries in Minnesota is problematical. The "flint mines" of Nehawka have been visited by many tribes from a distance and

no doubt Nehawka flint was a medium of exchange and trade for it has been found in the distant parts of all our adjacent states. Obsidian, which is found in the Yellowstone Park has found its way to Cass county in the form of arrow points and obsidian knives. How long it took these primitive articles to reach such distant points is a question, but no doubt many years.

The figure formed by the thin, flat limestones above this communal grave was a symbol with a definite meaning to these people. In 1932 there was uncovered on a high bluff at the south edge of Bock Bluff, a layer of flat limestones which showed the clear cut figure of a turtle—circular, raised in the center with head, legs and tail. This figure measured ten by thirteen feet but there was no burial beneath this layer of stone. On this figure, near the head, which was to the east, overlooking the Missouri river, was a mass of human bones intermixed. Near the center was found an upper jaw and the teeth showed an advanced age. Most tribes of Indians in the United States had Turtle Gens with the belief that the turtle controlled drouths and storms. Possibly the fetishman who controlled this magic figure was buried with the limestone turtle.

That the Algonquians from the Great Lakes region did occupy eastern Cass county in prehistoric times is beyond question. Dr. W. D. Strong who is with the Smithsonian Institute and has done extensive archeological work in Cass county, says "This culture is of a western woodland type and is manifested along the eastern border of the state by effigy mounds.

The pottery of this culture is distinctive." Two unbroken pots of this type has been found along the Missouri river. Dr. Strong further comments, "Strange to say, it is a woodland culture of northeastern affiliations that occurs on the eastern border as the earliest known occupation of this sort in Nebraska. This was demonstrated by Stearns' discoveries at the Walker Gilmore site, and the fact that the Sterns Creek culture is apparently related to the "Algonkian" and Lake Michigan culture of Iowa and Wisconsin is undoubtedly significant."

The missionary Brebeuf who was in the Great Lakes region in 1636, the home of the Algonquians, in a report says, "It was also a custom among the Indians of the lake region to have at certain periods what may be termed communal burials in which the bodies and skeletons of a district were removed from their temporary burial places and deposited with much ceremony in a single large pit." There were many features to the ceremony, but one which was followed by most tribes was to keep a fire burning above the grave for several days and nights while the festivities and mourning was in progress.

The Hand Book of American Indians, says, "Thus, in the belief of the Algonquian Indians of the Great Lakes, the souls of the deceased are believed to reside in the far west." The same writer speaking of the physical characteristics of this tribe says, "Their cheek bones are heavy, the head among the tribes of the Great Lakes is very large and the face also very large."

Summary—The prehistoric mass burial at Nehawka is definitely con-

connected with the Algonquians of the Great Lakes region and possibly one of the earliest races to inhabit this part of Nebraska. The communal or mass burial of the "Algonkians," the effigy mounds, the type of pottery, the large heads and faces, the souls

departing to the far west, prompting them to place the dead facing the west all fit in to the communal burial at Nehawka and would classify this prehistoric people as the "Algonkan" culture of the Great Lakes.

SOME BEGINNINGS—PERTAINING TO WEEPING WATER AND THE SCHOOLS

By CLARA STREET WESCOTT

"In the beginning GOD created the heavens and earth"—and then in fancy I see Him smile and place His finger on the earth and say—"Here shall be a state called Nebraska, meaning Flat Water—so called because of the great flat river which shall water its thirsty soil.

It shall be the center state of a great nation of states.

It shall be the "White Spot" and the people of this Nebraska shall be a God-Fearing people, a cultured people, a prosperous people, a happy people."

In 1541 Francisco Vasquez Coronado with thirty Spanish horsemen came to the "kingdom of Quiviera" forty degrees latitude and found that "the land was flat and black."

1704 to 1716 French explorers sailing up the "muddy water" not known as the mighty Missouri river wrote—"It is the most beautiful country in the world."

1804, April 30th, the Louisiana Purchase. The treaty was signed in Paris and the area became a part of the United States of America. The consideration was \$15,500,000.

1804, July. Lewis and Clark were

at the mouth of the Weeping Water creek, where they killed a big yellow wolf. They held their first council with the Indians at Fort Atkinson.

1810. Major Stephen Long explored Nebraska and reported "it is uninhabitable for subsistence, depending upon agricultur for subsistence."

1819-1827. Fort Atkinson, now Fort Calhoun, was founded, later abandoned. It was here that—

The first school was held

The first library was established

The first sawmill built

The first experimental farm operated

The first dairy promoted

The first weather records kept.

1830-1831. Oregon trail. The first wagon tracks across Nebraska south of the Platte river.

1844. First official use of the name NEBRASKA by the Secretary of War, Wilkins.

1846-1847. The first wagon up the north side of the Platte river—the Mormon Trail.

1854. May 3rd. Nebraska became a territory created by President Franklin Pierce by signing the Nebraska-

Kansas Bill.

1855-1856. The first settler at Weeping Water.

It was Elam L. Flower who had trekked his way across the frontier states. He could not help being a pioneer—it was in his blood. A venerable line of ancestry that trails thru the past for several hundred years reveals a family of distinction who were courageous and fond of adventure. The first of the family to come to the new world was Lemrock Flower, third son of Sir Wm. Flower. He arrived in Connecticut in 1658. He was the son of Capt. Wm. Flower. Should we cross the seas we would find the ancestors of Elam L. Flower, Weeping Water's first settler, occupying places of prominence for 600 years before the family's first representative came to America.

They occupied places of responsibility in borough and parliament. They were defenders of their country and two of the family received titles of nobility for their services. In Fox' "History of Martyrs" the family is listed, and one Wm. Flower was burned at the stake because he refused to forsake his religion.

In America the family ran true to form, and were prominent in civic affairs, serving in local, state and national offices. They were not found wanting where their country needed them to carry a gun. Several served in the War of the Revolution.

Elam L. Flower, our first resident of Weeping Water was born in Claytonia, Jefferson county, New York, April 11, 1819.

He attended the Academy at Watertown, New York and followed the profession of teacher and farmer. On April 27, 1841, at Watertown, he mar-

ried Sarah Fisher. In 1848 he migrated to Illinois.

In 1850 he took residence at Brighton, Iowa, where he farmed and taught school. In February 1856, he sold his land and journeyed westward across Iowa and on March 20, 1856, crossed the Missouri river at Kanosha, and entered the territory of Nebraska. Kanosha was a thriving steamboat town of five or six log cabins. After tarrying for a rest a few days the travelers accompanied a lad, Durell Reed, pushed westward to a settlement at Mt. Pleasant, the western outpost for white man in what is now Cass county. The lure of the setting sun called and again they traveled thru an uncharted country. 'Twas spring time. Even today one can almost travel with these pioneers thru the beautiful valley of the Weeping Water. It takes no great imagination to see the trees bursting into bloom and the flower decked meadows, to hear the songs of the birds, the gurgle of the water in the creek.

When the travelers came to the Falls of the Weeping Water, known in the language of the Indians as "Keet-so-tee-cutt," they knew they had arrived at the spot they wanted to call "home"—and so, they rested there.

As Elam L. Flowers or Flower and family tarried at the falls of the Weeping Water river they were charmed by the primitive beauty of the forests—the richness of the soil and the rock formation of the surrounding hills, reminded them of the far away home in New York from which they had migrated.

A shelter for the family was the first necessity so a log cabin was erected. Thru succeeding years it served as a dwelling, a school house,

a church, a warehouse, again as a dwelling and a stable. It was demolished in 1885 or '80 (authorities differ on the date.) In 1857-58 many immigrants came to Cass county, attracted by the soil and abundance of water. Most of these people were ambitious and desirous of creating in this new country a civilization with the best cultural and religious advantages.

Miss Celesta Bellows taught the first school within the city limits of Weeping Water in 1857. She received \$12.00 a month for her services. She came from Ohio and was a lady of culture and refinement. A private home was used for the school until 1856 and then a stone school house was erected by donations of labor and money by the citizens. This building was across the street south of the present Congregational church. In 1874 a larger frame building was erected. George Farley, county commissioner, attended school in these buildings and recalls the names of some of the teachers—Principal Pete, Prof. Loofborough, Prof. D. D. Martindale, who afterwards became County Superintendent; Prof. George Mitchell; Prof. J. D. Philbert; Prof. Foote.

In 1882 Prof. J. H. Bellows was in charge of the school and had two female assistants with an enrollment of 150 pupils.

Some of the other teachers were Mrs. Loofborough and her sister, Mamie Logan, Josie McCoy, Edith Shryoch, Lillian Parmelee, Edith Clizbe recalls that Prof. Wilson and Mrs. Wilson, Anna Calkins, Ella Thorngate, and Grace Clizbe also taught in the schools. Prof. Hoskins closed his work in 1888.

Mr. E. E. Day was president of the school board in 1888 and the need of

a new building and a graded school seemed imperative. So a fine two-story building was erected on what is called the "South Side" of the town.

The task of selecting a principal to bring order out of chaos was no simple one. After much deliberation Mr. A. H. Waterhouse was elected and he soon demonstrated his ability. He remained as head of the schools until 1895.

Fifty years! Educators have come and gone—but the power of his personality lives on.

The 1938 Golden Wigwam, official High School publication is dedicated to him with these words:

"IN MEMORIUM"

"A stalwart leader, who set an example of good teaching—true friendship, fine thinking and fine living—Professor A. H. Waterhouse."

At the time of his death at Fremont, Nebr., March 12, 1938, he held the title of "Dean of Nebraska School Men". This had been conferred on him May 3, 1937 at the Horace Mann dinner at Lincoln. He was also given the golden key of Phi Beta Kappa honorary fraternity in recognition for his half century of service in the teaching profession.

Since the year of 1895 others have served in the capacity of superintendents:

- A. V. Landerback—1895-1897.
- E. L. Rouse—1897-1902.
- D. K. Luthy—1902-1903.
- S. M. Moss—1903-1904.
- W. T. Pourher—1904-1906.
- I. N. Clark—1906-1912.
- H. H. Reimund—1912-1914.
- Elton E. Etone
- G. S. Hopple.
- Shalle Burges—1917-1918.
- H. B. Tibbles—1918-1920.

George B. Oberlander—1920-1921.

L. E. Mohler—1921-1923.

E. L. Witte—1923-1924.

J. W. Shagool—1924-1928.

G. T. Hunt—1928-1931.

W. L. Armstrong—1931-1933.

L. H. Behrends—1934—.

In 1915 bonds were voted for an adequate building to care for the ever increasing number of pupils of the rural schools desiring a high school education. This building consisted of three stories and a gymnasium, modern in every detail. The State Fire Marshall has recently condemned the further use of the building erected in 1888. Many graduates from this old building will regret the necessity for its demolition. Forty-seven classes of graduates have gone forth from these two buildings to become a part of the activities in some community. The scope of influence of these boys and girls encircles the globe.

On May 20, 1938, in response to an invitation of the Alumni committee "old grads" gathered from near and far to renew their youth, clasp the hands of friends whom they had not met in years, and to reaffirm their loyalty to their Alma Mater. The banquet was presided over by Jean G. Jones '95. The class of 1938 were honor guests and entertained the group assembled in a delightful manner. Over 250 were served. The motif was that of a ship on a voyage. The menu—

Neptunes Fruit	
Sea Gulle	Ammunition
Ocean Rolls	Sea Weed
Submarine Salad	
Buoys	
Mermaids Delight	Sea Rafts
Pilot Coffee	Life Savers

Program—

High School Orchestra Group

Admiral Jean G. Jones, '95 Toastmaster.

"Red Sails in the Sunset," Kenneth Wallace, '34, Nebraska City.

Welcome, Stewardess Eda Leonard, '13, Marshall.

Response, Commander Ira Johnson, '38.

Presentation of Crew of 1938, Capt. Lloyd A. Behrends.

In Memoriam Supt, A. H. Waterhouse, Dr. Allen R. Congdon, '93.

Girls Sextette, Weeping Water High School.

Messages, Marvin Hunt.

Waiter's Dance, Neil Munkres and Richard Powers.

S—Scan System—Miss Edith Clizbe, 1891, Weeping Water.

H—Hospitality—Mr. Richard P. Hobson, 1925, Weeping Water.

I—I's Have It—Mrs. Clara Street Wescott, 1893, Plattsmouth.

P—Power—Mr. Elwin Hunter, 1913, Fort Collins, Colo.

Harbor Lights—Mrs. Raymond Lawritzen, 1930, Lincoln.

Boy's Small Group, Weeping Water High School.

Thus ends 79 years of Progress. events that are past. Hope is the minds of prophecy of events that are to come—These two—hope and memory are the chief sources of delight."

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ERECTED EARLY BUILDINGS IN CASS COUNTY

By W. R. SPERRY

My father, Reuben Sperry, brought his family to Weeping Water, Nebr., in the year 1875 and settled upon the Jess Morton place east of Weeping Water. He died there one month later. The following spring, my mother, together with the younger children, went back to Iowa to live. My eldest brother, James W. Sperry, who came here in 1873, and myself, remaining here, were joined by two younger brothers.

James W. Sperry opened up a sand bank two miles east of Weeping Water in 1880. In 1882 he started a brick yard there and moulded brick by hand for two years and then put in machinery for making pressed bricks. He burned most of the bricks for the brick buildings in Weeping Water. He also was a mason by trade and I contracted and built many of the buildings in Weeping Water. We built the first bank that was built in Weeping Water out of the first bricks that J. W. Sperry burned here. We built a bank in Nehawka and also a large brick house in the north edge of Nehawka for Mr. A. P. Weston and many other brick and stone foundations around here.

As far as I know, Dr. M. U. Thomas, Mrs. Belle Jones and myself are the only three people living here today who were here in 1875.

Eugene and Luesius Reed ran a general merchandise store and Fleming & Race were selling general merchandise at that time. Mr. Marshall, Spencer Marshall's grandfather, ran a shoe shop in the kitchen part of his home, and from grandfather to grandson, that business has been carried on continuously upon the same corner of the block.

George Lambine was the blacksmith when I came to Weeping Water, and a man by the name of Bunday ran a wagon shop in the back of the other blacksmith shop. Mrs. Dunn ran a hotel in the building where Arthur Jones' barber shop now stands. Dan Johnson ran the grist mill and that is all the business houses that were here at that time, as I recollect them. Mr. Hunter, Ike Hunter's father, ran the stage from Weeping Water to Plattsmouth, carrying the mail and passengers. I rode with him from Plattsmouth to Weeping Water the day I landed in Nebraska.

HISTORY OF FAIRVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT

By MISS ETTIE JAMES

This school is in Stove Creek precinct, Cass county, Nebraska, and lo-

cated two miles south and one mile east of Elmwood.

The pioneers of this district, even before means were provided for the building of a school house, were so desirous of having educational advantages for their children that school was held in some of their homes.

The first school, in the fall of 1870, was held for a few weeks in the home of Mrs. Sayre, the first teacher. She was a widow, homesteading the south eighty of the quarter now owned by George Lenz. Her pupils were William Delles Dernier, Harry Smith, Anna James Stacey, Hattie Clements, Sarah Stokes, Margaret Stokes, Will Stokes, Nettie, Fred and Henry Sanford, Alice and Etta Powell and Will Spears. Later in the same year, Spicer Ells taught in the "front room" of the Hiram Stanford home. He had the same pupils as above mentioned.

The third teacher was A. L. Upham, who taught in the C. C. Cowell home in 1871 using an upstairs room for the school room. He finished his term in the temporary school house built in 1872 on the present site of Fairview. Other names of pupils added to the ones mentioned in the first school are Johnnie (Jack) James, John Powell, Rosewall Powell, Etta James Stacey, Ivy Williamson, Byron Clements and Alpha Hart. Seats for the pupils consisted of chairs, boxes, trunks or what ever else could be found that would answer the purpose of seat while they were attending school in the homes. In this temporary school house there were benches without backs. The first books were just any school book the pioneer families happened to bring with them from their old homes.

The name "Fairview" was given to this school at the time the this school was organized there were no trees to obscure the view.

The first school board was William James, Hiram Stanford and Jack Schlanker.

The first school house came very near being a dugout. The excavation for such a school room was begun on the present Fairview school grounds, but was never finished, for upon further consideration by the board and those interested this plan was abandoned and a frame structure built. This temporary school house was 14 by 20 feet in size. The walls were 12-inch boards placed vertically. The work was donated so there was no carpenter bill.

School in the early days did not consist of nine months, but usually three or four months a year. The teachers were paid by subscription and boarded around if they did not live in the district.

Flora Kenaston, Lizzie Foote and Sam Shirley taught in the temporary school house. The need of a better school building became apparent so the district voted \$1,000.00 bond for the new building. With team and wagon Mr. Shirley made the trip to Platts-mouth where the officials of the bonding company personally delivered the money to him. As there were no banks in this locality the money was deposited in Eli Lane's safe. Mr. Lane was a merchant in Elmwood. This new school house was built in 1874. The temporary school building was purchased by Mr. Shirley who used it for a dwelling. It is still a part of the house now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Capwell.

The building of the new school house progressed rapidly, but there was no money left to pay for plastering it. To raise money to pay for the plastering a public dance and supper

was held. The women of the district furnished, prepared and served the supper. Sile Greenslate was the fiddler. A large crowd was present. Families came for miles in their lumber wagons. The dancing was in the unfinished building, but the supper was served in the temporary school house. With the receipts of the evening the new school house was plastered. To aid in drying the plaster(Sile Greenslate kept a fire burning, staying in the building at night. School opened before real cold weather in 1874 with Sam Shirley at teacher.

This school house still stands just as it was built, with the exception of an addition of a small entryway on the east end. The plastering has been repaired but not wholly replaced. The building has always been kept in good repair and has been used not only for school purposes, but for other activities. In the early day church services were held here—no denomination being barred. Years, ago, too, Fairview was the center of literary societies, exhibitions, singing school, spelling bees and ciphering matches.

In these first years the school was not graded. A pupil's place was determined by the reader he studied. The pupils had to furnish their own books. Teachers wages were nothing to brag about. Usually the salary started at \$25 per month and worked up slowly, very slowly. Some times there were as many as three different teachers in one school year. Usually a lady teacher for fall and spring and a man for the winter term when the large boys were in school, for in the early days pupils went to school until they were of age or nearly so.

This has all passed and Fairview as all other rural schools, is graded

with books and equipment furnished by the district. The painted black boards have given way to slate, the backless benches and double seats have been replaced by single seats, the slate and slate pencils, too, have been discarded. Individual drinking cups have taken the place of the dipper and water pail. No longer do the children of Fairview school have to carry water from some nearby farm year well, but a well is now on the school grounds with a windmill to pump the water.

PIONEERS OF FAIRVIEW, DIST. NO. 57—1866 TO 1877

Following are the names of those who homesteaded: Hiram Stanford, 1866; William Deles Dernier, 1867; Jake Schlanker, 1867; George Lacey, 1867; Henry Stege, Sr., 1868; Henry Stege, Jr., 1868; John Clements, 1868; Wm. Stokes, 1868; C. C. Powell, 1868; Mrs. Sayre, 1868; Wm. Speers, 1868; A. L. Upham, 1868; Sam Tuttle, 1868; Spicer Eells, 1869; Sile Greenslate, 1869; A. B. Dickson, 1869; Ephriam Clements, 1869; Wm. Grosbeck, 1869; F. A. Smith, 1870; William James, 1870; La Fayette Sutphin, 1869; Doc. Crane, 1869; and Wm. Miller, 1869. In 1871, Dan Mendenhall bought railroad land in this district. In 1875 F. A. Williams, W. B. Williams and James Turk also settled on railroad land. In 1877, James Christensen bought the homestead homesteaded by Wm. Miller.

Imagine, if you will, conditions at the time these pioneers came to this part of Nebraska. Land that was all unbroken sod, no trees except those along the streams, no roads, no fences, no railroad nearer than Nebraska City no nearby markets, no conveniences of any kind, a a few small frame

houses, others of sod, and some just dugouts. Compare this picture with that of today and you will have some idea what the pioneers, not only of District No. 59, but all other pioneers, did for this country through their faith, courage, industry and perseverance.

Prairie fires were a continual source of danger. Every home had its bit of plowed ground surrounding the buildings as a protection from fire.

Pests, drouths and blizzards tested the faith, courage and endurance of the pioneers almost to the breaking point. Some did sell out and return to their homes from which they came, but the majority persevered and in the end, won out.

What is known as the grasshopper years—1874, 1875 and 1876, caused much hardship and privation but the staying powers of these noble men and women proved equal even to this severe test of their faith and courage.

The first year the grasshoppers came the wheat was in the shock so was not completely destroyed as was the corn and all other vegetation. The second year the grasshoppers left nothing but the soil and the third year when they left it was too late to raise a crop. Some corn was planted but the frost didn't let it mature.

Jack James well remembers how heartbroken he was over the loss of his nine ducks. The first day when the grasshoppers began to arrive his ducks about ran their legs off chasing them, but it wasn't long until the hoppers were so thick the ducks just squatted down and ate and ate. The following morning when he went out to let his ducks out of their pen every one was dead.

We sometimes wonder how the pio-

neers lived through these trying times. There was for one thing plenty of wild game such as geese, ducks, quail and prairie chickens. Then, too, some had relatives who sent them barrels of provisions and clothing. Then there were others who had no one to help them.

The winters were long, cold and severe. There were no trees to break the cold, wintry blasts and the houses were far from being as warmly built as now.

The pioneers of District No. 59 got their trees for planting from the tiny seedlings found in the timber along the Weeping Water creek and other creeks. Some of the brush from these timber places was used for fuel. Some times where a pile of wood had been, a few seedlings would come up. These tiny trees were carefully cared for and transplanted. The cedar trees in the early day came from the Platte river sandbars, not far from where South Bend is now situated. Several homes in School District No. 59 still have cedars in their yards that came from there.

The lumber for the early buildings in the district came from McKesick Island in the Missouri river, a short distance below Nebraska City. There was a saw mill on this island.

The pioneers who came here in the late sixties and early seventies had as their nearest town, Nebraska City. That is where they had to go for their household supplies and where they hauled their grain. Small loads, too, had to be hauled as there were no bridges and streams had to be forded. Prices of corn ranged from 12 to 16 cents per bushel. Then when South Bend came into existence the market place seemed quite near. Unadilla

was the third market place.

James Christensen is the only one of the early pioneers of District No. 59 still living and he is living on the homestead he bought in 1877, with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Will Strabel.

John Stokes is living on the farm homesteaded by his parents in 1868. Jack, Ed and Etta James also are living on the farm homesteaded by their parents in 1870.

School District No. 59 is not now as large as it was in the beginning. A strip one-half mile wide and three miles long was taken off of the east end of the district and transferred to Cottage Hill District.

In closing this review of the past, I'm using a few lines from a poem, "The Pioneer," by Will Maupin:

But not alone in their strength they wrought

Thru weary days of their hopes and fears,

For the God, whose help and strength they sought

Marched side by side with the pioneers.

With sturdy blows and with purpose true

They built their homes out of prairie sod;

Giving the nation a great state new

Giving their hearts to home and God.

And ever we'll sing while eternity rolls
Unceasing cycles of gathering years

Our songs of rejoicing for these great souls

Who builded Nebraska, The Pioneers.

HISTORY OF AN EARLY DAY SEMINARY

By CLARA STREET WESCOTT

At a session of the Nebraska Legislature held in October and November, 1858 a charter was granted to certain individuals to establish a seminary in Cass county. The trustees appointed by this act, met and organized on June 1, 1859, and resolved to take immediate action to procure a location of ten acres of ground upon which to erect a building and procure funds and material necessary for a building.

Particularly worthy of note are these contributions, because the promotion of this seminary was the first of its kind in the Territory of Nebraska.

The Oreopolis Town Company do-

nated 10 acres of land, 100 average town lots in the town and \$500.00 in money.

Other contributions:

Mr. Loudin Miller, \$5,000; Dr. John Evans, \$500.00; Rev. George Loomis, \$500.00; Dr. H. Smith, \$500.00; E. D. Rand, \$500.00; A. W. Carpenter, \$500.00; Sundry Persons, \$500.00.

On June 28th the building contract was let to Loudin Miller to erect and enclose a good substantial three-story brick building 30x80 feet, capable of accomodating 250 students. The building was completed externally December 1, 1859, and finished in 1861. It was a basement building with two

stories above the ground. It was built on the side of a hill.

Oreopolis was a town of a few hundred people and the community was largely composed of Methodists. Prof. Miller was president of the Seminary and lived in a large house near the seminary called "The Brown House."

Not so long ago Mr. A. S. Wills owned the land and raised the Brown house and used some of it in erecting a bungalow not far from the old house for his son and family to occupy.

The Plattsmouth Herald on December 18, 1861, carried this notice relative to some of the activities of the school:

Free Lecture—We are requested to announce that the Rev. D. L. Hughes of Pacific City will deliver the opening lecture of a lecture course at Academy Hall in Seminary Building, Oreopolis, Nebraska Territory, on Tuesday evening next week, December 23. Free for all who wish to attend. The lecture will doubtless be interesting. In addition to this, however, the efforts of our friends at Oreopolis to advance the educational interests of the Territory should be at least countenanced and encouraged, especially when the can be done "without money and without price." We trust the Hall will be filled to the utmost capacity."

Due to lack of support the school was closed and Mr. Van Armand wrecked the seminary building a few years later. Some of the brick was used in the construction of the "Tutt

Home" in South Park (Plattsmouth) and some was used in the construction of the Bill Porter home north of Myrard.

In the "I Remember When" group, Mr. Oliver Dovey whose parents came to Plattsmouth in 1862, recalls seeing the names of Jonathan Wise and Miss Francis Wright scrawled on the walls of the seminary. They were teachers in the school. This couple afterward married and became charter members of The First Presbyterian Church of Plattsmouth.

Mrs. Val Burkel, nee Nannie Sampson of Plattsmouth recalls that her cousin, Agnes Sampson was married in the "Brown House" in 1888 to Sam Chapman, who later became District Judge. Mrs. Chapman lives in McCook and was 77 years old in August 1938.

Ella Kennedy recalls that there was also a large hotel at Oreopolis which was later demolished and the material used in building the house on the southeast corner of 9th and Pearl St., in Plattsmouth, commonly called the Vondron place.

The old Dovey homestead on Oak St., was built from material from this hotel as well as the Calvin place south of the Missouri Pacific station.

No enrollment of the students at the seminary has been found but it is hoped when letters are answered that there will be more interesting facts relative to the Seminary at Oreopolis.

HISTORY OF THE MURRAY POST OFFICE

By MARGARET SPANGLER TODD

Since early in the 19th century most post offices established have been the result of petitions. While there is no definite record of a petition being circulated for the establishment of a post office in this community, tradition tells us that S. G. Latta, Anderson Root, William Morrow, James Walker, Lee Oldham and others did circulate such a petition. The Murray post office was established in 1884 when the Three Groves office, which was in the John Allison home four miles southeast of Murray, was discontinued. The first office was in the blacksmith shop of William Loughridge and was on Star Route No. 34,115, the contractor of the route being C. C. Morse.

William Loughridge was born in Cullbackey, County Antrim, Ireland. During early pioneer days he came from Pennsylvania to engage in the blacksmith trade at Factoryville, where he was located for several years. Later Mr. Loughridge moved to Fairview, which was later re-named Murray. He was considered one of the best steel workers in the state. Mr. Loughridge was the first postmaster at Murray, being appointed September 22, 1884.

The law in effect at this time fixed the compensation of fourth class postmasters upon the basis of the whole amount of box rental collected, commissions on cancellations and the

amounts received from waste paper, dead newspapers, printed matter and twine sold at the following rates:

- 100 % on the first \$50.00 per quarter.
- 60 % on the next \$100 per quarter.
- 50 % on the next \$200 per quarter.
- 40 % on the next \$350 per quarter.

When the post office was established the village of Murray consisted of the school house, the United Presbyterian church, the Lee Oldham and S. G. Latta homes, and the blacksmith shop. Therefore it can be assumed that the first postmaster's compensation was not very large. The first mail into Murray consisted of one letter.

Mr. Loughridge served as postmaster until January 1886 when he moved the office to the S. G. Latta store. As Mr. Loughridge moved the office without proper notification from the Post Office Department, he was fined the sum of \$40.00.

While C. C. Morse was contractor of this star route into Murray, Frank Fitzgerald carried the mail. This route started at Plattsmouth and went to Rock Bluffs, Murray, Factoryville and Eight Mile Grove. At first this trip was made twice a week and finally every day, being made either on horse back or in a two wheeled cart. As the roads were often impassable it was necessary, at times, to cut the fence wire and go through the fields.

Mr. Fitzgerald was born in Sterling, Ill., in 1867, and was only 17 years of

age at the time he operated this star route. He carried the mail until 1885 when he was succeeded by Frank Benfer.

The second postoffice was housed in the general merchandise store newly erected, on the southwest corner of block 15, by S. G. Latta. This was across the street north of the school house.

Samuel G. Latta was born July 2, 1838, in Pennsylvania. He was one of the earliest Murray settlers. The village of Murray was platted in 1890 by Mr. Latta, the survey being made by R. M. Lewis and the plat filed for record May 5, 1891. Mr. Latta was appointed postmaster January 29, 1886.

April 26, 1887, Samuel F. Latta, a nephew of "Uncle Sam," was appointed postmaster. As these two men were in business together the office remained in the corner of the store building. Samuel F. Latta was born at Rock Bluffs, living there until the death of his mother five years later. He then lived with relatives until, at the age of 16, he was sent to Valparaiso, Ind., to school.

Dr. Benjamin F. Brendel was the next postmaster and the post office was moved to his office, one block east on the south side of the street on lot 13. Dr. Brendel was appointed postmaster May 15, 1888.

Dr. Brendel was born at Big Springs in Boone county, Ind., December 14, 1854. He attended Physio-Medical College in Indianapolis, Ind. After practicing in his native state for three years he moved to Murray on September 3, 1885. He engaged in the medical profession until his death December 26, 1922.

John W. Edmunds was appointed postmaster December 16, 1889, and as he had purchased the Latta store, the office was again moved to the corner store building. Mr. Edmunds had, as his assistant, Charlie Root, who brot the mail from Rock Bluffs to Murray, using a horse and a two-wheeled cart.

Mr. Edmunds was born at Schoorcraft, Mich., November 29, 1849. While operating the store and post office he and his three daughters lived in the rear of the building.

While Mr. Edmunds was postmaster the Missouri Pacific rail road was constructed. The lines between Union and Plattsmouth being completed on September 9, 1891. The first train carrying a Railway Post Office car to exchange mails at Murray was train No. 8 out of Omaha, passing at 2.20 p. m. October 16, 1892.

December 29, 1893, Mrs. Sarah Oldham was appointed postmaster. She erected a smal building in the southeast corner of her vard, section 15, which served as her office.

Mrs. Oldham was born in Jimtown, Pa., April 11, 1848. With her parents, the David Storey's, she came to the Territory of Nebraska in 1857, settling on a claim in Cass county about one mile southeast of Murray. After her marriage to Lee Oldham, November 9, 1871, she lived in Fairview, later re-named Murray.

Fred W. Crosser was appointed post master March 14, 1898. He purchased the Oldham office building and equipment and maintained the office in that location for about sixty days. Thinking to serve the patrons of the office to better advantage, Mr. Crosser purchased the third lot west of the present bank building and moved the Old-

ham office to this location. At this time Murray was receiving mail twice a day. Mr. Crosser added confectionery, stationery and a soda fountain. He also operated an independent telephone exchange which was owned by Plattsmouth people.

Mr. Crosser was born two miles southeast of Murray November 21, 1871. He lived in that vicinity until 1901, when he resigned the office to move to Alva, Okla., where he now resides.

Arthur L. Baker was appointed postmaster October 9, 1901, while engaged in the hardware and implement business. His first location was in the E. S. Burton store, which was just east of the Latta store.

Mr. Baker was born at Logan, Ia., July 22, 1875, coming to Murray on March 3, 1893. He now makes his home in Lincoln, Nebr.

Rural free delivery was established at Murray October 15, 1902, with Walter Snodgrass as the first rural carrier. At that time the salary per annum was \$600.00.

Backstamping of ordinary mail was discontinued during Mr. Baker's term of service, the benefit accruing both to the public and the department.

James M. Manners was appointed rural carrier November 1, 1902, after the death of Walter Snodgrass. He served until December 31, 1906, when he resigned to move to Longview, Wash., where he still resides.

The postoffice remained in the Burton building until 1904, when Mr. Baker moved to the Swearingen confectionery building, just west of the bank.

March 20, 1905, the office was robbed of a small amount of cash. The

robbery was investigated by Inspector D. J. Sinclair, who reported that entrance was effected by breaking a pane of glass in a rear window of the building, enabling the burglar to reach the catch of the window and raise it. Mr. Baker had left a box containing perhaps 400 pennies and about \$4.00 in nickles and dimes on top of the post office safe. The contents of this box was taken but nothing else disturbed. The robbers were never intercepted as there was no positive evidence.

After 18 months here a new brick building was erected on the same location, which served as post office and hardware store.

Thomas J. Brendel was temporary carrier after Mr. Manners resigned and served until March 15, 1907.

Thomas H. Nix was appointed regular carrier March 16, 1907, and served until November 30, 1908.

December 1, 1908, William Seybolt was appointed temporary carrier until January 15, 1909.

William Rex Young was appointed regular carrier January 16, 1909, and served until June 10, 1911.

Henry H. Sands, a temporary carrier, served from June 12, 1911 until August 7, 1911.

Louis H. Rice served as temporary carrier from August 8, 1911, until September 30, 1911.

Kingsley Lee Kniss was appointed regular carrier October 1, 1911, and served until February 25, 1925, when he was transferred by the Post Office department to Los Angeles, Calif., where he is still with the department.

William S. Smith was appointed postmaster October 12, 1914. The office was moved to the McDaniel building which housed the Smith grocery

and meat market.

Mr. Smith was born July 27, 1867, at Davenport, Ia. Mr. Smith moved to Murray in the spring of 1903, establishing a grocery and meat market, which he is still operating.

October 10, 1920, burglars entered the post office by opening the window overlooking the street. The robbery was investigated by Inspector W. M. Coble who reported that the safe was blown with nitroglycerine and about \$59.14 in stamp stock was taken. Also some blank money order forms. Mr. Smith suffered loss of some valuable papers. A clock in the office was disturbed by the concussion when the safe was blown and it stopped at 3:05 a. m. However, the robbery was not discovered until the office was opened Sunday morning, October 10. The thief was never caught.

Harvey E. Kniss was appointed temporary carrier after the transfer of his brother and served until March 7, 1925.

Mr. Kniss was the first rural carrier to use the automobile for transporting the mail at Murray.

March 9, 1925, Ernest Millbern was appointed regular carrier and served until December 31, 1933.

June 9, 1927, the post office was destroyed by fire of unknown origin. Hastily an emergency office was established in the Holmes building at the south east corner of block 15. This served as the Murray post office until the new brick building was completed by Mr. Smith.

October 16, 1928, B. Harry Nelson was appointed acting postmaster, serving in that capacity until December 18, 1928, when he was appointed postmaster. Mr. Nelson's post office was

in the newly erected brick building just east of the bank. Mr. Nelson also operated the Murray Hardware Store. Later he moved the office and store to the building west of the bank, which had served Mr. Baker as post office several years before.

Mr. Nelson was born at Weeping Water, Nebr., May 30, 1881. He moved to Murray in 1926 from Nehawka, where he had been engaged in the Sheldon store for a number of years. Mr. Nelson lived in Murray, operating the hardware store and post office until his death, December 18, 1933.

A. Lucian Carper was appointed acting postmaster January 22, 1934, and continued in the same location. Mr. Carper was born February 20, 1906, at Nehawka, Nebr., moving to Murray in 1930.

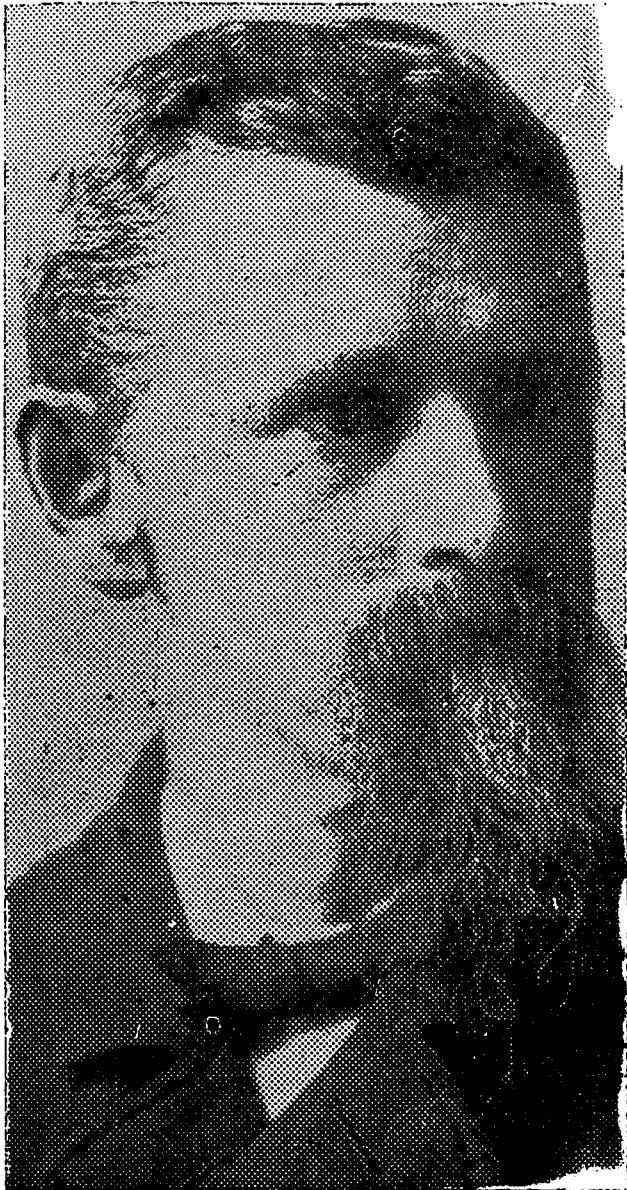
Harry Albin, a temporary carrier, was appointed January 1, 1934, and served until March 31, 1934. Since that time he has been serving as the substitute carrier.

April 1, 1934, Eugene Roddy was appointed regular carrier, being transferred from Union, Nebr., after serving as rural carrier in Union for ten years. Mr. Roddy is the rural carrier at the present time.

October 13, 1934, Charles D. Spangler was appointed postmaster, moving the office to the Seybolt building on the south side of Main street, and is serving the patrons of Murray at the present time.

Mr. Spangler was born at Platts-mouth, Nebr., August 15, 1872, moving to a farm near Murray in 1901.

During the early morning hours of January 27, 1937, the Missouri Pacific station was entered and robbed of the mail pouches. The robbers were soon



apprehended and were sentenced to the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan., where they are now serving time.

The Post Office Department celebrated the 20th anniversary of the inauguration of the regular air mail service on May 15, 1918, by observing the week of May 15, 1938, as National Air Mail Week. Any town, providing a suitable landing field, was given the privilege of having a special pickup flight one day during this National Air Mail Week. Mr. James L. Hurst of Lincoln, Nebr., was pilot of flight No. 8, which included Weeping Water, Murray, Plattsmouth and Louisville. The mail was flown from these towns into Lincoln, Nebr., May 19, 1938. There were 127 letters dispatched on this first air mail pick-up flight from Murray, going to 26 different states and two foreign countries.

WILLIAM LOUGHRIDGE

The First Postmaster of Murray,
Nebraska.

PIONEER HOMES IN CASS COUNTY AND THE LAND SHARK

By G. H. GILMORE

The human race depending on the products of the soil has lead them to seek newer and more fertile land and the opening of the Territory of Nebraska for settlement by the proclamation of President Pierce, June 24, 1854, caused a rush of settlers to the eastern border of the Indian country, the new Territory of Nebraska, to establish new homes. No form of govern-

ment existed and claim clubs were organized in each community with rules regulating the taking up of land claims, and while there was a strong feeling of justice in these organizations, there were at times an apparent biased decision.

The land in Cass county was not surveyed until 1856, and each claim was staked off by "metes and bounds,"

and a claim club committee was appointed to adjust difficulties. The claim boundaries were very obscure and confusing. My father, wishing to settle near the river, bought a claim which is recorded as the twelfth deed in Cass county:

"QUIT CLAIM DEED"

No. 12, Page 6, Book A

"For and in the consideration of the sum of One Hundred Dollars to me in hand paid by John Gilmore of the County of Cass, Nebraska Territory, have bargained and sold quit claimed unto John Gilmore all my right, title, interest and claim to the following described land as follows, "(viz)", Commencing near the Northwest corner of Kanosha, running in a north direction with the Swaps line to a burr oak tree on the north side of the branch, thence about () rods northwest direction to a stake near a small burr oak marked with a blaze, thence south to a stake to Isaac Fletchers Northwest corner, from thence a straight line to the place of beginning. In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal this 15th day of May, 1855.

Richard Fletcher (Seal)

Witness, W. H. Davis.

Wm. H. Davis who served as Recorder of Deeds lived two and a half miles east of Murray in the woods in a log cabin. These records at that time were kept in his cabin.

The following claim certificate was written in long hand and on cheap paper by Edward Cook:

"This is to certify that the undersigned, Edward Cook,^o having this day taken up and located a claim on the public lands in Cass county, Nebraska Territory, known and described as follows: Commencing on the South side of Rock Creek, on a small oak, about

20 rods southwest of a spring in the head of a deep ravine, which empties into Rock Creek a short distance above where Wilson dug for coal, running from said oak corner one-half mile east to stake, from thence north a half mile to a stake, thence west one half mile to a stake, from thence south one-half mile to the place of beginning including one hundred and sixty acres, more or less. Given under my hand and seal this 11th day of June, A. D., 1855. Edward Cook."

Witness: Wm. Young.

While the spring in the ravine has disappeared and the place where Wilson dug for coal has been covered by erosion from the hill side, yet John Clemmons in describing his claim west of the Rock Creek School house locates this claim to the east.

Claims were sold and traded for in the fifties for a trival consideration. A yoke of oxen or a horse for a quarter section of land. The Henry Schomaker old home which is now owned by Fred C. Schomaker, his son, was transferred for a mere song. Here is a copy of the original deed:

"For the consideration of Forty Dollars to me in hand paid by John Sturm of Cass county and Territory of Nebraska, I hereby sell, convey and quit claim to said Sturm, my claim on the public lands of the United States embracing the following numbers to-wit: The south east quarter of section one in Township number ten, north of Range twelve, east of the sixth principal meridian and situated in said Cass county and Territory of Nebraska and containing one hundred sixty acres, to have and to hold until the said Sturm, his heirs and assigns forever, and I do warrant the said claim to the said Sturm and his assigns

against the claim of all persons claiming the same through, by or under me.

Given under my hand this 11th day of September, A. D., 1857

N. D. Pool."

In the presence of
S. M. Kirkpatrick.

John Sturm was a cousin to Andre Sturm, another well known pioneer on the Weeping Water. Coming from Alsace-Lorraine, Andre Sturm retained the French spelling of Andrew, but to his son he gave the American spelling and Andrew F. Sturm who has served the county in the legislature and county offices is well known to the people of the county.

The following document setting forth the status of Andre Sturm as a citizen and his dwelling shows the pioneer spirit:

"In the matter of the right of Andre Sturm, of Cass county, N. T., to pre-empt the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and the W $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section eleven, in township number ten, north of range 12, east of the sixth principal meridian in the district of lands subject to sale at the Land Office at Nebraska City in said Territory, I George Hansen of the same place, do swear that I am well acquainted with the said Andre Sturm, that I know him to be over 21 years of age and that he has filed his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and he did on or about the first day of September, 1857, settle and improve said land by laying a foundation for a house, and that since that time he has erected a house thereon of sawed lumber, about 12x14 feet in size, with a good roof and floor, one door, one window and a fire place, and that he now resides there in.

J. G. Hansen."

Andre Sturm and George Hansen lived in a cabin on the Weeping Water during the winter of 1856-57, one of the severest winters in the history of Nebraska. Their hardships were well borne and game was plentiful and easily taken. Deer breaking through the crusted snow were captured without a rifle.

The land office for Cass county was located at Nebraska City in the fifties and it was here that disputes over the title of land were discussed and settled. The quarter section of land a half mile west of Mt. Pleasant cemetery was taken up for consideration by Henry Kropp in the following notice to Fredrick Bates:

"Fredrick A. Bates:- You are hereby notified that I will appear at the Land Office at Nebraska City on the 15th day of July, 1858, at 10 o'clock A. M., to prove my right to pre-empt the NE quarter of Section Seven, Township ten, North of Range 13, East of the Sixth Principal Meridian.

July 12, 1858. Henry Kropp."

This tract of land is still in the Kropp name.

The absolute control of land sharks in a frontier country is impossible and "Shylock and his pound of flesh," always appears in the settlement of a new country with mortgage foreclosures and rates of interest beyond the possible point of payment.

The Cass County Sentinel, published at Plattsmouth in the issue of October 2, 1862, gives three columns of foreclosures. The eighty acres of land in which the Scotia school is located in Liberty precinct and the eighty just east of it were foreclosed in October 1862 for \$280 with the rate of interest at 60 per cent. This was the property of Rhoda Long, Calvin Stew-

art, Mary Stewart, Jacob Gish and Rebecca Gish. The two eighties just north of these were foreclosed at the same time for an incumbrance of \$132.25 and the rate of interest at five per cent per month. Several are listed at four per cent per month, 48 per cent per annum.

In 1866 a law was passed limiting the rate of interest to 15 per cent by contract and again in the 70s to ten per cent.

Another way in which the shrewd shark preyed upon the innocent settlers in Cass county and the gullable in the eastern states was to sell lots and blocks in beautifully named paper towns and cities in this county and this continued until laws were passed driving this type of trickster from the territory.

While crime did enter in a limited

way in the formation of the statehood of Nebraska, the early pioneer did stand firmly for equity, fairness and brotherly helpfulness and a concerted effort was made to develop Cass county. The Nebraska Herald, Plattsmouth, of April 21, 1870 carried an encouraging sketch:

"THE NEW COLONY

Which is being organized to settle five miles northwest of Weeping Water Falls will be a great benefit to Cass county and Plattsmouth. The settlement will add many thousands of dollars to our taxable property, and will add largely to the general industry and thrift of the state. It will add to the general product of the state and to the surplus of grain, cattle, etc. which will seek a market at this or some other city in the state."

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JAMES O'NEILL A CASS COUNTY PIONEER

By MRS. DORA TIDD

The O'Neill family was an Irish clan tracing descent from Naill, king of Ireland, early in the fifth century, and known in Irish history and legend as Naill of Nine Hostages. This king had fourteen sons from whom the O'Neills of later history descended. Daniel O'Neill of the 17th century was a member of the Clánaboy branch of the family, and spent much of his early life at the court of Charles I, and became a Protestant. In 1649, he was made a major-general, and but for his Protestantism would have suc-

ceeded Owen Ross O'Neill as chief of the O'Neills. Approximately one-third of the Protestant population of Ulster migrated to America during the half century preceeding the Revolutionary War. Among this migration, James O'Neill, the father of the subject of this sketch came to Pennsylvania, settling in the vicinity of Harrisburg, and later moved to Hocking county, Ohio, where the James O'Neill, subject of this sketch, was born, September 24, 1815.

He spent his early boyhood and

young manhood on his father's farm near Lancaster, Ohio. He was educated in the country schools of his native county. Though he never learned a trade, he was very proficient in the use of tools, and did most of his own carpenter work. He married Miss Rachel Avery, who was born in Belmont county, Ohio, October 27, 1824. Mr. O'Neill acquired a farm near his father's farm, where he and his wife resided, and two of his children were born, a daughter Elizabeth, and a son, John Henry. In 1848 he sold his farm, and with his wife and children, came west in a covered wagon and first settled in Mills county, Iowa. He established his new home near Kegg creek, where he acquired a large tract of land. The first winter was a severe one and the family endured the greatest hardship. His wife and family were greatly discouraged and wanted to return to their Ohio home, but when the spring came, the crops were planted, which brought forth an abundant harvest, this pioneer family became established as a part of the Great West. He subsequently moved to a point on the east bank of the Missouri river in 1850, from which point he and Wheatley Mickelwait operated flat boats to transport immigrants across the river.

In 1853, James O'Neill and Col. J. L. Sharp assisted Samuel Martin in bringing logs across the river on the ice from Iowa, with which they built a substantial two-story building on Lots 6 and 7 in Block 31. This was known as the "Old Barracks" and for several years it was the outstanding trading post of the new town of Plattsmouth.

In 1855, the Territorial Legislature granted a charter for a ferry to James O'Neill, Wheatley Mickelwait, J. L.

Sharp, J. G. Palmer and Lafayette Nuckolls, and he continued to operate the ferry until 1857. In the latter part of 1853, he built a small house near the "Old Barracks" to which he moved his family in 1854. He took up a claim of a considerable tract of land just south of where the Burlington shops are now located, and later a portion of this land was platted and laid out as O'Neill's Addition.

On this claim he found a spot where the limestone was near the surface and a spring was flowing from the rocks. This was the very spot chosen by him on which to build his homestead. With pine lumber purchased from the lumber yard at Bellevue, he began the building of a very substantial residence, the foundation of which was laid on the solid rock, the interior was finished in walnut, the stairway being built of solid walnut brought from his own sawmill in Mills county, Iowa. The old fashioned doors were made of the same kind of wood. He being a carpenter this house was his handiwork and was one of the outstanding residences in its day. He dug out and walled up the spring that flowed from among the rocks, over which he built a stone house with a stone passageway leading to the residence. There always was an abundant flow of pure cold water. To the hundreds of weary travelers and settlers who stopped to quench their thirst at this spring, this place became "a place by the side of the road and a friend to man." To the hungry his wife gave food and milk for drink. Among those weary travelers was Nicholas Halmas, who stopped and remained for some time with the family.

James O'Neill was a man of modest education, but was a man of great

energy, force and capacity to do things. He was a hard worker and he wanted everybody around him to work.

On October 26, 1854, James O'Neill, Samuel Martin, Columbus Nuckolls, J. L. Sharp, Manly Green and Lafayette Nuckolls organized the Platts-mouth Town Company. In November 1854, O. N. Tyson, the surveyor of the company, assisted by O'Neill, laid out and platted the original city of Platts-mouth, which was approved by a special act of the Legislature incorporating the City on March 14, 1855. At the same time the Legislature by special act fixed the boundaries of Cass county and designated Platts-mouth as the seat of justice. Early in 1856, James O'Neill built the first school house on gospel hill, where the fine school system of Platts-mouth held its first session of school, also the first county, was held in this same school

house. He also served as a member of the school board and justice of the peace, as well as a member of the city council.

His wife was of sturdy Virginia stock, whose wise counsels strengthened and encouraged him, while her helping hand was never withheld when he needed her assistance. This pioneer family was endowed with eight children who grew to maturity, namely, Mrs. Elizabeth Herold, John Henry O'Neill, W. A. O'Neill, Lafayette O'Neill, George O'Neill, Mrs. Lydia Bodien and Frank and Louis O'Neill.

At the old homestead James O'Neill in 1880, passed on to the great beyond, leaving those with whom he had toiled to build a city in pioneer days and to future generations to reverence his name as one of the founders of Platts-mouth.

SKETCHES FROM PIONEER NEWSPAPERS

By G. H. GILMORE

The atmosphere surrounding the activities and social life of the early settlers in a new and unknown country with but few facts at hand regarding its history and resources may cause these pioneers to seemingly draw many grotesque and fantastic conclusions regarding the country in which they live, and yet some of their ideas are well founded. The many viewpoints taken by the pioneers on any subject has been well recorded in the first newspapers published.

Across the Missouri river east of Platts-mouth, and four miles west of Glenwood, Iowa, was in the 50's a flourishing town of over 500 inhabitants, Pacific City, which has dwindled away to a few houses and a corn field. In this ghost town was published The Pacific City Herald, edited by Alfred Thomson with his motto: "Independent in all things—neutral in nothing." This paper carried more news and advertisements for Nebraska Territory than it did for the Territory

of Iowa. The first issue was June 24, 1858, and carried the following advertisement for the City of Louisville, Cass county, N. T. The comment on the limestone was well founded as is shown by the Ash Grove Lime and Portland Cement Company, operating at that point today:

LOUISVILLE, CASS COUNTY, N. T.

"The City of Louisville, Cass county, Nebraska Territory was laid out into a town about the tenth day of December, 1856, and on the 15th of said month it received its present name. It was laid out on a claim then owned by Gardner Powers, who claimed and received the honor of giving to it the present name, and who retained 50 shares of the 200. Besides a reserve of ten acres for the purpose of building a mill, etc. Mr. Gardner Powers secured an act of the territorial legislature, Session of 1857, incorporating said city by its proper name and style; also making it a point through which the great Territorial Road, leading from Plattsmouth, N. T., by Parallel and Salina to New Fort Kearney, he being one of the commissioners to locate said road.

He also asked for and received a post office at the city of Louisville, himself receiving the appointment of postmaster. He is now on the ground in person ready and willing at any and all times to do anything honorable to advance the interest and welfare of said town and surrounding country, and would have say to the young and old, rich and poor, that here is a chance to secure homes for yourselves, family and friends, as you will rarely, if ever, meet with—mark that.

Better soil, land and limestone rock cannot be found. Range for the stock as well as timber and health cannot be

surpassed anywhere. There is no place on earth where produce of every kind as well as stock of all kinds is easily raised than we have here; and the laborers can get what he sees fit to ask for his time—from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per day—that's so.

Here are plenty of chances to take up good claims and some that can now be had at a low price. The town company is willing to give a few more lots to persons who were willing to erect a dwelling thereon immediately and they have also donated lots for a school house and a church.

There will soon be a good mill in operation in said town, where lumber can be had as well as bread stuffs—and we will here say that blacksmiths, carpenters, masons and all other kinds of mechanics and laborers could do no better than to settle here.

A tavern, boarding house, grocery and store all would do a sure business here and last, though not least, judging from the number of males, and the scarcity of females, they too, would go off like hot cakes—but alas they are not here to go off. The balance soon.

Gardner Powers."

The mineral resources of Cass county was under consideration by all in eastern Nebraska from the fact that the flint pits near Nehawka were considered old mines of the earliest race living in this region. The Pacific City Herald quotes the following from the Nebraska City News, November 11, 1858:

"TRACE OF ANCIENT MINES"

"The oldest inhabitant will remember that a few years since there was a good deal of excitement about traces of ancient mining that were discovered along the Weeping Water and about fourteen miles northwest of Nebraska.

City. The excitement died out in a short time, and little or no investigation or exploration was made of the many operations, to gratify the curiosity or develop any tangible results.

Still the deep dug trenches remained there exciting scarce inquiry or discussion, till one day last week a company of our citizens composed of the following gentlemen. Gen. S. F. Nuckolls, Judge Brown, Hon. J. H. Decker, H. Z. Luddington and T. J. Armstrong armed and equipped with picks and shovels, determined upon a partial examination of the works. They found them presenting the same general appearance as represented—deep trenches twenty to thirty feet in width and full of different kinds of rock broken into fine particles, which would indicate, it would seem without doubt, that a process of blasting had been carried on. Did these ancient miners possess a knowledge of the secret and subtle force of gun-powder? Who knows?

“The operations would indicate the work of many weeks or months. They were evidently carried on on a pretty extensive scale. For what? The question we cannot answer. It is thought by many that there are extensive lead mines in the vicinity. Lead in small fragments has, in general instances, been found on the farm of Mr. Kirkpatrick, a short distance from where the mining has been carried on. Others are of the opinion that a richer mineral has been worked and will again be discovered. A thorough exploration can alone determine.

“The relics and vestiges of ancient mines are additional testimony showing that a race, civilized, hardy and industrious once—and previous to the Indian—roamed over these prairies

and along the Blue valleys, bathed in the limpid waters, and refreshed themselves upon the products of the chase and soil. What high purpose and great plans were theirs? What deeds of achievement and ambition belonged to them? No record is left—story, song and tongue are silent; and imagination is left to fill up the events of their history with heroic deeds and manly achievements, or tales of woe and that which causeth the heart to mourn, just as it may please to picture it. What this race achieved and what it thought and what dire curse as in one fated night swept it from earth is, and probably always will remain a mystery. Their records, died with them—even the nations epitaph is unwritten.”

The Wyoming Telescope makes the observations that the mines on the Weeping Water were “evidence that the operations were carried on by a civilized nation and not by the savages that now prowl over the prairies, and rove from place to place.”

The large size of the oaks found growing from these pits showed conclusively that they had been abandoned for many years.” The editor also mentioned the fact that the ruins of lodges were found near by.

The archeologists have not made much progress beyond the observations of this pioneer editor.

Along the bluffs of the Weeping Water and the Missouri river are found many burial mounds which mean but little to the present generations. Such mounds are numerous on the bluffs near Glenwood. The Pacific Herald of August 11, 1859, publishes a very pathetic picture where some of these mounds have been desecrated:

"INDIAN GRAVES"

"On the summit of the bluffs just east of town were the graves of some Indian chiefs. Some thoughtless, reckless individuals took occasion to dig up the remains (out of curiosity, we presume.) Had they taken the pains to fill up the graves, leaving them in appearance, as they were before, it might have saved some bitter wailing.

One day last week we observed two Indians at these graves, manifesting their grief in a boisterous manner. They had probably walked hundreds of

miles to visit the graves of their ancestors; and when they reached the spot, they found the bodies gone—the spot from which they were taken bearing external evidence of desecration.

It is not wondered that they should return some night with reinforcements and commit depredations upon the property, and perhaps the lives of some of our citizens. We trust, however, that such a calamity will not occur. Let those who opened those graves go and fill them up again. It is the work of but a few minutes, and should have been done long ago."

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD METHODIST CHURCH

By REV. H. A. FINTEL

On May 1, 1871, Bishop Andrews appointed Rev. S. A. Bear pastor of Stove Creek, with three other school houses added, viz—the Flowers, McKeegs and Thompson's school houses, or rather the Elmwood school house.

According to presiding elder, H. T. Davis, these school houses was the western part of the Weeping Water circuit. When Bishop Andrews made Weeping Water a station, it left the Stove Creek circuit to itself—in the west.

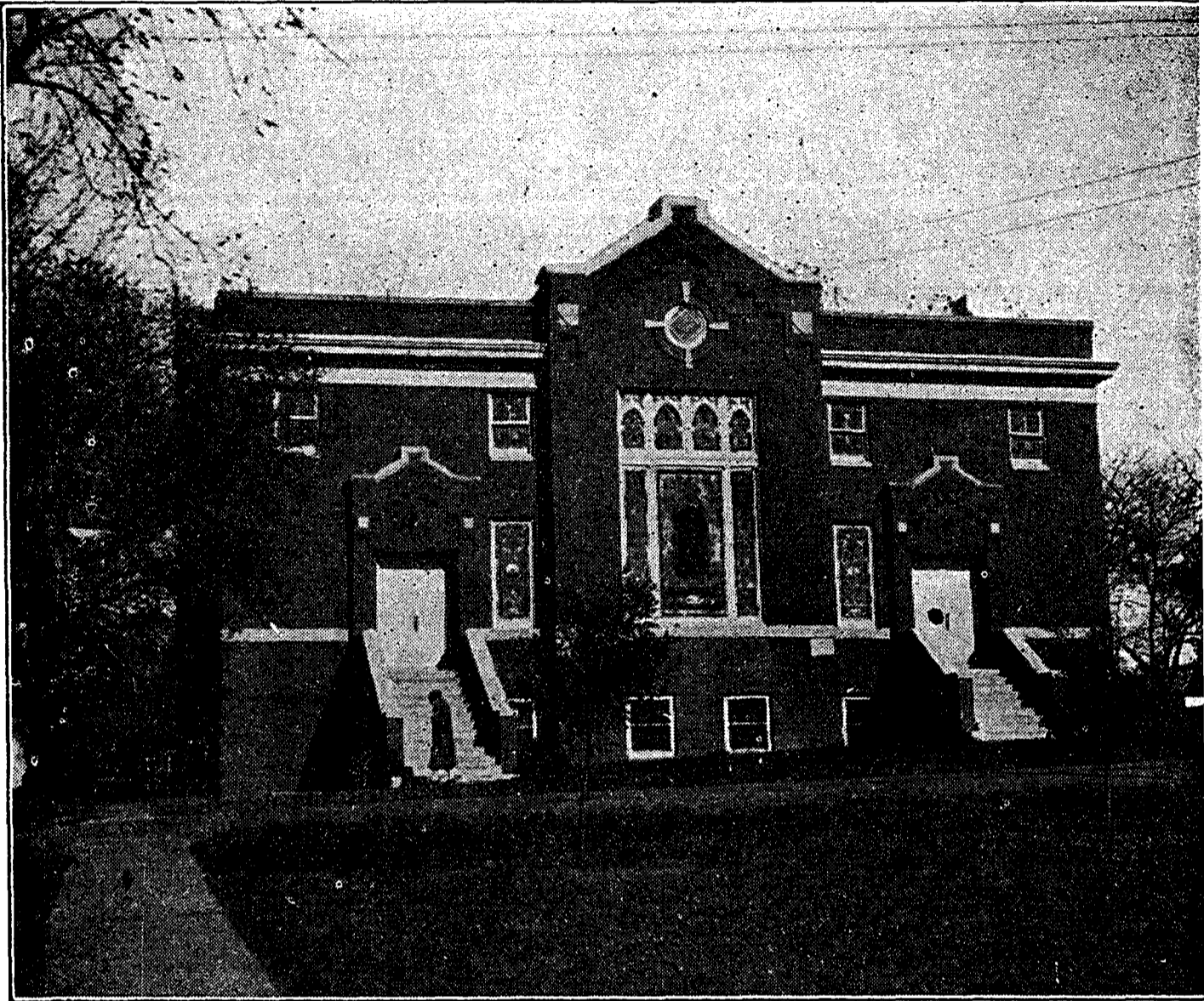
During the conference session October 1, 1874, at Omaha, Stove Creek and South Bend works were united in to one circuit and Rev. S. A. Bear was appointed pastor. This circuit was bounded on the north by the Platte river, on the east by Weeping Water, on the south by Palmyra and on the west by Belmont, embracing a terri-

tory of 150 square miles. Rev. Bear had four appointments, nearly all of the year, viz—Stove Creek, Elmwood, Thompsons and Fairland school houses. Father Swartz of Nebraska City assisted in a revival at Fairland where a class of 25 members were organized into a church.

In 1874 the Stove Creek class and in 1879 the Clear Creek class was organized and Rev. W. K. Loufburrow was pastor. The Chauncy Bailey family had a nice malodeon organ which was small enough to be taken to the church services or entertainments and the daughter Minnie, nine years of age, played it. Minnie is now Mrs. B. I. Clements.

During the pastorate of Rev Loufburrow, a parsonage was built in Elmwood.

Mrs. Matilda Turner was 94 years



old January 17, 1938, and she remembers when a Methodist Church, South, was started in the Center school house, located in the center of the section. It was two miles south, one and one-half miles west and one-half mile south of where Elmwood now stands. All denominations became members of it. Charles Ferguson and Mrs. John (Matilda) Turner, were charter members of this class. The Rev. Reedy was the pastor.

In the fall of 1880, Rev. W. J. Barger was appointed to preach at the Elmwood circuit. Then Rev. J. S. Walker served two years and Rev. George Shumann, two years.

In 1885, Rev. A. Madole was appointed and in the fall of 1886, Chaun-

cy Bailey and Philander Williams were influential in starting a church building project. Other members of the class were the George W. Hylton family, Dr. Kenistan and family, John Clements and family, Mrs. Eliza Stacey and family, Dr. N. R. Hobbs family, John Turner family, Oliver May family, Gilbert Beardsley family, John Current family and John Hogan family.

B. I. Clements hauled the first load of rock for the new church. To help finance the building, a loan was received from the Board of Church Extension of \$500. Mrs. Angie Prosser states "we not only got the loan, but we bought a bell from the Cincinnati foundry costing \$105. The money was

raised by serving election dinner and supper in November 1886. The bell was hung before the church was completed."

Hettie Rosencrans states "This was the first church bell in Elmwood. It created quite a stir when it was first rung. The church was completed in the spring of 1887.

Mrs. Lizzie Roberts, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Current, remembers the first service held in the new church. "There was no furniture. A box served as a pulpit and rough planks on nail kegs served as seats," she says.

B. I. Clements states that he took up subscriptions and purchased an organ from J. H. Prescott, of Lincoln.

Lucretia Ferguson was our first organist. Later Luella Bailey was organist and Gilbert Beardsley was the choir leader for many years. John Stark, Pelle Stopher, W. E. Rosencrans and Charley Baker helped to keep things going in the choir. The organ served the needs of the church for many years when it was traded in on a finer one.

For Communion Service, Mrs. Hettie Bailey brought her red glasses, pitcher and silver cups until in 1900 a silver service was procured.

During the following years pastors E. J. Bird, 1887; C. H. Gilmore, 1888; W. H. Prescott, 1892; F. A. Campbell, 1893; J. L. Brown, part year; W. H. Turrell, 1896; A. M. Perry, 1899; J. M. Darby, 1902; J. K. Maxfield, 1903; J. G. Stannard, 1904; E. C. Wright, 1906; J. B. Lake, 1906 (finished the year) and appointed until 1908; J. W. Davis, 1910 and Peter VanFleet, 1912.

Dr. Peter VanFleet was blest with considerable finances and together with his wife proposed to give a large

sum toward the building of a new church. The members considered the proposition and likewise raised considerable money for a new church. Plans were made and the new project was begun and completed at a cost of \$30,000. Because of the pastor's liberal giving the church was dedicated after his name and in memory of his wife as well. Dr. J. W. Embree, district superintendent, of Tecumseh district was present to dedicate the church in 1914. This was a time of great rejoicing and the church has enjoyed worshiping in this fine building since.

After four years of his ministry, Dr. VanFleet was succeeded by L. Morrison, 1916; S. W. Longacre, 1918; F. E. Sala, 1920 and George M. Carter, 1923. During Rev. Carter's pastorate the parsonage was rebuilt into a modern home. It is valued at \$5,000.

Rev. Victor West was next appointed in September 1925. Then Rev. J. A. Klein. During his three years pastorate the pipe organ was dedicated. Dr. Peter VanFleet gave the organ and the members of the church raised \$1,000 to install it. Dedication services were conducted by district superintendent F. F. Travis, April 6, 1930.

Rev. T. W. Shepherd, 1931; W. B. Bliss, 1933 and H. A. Fintel, 1936, were appointed. The present membership is (1938), 287 members. 200 are enrolled in the Sunday School. Mrs. H. F. Capwell, superintendent. 30 are in Epworth League, with Morris Pen-terman, president. 75 in Ladies Aid, Mrs. H. Pen-terman, president. 20 in the Women's Missionary Society, Mrs. Ray Parsel, president.

There is no indebtedness on any of the church property and ample insurance is carried.

HISTORY OF THE SCHOOLS OF PLATTSMOUTH Their Progress From 1856 up to the Present Time

By MISS OLIVE GASS

A Former Plattsmouth Teacher.

Development is often a slow process scarcely discernable except by comparison of the subject in its embryonic state with the present order of things; and while such a comparison brings more vividly to our minds the advancement made, yet to the student of this subject, the steps by which this improvement was accomplished are well worth considering.

We find some very interesting facts connected with the early history of the schools and school buildings of our city. We find the frame school house, the crude desks, the backless benches and the lack of many things which we now consider necessities. The early school houses must have corresponded to the description given by Whittier when he said:

"Still sits the school house by the road.

(A ragged beggar sunning.)

Around it still the sumachs grow,
And blackberry vines are running.

Within, the master's desk is seen,

Deep scarred by raps official

The warping floor, the battered seats,

The jack knife's carved initial."

The first public school in America was the Boston Public Latin School, founded in April 1635. In April 1935 Massachusetts celebrated the 300th anniversary of this event.

A bronze table at the old school bears this inscription:

"From the seed planted here the

whole American system of free education grew."

Probably the first school in Nebraska, was the Mission school at Bellevue, established in 1848.

Cass county organized the first rural school in 1857.

The first school house in Plattsmouth was built in 1856 on Gospel Hill, at 11th and Marble streets, now designated as 11th and 3rd Ave. It was a one-room frame building erected by Mr. James O'Neill, grandfather of Mr. James Herold and Mrs. Dora Herold-Tidd, and Mrs. Ann O'Neill Timm. The building was also used as a court room. Tradition tells us that as it was only a one-room building, the jury, in warm weather, often sat out under the oak trees to deliberate on their verdicts.

The first regular certificate was issued to Miss Sarah Mitchell, March 26, 1860. The board of examiners consisted of Mr. Elbert, Mr. T. M. Marquette and Mr. D. H. Wheeler.

The earliest schools were all subscription schools, but in the year 1875, Mr. and Mrs. Gorrell had charge of what was called the city school, situated on the south side of Main Street. The school was afterwards removed to the north side of Main Street, the building occupied being about where the Gamble Store, 506 Main, now stands. This was also a public school and was taught by a Mr. White.

In 1859 the school was removed again to the south side of Main street. The building occupied was not built for school purposes and is the building at 514 Main street, now occupied by Frank Gobelman. The total enrollment at this time was 90 pupils. A Mr. Madison taught school in the building referred to above, and was assisted by Mrs. S. E. McElwain (nee Miss Sarah Harper) of this city. At this time all pupils had to buy their own books.

Members of the board of education were not compelled to hold midnight sessions in those days in order to complete the business of the evening, as the minutes given below will show. These minutes were taken verbatim from the original records:

"School board of Plattsmouth met on Thursday, Dec. 3rd, 1863. Present J. H. Brown, director; S. S. Billings, director; T. K. Hanna, director; B. F. Ruffner, clerk.

The account of J. Moore for \$2.00 of a balance be allowed and an order be drawn by clerk in his favor for that amount.

Ordered that Sarah E. Harper be employed as assistant teacher of common schools for three months at \$15.00 per month.

On motion adjourned.

S. S. Billings, Chairman.

J. H. Brown, Secretary."

We find that in 1861 the enrollment had increased to 214 pupils. Four teachers were employed. The principal received \$37.50 per month, and the other teachers \$20.50 each, per month.

In 1862 a building which had been used as a wholesale and retail outfitting house was converted into a school house. This building stood where Bekins block now stands, at 6th and

Main. During this time and up to the year 1872, the schools were in an ungraded condition, but in 1872, grades were established and this fact was an epoch in the history of our schools.

The principal at this time received \$60.00 per month.

In the very early days the school board could not buy equipment that was not absolutely necessary, therefore the schools gave many entertainments, for which they charged an admittance fee, with which they purchased equipment.

These affairs consisted of ice cream socials, oyster suppers, calico parties, lectures and in winter jolly sleighing parties with jingling bells were given, the goal being some country home where a pay-as-you-enter oyster supper would be served.

When I was a little girl, I was taught, when reading, to pause after a comma, long enough to count 1; for a semicolon, count 2, for a colon, count 3; and for a period, count 4.

All of this extraneous counting took the pupil's attention so that he could not get nor give the author's meaning with any emotional expression.

As some caustic critic has said, "They pointed every stop, marked every pause so strong, their words like stake processions stalked along."

And I remember in our old McGuffy's Readers, all words printed in italics were to be emphasized and all marks of inflection were printed over the words, thus allowing the pupil no individuality of expression, and rendering his reading mechanical. In the readers of today, all of this is eliminated and the pupil is his own interpreter.

In the early days of the schools in Plattsmouth, the pupils were given

lists of words which they were to spell, define and then use in sentences. The teachers were often astounded at some of the results of such assignments. The indolent pupils were content to use the first definition of the word that met their eyes and often they did not understand the definition any better than they did the word they were to define.

Here are some results of their labor: Contiguous. Definition, to touch entirely on one side. "Her hat was contiguous." Thatched: Definition, covered with straw. "The boy was thatched."

The next example was received by tradition. Bank-note. Definition, Bank the edge of a stream. Note, to set down. "Bank-note, to set down by the edge of a stream."

An interesting sidelight on the subject of definitions and dictionaries may be obtained by an examination of a dictionary printed in 1755 by Samuel Johnson.

Short words had no charm for him. He used pompous words and while it is true that the English people were grateful to him for compiling the only dictionary they had, never-the-less there was some unfavorable criticism of his style. One critic said that if Samuel Johnson were to write a fable about little fishes, he would make the little fishes talk like whales.

I think that even the teachers would have been overcome by the definition of net-work given in Samuel Johnson's English dictionary. It is as follows: "Net-work is anything reticulated or decussated at equal distances, with interstices between the intersections."

But fortunately, today, we not only have simplified spelling but simplified definitions.

When I began the study of History, I was staggered to learn that our teacher expected us to commit the list of dates at the end of each historical period, entitled, "Table of chronological recapitulation." Each date had a dry, isolated fact attached to it and they were to be learned in the order presented.

When I became a teacher of History, methods had improved. Today, the "Table of Chronological Recapitulation" is used merely for reference. The study of History is the fascinating study of men, not merely of names and dates, because the pupils are encouraged to read the intimate letters, or the autobiography of the actors in this great drama of history, and thus learn, as if from their own lips, of their activities in discovery and conquest and the establishment of a higher civilization.

In 1873 a four-story building was built which is now known as the Central Building. The fourth story was occupied by students of the high school. But no graduating exercises were held, nor diplomas given until about 1880.

Another school house, which was a frame building, was built near the southwest corner of the school grounds about 1883.

In 1900 a brick building was erected on the west side of the campus, for the use of high school students only.

In 1919 the commodious brick building on the east side of the campus was erected.

They say that "comparisons are odious," but in this case it is not true because we find 1856, ungraded schools and no course of study, while today, our curriculum is broad and is much improved over what it was when first established.

For instance, today the social studies are featured and not so much stress is placed on the classics. Music has been introduced into all grades, and foot ball, basket ball, track, manual training and home economics have a place in the schools.

The enrollment has grown from 90 pupils in 1859, to 1000 pupils today, in 1938. Each pupil costs the city about \$40 a year.

In 1919 the convenient, comfortable and beautiful building, valued at \$120,000.00 was dedicated for the use of high school and junior high school students.

We are fully accredited at our state university.

In spite of a handicap in restricted

revenues that causes an unsettled condition on our teaching force today, never-the-less, we feel we are building better every year and it is our desire to inculcate upon the minds and hearts of our students the beautiful sentiment expressed by Oliver Wendell Holmes when he wrote:

“Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,

As the swift seasons roll,

Leave thy low-vaulted past,

Let each new temple, nobler than the last,

Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,

’Till thou at length art free,

Leaving thine outgrown shell by life’s unresting sea!”

EARLY SCHOOLS OF CASS COUNTY

By George Farley

My father was born in Rock Bluff in 1857. He taught school there nine years. Will Gilmore took me down to Rock Bluff and showed me where my father had lived. It was a two-room house. He taught in one room of the house and lived in the other.

In those early years, 1850-'59, there were new territories and the schools were more or less private schools, unorganized. My first teacher, Miss Fleming, taught in a private home.

Parents of the children planned to furnish seats for each child and my father had to furnish two. The name of the first school I attended was the John Hutchison School. There were no county superintendents in that time.

Following are the county superintendents of public instruction of Cass county, Nebraska, from 1857 to 1939, inclusive:

Name	Position	Yrs. Served	Obtained	Date
James R. Porter.....	Dep. Co. Clerk	1857	Appointed	2-2-1857
J. N. Wise.....	County Clerk	1857-1859	Ex. Office	11-1857
D. H. Wheeler.....	County Clerk	1859-1861	Ex. Office	10-1859
B. Spurlick.....	County Clerk	1861-1869	Ex. Office	10-1861
W. A. Patterson.....	Superintendent	1869-1871	Appointed	4-19-1869

John Black.....	Superintendent	1871	Appointed	10-3-1871
U. W. Wise.....	Superintendent	1871-1876	Appointed	12-6-1871
G. B. Crippen.....	Superintendent	1876-1878	Elected	11-1876
D. D. Martindale.....	Superintendent	1878-1880	Elected	11-1877
E. H. Wolley.....	Superintendent	1880-1882	Elected	11-1879
Cyrus Alton.....	Superintendent	1882-1886	Elected	11-1881
Maynard Spink.....	Superintendent	1886-1890	Elected	11-1885
G. W. Noble.....	Superintendent	1890-1894	Elected	11-1885
George L. Farley.....	Superintendent	1894-1900	Elected	11-1893
W. C. Smith.....	Superintendent	1900-1903	Elected	11-1899
C. S. Wortman.....	Superintendent	1903-1906	Appointed	3-17-1903
J. W. Gamble.....	Superintendent	1906-1907	Elected	11-1905
George L. Farley.....	Superintendent	1907-1908	Appointed	7-2-1907
Mary B. Foster.....	Superintendent	1908-1815	Elected	11-1907
Eda Marquardt.....	Superintendent	1915-1917	Elected	11-1914
Alpha C. Peterson.....	Superintendent	1917-1938	Appointed	9-1917
Lora Lloyð Kieck.....	Superintendent	1939-	Elected	11-1933

Today we have well educated and prepared professional teachers. When I was elected, the examination papers of the students were sent to Lincoln, Nebr., to be graded there. This was a very fine rule, and it took a great responsibility from the county superintendent, and they were always carefully graded. It was astonishing the difference in the list of questions the different superintendents or teachers make out. Three-fourths of the county reviewed the questions, others seemed reasonably practical. Bookkeeping and drawing were not taught in many public schools of the county. Most of the county superintendents were ministers or lawyers, appointed or el-

ected. The salary might be interesting. We used to teach three months in the winter and receive \$100 for this period of time.

There wasn't much going on in those days. They used to have spelling bees quite often, and in some of the larger schools the boys came in for the winter season and formed a debating society.

In those days every student had to furnish their own books and papers. It was forty years ago that they passed a law that the school districts should furnish books to the pupils. Very few families in these days could afford it though, especially if they had three to five children going to school at once.

PIONEER DAYS IN TIPTON PRECINCT

By C. E. Bobbitt.

Tipton precinct was named after Thomas Weston Tipton from Brownville, Nebraska, one of the first U. S. Senators from the state. Most of what

I relate are my own experiences and recollections, though some of the earlier stories may have been from hearing them so often.

The first school was named Tipton School. A small amount of taxes had accumulated in the county seat for school purposes, but not used, so in 1872, some of the homesteaders raised some money and with what they received from the county, put up a small building, four and one-half miles west and a half mile north of the present town of Elmwood, then known as Stove Creek. Before time for the school to begin however, a tornado came along and what was left of the school house could have been put in a wheelbarrow. What to do was something else. There was little money left, and of course, no insurance.

Late in the fall my father, T. N. Bobbitt who had some experience in teaching, went to the board with the proposition that if they would advance him his salary, he would build an addition to his homestead shack of 12x12 and hold the winter term of school in his home. The school board agreed to this, paid him approximately \$100 and he carried out his part of the agreement. This was the first school in the precinct.

I have forgotten where my parents first secured their mail, but about 1876, some of the most energetic settlers secured the establishment of a post office and called it Eagle. It was in a farm house across the road south of the present town of Eagle. Sam McClintock was the first postmaster and kept it for several years. Later, A. S. Cooley was postmaster and the site was moved two miles north where it remained until the Missouri Pacific rail road was built.

About 1879, there was a post office called Andruville, about one mile south and two and one-half miles east of Eagle. It was named after a farmer by the name of Andrus.

At this early day, there was a stage and mail route from Plattsmouth to Weeping Water and another stage route from Weeping Water to Elmwood. This was extended to Eagle. About this same time, there was a star route established between Lincoln and Eagle. This was on Saturday only, and, no doubt, was instigated by the State Journal to get their weekly paper to subscribers the same week it was printed.

There was some illiteracy among the early settlers, but for the most part, they were thoughtful, well-read people according to the standards of that day. Nearly everyone subscribed for the Weekly Journal. The price was one dollar per year. We were heartbroken when the weekly edition was discontinued. We could not afford to pay for the daily. The Journal Company then put out a semi-weekly which bridged the gap until we could afford the daily.

You must keep in mind that this took place before there was a rail road. There was Greenwood on the north and Palmyra on the south, Plattsmouth on the east and Lincoln on the west—a territory about as large as the state of Delaware, without a railroad.

Let us return to Tipton Precinct. About 1880 Henry Roelofs, a homesteader, conceived the idea of running a sort of huckster wagon, going around among the farmers carrying staple groceries, tin pans, pails, churns and like merchandise to exchange for butter, eggs, chickens and

meat in the winter time. It was a funny looking contraption, always piled high with all kinds of merchandise. He came to Lincoln once a week and if he did not have what was wanted one week, he would bring it the next trip. That was in the days before pianos, so I never saw him with one, but there was nearly every thing else. A Mexican burro with a load of hay did not have anything on him.

The idea must have been profitable because in a couple of years he established a store near his home. This was four miles west of the present town of Elmwood. The next move was to get a post office, which was not hard to do since it was already on the route operating between Weeping Water and Eagle. Thus the village of Sunlight appeared on the map, a very appropriate name, though now it is not even a ghost town. There had been a Sunlight postoffice some years before, but at this time it was in a state of suspended animation. There is not a farm house there now.

During the time it flourished it was quite a business center. It had a blacksmith shop, a doctor, a resident minister of the United Brethren faith, a store and a post office. The church people had built a parsonage, but held services in the school house, then a half mile north. The blacksmith was George Wright. He was a great singer. He led that part of the service at church and Sunday School. As I look back now, it seems he made up in strength and vigor what he lacked in musical training.

The doctor was a unique character, though I think his training was good enough. If there was a dentist in the world at that time, I had never

heard of him, so when a tooth got so bad that the pain could not be endured, the sufferer went to the doctor who yanked it out. "Yanked" is the right word. You paid him fifty cents if you had it, otherwise, nothing. Incidentally, there was no sterilized instrument—notice I said instrument—for he had only one—no anti-septic treatment, no anesthetic.

The first church edifice in that vicinity was erected by the Dunkards or River Brethren. This was five miles west and one mile north of Elmwood. It has been moved since to Alvo. At one time the membership was quite large, but it did not appeal to the younger generation and faded out of the picture. They were an honest, industrious people. We thought them a little clannish. They always preferred to help Brother John or Brother Henry. However, I see nothing wrong now with what they did.

In 1886, the Missouri Pacific Railway Co., built the present line from Weeping Water to Lincoln. They made a station at Stove Creek, now Elmwood, and another at Eagle. The post office department discontinued the star route and Sunlight was left out on a limb. The blacksmith died, the minister moved away. The store keeper held out for a while, then moved his stock to Eagle. It seemed to me our world turned upside down at that time. Changes were taking place and we were never to be the same again. Boots went out and shoes came in. We country boys looked on shoes for men as effeminate and, if some city boy came into the community wearing shoes, we wanted to throw mud balls at him and did if no one was looking.

The Rock Island Railway built from Omaha to Lincoln in 1888 to complete

the breaking up of the world we knew. We had gone modern. Gone were the heavy boots and hickory shirts. In had come shoes, fancy sox, neckties and stiff shirts. I would not want to go back, but the new things did not bring much more happiness than we already had.

We were never annoyed much by the Indians, though we saw many. My mother did not have the advantage of any scientific child training, so to curb a roaming disposition of mine, she held up the Indian as a bogey man. There were legends of children being stolen by them, so whenever I saw one, I made it home in nothing flat.

In 1875, a large party of them filed by our home. I was told they were from the Omaha reservation, going to visit the Pawnees down around Beatrice. There were probably 300 of them, though to my childish eyes, there were thousands.

Recently, in conversation with Mr. Sheldon of the State Historical Society, he said that they were probably migration of the Poncas from their reservation in northeast Nebraska to their new home in Indian Territory, now Oklahoma.

Since the advent of automobiles and paved roads, Tipton precinct has become almost a suburb of Lincoln.

NEBRASKA'S PIONEER SCHOOL SYSTEM

By G. H. GILMORE

When the Territory of Nebraska was being organized, many perplexing problems arose among the law makers for solution and one of these was the formation of our free public school system.

Many visionary organizations were advanced through the Territorial Legislature by the citizens from each community in the Territory from 1854 to 1860. Each town, whether bonifide or a paper town, had a block set aside in its plat for a university.

The Hon. John F. Buck of Three Groves, Cass county, served in the legislature in Omaha in 1855-56, was appointed chairman of the Committee on Common Schools and many of these "Dream Oxfords" passed thru this committee and by the legislature

in good faith. The following is a partial list of some of the "University" bills introduced and passed:

Feb. 25, 1856. An act to incorporate the Simpson University at Omaha.

Jan. 15, 1856. Incorporate Nemaha University at Archer, in Richardson county.

Jan. 18, 1856. John F. Buck, Washington College in Cummings county.

Jan. 21, 1856. Grant of land to the University of Fontenelle University.

Jan. 24, 1856. John F. Buck, an act to incorporate the Plattsmouth Preparatory and College Institute. Recommended for passage.

Jan. 15, 1856. An act to incorporate the Wyoming Academy at the City of Wyoming in Otoe county.

Feb. 2, 1857. An act to incorporate

the Salem College at Salem, N. T.

Feb. 3, 1857. An act to incorporate the University of Nebraska at Saratoga.

Feb. 3, 1857. An act to incorporate the Rock Bluff Seminary.

Feb. 10, 1857. St. John's University in Dakota county.

Dec. 30, 1859. Bill enacted to incorporate a seminary at Florence.

Jan. 5, 1860. An act to incorporate the University of Columbus in Platte county, N. T.

In 1860, to incorporate a seminary at Peru which later became the present state normal.

Oct. 5, 1858. There were bills introduced to incorporate the Cass County Seminary and also "An act to incorporate the University of Cass County."

Oct. 30, 1859. A memorial and grant for land to build the Lewis and Clark College.

Jan. 26, 1856. The Western University incorporated under the supervision of S. M. Kirkpatrick, H. C. Wolph, M. B. Case, William Laird, Jr., John M. F. Hagood and Mathew Hughes created a body politic and coporated by the name of The Western University, to be located in or near Cassville, Cass county, Nebraska Territory.

Jan. 27, 1857. The council presented bills for 10,000 acres of land to the Simpson University and 10,000 acres to the Nebraska City Collegiate and Preparatory Institute. Recommended.

In 1856 there was considerable trouble in arranging and providing for the building of a school house in Louisville precinct.

What is now the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was in the territorial days known as the Commissioner of Education and

during this period we had no County Superintendent of Schools, but the county clerk in a limited way, had charge of the schools in the county.

Under the formative period of our schools system we had a township board of education, composed of a chairman, clerk and treasurer. The township was divided into sub-districts and the first of March three directors were elected for one, two and three years and one elected each year thereafter as his term expired. The directors of all the sub-districts met each year in the township and from their number selected the Township Board of Education.

On April 20, 1863, the Conn School was established on the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of section 11, in West Rock Bluff precinct by the Rock Bluff Township Board of Education, composed of John Allison, August Case and Jasper W. Conn.

The directors of the sub-districts were under the rules and regulations of the township board of education. In the payment of a teacher the clerk of the sub-district made a certified statement of the amount due which was presented to the township treasurer for payment.

W. E. Harvey was serving as commissioner of Common Schools in Nebraska in 1860, and from his office at the capitol in Omaha City, he submitted to the legislature the second Annual report of schools which was very elaborate while the first report made was brief and confusing. The commissioner in his opening remarks says:

"Cass county has the most perfect school organization in the Territory and made the nearest full report re-

quired by law. For the promptness and completeness with which the returns from that county were made, her honorable and efficient clerk de- found employment in schools of Cass county in primary schools:

Date	Name	Granted for
Mar. 20—	Sarah Winchell.....	2 years
Apr. 7—	Ursula E. Arnold.....	2 years
Apr. 7—	Hattie Haywood.....	2 years
Apr. 7—	Cordelia E. Mitchell....	2 years
Apr. 11—	Geo. L. Seybolt.....	2 years
Apr. 11—	Elizabeth Workman....	4 Mos.
Apr. 7—	Alvin G. White.....	2 years
Apr. 21—	Matilda Countryman....	2 years
Apr. 24—	Ellen Decker.....	4 1-2 Mos.
May 2—	Malinda D. West.....	2 years
May 5—	Maggie Gilmour.....	2 years
May 25—	Gertrude Jenks.....	6 Mos.
May 28—	H. D. Snyder.....	4 Mos.
Joun 2—	Mary Hughes.....	2 years
July 2—	Celestia Bellows.....	2 years
July 3—	Artemetia Mitchell.....	2 years
July 10—	Mary E. Berger.....	2 years
Aug. 7—	Wm. C. West.....	2 years
Aug. 13—	M. A. Fort (female).....	1 year
Aug. 18—	Kate E. Mannering....	2 years
Sept. 7—	J. C. Mitchell.....	2 years
Sept. 22—	H. C. Fardee.....	2 years
Oct. 8—	Wm. S. West.....	2 years
Oct. 8—	J. C. Bell.....	2 years
No. 3—	J. W. Barnes.....	6 Mos.
Nov. 6—	William Rager.....	2 years

In this report much is devoted to the plans and specifications of the school houses with the cost when completed. The price of lumber was \$8.00 per thousand and shingles \$3.00 per thousand. A building 20x24 was constructed for \$276.07.

The commissioner of education was much in favor of libraries by the state for each school, that good literature might be brought before the children instead of the "yellow covered literature which is flooding the country

with such titles at "The Pirate's Own Book," or the flashy stories by Sylvanus Cobb and authors of that stripe, found in the literary family newspapers of the day, with such titles as "Roderiquez Scuboberino," "The Sage Astroliger," or the "Insane Manica of Chimborazo, "A Tale of Love, Mystery and Revenge." In this report he is much opposed to "spirit-rappings, table-tippings and ghost stories," for the bad effect produced on the developing mind of the child.

The teachers as per instructions from the commissioner of education were to grade the scholars on their efficiency at good, very good, bad, very bad, poor or middling.

The Indians prevented the organization of schools in Cummings county as given by their county clerk:

West Point, Dec. 20, 1860.

"When I made my report last year I expected to see schools in this county before this time, but we have not been able to raise any tax for the reason that the settlers of this county were robbed last year of over fifteen thousand dollars by the Pawnee Indians, and not a dollar has ever been returned.

There are twenty-nine scholars in this county, fourteen males and fifteen females, nearly all of whom could go to school.

Respectfully,

J. C. Crawford, Clerk Cumming Co.

The most complete outline of the "Common School System" in Cass county is found in the records of Avoca Township Board of Education, as made by Amos Tefft from 1861 to 1865, and his son, Orlando Tefft from 1865 to 1868, as clerks of this board. During this period of seven years Robert O. Hoback served as treasurer

and William Altaffer as chairman of the board.

The Avoca township board of education had four sub-districts under its supervision. In 1861, Sub-District No. 1, embracing all of Avoca township. The boundaries and numbering of the sub-districts made frequent changes but eventually settled to Sub-District No. 1, in the vicinity of Foiden's Mill, now Union No. 2, centered about Factoryville; Nos. 3 and 4 along the southern border of the township.

The settlers in the Kirkpatrick settlement patronized Cassville Common School, which was in Mt. Pleasant township and was known as Sub-District No. 2. At an election held at H. C. Wolf's home on June 7, 1856, W. D. Gage was chosen president; S. M. Kirkpatrick, secretary and John F. Buck, treasurer.

School teachers and school houses stood foremost in all the educational problems.

Reports from sub-districts in Avoca township regarding payment of teachers and building school houses follows:

"Lucinda Loomis has taught common school in Sub-District No. 3 of said township all sixty days and there is due her for her services the sum of seven dollars. Oct. 25, 1863."

"Report of Sub-Dist. No. 4 Third Monday in April, 1865: Number of school houses, one log school house valued at \$25, unfinished. There has been no public money expended in this sub-district since its organization.

O Tefft.

E. Tromble

P. Clouzer, Directors."

"Artemetia Mitchell, teacher in Sub-Dist. No. 2, from the 27th day of May 1861 to the 14th day of June 1861, in all 15 days at the rate of \$2.00 per

week."

"Treasurer of Avoca Township: Pay to George H. Bryan or order, Twelve Dollars of money in hands to build a school house in Sub-District No. 2 of said Township. Avoca, May 27, 1863." serves much credit."

Funds for the support of the school was another problem and a law was passed making all fines paid for law violations to be turned to the school district's credit in the county. Several hundred types of fines are listed in the school laws of 1860, some of which are:

Issuing bills as money without a charter, \$1,000. For bigamy, \$1,000. Playing games for money, \$100. For dinintering dead bodies, \$500. Laboring on Sunday, \$5.00. Disturbing the peace on Sunday, \$25. Intermarriage with a Negro or Indian, \$500. Keeping open store or shop on Sunday, \$10. John B. Boulware, keeping a ferry boat on the Missouri river at Nebraska City, must pay into the Otoe county treasurer \$30 per year for support of schools.

In letters to the county clerk from the township school boards in Cass county, much dissatisfaction was expressed that no fines were collected. In all the reports from the precincts throughout the county not a single fine was collected in 1860.

D. H. Wheeler, county clerk of Cass county, made a report to the Commissioner of Education November 30, 1860. He suggested that the Territorial School Commissioner should not be abolished until the present system has had a full and perfect trial. He also asks that the Territorial Commissioner be required to select a standard list of text books which shall be adopted throughout the Territory.

The Commissioner in his report follows the suggestion of D. H. Wheeler and gives a long list of text books from Saunders Alphabet Cards and Primary School Charts through readers, spellers, arithmetics, down to Arnold's Latin and Greek Series.

D. H. Wheeler in his report gives a brilliant description of the Oreapolis Seminary under construction and "when in operation the first day of September, 1861, will be the only first class high school in Nebraska."

Some of the township boards presented very interesting reports from Cass county:

The board of education of Eight Mile Grove township says: "Our school law is too complicated; a common clod hopper can not understand it, even the lawyers cannot agree upon it....."

The board of education from Weeping Water township says: "This precinct has been settled but three years and the inhabitants are scattered over a large territory. The average age of the pupils was less than ten years, consequently the instruction given was rudimentary."

The board of education of Mt. Pleasant township says: "In sub-district No. 1, a contract has been entered into for the erection of a school house at a cost of \$250 and a further sum of \$100 will be necessary to finish the same. The amount necessary to be expended in sub-district No. 2, during the current year, \$120. It is the intention of the directors to keep up their school six or nine months if possible."

The schools of 1860 were run from 20 days to 86 days with the exception of Weeping Water, which reported 120 days of school.

The board of education of Rock Bluff township says: "Sub-district No. 4 reports that no money has as yet been expended in the district for schools. A site for a school has just been selected and the district is now negotiating for a school house."

In 1860 there were five school houses in Cass county with a total valuation of \$575 and the furniture and equipment for these schools, \$28.00.

The reports of all the township treasures in the county shows twenty teachers employed, four males and sixteen females. The total salaries for these teachers during the year was \$654.07, leaving in the township treasuries a surplus of \$459.37.

During this year there were in the county of school age from 5 to 21 years, 1105.

The expense of conducting schools in Cass county in 1860 is given by precincts—the amount allowed and the amount spent:

Precinct	Allowed	Spent
Plattsmouth City.....	\$135.00	\$120.00
Plattsmouth Twp.....	130.00	109.20
Oreapolis Twp.....	128.00	75.28
Weeping Water Twp...	58.30	58.30
Liberty Twp.....	124.95	73.55
Eight Mile Grove.....	60.60	50.20
Mt. Pleasant.....	129.87	36.00
Rock Bluff City.....	145.18	105.00
Rock Bluff Twp.....	173.75	105.60
Avoca Twp.....	70.31	
Salt Creek Twp.....	28.00	
Louisville Twp.	76.60	

The examination of applicants to see if they were qualified to teach school was conducted by the county clerk and two others selected by the Probate Judge, whose services were without pay. In 1860, T. M. Marquardt and S. H. Elbert, both lawyers, and D. H. Wheeler, all of Plattsmouth, com-

posed this board of examiners.

A report of D. H. Wheeler on No-

vember 15, 1860, shows that the board

had passed 26 applicants, all of whom

THE LIFE OF AMOS AND ORLANDO TEFFT

By C. E. TEFFT

Amos Tefft, son of Jonathan Tefft, was born in Madison county, N. Y., August 29, 1815. The family moved to Elgin, Ill., in 1835. There were seven boys and seven girls in the family, so each brother had a sister and each sister a brother. Amos Tefft was engaged in the mercantile business at Elgin and was married to Margaret Calvert, who was born in Greenock, Scotland in 1808.

To this union of Amos Tefft and Margaret Calvert Tefft was born a son, Orlando, December 26, 1843, and a son, Randolph, who died in infancy.

Amos Tefft went to California during the gold rush and in 1857, he with his wife and son, Orlando, came to Nebraska, first going to Bellevue and later coming to the farm, now adjoining Avoca, which he homesteaded. It was there they built their home and continued to live until 1866. The land which Max Straub, Sr., now owns, was then purchased and this was their home until 1882. The same year the Missouri Pacific Railroad built its first line in Nebraska and located a station on their lands. The town of Avoca was platted on the homestead and the Tefft family moved to the new town.

Amos Tefft planted the first orchard near Avoca and one of the first in Cass county. He took a prominent part in the early settlement of the new country and was elected justice

of the peace for several years during which time he married a good many couples, while his grandson, the speaker, only married one couple. He was refused to serve and the cost of the elected to the territorial legislature but refused to serve and the cost of the session was credited back to the territorial government. He served as the Avoca postmaster for years. Amos Tefft was a man of few words but he spoke the truth. He spoke it without malice and without coloring or embellishing the facts under discussion. He hated sham; he honored truth; he lived his life unashamed and without any guilty act; he walked among his friends honored and honoring his neighbors with whom he lived and served.

There were many good friends: the Quintons who lived on an adjoining farm, the Sheldons, Lawson and Amsdel, the Pollards, Isaac and Levi, the Kirkpatrick, the Wolphs, the Carters, the Marquardts, John and Bernard, these and many more were his friends whom he esteemed and with whom he lived and worked and served. Neighbors then were few but they were helpful; they worked together; in sickness they afforded aid and comfort; they stood together and wrought together and formed a civilization that has lasted and moulded a government and a country with proud traditions and true ideals. They lived on and

from their farms. They were miles away from stores and doctors, yet they wrought and worked and did their part without complaint and without expectation of award save the knowledge that they served their neighbors and their country.

Orlando Tefft was about 14 years old when he came with his father and mother to Nebraska. He received his education at the Elgin Academy, at Elgin, Ill., where he studied Latin and other required subjects. He began his education when he was four years old. From the time he moved to Nebraska he was constantly reading books that were obtainable. He was especially interested in matters concerning the administration of public affairs.

Those were stirring times when the war of the rebellion was being fought. This was the second crucial period of our government and the sons of Nebraska were all fired with the desire to help preserve the government.

Orlando Tefft was constantly studying and preparing himself to take his part in the affairs of the new territory and state and his first maiden speech was delivered in February of 1862, at the Polemic Society in the stone school house on their farm. He was then 18 years of age and was chosen to represent the negative of the question: "Resolved that the press is a better and safer protector of our national and individual rights than munitions of war." Reference was made by him to the degree of power attained by the nations of the earth by virtue of the munitions of war which modern nations have not yet with the aid of the press which is claimed by my opponents, to be so greatly attained and which the speaker thought was extremely doubtful

they ever would attain, and reference was made to the Roman empire and its proud station and that to be a Roman citizen was sufficient to insure freedom from insult and injury throughout the world."

I pause to say that the Roman empire in the year 1939 is still a subject of debate.

There also followed the second written speech, delivered July 4, 1863, when Orlando Tefft was a young man of 19 years. This was delivered at Weeping Water Falls. Just a short quotation from it:

"Again we are assembled to celebrate the birthday of our nation, to commemorate the anniversary of the inauguration of our republican institutions. The circumstances with which we are surrounded give us absorbing interest to this day of jubilee and tend to excite in our hearts a more lively feeling of the worth of our institutions now that they are placed in peril. . . This rebellion is the conflict of two separate principles, one of them is human slavery and the other human freedom."

Other debates and speeches followed

The most important step that Orlando Tefft took was his marriage to Elizzie H. Kirkpatrick which occurred July 4, 1868, in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Sheldon as official witnesses and friends and relatives. Elizzie H. Kirkpatrick was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Kirkpatrick who came to Nebraska in 1855 and settled at what is now Nehawka. She was a woman who was beloved and cherished by all who knew her.

Orlando Tefft was always deeply interested in civic matters and education and was a firm adherent and believer in the tenets of his church, and was

always in the forefront of every movement that tended to the betterment of his community.

He was a charter member of the present Congregational Church of Avoca which was established in the old stone school house on their farm and afterwards removed to Avoca, and took an active part in the work of the church.

He was a successful farmer and stock raiser. He purchased a half interest in the Bank of Avoca and in the lumber yard, to which he gave his personal attention for many years. He represented Cass county in the State Senate for four terms, 1879, 1881, 1893 and 1895. He was prominent in the early history of Cass county and the State and was an ardent advocate of his political beliefs.

Above all he was always interested in the development of the ideals of our country; he believed and practiced good citizenship; he was interested in the young people of his acquaintance

and sought to help them forward on their successful path to achieve their place in life. He made sacrifices to aid his neighbors and his friends. He was a citizen who sought not alone his own preferment but lived to see others go up the ladder of life to success.

He did not believe in winning the game; he sought to battle with the forces of right; he disliked those who for their own personal gain beclouded the issues with pleas of special benefits which they well knew were founded upon sand and not upon the eternal truth of right and honor. He sought to keep ever alive the ideals, the spirit, the faith of those who wrought, who sacrificed, who builded in the sweat of their brows, our government and for all which it rightfully stood. He maintained the faith of his fathers, the teachings of his parents, the lessons of his country. He lived and walked before all men worthy of faith and honored by his friends.

HISTORY OF FIRST MUSICAL ORGANIZATIONS IN PLATTSMOUTH

By OLIVE GASS

As part of the celebration of Music Week, May 7-12, I have been requested to give some reminiscences of Plattsmouth's musical activities, especially during the early days.

Plattsmouth, Nebraska, was settled in 1853-54 and as early as 1858 we find an organization of the members of the community for the purpose of a general advancement in mental growth. It was called "The Literary Circle."

We are fortunate in having had the secretary's books of the "Literary Circle" preserved for us.

In it there are frequent references to "singing by the members," with critical comments on the same. As, for instance, "The singing tonight was fair," or "Tonight the singing was mallifluous!" But on other occasions, the comments on the singing were definitely caustic.

J. N. Wise, with his tuning fork, was the leader of these "sings." The names of some of these first families in this group were Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Bradford, Mr. and Mrs. Perry P. Gass, Jonathan Wise, Parker Wise, Burwell Spurlock, Miss Nancy Spurlock, Milo Ella Duke, Miss Margaret Duke, I. N. Karraga.

This secretary's book is important because it gives us the date (1858) of the first organization to have vocal music regularly on the program.

I have depended on the secretary's book for these earliest historical facts, but the remainder of this article is strictly reminiscent, as I took part in all that I relate.

Soon after the close of the Civil war an opera was presented here by local talent. I remember that at the age of 8 years, I made my debut as a singer in the chorus of that opera. What the name of the opera was, I do not know. But I distinctly remember that my mother made for me a new ruffled white dress with many gilt paper stars sewed upon it, so presumably I was an angelic fairy.

The operas of Gilbert and Sullivan were very popular during the latter part of the 19th century.

Plattsmouth musicians organized for the purpose of presenting some of these, between 1887 and 1900.

The operas selected were: "H. M. S. Pinafore," composed in 1878; "Pirates of Penzance," composed in 1880; and the "Mikado," composed in 1885.

I wish to digress from my subject to comment on the fact that this year (1939) the jazz-swing maniacs have attacked the "Mikado" and have now presented it to a long-suffering public, under the title "Hot Mikado."

I wish I knew a soft pedal word

that would be a synonym for "lazy." But I do not, therefore I must say that these self-styled ultra-modernists are too lazy to do serious, original work and therefore they attach "jazz-swing" like parasites, to correct musical forms of real merit, hoping thereby to participate in the success of meritorious work from which they receive sustenance.

Following the presentation of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, we began the study of oratorios. "Elijah" was given about 1892, directed by Mrs. G. W. Noble. "The Messiah" given about 1893, and was also directed by Mrs. G. W. Noble. "Queen Esther" was given in 1898, directed by Mrs. Lillian Swearingin-Hasse.

One of the earliest music clubs was the "Mozart Study Club" whose members were earnest music teachers and students whose object was to become better acquainted with classical music and composers.

In 1887 the "Zither Orchestra" was organized with the following players: Zithers: Mrs. Ida Waterman-Wagner, Miss Anna Wechbach, Mrs. Alex Clark, Mrs. C. M. Butler, Miss Kate Stadlerman; Violins: Miss Lillian Kauble, Mr. A. Eigenbrodt; Corne: Mr. Alex Clark; Guitars: Miss Olive Gass, Miss Lydia Wechbach, Miss Alma Schmidtman; Bass viol: Mr. Hobart.

We not only gave our entertainments in Plattsmouth, but we presented our concerts in neighboring towns.

Besides these group activities along musical lines, Plattsmouth has sent out professional entertainers who have been a credit to the city. Among them are Alice and Ethel Dovey, Dora Swearingin, L. D. Hiatt, Lillian Kauble, Agnes Knoflicek and Richard Avard.

In closing I wish to compare the

status of music in our city in those early days, with the advancement of today.

During my school days, we had no music supervisors and no music was taught. However, we sang every morning at opening exercises a capella, and enjoyed it.

Today, "music" is found in the cir-

riculum of every school in Platts-mouth.

Two of the most efficient and wide-spread means of cultivating a knowledge and love for music are Victrola and radio and to these must be given much credit for the remarkable advancement in music appreciation, in Platts-mouth, today.

HISTORY OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 70

School district No. 70, known as the Grand Prairie School, began in 1876, according to records available, is located one and one-half miles west of the town of Manley. There is a possibility of the school having begun a few years earlier, possibly in 1871.

The first board of directors being D. D. Andrus, director; William Coon, moderator and N. J. Calkins, treasurer. The first teacher being Mary E. Coiner and some of the first pupils were the Andrus, Coon, Calkins, Taylor, Woodward, Hughes and a few others.

Some of the earliest teachers were Howard Zink, Alice Gilbert, Dottie B. Cook, Flora B. Ashmun, A. L. Timblin, J. C. Wachtel, Maria Rockwell, Ella Thorngate, W. J. Burgess and S. L. Hawley.

In 1879 the school building was badly wrecked by a wind storm, but was repaired.

The largest number of pupils enrolled was in 1886. That year there were 75 students of school age in the district. Twenty-two were between sixteen and twenty-one years of age.

The first record of text books used

was in 1876. Some of the books were as follows: Worcester's Comprehensive Speller, Hillard's 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th readers; Griffith's Elocution; Harvey's English Grammar; French's Model Arithmetic; Ray's Arithmetic; French's Common School Arithmetic; Quayot's Common School Geography and Anderson's History. An interesting fact is that corn was brought for fuel in the early eighties.

In the year 1889 the school building was moved one and one-half miles west to the place where it now stands. It was moved for the reason that the Missouri Pacific Railroad came thru the village of Manley in 1883. Five years later Manley built their own school building.

The teacher's salary has ranged all the way from \$26 to \$100 per month. The district has always had nine months school a year, except in 1880 and 1881, they voted on seven months or more, if funds held out. Usually the term was divided into a fall term of three months, winter term of four months and a spring term of two months. Sometimes there was a different teacher for each term. The

latest date that the school closed was the twelfth day of July, in 1879. In the winter of 1888 the memorable snow storm of January 12th was to be remembered. Bennett, who was staying at the William Coon home, went to get the children home. He took all that went west, but became lost in the storm for several hours. He finally got as far as Sam Coon's place, which was one-half mile west of the school house. Mr. and Mrs. Coon kept the children over night.

In 1905 the old Grand Prairie school building was sold to the highest bidder and a new building erected for the

sum of \$1,500. This building was torn down and an ice house was built of it in Murdock, Nebraska.

In 1936, a full basement was put under the present building.

In all the years the school has never had less than sixteen pupils in any year. The present school board consists of Alvin Oehlerking, Harold Schliefert and Lawrence Earhart. At present, Miss Mary Powers is the teacher.

(This article was written by Mrs. Anna (Bornemeier) Richert in July, 1938, and furnished through the courtesy of Ed Bornemeier of Elmwood.)

THOMAS PATTERSON, PIONEER CASS COUNTY SURVEYOR, SETTLED BOUNDARY DISPUTES

By DR. G. H. GILMORE

The Territory of Nebraska was organized from the great Indian Territory May 30, 1854 and on June 24th following when the Indian title had been extinguished, a flood of settlers entered this new country and hurriedly staked out claims along the Missouri river under the unwritten law of "Squatters' sovereignty." Such claims frequently overlapped with boundary disputes and serious trouble.

A war was also on between "claim jumpers," vigilantes and various claim club organizations. Claim sharks sold to greenhorns any claim in sight for cash and left, thus creating more disputes over claim ownership. Some settlers "pulled stakes" and returned east, some were put over the river and two known victims were put through a hole in the ice below Plattsmouth

one cold winter night.

These hostilities in eastern Cass county were not quieted until after October 31, 1855, on which date Thomas Patterson of Rock Bluffs was awarded a contract by Surveyor General John Calhoun to sectionize and subdivide the townships along the Missouri river from Nebraska City north to the Platte river. This survey covered what is now Wyoming precinct in Otoe county and Liberty east of Nehawka, Rock Bluffs and Plattsmouth precincts in Cass county.

Instruments Preserved

The old type of surveyor's compass with which this tract was surveyed by Thomas Patterson. His diary started in 1827, many territorial documents, first ballots voted in Nebraska and many heirlooms of pioneer

days of Nebraska are in possession of his grandchildren, Robert and Chase Patterson, Mrs. Joe Shea and Mrs. William Baker who reside in or near where once stood the busy river town of Rock Bluffs.

Before this survey was made, authorized "road viewers" had staked out mail routes and emigrant roads, their courses winding along the divide of the rolling prairie and leading down through a valley to an easy fording point. Steamboat landings, trading posts and water driven flour and saw mills were important centers to the early settlers and the men operating these enterprises were usually outstanding figures in governmental affairs.

The advent of the railroads destroyed river transportation and with it river towns and towns through which they did not pass, as today, the paved highway is destroying the railroads and the small towns along their routes. From the notes and maps of surveyor Patterson made in 1856 this first epoch mentioned as clearly established.

Early Legislator

The survey of this river tier of townships started in Wyoming precinct and April 7, 1856 we find the surveyors at "Cowell's mill dam on Walnut creek." C. H. Cowel was one of the first legislators. North of here on the Missouri river the town of "Wyoming" is platted, a town which blazed with frontier tragedy, the home of McWaters, who led a penitentiary outbreak and Quin Bohannon who killed his man in an argument over the spelling of the word "peddler." Wyoming was also winter quarters for the Mormons, and 6,500 left this point and treked across the plains to Utah. Scrap iron, stone and corn fields now

cover the site of a leading city of the early days.

On the Weeping Water "Folden's house" is located. Here Folden's mill was built and "String Town" grew up along the roadway but all vanished with the building of Union. On South Branch, "George Hunt is erecting a saw mill on the northeast quarter of section 27." Here the town of Factoryville developed rapidly with stores, churches, blacksmith shops, doctor's office and even a university was established.

Dust Covers Site

This town site is covered today with a field of drouth stunted corn stalks. Territorial roads led to Kirkpatrick's mill on the Weeping Water. S. M. Kirkpatrick served in the first territorial legislature and it was on his land below the mill that the town of Nehawka was established in 1887.

At a point two miles north of Nehawka, "W. D. Gage has a claim in the south part of sections 4 and 5. The northeast quarter of section 5 is laid out for a city by the name of "Mount Pleasant. This remained a paper town. "Mail road leads from Nebraska City to Plattsmouth. Land is first class. In sections 31 and 19 is staked out the town of Lewiston. It has one house, that of Lewis Young, the proprietor." It is from this paper town near Murray that the Lewiston cemetery and the Lewiston community center, well known throughout the county, derives its name.

First Grave

Many Indian trails and emigrant roads centered at Plattsmouth. Samuel Martin, assisted by James O'Neill, opened a trading post here in 1853. Samuel Martin died December 4, 1854, was buried where the high school

stands and was the first to fill a white man's grave in Cass county.

In East Rock Bluffs precinct, "there are two towns laid out and incorporated in this township. The town of Kanosha is in the fractional section 33 and has eight or nine houses and six or seven families. The town of Rock Bluffs is laid out in sections 8, 9, 16 and 17. It has a steam boat landing, improving considerable and bids fair to become quite a business point."

It did become a freighting center and many heavily laden wagon trains left this river town for Denver and points along the trail. Kanosha at this time had aspirations to become the county seat of Cass county. On February 1, 1855 Bela White, along with J. B. Garrison, presented petitions to the first assembly to make "this town the seat of justice of Cass county."

Indian Scares

Indian scares among the settlers were quite common, whether real or imaginary. When Governor Cuming called for volunteers to protect the frontier of the first settlements against the depredations being committed by the Indians the Rock Bluffs Horse Guards were organized and Thomas Patterson made captain; William Laird first lieutenant and Martin Neff, second lieutenant. They were commissioned August 15, 1855. The Rock Bluff Guards were organized at the same time with James Kidwell, captain; William Rakes, first lieutenant and William Ellington, second lieutenant.

Thomas Patterson was born near Patterson's mill, Washington county, Penn., May 29, 1806, married Elizabeth Howard Wells, February 10, 1831,

moved to Hennepin, Ill., and to Nebraska territory in 1855. They were the parents of twenty children. Several of the sons also became surveyors. One son, Philander Patterson, received a contract from surveyor General John Calhoun, Oct. 31, 1855, to sectionize what is now Russell precinct in Otoe county and Stove creek, Elmwood and South Bend in Cass county. Frederick Patterson, the youngest son, was for many years surveyor for Cass county until his tragic death when he was murdered in his little store in Rock Bluffs.

Needed Resourcefulness

Resourcefulness was an essential and outstanding quality of every pioneer. Two incidents common to early settlers is here recorded in Surveyor Patterson's diary:

"James Buchanan Patterson was born on the 28th day of April, 1856 at 9 o'clock a .m.—was the second child born in the town of Rock Bluffs, Cass county, Nebraska Territory and in the first house built in the town. About an hour after the birth the steamboat Omaha, landed in front of the house with freight and groceries much needed, it being the first landing made by steamboat at this place. The first dwelling house built in Rock Bluffs was on lot four, block one south and two east from the public square. By T. Patterson."

The Patterson heirs still own this property.

"James Buchanan Patterson died February 5, 1857, at 9 o'clock a. m., age 9 months and 16 days, was buried on top of the hill south of Rock Bluffs in Cass county, Nebraska territory, the first burial in the place which was selected for this purpose by his father and Mother in April, he having been

temporarily buried near the residence until that time.—By Thomas Patterson.”

Cemetery Established

This established the Rock Bluffs cemetery of today on a high scenic spot south of the town, a view many miles up and down the Missouri river with Tabor and Glenwood, Ia., in the distant east; the last resting place of the ancestors of some of the state and national figures of today in the political and business world.

It has been discovered in recent

years that this cemetery is located where once stood a large village of some prehistoric race. Archeologists have made excavations at the boundaries of this cemetery and rare pottery and stone implements have been recovered.

Thomas Patterson died March 24, 1869 and his wife May 3, 1868, and both are laid to rest in the family lot beside their infant son, James Buchanan, in this cemetery which overlooks the vanished, yet historic town of Rock Bluffs.

BIOGRAPHY OF LAWSON SHELDON

Pioneer Resident of Nehawka was Prominent in All Local and Territorial Affairs.

The following article on the life of Lawson Sheldon was written by Mrs. V. P. Sheldon. It won honorable mention in the State Historical Contest of 1934. Complying with the rules of the contest it was written in story form although the historical data is authentic:

In the spring of the year of 1856, just as the stone foundation of the new Capitol in Territorial Nebraska was being laid above ground, and the northwest part of Omaha was being surveyed, a young man, heeding Horace Greeley's advice, "Go West, Young Man," paused on his way and talked with Governor Izard, who was overseeing the work on the capitol, and with Mr. Cozad who was surveying. He was told by Governor Izard of the great city that would some day be built on that land, covered with prairie grass. The surveyor told him of the

beautiful land a few miles farther south. The interested young listener was Lawson Sheldon and no doubt but that he, too, had faith and dreams of what the future was to bring to this new strange country, for he traveled but a few miles farther south and stopped at the place which is now Nehawka on the Weeping Water in the southeastern part of Cass county.

Lawson Sheldon was born in the year 1827 in Ludlow, Windsor county, Vermont.

In 1851 he went to California where for four years he tried his fortune in the gold mines along the American river. Perhaps because of early environment (for he belonged to a family of strong character and enduring vitality; a family who had contributed their share of muscle in paving the pathway of the "Green Mountain" state) young Lawson grew tired of

prospecting and determined to get back to the soil. He returned to his home in Vermont by the Isthmus of Panama. A short time after reaching home, he started west.

He came by railroad to Iowa City, Ia., then by stage to Council Bluffs, which was the end of the western stage line. From Council Bluffs he crossed over the Missouri river by ferry to Omaha. From Omaha he went on horseback until he reached the valley along the Weeping Water. He probably recognized in the fertile, loamy soil, in the steady flowing creek and in the timber along its banks, a chance to live and prosper, and he was content. There he "squatted" on June 10th, 1856, and immediately pre-empted 160 acres of land. His son today, holds the patent for this land, signed by James Buchanan, then president of the United States.

The section lines at that time were not laid out and one built his house and took the land contiguous, holding it by "squatter's rights." This caused some trouble later when the section lines were made, as it cut the land up into queer shapes.

Under the early Territorial law, a man could pre-empt 160 acres and 100 acres more. This law was changed later and the settlers were unable to take but 160 acres and this caused trouble also. Some of the new settlers tried to seize land of the pioneer. Early settlers tales tell us that such actions were not tolerated; those sort of men were escorted across the river.

Shortly after arriving, Mr. Sheldon and a friend, Isaac Pollard, who had come west at the same time, purchased a mill site of S. M. Kirkpatrick. They paid for it with gold which they had brought from California. Mr. Kirkpatrick had bought a saw mill

near Glenwood, Ia., and moved it over, putting it up on the Weeping Water Creek. This was one of the first saw mills in Nebraska. In hauling it from Plattsmouth he opened up the first road from that point to what is now Nehawka. The high water in the spring of 1856, carried the mill away, scattering the timbers many hundreds of miles. The new owners went to Cincinnati to obtain machinery for a new mill. They brought the machinery with them in boxes, coming by boat from St. Louis to Nebraska City.

Lawson Sheldon saw many men grow discouraged and turn back; he saw Civil War soldiers come, borrow money of the pioneers on their land and then abandon it; he witnessed early Nebraska blizzards and told many times of the long winters when the snow blew across the burned prairies and lodged in the gullies until they were even with the surrounding country. The few settlers lived in meager cabins and prepared to protect them from the wintry blasts by banking them with dirt to the roof tops. He lived through long droughts when his fields of corn and grain were laid barren. According to a letter on record, written to relatives in New York, dated 1871, he told of the dry hot winds burning his crops, but in the same letter he very optimistically stated "but this is fine land; the poorest acre has as good soil as the best in your state."

In another letter written in 1862, he quotes the crop prices as follows: "Corn, 10c a bushel; wheat, 40c; barley 40c; cows, 12c; hogs, 1½c; and potatoes, nothing." For sugar they paid 40c a pound; calico, 50c a yard and cotton material, 75c a yard. Yet in that letter he told of his hundreds of bushels of corn and grain and of the

number of acres of prairie which he was preparing to "break" in another year. Rather boastfully and sarcastically he wrote to his relatives in the rocky hills and meadows of New England, "I know one thing, I don't propose to plow where the plow will hit a stone in any place or pick them either, although this is the wild country of Nebraska." However, it seems that he surely reconsidered the last statement for the many well built rock fences which today surround his land, stand as silent testimony that he did spend many long hours "picking" and placing rocks.

His crops suffered throughout the ravages of the grasshoppers in the years of 1874 and 1875, but this young settler was not discouraged. An elderly lady in the community today loves to tell of how she remembers in the year of 1875, of meeting Mr. Sheldon as she and her father drove along the road. Her father stopped his horse to visit and lament of the terrible scourge, but she relates that with a twinkle in his blue eyes, Mr. Sheldon answered: "Oh, the grasshoppers were pretty good to us, they brought us a baby boy. Come on over and see him."

So Lawson Sheldon went steadily onward, ever with the same shrewd foresight, always believing in Nebraska's soil until he, at the time of his death, owned about 4,000 acres of what he termed the "Land of Plenty."

Throughout every hardship and struggle, throughout all discouragement and losses which the early pioneer had to endure, he always held explicit faith in the great future and resources to his adopted land. To keep that faith, he surely was guided by the same thought as President Franklin D. Roosevelt expressed recently when he advised the people of

the Nation to "Keep that vision in your minds and in your hearts. It can and will be attained."

At the end of the first year he and his partner had the mill well started, he had broken some prairie land, had acquired four yoke of oxen and built a log cabin for the reception of his bride. He returned to Vermont in March, 1857, and married Miss Julia Ann Pollard. They were married at her father's home. The home still stands in the Green Mountains on a farm adjoining the Calvin Coolidge home at Plymouth. The grandchildren get a big thrill on visits there to sleep in the same high beds, see the same paper on the walls that were there when their grandparents were married and to be shown the hitching rack where "Lawson tied his horse when he went to court Julia."

We know somewhat of the great sacrifices this girl made, of the cultured home she left, of the home ties that were broken and of how she bravely followed her heart with her young husband into this Prairie Grass country, we realize that her life as a pioneer is a story within itself and we are convinced that whatever fortune, success and happiness Lawson Sheldon gained, was made possible by this understanding, courageous girl whom he brought here as his young wife.

A letter which she wrote to a sister back east is now a prized possession of her granddaughter. It was written shortly after she had become established in her new strange home and a few quotations from the letter will show something of her strong character and her happy acceptance of her new surroundings. This letter was postmarked, "Waterville, Nebraska Territory," May 6, 1857:

"My house is an elegant one. It is about 12x12 and is made of logs. It is not very high. Lawson has to stoop a lot as he comes through the door. The door is made of planed boards, straight up and down, a knob on it as smart as you please. The window contains 12 lights of glass. The window is put in laying down, I call it. In the corner near the window is a cupboard (made of good planed boards) which contains my crockery. On the top of the cupboard stands a small wooden pail of sugar, the tea container, and a steamer with a pie and some bread in. In the next corner stands our bed. It is made up neatly; the plain calico bed quilt looks very pretty on it. In the next corner is the flour barrel—there is a shelf on the barrel—one end to mix on and my groceries and an earthen jar of lard are on the other end. In the next corner is also a small shelf on which I keep the water pail and over which hangs the towel. Near this shelf stands the stove. It is very nice. I have a nice table which cost \$5.50, a great rocking chair, two dining room chairs (nice ones.) I keep the two large trunks under the bed. I have a very good floor so I mop it and it looks nice and is real white. The house is comfortable indeed—it doesn't leak to do a bit of harm. You know a small house well filled is worth more than a large one without nothing in it.

Now I suppose you are thinking I am very homesick in such a place as I describe, but it is not so. I have plenty of house room for any occasion and if anything uncommon should come along I can just step out doors and I can have all the elbow room I want without hitting any rocks or hills. I am perfectly contented. I

like this country very much indeed. These western prairies are so nice. They are grand to look at and to work on. I have met only one woman, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, and I like her very much.

We expect quite a little village here soon. The boys are surveying it now and laying it off into lots. They want to start to Omaha tomorrow and preempt it."

Such was the spirit of this pioneer woman and her hundreds of friends, her children and her grandchildren testify that it was always her attitude—ever contented, cheerful and ready to help others.

Mrs. Sheldon showed remarkable ability and fortitude during the Indian troubles. She was never afraid of the Indians. When they came through the community every little while and stopped, peering in at her door and windows, she understood their wants and their customs. She fed them, gave them what she thought necessary and they disappeared as quietly as they had come.

A quotation from a letter written in 1857 shows her great sympathy and understanding at that critical time:

"We have been laboring under a great excitement with the Indians. But that was a "great cry." The whites were altogether too much to blame. They the same as stole 15 ponies from the Indians. The Indian Agent went up to see the Indians and found them more scared, if possible, than the whites. I think there is no trouble with them—not in the least. But the people here became terribly frightened and made a useless cry. But it is over, and peace is around us.

She was never happier than when using her influence to get others from her native state to come west. Her

brother, Levi Pollard, came, her husband's twin brothers, Ambler and Amsdell came, and later many nephews and cousins.

Julia found a place for them all—they had their brides, until they had taken their land and established homes of their own. As one talks to people of Nehawka today, it is surprising how many of them at one time called Lawson Sheldon's place "home."

A more spacious dwelling was built a few years after of native lumber. This house in which their children were born and reared, where they shared their joys and their sorrows, a home which can well be termed as "A House by the Side of the Road," still stands and is known as "The Sheldon Homestead."

Later they built a more modern brick dwelling where they lived during the sunset of their lives.

Mr. Sheldon gave much of his time, ability and money for the betterment of the community in which he lived.

In the spring of 1887, the Missouri Pacific surveyors began surveying for a railroad from Weeping Water to Auburn via Nebraska City. The proudest dream of the early settler was about to be realized. For twenty years they had been hauling all their wheat, corn and oats to Nebraska City or Plattsmouth; they had driven miles to the trading posts for provisions—the mail had been carried two times a week overland by the old star route, by horseback to Factoryville which was about four miles southeast of them.

Mr. Sheldon used his influence and was very instrumental in getting the people along the intended line to give the right of way to the railroad company. By doing this the railroad was

assured and work progressed rapidly. Although the surveyors' lines cut diagonally across many acres of his best farm land, as was ever characteristic of Mr. Sheldon, he asked not a cent for the right of way his only request was that the trains stop on the town site.

He was the original treasurer of the town school and was re-elected each time as his term expired until close to the time of his death. A new school house was built in 1893. He burned the brick and furnished them for the building letting the district have them on open account.

In order that the school district would not have to vote bonds and incur debts in order to finish the building, Mr. Sheldon paid the money out of his own account until the taxes had been paid. He charged no interest.

In him the churches also found a loyal friend. His mother, who lived several years in his home, was a staunch supporter of the Baptist Church in Nebraska. However, her son Lawson, was ever a benefactor to them all.

When the railroad went through, he used his time and influence in getting the town started. He built the first store building which was immediately occupied by his son, Frank, and it is still the "Sheldon Store" in the town. He helped plant the many trees which surround beautiful Nehawka today.

Politically, Mr. Sheldon was a Republican. He always took an active interest in the prosperity of his state and county. He had the confidence of the people and held many places of trust. He was a member of the noted Florence Legislature, but never felt very much honored by having the fact revealed.

He was a member of the Senate in the last Territorial Legislature and also of the first State Legislature. In the fall of 1870, he was again elected to the State Senate by a large majority.

In a letter which was written in 1871 by his twin brother to relatives, it is interesting to note and compare the differences in the customs and attitude of the men who helped make the history and the laws of their state then and of the men who serve their state now. The letter reads:

"Lawson is at Lincoln, the state capital. Expect he will be at home when they get through with the governor's trial and auditor, etc. Both houses are at work without pay, as their forty days have been up two or three weeks."

He lived to see his children filling worthy places, and helping to carry on the interests of the state, which he had served and loved so much.

His son, George L. Sheldon, was a member of the senate and later in 1906 was elected Governor of the state.

His son-in-law, Bucephelus Wolph, was for many years a trustee of Doane College and was one of its first graduates. Mr. Wolph's father was the first Judge of Probate of Cass county. In the legislative session of 1882, he was known as one of the "watchdogs of the treasury."

Mr. Sheldon's children and many of his grandchildren have finished their education in the State University.

Lawson Sheldon's death occurred on February 17, 1905. With his going passed a man who had dared the dangers and endured the hardships of pioneer life in the Great American Desert, who had plowed and planted upon these plains, and who was one of the first to build and consecrate its human homes.

"He had kept Faith. He had finished his course."

HISTORY OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 80

Frank M. Massie Tells of Early School Life in Cass County—Some Walked Five Miles

By G. H. GILMORE

One of the problems of the pioneers was the organization of school districts and two outstanding features were always to be considered: The expense of operation and the distance from the home to the school house. The first districts were very large and most of the children in the district had to walk several miles.

In 1865 my father, John Gilmore, lo-

cated near the center of section 26 in Mount Pleasant precinct. This land and all of what is now District No. 80 was in District No. 16 a sub-district of Mount Pleasant. Frank M. Massie who made his home with his step-father, John Gilmore, recalls his experience while attending school in District No. 16:

"We had no school where dad lived

in 1864, so I went and lived with a Mr. Finny on a stony hill in the timber east of Dr. Dillman's, which would be a mile north of Nehawka. I did the chores for my board, carried water up the hill to a mule and it seemed miles away and he drank about a barrel of water each time. The weather was very cold.

The school house was located on the south east corner of the Henry Schomaker farm. (The south east corner of section 1 in Nehawka precinct and later located half a mile due south on the John Schwartz farm.) The school house was made of rough cottonwood boards (up and down.)

I had to pass through Dr. Dillman's yard on the way to school. His house stood near the road just south of the branch. One morning I stopped to get warm. They had fish for breakfast. They had gone to the creek near the house, cut a hole in the ice and when the fish came to the hole they threw them out with a small net.

Our teacher was Steve Davis. Some of the children who attended the school were George, Billy, Charley and Mollie McReynolds; John, Frank and Sue Bates; Charley McClure, Ed and Bill Carrol, Henry Heebner and the Dillman children.

The distance some children had to walk to the school in district No. 16 was five miles. In 1867, John Gilmore organized a subscription school which was held in his ranch house. Miss Jane Cook was employed as the teacher. Her home was near the Cascade mill southeast of Weeping Water. She made her home with the Gilmores while teaching and received one dollar a month from each of the pupils. She taught a two-months term. Her pupils were Richard Gilmore, Ben Coon, Mary

Gilmore, Frank Massie, Emma Gilmore and Sylvester Cox. This was the first school taught within the present boundary of district No. 80. Eliza Jane Cook was united in marriage with Allen Canada, April 1, 1868, and died the same year in their home, a dugout, in the bluff south of the Cascade mill.

The settlement on the prairie and along the Weeping Water increased and on March 20, 1868, a new sub-district, No. 38, Mount Pleasant, Cass county, Nebraska, was organized at the home of Henry Stoll. The boundaries of this new district included most of what is now district No. 80. The boundary lines starting at the Pleasant View school house extended two and a half miles east, south to the Weeping Water up the stream two and a half miles, then north to the point of beginning."

The writer's first school was district No. 38, the "Heebner School." The distance was three miles and he had to walk six miles a day to learn the alphabet. One mile of the roadway was a furrow through the prairie that was to be followed, that the way to the school house might not be lost. Some within district No. 38 had to walk four miles which was a task for children. John Gilmore wished to organize a new district which would place the school center nearer the homes of those in the precinct. To organize a new district, the consent of one-third of the voters of the districts from which the land was taken to form the new districts must appear on a petition.

In June, 1873, Mr. Gilmore rode a pony from house to house in the adjoining districts, circulating a petition for the consent of one-third of the

voters to release land for a new district. All the settlers heartily supported the proposed new district. From the school records we have the following regarding the organization of District No. 80:

"District 80, New School District."

Order to Organize.

To John Gilmore, Esq.:

This is to notify you of the foundation of School District No. 80, of Cass county, consisting of and embracing sections 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34 and 35, all in Township 11, Range 12, Cass county, Nebraska.

The first meeting for the election of a director, moderator and treasurer of said district will be held on Saturday, the 2nd day of July, 1873, at the home of Charles Philpot, Esq., at 2 o'clock p. m.

You are hereby directed to notify every qualified voter of said district, either personally, or by leaving a written notice at his or her place of residence, of the time and place of holding said meeting, at least five days before the day above mentioned. You endorse on this notice a return, showing each notification with the date or dates thereof, and deliver the same to the chairman of said meeting.

Dated the 28th day of June, A. D., 1873.

U. W. Wise,
Sup't. Pub. Instruction, Cass County,
Nebraska.

This notice was delivered to John Gilmore in person, the date above.

U. W. W.

The above district is formed on a written petition signed by one-third of the legal voters of each of the districts 21, 38 and 40, affected by the change."

After the organization of Dist. No.

80, the question of a new school house arose and its location was also considered. The meeting was held at the home of John Gilmore and bonds were voted for school house. The records of this meeting:

**Certificate of Board, District No. 80.
Filed August 18, 1873.**

July 30, A. D. 1873.

"A special meeting of School Dist. No. 80 of Cass county, Nebraska, was called to order and proceeded to vote for bonds to the amount of One Thousand Dollars for a building fund to build a school house in said district. Bond carried by a unanimous vote. Carried by a vote that the district raise one hundred dollars by tax for teacher's wages.

Carried by a vote that the district raise thirty dollars for a contingent fund.

H. B. Blanchard, Director.
John H. Young, Moderator.
John Gilmore, Treasurer."

At the above meeting it was voted to locate the school house as near the center of the district as possible. This placed it in the northeast corner of the west 80 of the southwest quarter of section 27, a half mile south and a quarter of a mile east of Pleasant View school house.

H. B. Blanchard offered his services to dispose of the bonds, the board consented and the bonds were turned over to him. One morning, very early, he started southward on foot and walked to Pawnee City where he found a party who purchased the bonds for a friend in New York.

The frame building with a door in the east and three windows on each side was constructed by Dan and George Johnson of Weeping Water, assisted by Mike Clark, from near Stove

Creek.

The school house was surrounded by prairie with trails leading to the different homes. Cattle grazed about the school and an occasional prairie fire caused the pupils to lose interest in their problems.

Miss Jennie Fuller was the first teacher, frail, blue eyed and very gentle with the children. The credit marks were made with a blue pencil if the children were good and a black pencil if they were discourteous. Homer Herrington came the first day wearing a silk hat which he had brought from Michigan. He was eight years of age. Later in life he was well known along the Pacific coast as an expert rifle shot.

In 1872 a colony from England settled on the land to the north of the school house, located on sections 21 and 22. The families were those of Thomas Goodier, John Young, Henry Hall, William Stopforth and George S. Wilstencroft. With these families came W. W. Drummond who spent his time following a small herd of cattle. It was learned that he was a graduate of Oxford college and Rugby school of England. He was employed as teacher for a meager wage and boarded around among the families in the district. He later became superintendent of the schools in Platts-mouth.

Edgar Young, son of John Young, herded cattle about the school house and created some confusion by racing his pony and causing it to buck and perform tricks for the amusement of the children in the school house. When he grew to manhood he became superintendent of the St. Joe & Grand Island Railroad.

Fuel for the large stove was always

ear corn. Water was carried from Ed McGaw's spring a mile to the west. The two lads carrying the bucket of water would occasionally trip and spill the water when about to the school necessitating a return to the spring and chase another frog. When the bucket of water had been delivered and placed on a box at the edge of the rostrum, many hands went up over the school room and in unison asked, "Teacher, may I pass the water." The teacher selected the one to "pass the water" and with the bucket of water from McGaw's spring and a dipper, the "passer" stopped at each desk and served copious quantity to those thirsting after water and knowledge at the same time.

A star route, carrying mail from Weeping Water by Eight Mile Grove, passed near the school house.

The attendance during the winter reached as high as fifty with usually ten hired men or adults in the classes.

While all the children in Dist. 80 were from farm homes many of the young men when nearing maturity were imbued with the idea of stepping from between the plow handles and entering a business or professional career.

Dr. Bradford Murphy spent his boyhood days in Dist. No. 80 and here was inspired to achieve something in life. He graduated from the University of Nebraska and from the Nebraska College of Medicine and was then appointed as superintendent of the Bemis Taylor Child Guidance Clinic at Colorado Springs and has lately been transferred to the Child Guidance Clinic at Wilkes Barre, Pa. He is today the outstanding authority on why children become wayward and also the best method of correcting this waywardness.

He holds in deep reverence Dist. No. 80.

The following are the doctors who spent much of their early life in Dist. 80: Dr. Edward Lewis, Calif.; Dr. Lafayette Blanchard, Ore.; Dr. T. M. Gilmore, Union, Ore.; Dr. Charles H. Hush, Lincoln; Dr. Will Alton, San Diego, Calif.; Dr. G. H. Gilmore, Murray and Dr. Humphrey Murphey, dentist, Calif. James Giberson and John E. Gilmore are the known lawyers who were in the country school. Many able school teachers have laid the foundation for their career in Dist. No. 80.

The Gilmore school house as it was known in the early days established a voting place for Mt. Pleasant precinct. Writing schools, spelling schools, exhibitions and debates made it a community center. There were no churches

near by and Sunday School and many church services were conducted in the school house. Many times slowly driven wagons coming from all directions, across the rolling hills have centered at the frame school house on the prairie to attend the funeral services of a departed neighbor.

It was in 1885 that this school house was moved to the present site of Pleasant View and in 1901, was sold and a new school house erected. This was destroyed by fire in 1926 and the the present beautiful, substantial, well arranged building was erected. One mile east from the Pleasant View school stands the old frame school building used as a machine shed and carved on the walls are the initials and names of those who attended School District No 80 sixty-five years ago.

PIONEER RECALLS AVOCA AS WHEAT FIELD

Mrs. Henry Wulf Watched Husband Harvest Wheat From Land Now "Main Street" of Avoca

Mrs. Henry Wulf has watched her husband cut wheat from land that is now the town of Avoca. She recalls the year the railroad paid \$1.00 per bushel for wheat on the right-of-way when corn was being used for fuel in the community.

She is probably as familiar with the history of Avoca as any person living and shared in the boom period of the town when it was believed the Missouri Pacific shops might be located in its center.

Cecilia Buck came from Germany in 1872 at the age of 11 with her parents. They settled first at Plattsmouth and

lived in Cass county most of the time until her marriage to Henry Wulf, November 14, 1878.

The couple lived the first two years on a farm about three miles northeast of the present site of Avoca. They then moved to the farm which later became the town. The land was rented from Amos Tefft, who lived three miles further east and had the post office—one drawer in a bureau in the family home. Mail was brought by team from Plattsmouth to Weeping Water, then to the Tefft home.

Mr. Wulf broke the sod and planted wheat on the Avoca land. Nebraska



City was the closest trading center for grain and larger materials, although they took produce, eggs and butter to Weeping Water.

Corn was shelled by hand, sacked and hauled to Dunbar where it went by rail into Nebraska City. In 1881 it was bringing 8 to 10 cents a bushel. Mrs. Wulf recalls Mr. Carter burning his crop on the adjoining farm as fuel. Hogs were selling at two cents a pound and she recalled buying and butchering a hog weighing 300 pounds for \$6.00.

In the spring of 1882 the railroad line was built. Mr. Wulf mowed the right-of-way and the average yield was paid for at \$1 a bushel.

The new road was built within sight of their home and they watched with anticipation its progress. Annie,

less than two years old at the time, learned her first words, "Toot, toot," from repeating the sound of the whistle on the engine.

The land in the town was platted by George Fairfield for Amos Tefft in February 1882. Mr. Tefft boarded with the Wulf family as he sold the lots in town.

Mrs. Wulf also boarded the carpenters who put up the first hotel and store in the town. She recalled the conflict between the Carter addition and Tefft addition for the business section. Evidently Mr. Tefft was the best advertiser or gave away the most lots. At any rate his side of town received most of the business houses, the school and post office. The elevator and depot went to the other side of the railroad tracks.

The town enjoyed rapid growth. An early history of Nebraska stated eight business houses were put up in the first month. It also made a strong bid for the Missouri Pacific shops in its early days. Its hotel was one of the popular spots of the county and the early Second of July picnics drew crowds from miles.

After four years on the Tefft farm the Wulf's moved a mile west of Avoca to spend ten years. They bought their present farm in 1887. In the year of the Chicago exposition, 1893, Mr. and Mrs. Wulf built the present beautiful home a half mile south of town.

Mr. Wulf died several years ago but Mrs. Wulf is still active in Avoca community life. Her four children are Mrs. F. A. Hansen, Nehawka, Mrs. Fred Hilt, Murray, and Ed and Will Wulf, Avoca.—Nebraska City News-Press. Photo courtesy of this paper.

INTERESTING HISTORICAL ARTICLES CLIPPED FROM PIONEER NEWSPAPERS

By G. H. GILMORE

As the early settlers trailed westward to their new homes, not far in the rear of the advanced columns came the printing press and the alert editor. Many interesting historical sketches are found in these pioneer newspapers, discolored by age. The present social and political turmoil so graphically told in the daily papers today, will some day become history.

In the newspapers of the early 60's much agitation and confusion prevailed on the question, "What Will We do With the Negro if He is Liberated?" In '49 and '50 many columns were devoted to gold seekers and gold in the Rocky Mountains.

The foresight at the capitol building has been to preserve a copy of every paper published in the state of Nebraska which is being carried out with an index to each volume.

Many interesting historical sketches of Cass county are found in the Platte Valley Herald, Nebraska Herald and the Cass County Sentinel, all of which were published at Plattsmouth. We herewith submit some of these sketches with comments:

UNION POST OFFICE

Platte Valley Herald, Dec. 21, 1861. —"A new post office called "Union," has been established in the county on the road from Plattsmouth to Nebraska City, and John E. Beaty appointed postmaster. It will be opened for business next week."

"We have heretofore neglected to

state that the "Three Groves" post office has been removed from John F. Buck's to W. W. Wiley's."

The Beaty log house was located 80 rods west of East Union Cemetery in Liberty precinct, which cemetery is located at the northeast corner of the eighty acres once owned by John E. Beaty. Three Groves Post office was established at the home of John F. Buck near the east line of the southwest quarter of section three in Liberty precinct and named from the three groves of natural timber located at Buck's, Bird's and Ruel Davis's. Mrs. Asch's home east of Highway 75, was the home of her father, Dr. Wiley.

ASK BIDS FOR CARRYING MAIL

Platte Valley Herald, Plattsmouth, Nebr., Dec. 21, 1861.—An advertisement from the Post Office Department, Washington, soliciting bids for carrying mail on the following star routes:

"14002. From Omaha City, by Bellevue, Oreopolis, Plattsmouth, Rock Bluffs, Lewiston, Three Groves, Wyoming, Nebraska City, Otoe City (Minersville), Mount Vernon (Peru), Brownville, Nemaha City, Aspinwall, St. Stephens, Winnebago, Rulo, Nohart and White Cloud to Highland, Kans., 131 miles and back, three times a week.

14006. From Rock Bluffs, by Kanosha to Wyoming, 15 miles and back, once a week.

Leave Rock Bluffs Saturday at 6

A. M. Arrive at Wyoming at 12 M.
Leave Wyoming Saturday at 2 P. M.
Arrive at Rock Bluffs by 8 P. M.

14007. From Plattsmouth, by Glendale, to Plattford, 25 miles and back.

Leave Plattsmouth Saturday at 4 A. M. Arrive at Plattford by 12 M. Leave Plattford Saturday at 1 P. M. Arrive at Plattsmouth by 9 P. M."

(Note—Glendale was located east of the present town of Cedar Creek and Plattford was across the Platte river in Sarpy county west of Cedar Creek.)

"14008. From Kanosha, by Buchanan and Plum Hollow, to Sidney, 19 miles and back, three times a week.

14009. From Three Groves, by Mount Pleasant to Weeping Water and back, once a week.

Leave Three Groves Saturday at 6 A. M. Arrive at Weeping Water by 12 M. Leave Weeping Water Saturday at 2 P. M. Arrive at Three Groves by 8 P. M.

1410. From Wyoming by Avoca, to Salt Creek, 45 miles and back, once a week (Saturday).

14029. From Sioux City, Ia., Cottowood Springs, Nebr., to Denver, 660 miles and back, once a week. Leave Sioux City Monday at 6 A. M. Arrive at Denver on the 15th day at 6 P. M."

Fifteen days to complete the journey to Denver, which could be made today by airplane in three hours.

VOTERS AT ROCK BLUFFS

The Sentinel was started in Rock Bluffs in 1859 and was here for one year when it was moved to Plattsmouth. In this issue we find:

Cass County Sentinel, Plattsmouth, Nebr., October 2, 1862—The qualified electors of Cass county met in union mass convention at Rock Bluffs. Considering the inclemency of the weather

the attendance was large and a most harmonious feeling prevailed. Wm. D. Gage was acting chairman and J. N. Wise, secretary, had charge of the meeting. R. O. Hoback was nominated to represent the county in the legislature." (He was later elected.)

An advertisement: "Dr. G. H. Black (recently from Ohio,) Physician of 20 years practice—" appears on the first page and beneath it:

"Dr. Henry Bradford, physician and surgeon, Rock Bluffs, Nebraska,, having moved to Rock Bluffs, solicits a share of the public patronage."

Dr. Bradford had, eleven years previous, in 1855, located in Nebraska City and served in the first legislature from Pierce, now Otoe county, as councilman. He was elected mayor of Nebraska City several times and started the first drug store in Nebraska City. He was also editor of the Nebraska City News, which he disposed of to J. Sterling Morton.

Dr. W. S. Latta was also located in Rock Bluffs at this time, one of the leading steamboat towns in the territory.

Charles Graves of Rock Bluffs who fired the "Rock Bluffs Rockets,, to the Plattsmouth Weekly Journal of February 24, 1885, says: "There is a great deal of sickness in our neighborhood and Dr. Reynolds is very busy and doing good work attending the sick. On the sick list we have David Young and family, James Walston, W. W. Graves, one child at J. G. Chandler's two children at A. J. Graves and one child at S. L. Furlong's."

MISSOURI RIVER STEAMBOAT NEWS

Eastern Nebraskans are looking forward to the revival of Missouri River navigation for commercial purposes.

The interesting items of news to the pioneer was the arrival of steamboats; they brought friends, mail and supplies.

The Cass County Sentinel published in Rock Bluffs in 1859, the March issue, according to "Our Own History," by Martha E. Turner, gives a very interesting item regarding the navigability of the Platte River:

"The steamer Florida, the first boat of the season, made a trip up the Platte river a few days since to test its navigability. She expected of course, according to reports, to find that stream utterly impracticable for the passage of steamboats but was pleasantly disappointed at the great depth of the water and the feasibility of the channel. It is the opinion of the officers that the Platte is not only capable of carrying small steamers, but will become one of the foremost streams on the continent for all ordinary uses for navigation. The greatest difficulty, they say, is the rapidity of the current, faster even than the Missouri, necessarily causing slow upward progress with all boats of small motive power. But this objection will be overcome by strong machinery in the boats running on this river. Its waters are comparatively clear and in this respect greatly superior to the Missouri and the lower Mississippi rivers. We venture the opinion that two years hence the Platte river will bear upon its bosom trade equal to that of the Missouri above this place."

The sixth Territorial Legislature in 1860 asked congress for a grant of 20,000 acres of land in the Platte valley to John A. Latta of Plattsmouth on condition that he run a serviceable steamboat from the mouth of the Platte up to Fort Kearney, do his own

dredging and have same completed by October 1, 1861. This project did not materialize.

Nebraska Herald, Plattsmouth, May 24, 1865—"Two men arrived in town one day last week from Denver, who had made the voyage down the Platte river in a flat boat. We have not seen their log book, and consequently can give no particulars.

April 26, 1865—"River News. Boats are doing a good business this season. The water is at an excellent stage and boatmen are reaping the benefit of it. Since our last issue the steamers J. H. Lacy, Mary E. Forsyth, Bert Aibe, Jennie Lewis, Denver, Colorado and Montana have stopped at our levee and discharged a goodly amount of freight for the business men of this place."

Plattsmouth Herald, 1867—

STEAM BOAT ITEMS

April 24. "Steamer Davis Watts, for Fort Benton, is lying at our landing considerably disabled. She will transfer her passengers and freight and return to St. Louis for repairs.

War Eagle came up last night and discharged some freight.

May 20. The steamer, Nick Wall, which sank near Wyoming a few weeks ago is to be raised. Bell boat Submarine No. 14 is engaged in the work.

The steam ferry "Uncle Ned," makes regular trips, and comes to Nebraska shores loaded nearly every time. The population of Nebraska must be increasing at the rate of approximately 500 souls per day. Come on, we have room for all of you and to spare.

Plattsmouth Herald, May 20, 1869:

"The Emily LaBarge took 4000 sacks of corn for Captain Palmer, at this city, last Sunday. She is a new

boat on her first trip up the Missouri river. We did not learn who had command of her."

"The Lacy and War Eagle passed down yesterday and St. Joe went up."

ROCK CREEK MILL

Plattsmouth Herald, May 20, 1869:

"Messrs W. S. Latta and J. A. Latta have now gotten their mill on Rock Creek in running order, and turning out some of the best flour in the state. They have a new mill house, new machinery and everything in order for making the best flour in the state—and they make it—we have tried it and know. Get "Rock Creek Mills XXX Family Flour," and you are sure of a good article. They grind for toll or give thirty pounds of flour and bran for a bushel of wheat."

The upright section of the steel flume and a small part of the foundation of this old mill can still be seen west of the Dr. Latta Stone House near Rock Bluffs.

HERDING CATTLE

Nebraska Herald, May 12, 1870.—"R. Chilson, four miles northeast of Weeping Water on the head of Cedar Creek, will herd cattle during the coming summer at thirty cents a head per month for the season and furnish salt. All cattle must be distinctly branded or he will not be responsible for losses.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

"A bill is extended to the state of Nebraska the privilege of granting lands for the establishment of an agri-

cultural college, was called up in the senate on the 3rd by Senator Thayer and passed."

HERALD JOKES IN THE 60'S

Yankee meeting a stranger asked: "Where do you hail from?"

"Naw Whare. Let me ask you a question, "Where do you rain from?"

Drive your cattle upon the ice if you want cowslips in the winter.

A man in Maine snores so loud he has to sleep in the next street to prevent waking himself up.

A country paper speaks of a man who died without the aid of physician. Such instances are very rare.

"The notorious horse thief, Scroggins, has been released for want of evidence. Look to your stables and revolvers."

"A man by the name of Flannery, who was shot in the gambling hell in Nebraska City, died of his wounds at The Syracuse House, Saturday evening."

Cass County Sentinel, Oct. 2, 1862:

"Notice—Whereas my Husband, Isreal A. Hale, when a boy of twenty, I took him in a dirty, ragged thing, sick without home or friends, furnishing clothes, spending money and a home. After working early and late to get him mended; clean and clothed, he has gone to live with his pa and ma. I forbid anybody harboring or trusting him on my account, for I will pay no more debts of his contracting.—Aeline Hale."

DOOR FROM FIRST NEBRASKA CAPITOL NOW IN POSSESSION OF NEHAWKA MEN

**In Good State of Preservation and if it Could Talk
What a Story it Could Tell.**

By ROY L. KLAURENS

Many important things happened behind this door, which was on the front entrance of Nebraska's first territorial capitol at Omaha. After a period of obscurity, when its value was not realized, it now is in possession of Roy L. Klaurens, superintendent of schools at North Bend, who is spending the summer at Nehawka, and Wm. A. Ost of Nehawka. Standing beside the door is J. N. Emanuel, North Bend, insurance man, from whom the relic was purchased. The picture was taken by Mr. Klaurens.

Behind the doors of one of the most beautiful and inspiring buildings of the Middle West, the state capitol at Lincoln, historic legislation was enacted daily last winter to make Nebraska the "White Spot" of the Nation.

But back of the door of another historic building, the first territorial capitol of Nebraska, occurred equally historic legislation that formed this great state from the Kansas-Nebraska territory and brought law and order to it in its infancy.

A group of men from Council Bluffs built a two-story brick building in a town called Omaha, about eight miles above Bellevue, and offered it for the location of the capitol of the newly formed Nebraska territory. Acting Governor Cumming called the first legislature to order in this building on

January 16, 1855.

Used Door on House

A door from this first capitol building has just come into the possession of the writer, superintendent of schools of North Bend, and William A. Ost, of Nehawka. Because of the interesting story that can be told about this door concerning the legislation enacted behind it, coupled with the fact that it is about the last available memento of this building, these two Nebraskans treasure their newly acquired possession above a price.

Henry Livesey of Omaha purchased a farm from the Union Pacific Railroad in 1870 near the town of North Bend and paid for it with railroad bonds. His next step was to erect a residence on this farm and the material he used was the second-hand lumber he had purchased from those persons who were wrecking the first capitol building and selling it piece-meal. He transferred the material he had thus purchased to his newly acquired farm. This door was a part of that material and was used this time on a home. The door was heavy and out of proportion to those commonly used in the homes of that day.

After the residence was built it was first lived in by a Mr. Diffey, who rented the farm. The farm is located in Pleasant Valley township, 10 miles

north of North Bend, Dodge county. It is the Northwest quarter of section 35, township 19, range 5 east. The building was used as a farm home for 42 years until 1912, when the owner at that time, J. N. Emanuel, saved one of the doors, to which is attached one of the original hinges, and brought it with him to North Bend in 1938 when he moved to town to engage in the insurance business. The writer purchased the door from him May 4, 1939, and so this door, though battered and worn by years of service will be a symbol of a bitter feud that developed in the location of the State Capitol.

By putting your ear close to a panel of the door you can hear the faint sound of voices which Mr. Emanuel claims are the voices of those early statesmen who, embattled behind the door, argued the problems of the day, especially the location where the capitol should be. The smell of the political jobs perpetuated behind this door have never been entirely extinguished through all the years since January 16, 1855.

Paper Money Act

When the first legislature met in 1855, it was composed of a Council of 13 members and house of 20 members. When a census showed that about twice as many people lived south of the Platte river as north of it, the battle was on to move the capitol south of the Platte. Such an act was not passed this session, but two acts of importance were: one provided for roads and ferries and the other a prohibition act that forbids the sale or gift of liquor within the boundaries of the territory.

Mark Izzard, the next territorial governor, called the second legislature to order behind this door in 1856. This

session paved the way for the "wild cat days" of Nebraska and set the stage for the "Panic of 1857" by passing the act providing for the formation of a bank by five men and the issue of paper money. Business boomed for a while, naturally.

The third legislature met in January 1857, and another big push was on to move the capitol south of the Platte. By a vote of nine to four in the Council and 23 to 12 in the House the act was passed to move it to Douglas, a "paper town" in Lancaster county, near Salt Creek. No one knew just where Douglas was and since the governor vetoed the act no one knows just where the capitol would have been located.

Threatened to Secede

The fourth session behind this now grisly old door met on December 8, 1857, and is better known as the "Florence Session." After a fist fight on the floor, the South Platte faction held a session the next day in a house in Florence, a town about six miles north of Omaha, and passed laws while the North Platte faction held forth in the original capitol. The Florence legislature voted to move the building to Neapolis, another "paper town" about where Cedar Bluffs, Saunders county, is located today. Nothing actually was done to place it there, but by 1859 the feud between the North and South Platte regions became so bitter that the South Platte people resolved to secede and join Kansas. Delegates were sent to Kansas and to Washington but the effort failed and the quarrel continued.

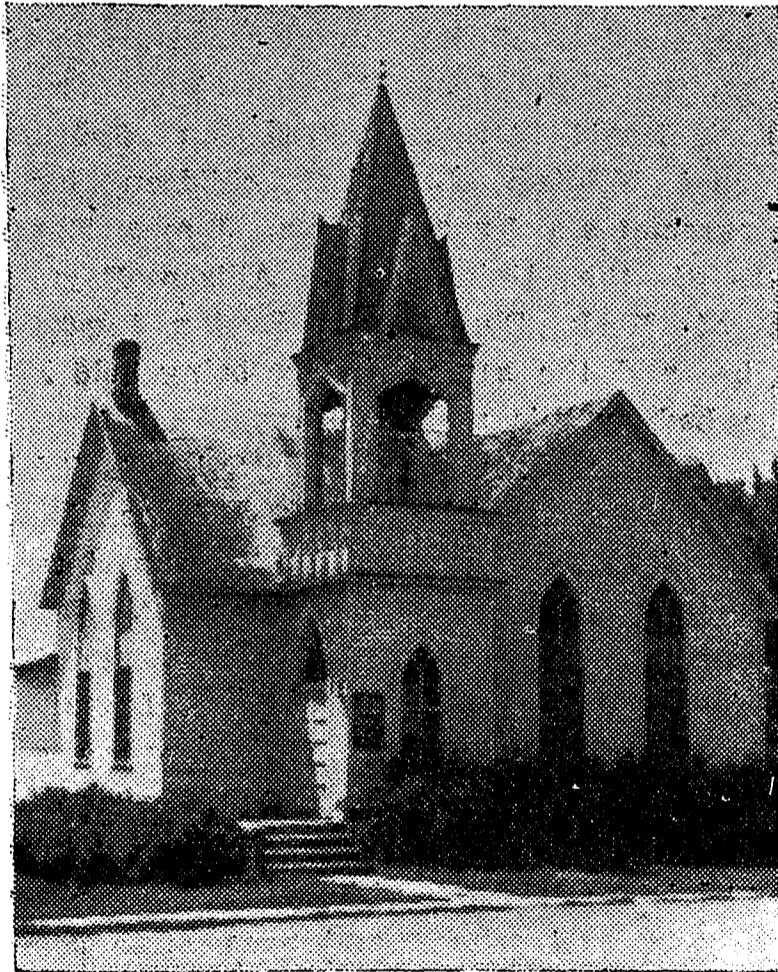
The fifth session met September 21, 1858 and its most noted piece of legislation was the repeal of the Prohibition Act of 1855. The fifth session

passed an anti-slavery act over the governor's veto. Sessions were continued in the first capitol behind this door until the construction of the second capitol building was completed. The second building still stands as a part of Omaha Central High School.

So this is a "Story Behind a Door" wrecked, but steeped in the traditions—a door battered, worn and almost of the infant statehood of Nebraska,—a symbol of the fight to bring law and order, peace and prosperity to the "White Spot" of America.

HISTORY OF MURRAY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

By MARGARET SPANGLER TODD



"According to appointment of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church made at Philadelphia in May, 1860, I came a missionary to Nebraska Territory in July and commenced preaching half time in Rock Bluff, Cass county." Thus Rev. Thomas McCartney entered the first minutes in

the Session Records of the Rock Bluffs United Presbyterian Church.

The next item entered was dated August 18, 1860, reading: "By arrangement with those who requested preaching, August 18th was designated as the time for organizing a church. And on the day appointed, after sermon

from Matthew 11:29, the following persons were admitted in full communion by assenting to the principles of the church, to-wit: Rob't. M. Latta, Letitia Latta, William S. Thompson, Hanna E. Thompson, William H. Royal, Elizabeth Royal, David Storey, Jane Latta and Mary Latta. Also Robert M. Latta and W. L. Thompson were, by ballot, chosen ruling elders and the organization named "The United Presbyterian Congregation of Rock Bluffs."

The following act of Legislature was approved January 4, 1861: "To Incorporate the United Presbyterian Church at Rock Bluffs City:

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the council and house of representatives of the Territory of Nebraska, that John Latta, William H. Royal, David Storey, Robert M. Latta and William L. Thompson and their associates and successors, the members of the United Presbyterian Church of Rock Bluffs City, Cass county, be, and the same are hereby created a body politic and corporate, under the name style and title to remain in perpetual succession with full power to plead and be impleaded, to sue and be sued, to receive, acquire, hold and possess property, real, personal and mixed, to use, employ, manage and dispose of all such property as they deem proper for use and well being of said church and in consistant with the provisions of said act, to elect such trustees and other officers and make such rules and by-laws as they deem proper; Provided always, that they do any act or make any rule or by-law which shall in any way conflict with the constitution of the United States or doctrine or usages of the United Presbyterian Church of the United States of America."

At first, divine services were held every alternate Sabbath in the village school house. An acre of timber on the east side of the Missouri river was purchased to furnish the lumber for the church building which was erected. The timber was worked up, brought across the river and the building was soon started. Practically all of the labor was done by the members of the church. February 16, 1862, the new church building was opened for public worship, furnished and entirely free from debt.

Ordination and installation of the first elders was held Friday afternoon, February 21, 1862. R. M. Latta was clerk of the session. The first communion service held by the United Presbyterian denomination was observed on February 23, 1862. The first children baptised were Kate Doom, James Thompson Latta, William Allison Royal, John Glen Royal and Evelyn Lucretia Nash, this ordinance being held Monday, February 2, 1862.

The Sabbath School was organized by Rev. Thos. McCartney, March 9, 1862, the superintendent being W. S. Thompson. G. D. Seyboldt was elected secretary and librarian. Teachers were R. M. Latta, Letitia Latta, Hanna E. Thompson and Mathilda Nash with Rev. McCartney and William Gilmour teachers of the Bible class. The library was a gift of J. T. Pressley and twenty-five copies of the "Youths Evangelist" were procured for the Sabbath school by the proceeds of a magic lantern exhibition given by Rev. McCartney.

The February 28, 1866, issue of the "Nebraska Herald," items the following: "The U. P. Church of Rock Bluffs was the first church building

of the kind to be erected in Cass county. The members have lately erected a cupola and bellfry in which they now have a bell weighing 400 pounds." The session books record a called meeting to make arrangements for paying off the debt incurred in building the cupola and addition.

This church building served the people well and the congregation prospered until in the early seventies when many of the members and adherents of offer was gladly accepted with the understanding that when the United Presbyterian congregation was able to support a pastor whole time, the Christian Brethren should release their claim and the United Presbyterians would return the \$200.00.

Mr. A. M. Holmes was appointed to get a sign board painted to read "Fairview United Presbyterian Church" to be placed on the west end of the church and build a fence around the church. An assessment of the members was made to defray expenses.

At a congregational meeting held January 7, 1878, at the home of A. M. Holmes and on motion by Mr. the U. S. church held a meeting at the home of Anderson Root for the purpose of reviving and reorganizing the organization.

After some discussion it was decided to tear down the Rock Bluff U. P. building and remove it to some central point on the prairie. Mr. James A. Walker of Fairview offered to donate one-half acre adjoining the land he had previously donated to school district No. 56. The congregation was to assure Mr. Walker that they would always keep the lot well fenced.

The congregation accepted Mr. Walker's liberal offer and began plans for a church building. They decided to

tear down the Rock Bluff church building and rebuild on the Walker lot. A building committee composed of Wm. Lloyd, A. B. Root, and S. G. Latta was appointed. Before this building was completed the funds were exhausted and it was necessary to raise some money.

The Granview Christian Church, west of Fairview, offered to loan the United Presbyterians \$200.00 for the use of the building half time. The Holmes, the name of the congregation was changed to "Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church." On March 20th of the same year, the congregation changed the name back again to Fairview, as the village was called.

In the autumn of 1880 the congregation decided that they could raise enough funds to employ a minister whole time and the \$200.00 was returned to the Grandview Church. Rev. G. R. Murray was installed, serving for ten years.

January 3, 1890 the trustees were instructed to build a porch at the front of the church, 6x10 feet with a platform at the end "high enough to step into wagons."

In 1890 the name of the town of Fairview and the name of the church were changed to Murray, in honor of Rev. George R. Murray.

Sunday morning, November 3, 1895, Rev. S. S. Stewart was taken ill in the pulpit and could not finish his discourse. The congregation united in singing the 23rd Psalm and was dismissed with prayer and benediction by Dr. Forbes. Rev. Stewart's illness proved fatal and he passed away November 11th.

As time sped on the congregation increased in number and in interest. By 1897 a new church building was

deemed necessary. The old building was sold to Mr. J. E. A. Burton and moved north across the street and later was made into a private dwelling. Work was immediately begun on the new church. The last communion in the old church was held March 6, 1898.

On September 25, 1897, a large congregation assembled in the old church building to listen to a preparatory sermon and at the close of the service the people were dismissed to meet at the foundation of the new building. After singing the 100th Psalm and prayer by Rev. J. D. Oldham, Dr. Forbes delivered an appropriate address. Then a history of the congregation, a copy of the Holy Scriptures, a copy of Bible songs, a copy of the "Indianapolis Institute" (the church paper) and a list of all of the names of the present membership was placed in an iron box in the corner stone. The corner stone was placed by Dr. Samuel Forbes, D. D., of Richmond, Kansas, and Rev. J. D. Oldham.

May 29, 1898, dedication day, the building was filled to overflowing. Rev. J. P. Sharp, pastor of the U. P. Church at Wharton Square, Philadelphia, Pa., preached the dedicatory sermon, the pastor, Rev. J. D. Oldham made the dedicatory prayer. After the service the building committee announced that there was still \$100.00 due on the new church and a collection was taken, more than enough money being contributed. The first communion served in the new church was on June 5, 1898.

Our church records fail to give the exact information regarding our parsonages, but for many years the building on lot No. 1, block 13, was used for this purpose. October 24, 1917, Samuel G. Latta gave the church a quick-claim deed to this property. In 1923 a

larger one was needed and this property was traded in as part payment on the W. H. Puls property, lots No. 4, 5, 6 and 7, block No. 17, in Latta's second addition. April 8, 1934, the manse was burned to the ground. It was not used as a parsonage at that time but was rented to the Ray Frederick family. Plans for rebuilding was soon started with O. A. Davis, C. D. Spangler, Dr. G. H. Gilmore, Mrs. W. S. Smith and Mrs. A. G. Long serving as the building committee. Ralph Kennedy was the contractor. Rev. Edwin G. Sloan was the first minister to reside in the new manse.

Years have passed, bringing many changes to the congregation, few to the new church building. The bell now in use is not the one used in Rock Bluffs. It is about twice as large as the Rock Bluff bell and it was purchased a few years after the new building was erected. The individual communion set now in use was presented by Dr. T. H. Hanna and wife of Omaha, and was first used in March 1913. Uncle Sam Latta donated his own organ to the church in 1914 and it is still used occasionally.

In the autumn of 1914, the lecture room of the church was used by the 9th and 10th grades of the Murray School, until the new school house was completed. The rent money was used to buy fuel for the church. Again in 1933 the church building was used as a school house as the school building was burned to the ground.

Electric lights have been in use for many years. A second piano was given to the church by the Young People's Society a few years ago and is used in the Sunday School rooms. The Pulpit Bible now in use was given by Rev. Willard Lamp of Omaha.

The pewter collection plates were a gift from Mrs. O. A. Davis, the wooden plates from a former minister and wife, Rev. and Mrs. Edwin G. Sloan. Other new equipment of various kinds has been added.

This spring (1940) the church sponsored the organization of a local Boy Scout troop. The council being Ivan DeLesDernier, Everett Spangler, Dr. G. H. Gilmore, Marion Worthan and Perry Nickles. Olin Morris was selected as Scoutmaster with Harold Grier as assistant.

The Male Quartette, composed of Dale Long, Harold Grier, John Faris and Dale Wohlfarth, is an inspiration to the church and community. The Women's Missionary Society is very active and is a great spiritual and financial help to the church. Mrs. Olin Morris is the president this year. The Young People's Society is the hope and pride of the church. They are sponsoring a new society, the Pioneers, composed of younger boys and girls of the church. The president of the Young People's Society is Marion

Wiles and Charles Spangler is the president of the Pioneer group.

Rev. Neil Stewart is serving the congregation at the present time. Some of the other ministers who have supplied this pulpit are: Thomas McCartney, R. B. Stewart, J. A. Shankland, G. R. Murray, S. S. Stewart, H. N. Cornes, J. D. Oldham, Milford Tidball, W. M. Howie, J. S. Swogger, W. S. Ritchie, T. H. Hanna, H. B. Hutchman, J. B. Jackson, J. D. Buchanan, James R. Lee, Carl McGeehon, J. C. Stewart, W. F. Graham, W. Greer McCrory, the Lamp Brothers, J. H. White, Edwin G. Sloan, D. P. Smith, John C. Smith, E. B. Graham, S. B. McBride and J. G. McKee.

August 18, 1940, this United Presbyterian church will have been established 80 years. On that date the congregation plan to hold a home coming celebration, inviting all members and adherents and all former members and friends to help celebrate their 80th anniversary. Services will be held in the morning and afternoon with a basket dinner at noon.

DATA OF CROSS ROADS—NOW MURRAY

By G. H. Gilmore

The barren cross roads four miles west and one south from the steamboat town of Rock Bluff in the spring of 1872, presented a view eastward of rolling timbered hills. In the distance King Hill, the hazy rugged bluffs in Iowa and the only visible dwelling house from this point was a crude one-room cabin down the hill to the south east, sheltered in a wooded cove. The

occupant of this cabin was a young bachelor, Joseph Burton, a native of Virginia, who over a period of sixty-five years saw many transformations at the barren, treeless cross roads: dwellings, school house, churches, store buildings sprang up, a post office was established and many changes in the growth and development in the thriving town of Murray, Nebraska.

Humphrey Lee Oldham, owner of the 160 acres of land to the northwest of the cross roads was married to Miss Sarah Storey, November 9, 1871 and had under construction a small two-room dwelling July 4, 1872 when Joseph Burton and L. G. Todd called to see Mr. Oldham and view the new home. "I'll need a good crop this season to pay for this building," Mr. Oldham told them. The sky was overhung with black, threatening clouds. The visit and inspection was short. A devastating wind and hail storm came from the northwest, destroying the wheat and corn in many fields.

That part of Murray south of Main Street is located upon an 80 acres deeded to Walker & Patterson, merchants in Rock Bluff, September 4, 1871, by John H. Walters for a "store bill," which he owed the firm and on March 11, 1872, James M. Patterson deeded his half of this tract of land to James A. Walker. The settlers in this section of the county became aware of the urgent need of a school and a group gathered and organized district No. 56. The district voted that the "cross roads" was the most central location for a school and James A. Walker and Anna S. Walker deeded a half-square acre to district No. 56, March 23, 1872. A school house 16x16 feet was erected during the summer from rough lumber, poorly constructed. It was used but a few years when it was sold to the Storey boys and moved two miles to the southwest, the south side of the A. Hollenburg farm, where it was used as a dwelling. A more commodious school house was built upon the same site which was used until 1895, when it was disposed of to G. D. Connally, who moved it east of the railroad

tracks where it was also used as a dwelling. The next school house of freakish architecture, had two rooms and served well the school district. The advent of the auto and fear of accidents and also the desire for more playground, a large school building was erected at the north side of the village and dedicated November 13, 1914.

The Murray school was dismissed on Friday for the Christmas holiday week and the following day, Saturday, December 24, 1932, the school building was destroyed by fire of unknown origin. The remainder of the year school continued, using the Murray Library for the high school students and the United Presbyterian Church for the classes in the grades. The present brick school building was constructed in 1933.

Miss Beulah Sans was employed as teacher in the primary rooms from 1914 to 1935, over a period of twenty-one years, when failing health compelled her to resign. She was endeared to all children who came under her guidance in the school room.

CHURCHES OF MURRAY

The United Presbyterian Church established by a missionary at Rock Bluff in 1860, was moved to a half-acre tract east of the school house which lot was deeded to the trustees April 17, 1878, by James A. Walker, and the "cross roads" from this date became "Fairview" by name.

The Rock Creek Christian Church was organized in 1882, and the church building was on the site where the school house for District No. 6 is now located. The school house at this date was across the road east of the church. At a meeting of the members of the church, January 30, 1892, it was resolved to move the "Rock Creek"

Church to Murray, Cass County, Nebraska, and to be known as the Murray Christian Church. A lot was given by Mr. Walker to the church on which the new church building was erected and the first services conducted October 23, 1892.

PART OF TOWN A LAND GRANT

The main part of the town of Murray which is north of Main Street is located upon the south half of the southwest quarter of section 14, which on March 3, 1855 was a land grant to Abrigal King, the widow of William King, a teamster in the war of 1812, and a warrant from President Buchanan assigned this tract, December 6, 1860, to James Allison, a well known pioneer in Cass county. From James Allison it passed to Band Cole, W. L. Hobbs, George A. and Emmet Seybolt, who in turn deeded the south half to Emily Latta, wife of Samuel G. Latta, December 6, 1883.

A fence of osage hedge grew along the south and west lines of the Latta farm and through an opening cut in this hedge fence at the south side near the west line, lumber was hauled from Plattsmouth into the field and a small dwelling erected into which the Latta family moved the spring of 1884.

Two of the most servicable centers to the early settlers were the blacksmith shop and the grist mill. William Loughridge on October 23, 1883, purchased from Charles M. Holmes a twelve-acre tract of land, deeded as Lot 10, in the north east corner of the northwest quarter of section 23, and moved his blacksmith equipment from Factoryville to a shop he had built on this lot near the public road, due north of the present Murray town well. It was in this blacksmith shop that the Murray Post Office, named in

honor of Rev. George R. Murray, was established, September 22, 1884, with William Loughridge, the first postmaster.

In the summer of 1884, Samuel Latta and his uncle, Samuel G. Latta, erected a store building at the southwest corner of the Latta farm and here conducted an enterprising mercantile business. All goods were conveyed from Plattsmouth to their store by wagons over winding roads. This business was disposed of to William E. Latta in 1888, who in turn sold it to John Edmunds in 1889. The Murray postoffice, with Mr. Edmunds as postmaster, was located in this store. Charles Root became associated with Edmunds in the firm of Edmunds & Root.

Joseph Burton and Helen Abel were married February 27, 1873, and Mr. Walker, contemplating this marriage, had a good two-room cottage built for them to replace the old cabin near the sparkling spring in the wooded cove. This cottage was a home in succession for the families of Isaac Nelson, James Conklin, Jacob Totten, William Wynn and Dr. B. F. Brendel.

The custom of the early physicians in Nebraska was to locate on a farm and from the farm home care for the sick. Dr. B. F. Brendel located on a farm one mile south of Murray, September 3, 1885. December 14, 1887, he purchased a small plot of ground south of the highway in Murray, now lots 13 and 14. The same year he purchased the two room cottage in the wooded cove from James A. Walker and moved it to these lots where it was used as a dwelling and office. Dr. J. Tabor about the same date, located in Murray, farther down Main street, but within a year returned to his home in

Pocahontas, Va., where he intended to write a book on "The Wilds of Nebraska."

Dr. J. F. Champney came from Ohio in 1893, and located in Murray where he remained until 1895, when he moved to the old homestead of Sen. Van Wyck's in Otoe county where he practiced medicine and devoted much time to the development of a hog cholera vaccine but within two years returned to his home in Ohio. Dr. G. H. Gilmore from Mount Pleasant precinct, a recent graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, took over Dr. Champney's practice in Murray in the fall of 1895. Dr. J. F. Brendel, son of Dr. B. F. Brendel was engaged in the practice of medicine in Murray from 1903 until his untimely death in the vigor of manhood, October 31, 1932. Since 1932, Dr. R. W. Tyson, a native of Cass county, has been practicing medicine in Murray and surrounding community.

Many young men from Murray and vicinity have chosen to follow the medical profession as a life's work. Starting with the first to enter this profession we have Dr. Joseph Morrow, Dr. Oscar Latta, Dr. Bert Latta, Dr. Milton Morrow, Dr. Bert Morrow, Dr. A. E. Walker, Dr. Charles Morrow, Dr. Wm. K. Loughridge, Dr. T. M. Gilmore, Dr. J. F. Brendel, Dr. Wm. Brendel, Dr. John E. Gilmore and Richard Brendel, a junior in the University Medical College, Omaha.

MURRAY GETS THE RAIL ROAD

The Missouri Pacific Railroad Company made a survey from Union to Omaha in 1890, the construction of the railroad soon followed and was completed in September, 1891. A depot was built south of Main Street. Men, women and children from the town and

surrounding country collected at the station at train time to see the trains come and go. James A. Walker and Samuel G. Latta, seeing a possible future for Murray, employed D. M. Lewis, a civil engineer, who surveyed and platted the town, which plat was attested to July 18, 1890, by R. W. Swearingen, notary public, and a resident of Murray. The blocks and lots were numbered and the streets named. Main Street and North Street were opened to the public. South Street was never used. East from the public road the streets were named Park Avenue, Latta, West Railway, East Railway, Morrow, Loughridge and Holmes Street, in honor of Samuel G. Latta, William Morrow, William Loughridge and William Holmes.

With a new railroad and surrounded by a rich agricultural country, the prospects for Murray were brilliant. She soon took on a boom and many speculators came to the village.

The new railroad drew the business center of Murray from the cross roads to a point nearer the depot. Baxter & Dawson erected a store building across the street north from the Christian church in 1891. They conducted this business for a short time when they disposed of it to M. W. Robb of Otoe county, who in turn sold it to W. E. Jenkins & Son of Eight Mile Grove. For many years they conducted a very prosperous business in the store building but later erected a two-story brick building east of the Murray State Bank. Holmes & Smith entered the Latta Store building at the corner of Main street and the public road in 1899 where they ran a store over a period of twelve years.

E. A. Burton on August 11, 1892, opened a hardware and implement

store east of the Latta store where he conducted the business for many years. He later had as a partner, Arthur Baker. Harry Nelson and later Nelson & Carper handled the hardware and implement business in Murray.

The early years of Murray were during the horse and buggy days and the livery business which has wholly vanished, was an outstanding business in all towns. Across the spring branch west of the Loughridge blacksmith shop, C. Aley & Co. in 1891, constructed a livery barn with poles and a straw roof and advertised "Livery and Drayman, good rigs at reasonable prices." This company soon disappeared and was followed by a more substantial liveryman, John Shaw, who built a frame livery barn on lot 15, south of main street. He was succeeded by John L. Young. During the 90's Don C. Rhoden built a livery barn east of the Jenkins store which still stands a wreck, north of the vi duct.

Dick Oldham was the first barber in Murray. He was followed by Dave Allen, G. D. Shrader, John Carrol, S. F. Van Horn, Harve Manners, Mac Churchill, Earl Merritt and Jeff Brendel. These barber shops were located in many sections of town.

A d y's time was consumed in hauling a wagon load of lumber, a thousand feet, from Plattsmouth to any farm home in the vicinity of Fairview. James Root and Tapley Faught foresaw a good future for the lumber business in Murray and soon after the railroad was completed, established the lumber yard of Root & Faught. On May 4, 1894, John Edmunds bought Faught's interest in the lumber yard and established the firm of Root & Edmunds. As a side line they handled harness and buggies. Root disposed

of his interest in the firm to William C. Brown and Edmunds & Brown conducted the business for five years when they sold to W. H. Kirkendal. William Banning and George Nickles bought the lumber yard from Kirkendal, November 15, 1915. In 1929 Mr. Nickles became the sole owner of the lumber business in Murray, having conducted this business for the past twenty-five years.

A news item from the Plattsmouth Journal under "Murray Musings," January 5, 1891, says: "Messrs Walker & Pitman could have handled 50,000 bushels of corn recently if the track over the new road had been laid." James A. Walker and D. J. Pitman leased a lot on the railroad right-of-way and erected a grain elevator in 1890, while the grading was being made through the town. The Wilson Grain Co., of Nebraska City, now own and operate this elevator. In 1893, J. E. Banning and son, Charles Banning, built an elevator north of the Walker & Pitman elevator which was later sold to Mont Robb. In 1895, Good, Crabtree & Co., put up a track loading fight which subsided within a year.

The stock yards near the elevators was a busy place before the advent of the motor trucks and hard surfaced highways. Several thousand fat cattle and hogs were shipped annually from these yards. The midnight "Whoopie-hi-hi" of the horsemen as they drove their herd to the stock yard was a very familiar sound to all village people. The stock yards have fallen into decay and are forgotten.

On January 23, 1892, M. J. Puddy from Chataqua Lake, N. Y., arrived in Murray to investigate the prospects of building a hotel and not finding the surroundings satisfactory, returned to

New York. Soon after this, the first hotel was erected by Silas Crabtree, for his sister, Mrs. Elsie Wagner, and his father, Abel Crabtree. Alex J. Graves became the owner in 1907 and in 1911, sold it to Mrs. W. J. Berger who had the building enlarged and modernized.

William Loughridge operated the first blacksmith shop in Murray and W. DeGoff, Joe Shaw, Charley Connelly and James Loughridge followed this trade on west Main street.

As the construction of buildings in Murray progressed, it was apparent that brick was a very essential part in all buildings and S. G. Latta with others conceived the idea of starting a brick yard. A building in which the brick were to be moulded was erected west of the elevators and Byron Scott and James Kinnamon were employed to do the moulding and burning of the brick. They were not successful in producing satisfactory brick and Loss Graves was employed. He also failed and it was decided that the clay was not suited for brick making. The building was sold to Joseph Burton who moved it a short distance to the south onto a lot which he owned, and remodeled it into a dwelling.

THE MURRAY ACADEMY

Prof. J. R. Buchanan of Tarkio, Mo., came to Murray in the summer of 1895 and discussed with the citizens of Murray and the community the advisability of starting an academy in Murray. This enterprise was met with hearty approval and the Murray Academy was established with Prof. J. R. Buchanan, A. B., principal; Dr. F. J. Champney, M. D., lecturer on physiology and hygiene and a competent teacher of the piano and organ. Circular—1895-1896 for Murray Academy.

Board of Trustees: W. J. Holmes, H. G. Todd, T. D. Buck, R. A. Young, Rev. S. S. Stewart, D. J. Pittman and S. G. Latta. Officers of the Board: Rev. S. S. Stewart, president; J. W. Edmunds, vice president; H. G. Todd, secretary and E. F. Good, treasurer.

The course of study in the Murray Academy began in September, 1895 in the United Presbyterian Church with a good enrollment and a very successful year. Four blocks at the eastern part of the S. G. Latta farm were selected for the permanent location of the Murray Academy. A brick building at the estimated cost of \$5000, walks, drives and planting of trees to beautify the grounds were planned. The necessary funds to materialize this enchanting dream could not be procured and the enterprise was dropped.

The hall of the Modern Woodmen of America, located on lot 6, block 3 east of the Christian church, was a place of much activity from 1894 up to the date of the dissolution of the organization in Nebraska.

The Murray creamery was organized September 26, 1900, and passed through varied ups and downs until it expired in 1908. W. E. Dull was acting president and James W. Holmes, secretary and treasurer. The building with equipment was located on lots 12, 13 and 14, in block 7. This property is now owned by Paul Richter.

One of the most beneficial organizations in the village is the Murray Library which was incorporated February 3, 1921 with a capital stock of \$10,000, with Mrs. G. M. Minford, president and Mrs. J. F. Brendel, secretary-treasurer. The small building in which it is located was purchased from W. E. Jenkins for \$800. It is the hope of the library board that some

day a more inviting building may be procured.

A young man walked up and down Main street in Murray in November 1892, many in the town conjecturing what his business might be. His name was Elmer F. Good. He was from Peru, Nebraska. A month later he returned with his father, Jacob Good, who organized the Murray State Bank. It was incorporated December 8, 1892, with a capital stock of \$10,000. Jacob Good was elected president, R. E. Countryman, vice president, and Elmer E. Good, cashier. The salary of the cashier was \$60.00 per month and the deposits varied from \$10,000 to \$12,000. June 10, 1896, the controlling interest in the bank was disposed of by Jacob Good and son to John E. Gilmore. H. G. Todd was elected president; Walter Mutz, vice president and John E. Gilmore, cashier. The Murray State Bank was dissolved November 1, 1897, but reorganized by R. E. and E. E. Finney, October 1, 1900, with a capital stock of \$5,000. In February 1901, the bank was sold to James Stone of Nehawka and his son, Charles S. Stone employed as cashier. Mr. Stone on February 13, 1908, disposed of his interest in the bank to Charles Parmele, Fred L. Nutzman and W. G. Boedeker. The capital stock remained at \$5,000, but the deposits advanced to \$45,000. Charles C. Parmele was elected president, Fred L. Nutzman, vice president and W. G. Boedeker, cashier. In April, 1908, the capital stock was increased to \$10,000 and in 1920 to \$15,000 and deposits reached \$325,000. August 20, 1921, Charles C. Parmele resigned as president and W. G. Boedeker was elected to succeed him as president. In 1925 L. J. Hallas of Plattsburgh was employed as cashier. In 1932 he re-

signed and Charles H. Boedeker II was elected cashier. January 15, 1935 the capital stock was increased to \$20,000 and on January 30, 1940, the capital stock and surplus of the Murray State Bank was \$38,000.

In an early morning hour on June 9, 1927, a very destructive fire occurred east of the Murray State Bank with an estimated loss of \$35,000. The two-story brick building owned by Paul Peterson of Omaha and the two frame buildings owned by B. A. Root and Wm. McDaniels were destroyed. The Nelson Hardware Store, Earl Lancaster general store, meat market, post-office and Nailor's soft drink parlor suffered a heavy financial loss.

River transportation was the life blood of the city of Rock Bluff and when railroads supplanted this mode of traffic, business rapidly departed from the steamboat town. General merchandise, grocery stores, pool halls and saloons all faded away and the voting place was moved to the school house in Murray. Residents of East Rock Bluff precinct came to Murray to vote. August 10, 1891, the county commissioners in session, A. C. Loder and Jacob Tritsch with Bird Critchfield, County Clerk, met and voted that: Rock Bluff precinct shall be divided so as to constitute a new precinct to be known as Murray precinct and shall be bounded as follows: The boundary lines of Township 11, Range 13, east of the 6th P. M., shall constitute the boundary lines of Murray precinct." On a petition presented the County Commissioners October 6, 1891, the precinct was divided into district No. 1 and No. 2—East and West Rock Bluff precincts, with a voting place in Murray and Rock Bluffs.

THE HOME GUARDS

During the first World War, Home Guards were employed for local defense. The Murray Home Guards were organized in June 1918. The officers staff was Kingsley L. Kniss, captain; O. A. Davis, first lieutenant and Albert A. Young, second lieutenant. The non-commissioned officers were first sergeant, W. S. Smith; sergeants: H. H. Baxter, Ivan DelesDernier, Oliver Gapen, Glenn Todd; Corporals: Raymond J. Henry, J. A. Scotten, L. F. Terberry, J. H. Brown, E. S. Tutt and J. A. Root. The company had an enlistment of 68 volunteers. They were given a license to bear arms by Governor Keith Neville, June 3, 1918 and were later equipped with uniforms and insignia. An evening hour was set for drilling and military maneuvers. A message from the Defense Council of Cass county gave warning of possible sabotage in Murray and orders were received, to guard the grain elevators which were then filled to capacity with wheat and corn. New guards were selected each evening and assigned to the duty of "grain elevator guards."

That part of Murray known as Pitman's Sub-division was deeded to D. J. Pitman by H. L. Oldham, October 26, 1904. This strip of land from the Oldham farm is 183 feet wide and extends from the eighty-rod line south, to North Street. This tract was divided into eighteen lots. Trees, shrubbery and beautiful homes has made Davis street very attractive. The street was so named in honor of O. A. Davis.

The electric line was brought into Murray by the Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Co., in 1918. Murray was incorporated March 7, 1935. A very satisfactory water system was com-

pleted in 1939 and the viaduct over the Missouri Pacific railroad was completed in 1939.

TRAGEDIES

On the morning of July 18, 1891, Lucy Young, age 13, the daughter of Dave Young, looked forward to a beautiful day when she would ride her newly acquired pony to Murray and bring home some needed groceries. She was returning home a short distance below the Christian church when the crackling of the paper bags containing the groceries frightened the pony. Lucy was thrown from the saddle, severely kicked by the pony and died that evening at 5:15. It was on the same spot Charles Richter was coasting with a group of playmates when he was struck by an auto and killed, January 30, 1930, at 7:30 in the evening.

While the James Conklin family were living in the cottage in the wooded cove, their son Willie, age 5, decided to explore Rock Creek and the wooded hills nearby. Becoming hungry he discovered a beautiful plant laden with red berries and ate many of them. They proved to be the deadly night shade and he succumbed to their noxious effects soon after returning home.

One of the saddest tragedies in the history of Murray occurred at an early morning hour, June 18, 1933, when an automobile from Geneva, Nebr., was driven into the side of a fast-moving south bound freight train at the railroad crossing. Mr. Lee Bailor was taking his son Robert and Lawrence Merrill to the CCC camp at Fort Crook and were accompanied by Mrs. Bailor, Edith Bailor and Miss Frances Bumgarner. Those killed instantly were Lee Bailor, age 50, Lawrence Merrill, 21, Frances Bumgarner, 17, and Robert Bailor, 17, died within a

half hour. Mrs. Bailor remains an invalid from the injuries and her daughter a badly scarred face from severe lacerations made by broken glass. This accident was the prime factor in leading to the construction of the viaduct over the railroad tracks and thus eliminating any possible future catastrophes.

NOTABLES VISIT MURRAY

W. J. Bryan, completing his presidential campaign in 1896, and on his way to Plattsmouth to make his final speech, as was his custom, stopped in front of the H. L. Oldham home and delivered a short address to an assembled crowd of farmers and Murray citizens. After his talk he mingled with the crowd and later took supper in the Oldham home.

Charles Lindbergh, while making his barnstorming tour in eastern Nebraska in the summer of 1922, stopped at Murray two days where he took up many passengers over Rock Bluff precinct and gave them a view of the apparently flat land to the west and the Missouri river to the east.

James W. Crabtree who was state superintendent of public schools and who became the first secretary of the National Educational Association at Washington, D. C., while attending the Nebraska State Normal School at Peru, spent a summer operating a hedge lopping machine in eastern Cass county. He made his headquarters in Murray. The hedge row on the west side of the Latta farm was lopped by him.

Walter Dickinson, known on the stage as "Rube" Dickinson, an outstanding funmaker on the Orpheum circuit and known from coast to coast, spent his boyhood days near Murray and was well known by many children who attended the Murray school. A

hotel porch in Kansas City, under which he was standing, weighed down with ice and snow, collapsed, causing his death. He was brought to Murray and through deep drifts of snow, taken to the Eight Mile Grove cemetery and laid to rest.

Ralph S. Holmes on June 5, 1940, was awarded the highest honors by the National Association of Manufacturers for his outstanding inventions in television. His research work is made at the Radio Corporation of America at Camden, N. J. Ralph was born in Murray and spent his boyhood days in the village.

Miss Flora Jane Boedeker was born in Murray and has achieved distinction as a musician. After finishing the Murray school, she attended the William Woods College at Fulton, Mo., where she graduated. She spent one year in Paris, France, where she studied French and music. Returning to America she entered the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music from which she graduated with high honors in 1940.

The growing village of Murray was inviting to the newspaper business and the Murray Banner brought out its first issue April 1, 1891, with J. A. Bascome, publisher and news furnished by local talent. February 3, 1893, Olmstead and Shumacher became the publishers with W. R. Olmstead, editor and W. H. McCurd, business manager for F. W. Shumacher. On March 30, 1895, the paper assumed the name of Murray Mirror with Jos. S. Brown, business manager and Everett Manshau, associate. Dr. F. J. Champney became the editor until in June when S. G. Latta assumed this duty. The Murray Mirror was again renamed The Murray Banner, September 14, 1895, with S. G. Latta, editor; J. H.

Johnson, associate editor and H. M. Wilson, manager. The last issue of the Murray Banner appeared in March 1896.

The Murray swimming pool, owned by Frank Mrasek, operated for nine years, 1925 to 1934, was a leading attraction in the county for those seeking recreation. Due to the expense of water supply, the pool ceased to operate.

S. G. Latta, after quitting the store at the corner, engaged in the pump and windmill business. Many of the Whizz and tailless rooster windmills he erected are still seen spinning in the breeze.

R. W. Swearingen came to Murray in 1892 from Washington county, Pa. He was a notary public and also serv-

ed many years as justice of the peace in West Rock Bluff precinct. He also operated a restaurant and confectionery store.

B. A. Root from Eight Mile Grove, opened a drug store in the 90's which he operated over a period of fifteen years and later was followed by G. W. McCracken, also a druggist.

The beautiful picturesque view from the crossroads was an inspiration for the pioneers to make this point a community center. Fairview did not express the enchanting scenery of the billowy hills along the timbered Rock creek and Pleasant Hill was advanced as a more descriptive name. As a clean business center with churches and accredited school, Murray has been inviting to home seekers and may she so continue over the next span of life.

EVENTS OF CASSVILLE AND MOUNT PLEASANT FACTS CONCERNING REV. W. D. GAGE

By G. H. GILMORE

The few remaining log cabins in Cass county are monuments to the hardy pioneers who were the first to build homes in the Territory of Nebraska on the rolling prairie hills out from the Missouri river.

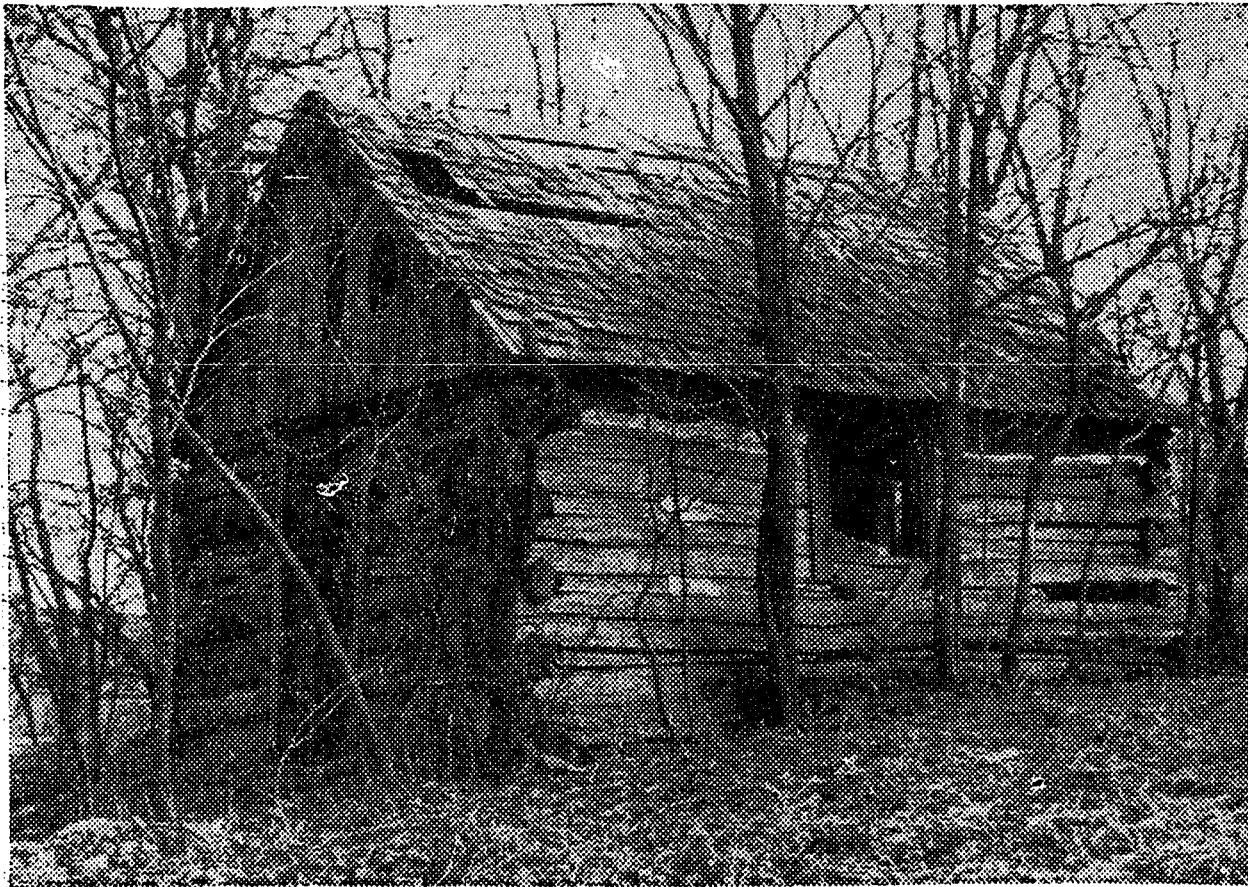
Entering a land unsurveyed, their cabins were built on claims with squatter's rights and they automatically organized into groups called settlements.

The Mount Pleasant settlement was first centered at Cassville in the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section five, where William D. Gage located on his claim in the summer of 1856, built a log house and in it es-

tablished a store. This store and dwelling, called Cassville, stood two blocks south of the school house in district 15 and two miles northeast of Nehawka.

The deputy government surveyor while sectionizing this part of Cass county in 1856, made the following notes:

"Wm. D. Gage has a claim in the south part of Sections 4 and 5. John Murray claims the southwest quarter of Section 9. Henry Wolfe has a claim in the south part of Section 9. The northeast quarter of Section 5 is laid out for a town by the name of Mount



The Home of Rev. W. D. Gage, Early Nehawka Pioneer, as it Stands Today
on the Plybon Farm North of Nehawka

Pleasant. W. D. Gage's house is west of the line between Sections 4 and 5."

Three of the log cabins, built by the pioneers in the Mount Pleasant settlement are still intact. The cabin of Judge Mathew Hughes serves various uses on the George Sheldon farm; the Stephen Hobson cabin, west of the Senn Waddell dwelling and the Wm. D. Gage cabin stands out in the woods at the west side of the Alice Plybon farm. This log house was purchased from William Schlichtemeier by Lewis Plybon in 1894 and moved to the Plybon farm, one mile west by Dug Smith and used by him as a dwelling. It has served as a dwelling, store and postoffice.

When the Nebraska Territory was opened for settlement, Rev. William Gage received an appointment to serve the Methodist Church in Nebraska City. He rode a circuit from Nebraska City to Rock Bluff in Cass

county. Rev. Dr. Goode in December, 1854 crossed the Missouri river to Nebraska City. "The Major Downs hotel was crowded and he "concluded to hunt the cabin of Pastor W. D. Gage. This was over in the brush some distance from the hotel. Night had come on and with difficulty he found his way. He was royally entertained. This was the first quarterly meeting at Fort Kearney."

While in Nebraska City Rev. W. D. Gage was elected the first county treasurer of Otoe County and was also selected as the first chaplain to both houses of the assembly in Omaha City in 1854.

Gage county was named in honor of William D. Gage. The boundaries were defined by an act of the legislature and approved March 16, 1855. He was one of the commissioners appointed to locate the county seat of Gage county.

Fragments of glass, queensware and

rusty iron mark the place in the field where once stood the historic cabin called Cassville; on a high point which a beautiful view of the rugged bluffs in Iowa and far up the Weeping Water.

Cassville was located near the territorial road "from Omaha City, by the way of the junction of the east and west forks of the Papillion creek near an old Indian village to Cedar Island in the Platte river, then via Eight Mile Grove, Cedar Bluff's Mill in Cass county and Cowell's Mill in Otoe county to Nebraska City." Another trail which passed near the door of the cabin was from Kirkpatrick's Mill (now Nehawka) to Kanosha.

After the store had been well stocked W. D. Gage carried the following advertisement in *The Wyoming Telescope*, in Wyoming, Otoe county:

"New store in Cassville, Nebraska Territory. The undersigned is now receiving and operating at Cassville a well selected and cheap assortment of goods and groceries, ready-made clothing, boots and shoes, hats and bonnets, hardware and queensware all of which will be sold cheap for cash. Come in citizens of Cass county and you will find good bargains. Nov. 6, 1856—tf. W. D. Gage."

In addition to the above mentioned articles in his stock of goods was a large supply of patent medicines and one of the leading remedies advanced was for ague—chills and fever—which was one of the prevailing ailments among the first settlers. The regularity of the chills were well known by the victims as shown by an expression once made near Cassville: "Sorry, I can't help you tomorrow, that's the day I have my chill."

The first two precincts in Cass county were Plattsmouth and Kanosha

and then Plattsmouth and Rock Bluff. On March 3, 1856, Rock Bluff was divided into two precincts described as "along the east line of Hugh Simmons, north to Plattsmouth precinct, west of this line Cassville and east to be called Kanosha. The line passed along what is now the east boundary of the East Union cemetery. The first commissioners elected from districts in Cass county were from these precincts: Jacob Vallery, Jr., from Plattsmouth; H. J. Palmer from Kanosha and W. D. Gage from Cassville precinct.

January 9, 1856, the survey of the town site of Mount Pleasant was completed, embracing the northeast quarter of section five, which joined the Gage land on the north. The United States patent for this town site was made by president James Buchanan to the trustees of the town: W. D. Gage, David C. Brannan, Martin Prichard, Henry Adkins and Micheal Brannan. At the bottom of the plat of Mount Pleasant a description of this part of Cass county is vividly portrayed:

"Mount Pleasant, N. T., is situated in the geographical center of Cass county at the intersection of the territorial road leading from Nebraska City to Omaha City with a road leading from Kanosha to Chester on Salt Creek to Ft. Kearney. The site is the most beautiful in Nebraska, being surrounded as far as the eye can see by the most fertile and best farming land in the Territory, dotted with beautiful groves of timber and watered by the romantic Weeping Water and its branches which flow near the town, furnishing an abundance of water power. A saw mill and a grist mill is already in operation on the Weeping Water and a steam flouring mill is in the process of construction in the town

site.

"It is also the dividing line of the railroad from Burlington to Genwood and the mouth of the Platte and when continued westward must necessarily pass through this place.

"Building material is abundant and cheap and the best quality stone, iron ore, coal and limestone of the best quality are in great abundance, 1856."

The Western University was by an act of the legislature incorporated on January 25, 1856, S. M. Kirkpatrick, H. C. Wolph, M. D. Case, William T. Laird, Jno. Mc F. Hagood and Mathew Hughes created a body politic and corporate by the name of The Western University, to be located near or in Cassville, Cass county, Nebraska." The Western University was given a square of land in the southwest corner of Mount Pleasant.

The first school near Cassville was in the home of Ruel R. Davis, a trained school teacher. He and his family with an ox team and covered wagon started from Yadkin, county, N. C., in April, 1856, and arrived at the Milt Case log cabin near Cassville in August. The first Sunday School was conducted under a large oak tree near the Davis cabin, Judge Mathew Hughes, superintendent.

A log school house was erected near the east boundary of the Mount Pleasant town site in 1857. Sunday School and church services were held here. This school house was also the polling place for this part of Cass county for many years.

Mount Pleasant post office was established September 20, 1858, and David C. Brannan appointed postmaster. His land claim joined Mount Pleasant on the east. His home was near the southeast corner of the town site. W.

D. Gage became postmaster March 12, 1859, which office he held until March 17, 1865, when Mathew Hughes became postmaster. William J. Lynch, who had purchased the Gage property, took the office of postmaster December 22, 1868, and lived in Cassville where he operated a country store. Andrew Pittman who purchased the farm of Brannan, east of Mt. Pleasant, was appointed postmaster August 6, 1883, which he held until January 12, 1888, when the postoffice was discontinued and mail delivered to Nehawka.

The Mount Pleasant Methodist Church was built in 1868, on the Stephen Hobson farm due south from Cassville. It became one of the leading churches in Cass county, but when the towns of Union and Nehawka were started, churches were built in these towns which drew the membership from the Mount Pleasant church. The church building was sold and moved to where it is now used as a farm building on the George Sheldon farm.

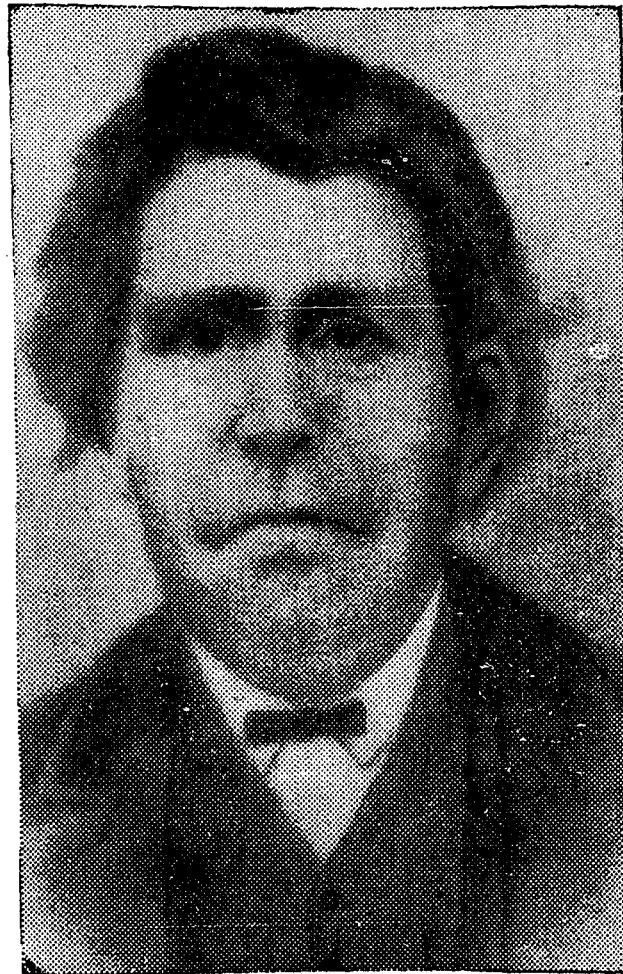
Rev. Gage's four small daughters were once treated to tickets to a small circus in Plattsmouth. They had seats near the ring and when the clown came by leading a beautiful horse they stopped him and asked him how he made his horse so shiny, they had a pony they wished to make pretty. He told them he used lard, but not to tell anybody. On Saturday in preparing for Sunday they gave their gentle pony a coat of lard which did make it shine. Filled with delight they stood near admiring the pony as he walked in the yard. After a short time he laid down and rolled in the dust and when he got up covered with a greasy mud they were filled with consternation but more so when their father

appeared and viewed the hideous looking animal. Several days of soap and water corrected the mistake.

Ola Barnes, a grand daughter of W. D. Gage, was born in the log cabin in Cassville. She studied music in Paris and became one of the well known vocalists in Nebraska. She married David Campbell who was appointed clerk of the Supreme Court in 1830. and they lived in Lincoln until 1900.

W. D. Gage was the leader of the Union Mass Convention held in Rock Bluff the 30th day of September, 1862. He served as County Judge in Cass county from 1867 to 1868. He was in the mercantile business in Plattsmouth for several years following.

Rev. William Doolittle Gage was born in Pennsylvania, December 5, 1804, worked at the shoemaker trade until 21, when he entered the Methodist minister. He married Miss Sarah Shoonmaker of Flatbrush, N. Y., on January 1, 1832. She passed away March 26, 1862, leaving four daughters. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Jacob Bailey, on the Joseph Beardsley farm, three miles southwest of Weeping Water, November 20, 1885. Both are at rest in the beautiful Mount Pleasant cemetery in view of Cassville. His daughter wrote: "When the waters of the dark river were laving his feet as he left the shore of time, he called his loved ones around him and bade them farewell; with a shout of joy for the mercies of the Redeemer plunged into the turbulent waters which had no terror for him and ascended the shore on the other side to meet those gone before."



JAMES O'NEILL

James O'Neill was one of the first settlers in Cass County. He operated a ferry and first trading post in Plattsmouth. A story concerning this pioneer appears elsewhere in this book.

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