

# *Madison County Remembers...*

A Publication of the Madison County Genealogical Society

---

PO Box 1031, Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1031 Vol. 22 Issue No. 90 March-April 2001

---

## **From the President,**

We have almost had an old fashioned winter with snow, cold,, and ice. But somehow it doesn't seem as fun as when I was a child. Snow was an asset then, the more snow, the more fun. I have enjoyed the snow. Six inches of snow is very beautiful. It's so quiet outside at 4 A.M. as I fire up the snow blower. In one respect I'm glad for the length of our winters. I watch the earth rest, and I rest. I sleep more and rest more, with a good book or my sweet wife. I'm trying to keep positive about this whole winter experience.

March 1<sup>st</sup> was called "moving day." Many of our ancestors didn't own their farms. They rented land. March 1<sup>st</sup> was the day all the leases began. My Dad remembers the roads being filled with every vehicle available. The families would move the entire household, farm equipment, hay, seed, all the horses, cattle, hogs, chickens, and dogs. They would use every hay wagon, grain wagon, pickup and tractor. And when some other family was moving into your place as you moved out, the moving all had to be done fairly quickly. A couple had to get their farm set up before calving and in time to put in the first crop of oats in March as soon as the fields were workable.

Moving day is about changes. We who practice genealogy experience changes. We make involuntary changes as we get older, and health concerns and stamina affect our research goals. We make voluntary changes also. I know people who have stopped researching. They have written the book or compiled a family history. They decided that their job was done. Their work of exploring and recording a portion of their family history was finished. I hope to have the wisdom to know when to pass the torch along. When that time comes, there are other ways to benefit genealogical research. One excellent research tool is the index. Many county, village, citys, and church histories are published without indexes. Indexes are excellent ways for researchers to help define their research goals. We can help researchers who are trying to do work in Madison County by providing name indexes to cemeteries, church histories, village centennial books, and plat maps. Indexes can be sold to people outside the county. I, for one, would like to buy surname indexes to material in counties elsewhere that my ancestors came through. Indexing is one way of advancing research and the study of

family history in our county, our town, our church. Whether we are compiling our family history or indexing the 1899 plat map, we are all needed to increase the knowledge and availability of information for others. We start out doing this research for ourselves, but we end up doing it for our children and for our descendants themselves. We ground our children and give our ancestors a voice.

John Kielty

## January Meeting Minutes

The January meeting of the Madison County Genealogical Society was held on January 16, 2001, at the Brass Lantern, Norfolk. This was the annual dinner meeting.

A short skit was held during the meal, performed by Tommie Tracy, Mickie Ryan, Carol Kielty and Michael Kielty. In the skit, young Michael finds a box of pictures in the basement and asks Mom what they are. She tells what little she knows and Grandma (from beyond the grave), tells the stories and laments that she didn't label them and write down the stories. It was very enjoyable.

President John Kielty called the meeting to order at 8:17 pm with 21 members and 3 guests in attendance. Members present were President John Kielty, Vice-President Mickie Ryan, Treasurer Don Monson, Tommie Tracy, Iola Louthan, Jeanne Rix, Bernice Dewey, Betty Schulze, Marlyn Low, Betty Low, Marge Fuhrmann, Richard Streng, Dorothy Monson, Joan Moody, Sue Askew, Jean Masters, Dale Masters, Nancy Zaruba, Dave Zaruba, Karen Rogat, and Clark Young. Guests in attendance were Carol and Michael Kielty and Merle Rix.

The minutes from the November meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was read and approved. There is \$1414.78 in the checking account and \$1063.32 in the savings account.

Other business discussed was:

The bus trip to Omaha was cancelled. The Omaha Public Library called and cancelled the trip because they will be closed for recarpeting at that time. This came up somewhat unexpectedly for them as they didn't expect to be doing this for at least 6 more months. They were very apologetic and were disappointed that we could not reschedule until next winter. The special discounted bus rate was only good during January, February and March.

Library Committee: Ballots were prepared and were to be mailed out within a week or so on whether or not to move the library to the Elkhorn Valley Museum. This issue will be decided by a simple majority of all ballots returned. The results will be reported at the February meeting.

Also discussed was how to help the Museum fund the library. One idea proposed is for the MCGS to donate an amount for this year, and then for this year only, members could use the library for free. The idea being that it will take some time to get everything up and running and cataloged so that people can find things easily. During this transition time, members could use the library without charge if the Society made an upfront donation to cover some of the expenses. This item was tabled for further discussion. Eventually there will be a small daily charge to use the Research Center, but not until a computer system is purchased and items are cataloged and easily accessible. The Research Center has many items of genealogical interest

already, but they are not readily accessible yet without a computer system. Our library added to theirs will make a good place to do research on Madison County and Northeast Nebraska as well as general genealogical and historical research.

Obituaries: It was reported that Jeanette Koehn who has been daily indexing the obituaries from the Norfolk paper will be out of town during January and February. Volunteers were solicited to index one week each of this time period. Nancy Zaruba will coordinate and check that no days get missed. She will also integrate and file the obituaries. Members volunteering were Sue Askew, John Kielty, Jean Masters, and Bernice Dewey.

There were three queries received: Deanna Copeland was looking for information on the Belz Cemetery at Stanton, Albert Hartstock on the Regional Center, and Joe Jackson at Meadow Grove. New publications received were displayed. The next meeting is February 20 at 7:00 at the First Baptist Church, Norfolk. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Ramaekers

## February Meeting Minutes

The February meeting of the Madison County Genealogical Society was held on February 20, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, Norfolk.

Mickie Ryan introduced our guest speaker, LaVern Schroeder of the Madison County Surveyor's Office. He presented a program on surveying methods and problems in surveying Madison County. A display of various equipment used throughout the years was displayed and demonstrated. He showed the original survey book recorded in 1866 when Madison County was first surveyed and explained various techniques and problems.

President John Kielty called the business meeting to order with 15 members and 5 guests present. The members in attendance were: John Kielty, President; Diane Ramaekers, Secretary; Mickie Ryan, Vice-President; Tommie Tracey, Nylotis and Mike Moats, Bill Thoendel, Joan Moody, Sue Askew, Dennis and Marilyn Newland, Karen Rogat, Margerie Fuhrmann, Nancy Zaruba, and Richard Streng. Guests in attendance were: Richard E. Richardson, Cathy Walmsley, Myrt Novotny, Mel and Gloria Hintz. Mel and Gloria joined. The secretary's report was read and one change was made. At the January meeting, Tommie Tracy presented a reading on the trials and tribulations of moving from overseas back to Texas while her husband was in the military.

There was no treasurer's report as the Monsons were on vacation. Under old business, the ballots to move the MCGS library were counted by Myrt Novotny and Catherine Walmsley. There were a total of 36 ballots returned with 34 for the move and 2 against. The ballot issue to move the library to the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center passed.

Under new business, Margerie Fuhrmann provided us with the new hours for the National Archives in Kansas City, Missouri. Eleanor Borkenhagen of California sent copies of obits of former Madison County residents who died in California. Various newsletters recently received were displayed. Two new queries were received. Diane Peters Slough is seeking an obit for a Joseph Moore who died in 1938. Marla Rees is



seeking information on Cyrus and Harry Henderson.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on March 20, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Ramaekers

## **February Program**

### **When This County Was First Settled**

When this County was first settled, the British used metes and bounds description for land conveyances. An example of this would be that they would start from a known point such as beginning at an Old Oak tree on the North side of a dirt trail by Edwards' farm, said point being on the South side of a stream; thence Northeasterly following the meanderings of the stream to its intersection of Jones' rock wall fence; thence in a Southeasterly direction, following said rock wall, 600 feet more or less to dirt trail; thence Southwesterly to the point of beginning.

This particular system was the cause of many land disputes because of gaps and overlaps between adjacent owners. Our founding fathers realized a more uniform system was needed for the purpose of description and disposal of the public lands. The rectangular survey system was enacted by Congress in 1796. This act provided for Townships 6 miles square containing 36 sections. The East and West boundaries of said township were run due North and South and the North and South boundaries were parallels of latitude. This was done in Madison County in 1866.

The state of the art equipment for the government surveyors was the compass and the chains. When I began surveying 34 years ago, we used a transit and a steel tape. Since then, the equipment we use has evolved to instruments that read angle and distance electronically and satellite surveying equipment.

The task of a surveyor is to retrace the footsteps of the old surveyors. Only after extensive search to find the old monuments can a new monument be reset. Even with the most modern measuring equipment that show distances varying from the recorded distance, the old monument still holds as correct.

By LaVern F. Schroeder, R.L.S. 312

March 1, 2001

#### **Renewals**

Bill Thoendel, RR 1 Box 65, Hoskins, NE 68740 402-565-4346

Email: [WillThon@msn.com](mailto:WillThon@msn.com)

Chuck D. Haase, 3024 Colonial Lane, Grand Island, NE 68801

Linda Wiedman, P.O. Box 1535, Wimberley, TX 78676 512-847-9537

Email: [oldmujare@att.net](mailto:oldmujare@att.net)

Rev. James R. Tiegs, 2740 N. 115<sup>th</sup> Plaza #301, Omaha, NE 68164 402-445-9221

Marlene D. Edens, East 3825 State Road 29, Menominee, WI 54751

F. F. (Tim) Preece, 246 Montair Drive, Danville, CA 94526

#### **New Members**

Mel & Gloria Hintz, 2800 Prospect Ave., Norfolk, NE 68701 402-371-4321

Email: [mhintz@conpoint.com](mailto:mhintz@conpoint.com)

## Calendar of Events

**March 20, 2001** Regular meeting of the **Madison County Genealogical Society**.  
7pm First Baptist Church on Benjamin Ave. in Norfolk, NE. Program will be  
**Commander John Reding of the Norfolk Fire Dept.** His topic is: **Norfolk Fire  
History; Why and How Records Get Lost in Courthouse Fires.** Refreshments to be  
served by Don and Dorothy Monson.

**April 17, 2001** Regular meeting of the **Madison County Genealogical Society**.  
7pm Location change: Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center, 515 Queen City  
Blvd, Norfolk, NE. **Tour of Elkhorn Valley Research Center and new home of our  
library.** Refreshments to be served by Richard Streng.

**April 21, 2001** **Lincoln-Lancaster Co. Gen. Society 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Conference**, Denton, NE. Mail to: LLCGS, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, P.O. Box  
30055, Lincoln, NE 68503-0055

**April 27-28, 2001** **Iowa Genealogy Society Spring Conference** in Sioux City, Iowa.  
For more information contact Iowa Gen. Society, Box 7735, Des Moines, IA 50322-  
7735 or phone 515-275-0287 or email: [igs@iowagenealogy.org](mailto:igs@iowagenealogy.org) or visit the website:  
[www.iowagenealogy.org](http://www.iowagenealogy.org)

**May 2, 2001** **Browse night at the Elkhorn Valley Research Library**, 515  
Queen City Blvd., Norfolk, NE **6:00 to 8:00 pm. (Wednesday)**

**May 4-5, 2001** **Nebraska State Genealogy Conference**, Grand Island, NE

**May 15, 2001** Regular meeting of the **Madison County Genealogical Society**, at  
7pm at the First Baptist Church on Benjamin Ave. in Norfolk. Program to be announced  
later. Refreshments to be served by Harold Lyon.

**June 19, 2001** Regular meeting of the **Madison County Genealogical Society**.  
Refreshments to be served by Karen Rogat.

**June 20-21, 2001** **Land Records and Genealogy Symposium**, Homestead National  
Monument, Beatrice, NE. To register: 402-223-3514, inquiries to: Homestead National  
Monument, 8523 West State Highway 4, Beatrice, NE 68310, email:  
[todd\\_arrington@nps.gov](mailto:todd_arrington@nps.gov)

**July 10-17, 2001** Two ladies from Des Moines are organizing a **tour to Salt Lake  
City**. For more information call Hazel at 515-276-0395.

### **Veteran's Records Discovered**

Some 10 million duplicates of 20<sup>th</sup> century military records thought to be destroyed in the 1973  
fire have been found by the Veterans Administration. If you have been told the records you  
need were burned in that fire, you may want to write again to: National Personnel Records,  
GSA 9700Page Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Source: RWGS Trail Seekers [Rebecca Winters  
Genealogical Society, Scottsbluff, NE.] Oct/Nov/Dec 2000 issue via Lucas Co. IA newsletter {date not listed}.

## Library Move

The vote taken last month on the issue of moving our genealogical library passed overwhelmingly. The library has now been moved from Harold's basement over to the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center. It will be added to their Research Center collection, thus making a better research library for all as well as becoming more accessible.

The Elkhorn Valley Historical Society, owner of the Museum and Research Center and now our former library materials, has big plans. Members of the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center Library Committee are presently: Bernice Dewey, Fred Stafford, Joan Moody, Dorothy Richmond and Nancy Zaruba. Three of these five members are members of the Madison County Genealogical Society. The Museum board is leaving most decisionmaking concerning the Research Center to the Research Center Library Committee. Anyone interested in serving on the Research Library Committee is welcome. The committee presently meets on Friday afternoons and any other time any member wants to work. Nancy and Bernice with assistance from Sue Askew, Richard Streng and several other volunteers have been busy cleaning, cataloging, labeling, and repairing the items from the MCGS library. This will be an ongoing project for some time.

The Museum already owned a fair number of items especially photographs and maps as well as books concerning Norfolk, Madison County, and Northeast Nebraska. The addition of the Genealogy Society Library will increase the number of materials available for research as well as the number of patrons using the Research Center. This can only benefit everyone. The increase in people seeking genealogical information will help to preserve the history of the area as each has something to add whether it is a tidbit of family information, a completed family history book, a geography or history book, photographs, family letters, diaries, or other artifacts.

The Museum wants to purchase a computer system to catalog more completely all of the items in the collections. Eventually every item in the building will be listed so that someone can come in and ask, "What do you have on xxxx?" Staff will be able to type in the name and tell you that "xxxx has two biographies, 6 photos, a diary, 3 query letters, and has donated a military uniform, and an arrowhead collection." It is hoped to be able to get enough donations by June or July to purchase this system. One matching grant for \$400 from AAL has been received assuming the museum can get at least \$400 more to go with it. The system the Museum would like to purchase is approximately \$3000. The system needs to be large enough to handle the many photographs that would be scanned in as well as act as a server for up to 4 more computers so that more than one person could use it at a time.

The Museum would also like several more computers to access the internet for genealogical research and for word processing. These do not need to be new. The Research Center is also in need of shelving and shelving materials including bookends and magazine files. Donations of items or cash earmarked for these goals would be welcomed.

It is planned to have the April meeting of the Genealogical Society at the Museum for everyone to get acquainted with the new Research Center.

The first monthly Browse and Research Night will be held May 3, (Wednesday) from 6-8 pm at the Elkhorn Valley Research Center.

## The 1889 Norfolk City Directory (cont.)

G cont.

Gallup, W. D., res. ne cor. 3d ave. and Cleveland.  
Gallup, R. W., fireman, res. the same.  
Gallup, Mrs. E., res. the same.  
Garcelon, M. J., manager of the Chicago Lumber Co.; res. Madison ave., betw. 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2-h-s.  
Garcelon, Mrs. M. S., res. the same.  
Gardner, S. L., res. 10<sup>th</sup> betw. Nebraska and Prospect aves., 1-h-w.  
Gardner, Mrs. E., res. the same.  
Gaylord, L. M., res. Philip ave, betw. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 1-h-s.  
Gaylord, Mrs. I., res. the same.  
George, J. O., Philip ave., betw. 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2-h-s.  
George, Mrs. S., res. the same.  
Gerecke, Wm. H., res. the same.  
Gerecke, Herman, res. nw cor. 12 and Norfolk ave.  
Gerecke, Mrs. S. E., res. the same.  
Gerecke, Wm., res. sw cor. 12<sup>th</sup> and Norfolk ave.  
Gerecke, Mrs. A., res. the same.  
Gerecke, F., bds. at A. P. Pilger's.  
Gibson, J. W., bookkeeper, res. 3<sup>rd</sup> betw. Madison and Philip ave.  
Gibson, Mrs. R. W., res. the same.  
Gifford, Miss Lenna M., lives at O. P. Smith's.  
Glander, August, musician, res. Koenigstein ave. betw. 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2-h-n.  
Glass, Wm. S., lives at W. H. Lowe's.  
Glissman, H. E., meat market, res. 208 Norfolk ave.; up stairs.  
Glissman, Mrs. M., res. the same.  
Good, Mrs. G. W., lives at H. J. Mallory's.  
Goodrich, Mrs. H., 220 Norfolk ave.; res. 3<sup>rd</sup> betw. Philip and Park aves., 1-h-w.  
Goodrich, L. J., bds. as above.  
Goodrich, J. J., bds. as above.  
Gordon, Mrs. L., ne cor. Braasch ave. and 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Gotwald, R. C., civil engineer, bds. at Mrs. Patterson's; ne cor. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Madison ave.  
Grant, Bernard, farmer, res. nw cor 12<sup>th</sup> and Park ave.  
Grant, Mrs. M., res. the same.  
Grant, Thomas, clerk at Post Office, bds. as above.  
Grant, Joseph, express driver, bds. as above.  
Grant, Daniel, laborer, bds. as above.  
Grant, J. R., salesman, 3<sup>rd</sup> betw. Grove and Michigan aves. 3-h-w.  
Grant, Mrs. F., res. the same.  
Grant, S. A., 434 Norfolk ave., res. in the rear.  
Grant, Mrs. S., res. the same.  
Granger, — — rms. C. C. Whipps.  
Graham, Harry, paper cleaner, rms. C. H. Carman's.  
Gray, J. B., salesman, rooms at H. Gerecke's.

Transcribed by Charlton Ryan, Ph.D.



## MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY EXCHANGE LIST

MARCH 2001

This list is of organizations that receive our newsletter and publish a newsletter that they send to us. They are available in our Society library (which is now housed at the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center).

### "Leafy Branches"

Adams County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 424  
Hastings, NE 68902-0424

### "The Scout"

Boone-Nance County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 231  
Belgrade, NE 68623

### "Out on a Limb"

Dodge/Jefferson County Gen. Society  
P.O. Box 91  
Watertown, WI 53094-0091

### "Roots and Leaves" quarterly also a monthly newsletter

Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 541  
Fremont, NE 68026-0541

Elkhorn Valley Historical Society  
515 Queen City Blvd.  
Norfolk, NE 68701

### "Family Tree"

Ellen Payne Odom Genealogical Library  
P.O. Box 2828  
Moultrie, GA 31776-2828

### "Franklin Record"

Franklin County Genealogical Society  
c/o Helen Brandt  
P.O. Box 413  
Latimer, IA 50452-0413

### "Phelps Helps"

Holdrege Area Genealogical Club  
P.O. Box 164  
Holdrege, NE 68949-0164

### "Connections"

Leila Stahl Buffett Genealogical Center  
330 North Colfax  
P.O. Box 258  
West Point, NE 68788-0258

Lincoln-Lancaster County Gen. Society  
P.O. Box 30055  
Lincoln, NE 68503-0055

National Genealogical Society  
4527 Seventeenth St. North  
Arlington, VA 22207-2363

Nebraska History Network, Inc.  
1997 280th St.  
Seward, NE 68434-7823

### "Nebraska Ancestry"

"New Brass Key"  
Nebraska State Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 5608  
Lincoln, NE 68508-5608

### NISIAN

Nebraskans of Irish/Scotch-Irish Ancestry  
in Neb.  
P.O. Box 5049  
Lincoln, NE 68505-5049

### "NENGs Notes"

Northeastern Nebraska Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 169  
Lyons, NE 68038-0169

### "The Wagoner"

Northwest Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 6  
Alliance, NE 69301-0006



Plains Genealogical Society  
208 South Walnut Street  
Kimball, NE 69145

"Kin Seekers"  
Platte Valley Kinseekers  
P.O. Box 153  
Columbus, NE 68602-0153

Prairie Pioneer Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 1122  
Grand Island, NE 68802-1122

Rebecca Winters Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 323  
Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0323

"Ancestors Unlimited"  
Southwest Nebraska Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 156  
McCook, NE 69001-0156

"Homesteader"  
Southeast Nebraska Gen. Society  
Beatrice Public Library Heritage Room  
100 North 16th St.  
Beatrice, NE 68310

"Tri-Corner Connections"  
Tri-State Corners Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 524  
Humboldt, NE 68376-0524

"Bridging the Years"  
Wayne County Genealogical Society  
220 Sherman  
Wayne, NE 68787

"Wahkaw"  
Woodbury County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 624  
Sioux City, IA 51102-0624

**The following list is of libraries that receive our newsletters.**

Allen Co. Public Library	P.O. Box 2270, Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270
Battle Creek Public Library	P.O. Box D, Battle Creek, NE 68715
Madison Public Library	P.O. Box 387, Madison, NE 68748
Meadow Grove Public Library	P.O. Box 198, Meadow Grove, NE 68752
Newman Grove Public Library	615 Hale Avenue, Newman Grove, NE 68758
Norfolk Public Library	308 West Prospect Ave., Norfolk, NE 68701
Tilden Public Library	P.O. Box 457, Tilden, NE 68781
Western Reserve Historical Society	10825 East Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44106
Library of Congress Exchange and Gift Division	Washington, D.C. 20540

**Norfolk Books Available For Sale**

**Images of America: Norfolk, Nebraska**

This book is a new pictorial history of Norfolk. It was written by the Library Committee of the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center. It is indexed and includes many, many people. Cost is \$20.13 picked up at the Museum or \$23.03 mailed anywhere in the United States. Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center, 515 Queen City Boulevard, Norfolk, NE 68701.

**God Did It! ... by Accident???**

Written by Mel Hintz, this book is the story of Norfolk Churches, Parochial Schools & other Christian Institutions in Norfolk, Nebraska. The book is indexed for names of schools, churches, and other institutions. It is arranged chronologically. At the end of each section are the names of persons associated with each. There are about 1500 personal names mentioned in the book. The cost is \$14.85 plus tax if picked up in Norfolk. Copies are available by mail from: Mel Hintz, 2800 Prospect, Norfolk, NE 68701. Cost of mailed copies is \$18.59.

# Feature of the Month

## SHELL CREEK TOWNSHIP

### 1899 Shell Creek Township, Madison County, Nebraska

The following is a selection from the Plat Book of Madison County, Nebraska 1899.

The heading inside is *Patrons' Directory of Madison County, Nebraska*.

#### Shell Creek

Name	Business	Post Office	Sec.
Anderson, A. A.	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	23
Dagsgard, S. L.	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	32
Horn, John	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	31
Jacobson, Henry	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	10
Johnson, A. P.	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	19
Johnson, Ed	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	34
Larson, Ole	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	24
Levijohn, W.	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	13
Lind, A. E.	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	2
Nelson, Ole	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	12
Nelson, Sever S.	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	28
Nutzman, Wm.	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	11
Olson, Ebert	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	4
Simonson, Christ	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	33
Strand, J. M.	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	18
Syversen, Hans	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	19
Texley, H. G.	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	20
Thompson, Gunder	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	34
Whitcher, G. A.	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	33
Wold, Ole	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Newman Grove	36

#### First Ordinances

The newspaper, the New Era, published March 12, 1888, the first ordinances. Some that were listed were: A dog license tax was made. The duties of the Marshall were laid out. E. J. Crockett was appointed Village Marshall. Every male 21-50 is required to work or get a substitute for two days labor on the streets, alleys and highways. Failure to do so carried a fine. A prison was to be built at a cost of no more than \$100. Also the Plat fixing the territory of Newman Grove. Source: Newman Grove, Nebraska 1888 - 1988 Centennial book

#### The Early School Years

The first frame school was built in 1899, replaced with a brick structure by 1907-08. A new grade school was built in 1919-20. Source: Newman Grove, Nebraska 1888 - 1988 Centennial book

## 1918 Shell Creek Township, Madison County, Nebraska

The following is from the Standard Atlas of Madison County, Nebraska.

This is a selection of businesses and people found in 1918 Patron's Reference Directory of Madison County, Nebraska. The date following a name indicates the length of time the party has been a resident in the county.

The following is a list of individuals in Shell Creek township in 1918. The abbreviations are as follows: S. for Section; P. for Precinct [or township]; P.O. for Post-office address.

- Anderson**, Walter L., Farmer, Stockraiser, Corn Sheller and Threshing Machine Operator, Valley View Stock Farm, S. 23, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1885.
- Dahlstedt**, Ed., Farmer and Stockraiser, S. 20, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1898.
- Hartjoy**, Albert G., Farmer and Stockraiser, S. 26, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1889.
- Homan**, Bert, Farmer, Stockraiser and School Director, Prop. Sunny Slope Stock Farm, S. 7, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1888.
- Knope**, Herman, Farmer and Stockraiser, Proprietor Fairview Farm, S. 31, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1907.
- Lyon**, C. F., Breeder of Duroc Jersey Hogs, Proprietor Pleasant View Stock Farm, S. 6, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1883.
- Lyon**, E. W., Local Agent Mutual Oil Co., Newman Grove. 1903.
- Nelson**, Gust A., Farmer and Stockraiser, S. 13, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1890.
- Nelson**, Josef., Farmer and Stockraiser, S. 11, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1891.
- Olson**, Carl F., Farmer and Stockraiser, Breeder of Buff Orpington Chickens, S. 9, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1887.
- Oss**, Gullik, Proprietor Little Pine and Oss Homestead Farms, S. 32, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1877.
- Rosenberg**, A. O., Farmer and Stockraiser, S. 17, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1911.
- Schmuecker**, Anton, Jr., Farmer and Stockraiser, S. 3, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1916.
- Simonson**, Geo., Farmer and Breeder of Duroc Jersey Hogs and Shorthorn Cattle, Proprietor Valley Stock Farm, S. 26, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1873.
- Strand**, M. S., Farmer and Stockraiser, S. 18, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1881.
- Thompson**, August W., Breeder of Thoroughbred Duroc Jersey Hogs, Farmer and Stockraiser, S. 9, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1890.
- Thompson**, Grunder, Farmer, Newman Grove. 1871.
- Vogt**, G. D., Farmer and Breeder of Shorthorn Cattle and Duroc Jersey Hogs, S. 34, P. Shell Creek, P.O. Newman Grove. 1878.

## **Early Churches of Shell Creek Township in Madison County**

Compiled by Nancy Zaruba and Richard Strenge from the Newman Grove, Nebraska 1888-1988 Centennial Book

### **Church of the Nazarene**

The Rev. August N. Nelson, an evangelist from Portland, Oregon, conducted revival services and performed a number of conversions in 1916. In June 1917 the Church of the Nazarene was officially organized. The charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stude, Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Guffey, Mrs. Julius Hansen, Mrs. Ann Froding, Ben Schukey, Mrs. Ethel Torgersen, Emma Hansen, and Edna McDonald. The Farmers Union building was rented and services held there until 1918. Church membership was 48 in 1918.

Under the leadership of Rev. C. R. Mathison a lot and parsonage were purchased for \$4,000. The parsonage was moved to its present location and the church built. It was dedicated in April of 1920 by District Superintendent Theodore Ludwig. On March 31, 1930, a service was held and the mortgage burned by Mrs. John Anderson, acting treasurer. The first pastors were Henry Bell and A. M. Brown. C. R. Mathison, 1917-1918; H. C. Tittimore, 1918-1921; R. L. Major, 1921-1922; D. A. Savage 1922-1923; Elizabeth Wheeler, 1923-1924; and Mabel Vaage, 1924-1928.

### **Congregational Church**

The Rev. A. T. Reed, an evangelist from Oberlin, Ohio, conducted meetings which resulted in the formation of the Congregational Church of Newman Grove. The church was organized by Rev. H. Bross, District Superintendent on Oct. 4, 1900. On Oct. 8, 1900, the Rev. C. D. Gearhart from Pierce, Nebraska, was called. Officers elected were: C. A. Miller and E. H. Gerhart, deacons; C. L. Juell, J. J. Husensetter, and R. Pryor, trustees; J. A. Bloomquist, Clerk; G. C. Dimcock, Treasurer; and C. C. Miller Sunday School Superintendent. The erection of the new church began in the spring of 1901 at a cost of \$3,500. Membership was 52 people.

The Ladies Society organized in October 1900. Officers were: Mrs. Jean Bloomquist, President; Mrs. Kathryn Gerhart, Vice-President; Mrs. Maude Wenrick, Secretary; and Mrs. Junkins, Treasurer.

### **Shell Creek Lutheran**

Shell Creek Lutheran Church was officially organized on February 2, 1874, during a meeting held at the home of Anders Strand. John Simonson was chairman, Nels Wick secretary, and Johannes M. Johnson, Knud Anderson and Simon Christianson as trustees. The first pastor was the Rev. Ole E. Torgerson who had come here from Wisconsin in 1871, after having served a congregation in Wisner. An eighty-acre tract of land was purchased on which the present church and parsonage were built. The first parsonage was a log house built by Gunder Hamre which consisted of two rooms and a shanty. The name "Shell Creek Evangelical Lutheran Church" was chosen in 1883.

Some charter members were: Simon Christian Simonson, Christian Simonson, John Simonson, Nels Wick, Johannes M. Johnson, Lars M. Johanneson, Johannes Williamson, Knud Anderson, Anders Anderson, Knut J. Kvam, Narve Nerison, Nels Nerison, Ole Nerison, Ole Knudson, Hans Nelson Christianson, Hans Christianson, Carl Frederick Steiner, Johannes Anderson, Charley Stone, Enok A. Togerson, Anna Karina Simonson, Hans Olson Sto, Anders P. Larson, and Mons Nelson.



First church services were held in a schoolhouse north of the "Old Town Bridge" on the east side of the street, until a blacksmith shop, purchased from George Evans in 1882, was converted into a chapel southwest of the "Old Town" bridge. The present church was built in 1888 during the pastorate of J. B. A. Dales. Shell Creek congregation was affiliated with the Hauge Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod in America until 1917. They later affiliated with the Lutheran Free Church which in 1962 merged with American Lutheran Church. Members of the congregation who have gone into the ministry include Mabel Vaage, Joseph Vaage, Gus, Benjamin and Gerhard Ostrem, Amanda Ostrem Nesvig, S. C. Simonson, John Morsund, and Terry Larson.

### **Trinity Lutheran**

The earliest history of Newman Grove includes Trinity Lutheran Church. The Rev. G. Erdahl a Norwegian pastor visited from Omaha. He visited again in August of 1873 and baptized some children. On August 30, 1874, he helped to organize "The Skandinaviska Lutherska Trefoldighed Menighed" in the schoolhouse in Old Town, north of the Shell Creek bridge. Thirty-two adults and fifty children were enrolled as members.

Early settlers lived in Boone, Platte and Madison counties so services were held in the Newman Grove schoolhouse, District 8 in South Branch and District 23 in North Branch. In 1883 a division was made forming Trinity, North Branch, and South Branch all served by one pastor. With the growth of Newman Grove, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church became an independent congregation in 1903. The predominant language was Norwegian.

Early family names on record include: Strand, Texley, Gutru, Backerud, Buan, G. Thompson, Syverson, Simonson, Hovland, Helleckson, Field, Nelson, Boe, Waum, Skillstad, Berg, Fodness, Sohus, Bruland, Horn, Belgum, Score, Kaarstad, Funrue, Froistad, Anderson, Olson, Julson, Sater, Sanderson, Tisthammer, Ole Julson, Thorsten Olson, Syver Field, Sophia Field, Holverson and Larson. Further information is available in the Newman Grove centennial book.

### **United Methodist Church**

The first Methodist church, was founded in February 1874, by Rev. S. P. Van Doozer. The Sunday school was organized two years earlier in June 1872 at the Warren family home. Services were conducted by Rev. S. P. Ballman who lived on his homestead in Albion. In 1876 Rev. Jabez Charles served the Madison circuit comprised of Madison, Union Creek, Fairview, Kalamazoo, Tracy Creek, and Newman Grove for two years. The first church building was constructed in 1882. The charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. E. Squire, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Finder, Mrs. Mary Searles, George Heany, Jefferson Heany, and Mrs. M. Searles. In 1912 many members of the Congregational church united with the Methodist. The first resident pastor in Newman Grove was the Rev. W. R. Phelps in 1887.

Source: Newman Grove, Nebraska 1888 – 1988 Centennial book

### **Population Census**

A look at the population showed that in 1888 it was 200-300. In 1900 it was 696. Then in 1910 it showed it to be 850. The highest it reached was in 1920 with a population of 1260. Source: Newman Grove, Nebraska 1888 – 1988 Centennial book

## Cemeteries in Shell Creek Township

**Shell Creek Lutheran Cemetery** is located: From Newman Grove's intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Burrows Ave. go north 1 and 5/10 miles, then east 4/10 mile. It is on the north side of the road.

**Trinity Lutheran Cemetery #1** is located: From Newman Grove's intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Burrows Ave., go west 1 mile, north 5/10 miles, then west 5/10 miles. It is on the north side of the road.

### The Businesses in 1902

3 Doctors	1 Dentist	1 Lawyer
3 Real Estate Firms	3 Blacksmith Shops	3 Livery Barns
2 Newspapers	8 General Stores	3 Hardware Stores
2 Drug Stores	3 Elevators	1 Flouring Mill
2 Saloons	1 Shoe Shop	1 Tailor
2 Barber Shops	2 Millinery Stores	2 Meat Markets
2 Banks	2 Dressmaking Stores	4 Livestock Buyers
1 Photo Studio	1 Auctioneer	1 Hotel
3 Restaurants	1 Creamery	1 Jewelry Store
3 Confectionery Stores	2 Harness Shops	4 Implement Houses
1 Carpet Factory	1 Butter and Egg Store	1 Veterinary Surgeon
4 Carpenters and Builders		1 Manufacturing Company

Source: Newman Grove, Nebraska 1888 – 1988 Centennial book

### Gas Lights

In December 1905, Newman Grove received gas for gaslights for stores and streets. The Gas Company closed in the late teens, when electricity came. Herman Quelvog did electrical wiring in 1918.

In 1887, Monroe Smith and Fuller sold lumber in "Old Town," then joined Herman Saare in a new location. Thomas Ostergard established a Grain, Lumber and Coal Business in the town's early days. He with Wm. Fried of Fremont built the largest elevator in 1887. Mr. Ostergard died in 1899. After Mr. Ostergard death, George Johnson took over the business. John Sanderson assisted with the elevator and grain, and Andrew Anderson was in charge of the lumberyard. Mr. Johnson came from Fremont and had been with the Citizen's State Bank. He was public spirited in helping the community to grow. Source: Newman Grove, Nebraska 1888 – 1988 Centennial book

### Furniture Store

It is reported that Charles Bosler operated a furniture store in 1887.

Canute John From established a furniture store in 1889 and operated until his death in 1947. Ted Jacobson began working in the furniture store in 1919. He assumed management upon Mr. From's death and became owner upon Mrs. From's death in 1952. Source: Newman Grove, Nebraska 1888 – 1988 Centennial book

**SHELL CREEK PRECINCT, Township 21 North, Range 4 West of the 6th P.M. Madison County, Nebraska.** Names of persons living on or owning land in Shell Creek extracted from the **STANDARD ATLAS OF MADISON COUNTY OF 1918.** Extracted by Jeanne Rix

Acton, G. M., Sec 16	Jacobs, J. R., Sec 2, 3
Anderson, A. J., Sec 17, 24	Jacobs, L., Sec 15
Anderson, B., Sec 32	Jacobson, Henry, Sec 10
Anderson, Carl O., Sec 5	Jensen, Hans, J., Sec 33
Anderson, G., Sec 10	Johnson, A. Sec 3, 11
Anderson, Hannah C.,	Johnson, B. A., Sec 36
Valley View Stock Farm, Sec 23	Johnson, Chris, Sec 9
Anderson, W. L., Sec 23	Johnson, Mrs. C., Sec 8
Atkinson, M. A., Sec 33	Johnson, Mrs. E., Sec 27
Auseby, O., Sec 8	Johnson, Ed, Sec 16
	Johnson, Ed F., Sec 35
Backrude, G. H., Sec 34	Johnson, Edward, Sec 15, 33
Bergland, Mathilda, Sec 7	Johnson, F. G., Sec 19, 30
Bullo, L. Q., Sec 28, 33	Johnson, F. G. & A, Sec 19
	Johnson, H., Sec 27
Campbell, Emily J., Sec 7	Johnson, J., Sec 27
Cargen, Wm., Sec 7	Johnson, J. A., Sec 30
Carlson, Swan, Sec 33	Johnson, J. B., Sec 21
Christiansen, Tom, Sec 29	Johnson, John S., Sec 33
Christo, A., Sec 33	Johnson, L. M., Sec 22
Cleveland, C, Sec 17	Johnson, L. S., Sec 22
Cleveland, W, Sec 17	Johnson, Mons O. M., Sec 10
Collins, Eli H., Sec 31	Johnson, N., Sec 13
	Johnson, Ole, Sec 8, 12, 33, 34, 35
Dahlstedt, Ed, Sec 20	Johnson, S. Aug, Sec 27, 33
Dahlsten, A., Sec 14	Juell, Anna, Sec 25
Dahlsten, Hans, Sec 1, 12	
Dannals, Elgie, Sec 26	Knape, Herman, Fairview Farm, Sec 31
Duhachek, E. A, Sec 6	Knuteson, Knute, Sec 5
Duhachek, Jos, Sec 20	Krebs, J., Sec 36
	Kvan, L. K., Sec 19
Etling, Peter, Sec 4, 5	
Eng, O., Sec 33	Larson, A. O., Sec 20
	Larson, A. P. Sec 13, 32
Field, S. S., Sec 18, 28, 29, 33	Larson, L., Sec 24
Frank, Henry, Sec 32	Larson, Robert, Sec 32
Frink, Ida V., Sec 16	Larson, Sakarias, Sec 19
Fronek, F. A., Sec 1	Larson, Swen, Sec 18, 19
Fronsdatt, S. E., Sec 22	Larson, W., Sec 24
Froistad, Andrew, M., Sec 33	Larson, Wm., Sec 13
	Lee, Mrs., Sec 35
Gabelman, Wm., Sec 2	Lee, J. J., Sec 27
Gerling, G., Sec 18, 34	Linderholm, N. F., Sec 35
Greil, J., Sec 8	Lyon, G. F., Pleasant View Stock Farm, Sec 6
Gustafson, O., Sec 27	
Gutru, G. H. Sec 2, 3, 17, 35	McKay, Myrtle, E., Sec 31
Gutru, Geo H., Sec 26, 28, 35	Malone, H. A., Sec 1
	Martin, Jr., Jas, Sec 29
Hampl, Frank, Sec 13	Melland, B. K., Sec 9
Harvey, E. B., Sec 30	Memminger, J. F., Sec 4
Hauge Church Property, Sec 33	Meyer, F. A., Sec 34
Homan, B., Sunny Slope Stock Farm, Sec 7	Mongerson, Wm., Sec 26
Huserman, A., Sec 36	

## **SHELL CREEK TOWNSHIP (CONT)**

Nelson, A., Sec 20, 34  
Nelson, Alfred Corporation, Sec 33  
Nelson, Mrs. Clara, Sec 14  
Nelson, Gust, Sec 13  
Nelson, Josef, Sec 11  
Nelson, Lars, Sec 12  
Nelson, O., Sec 23  
Nelson, O. J. Sec 3, 12  
Nelson, Peter, Sec 33  
Nelson, S., Sec 22  
Nelson, Mrs. T., Sec 13

Olson, C., Sec 9  
Olson, G., Sec 33  
Orr, G., Sec 5  
O'Shea, Ella, Sec 23, 25, 36  
O'Shea, J. J., Sec 13, 24, 29  
Oss, Gullik, Little Pine Farm, Sec 32  
Oss, Gullik, Oss Homestead, Sec 6

Paul, Gust, Sec 34  
Paulson, J., Sec 30  
Paulson, Jens, 33  
Peterson, Claus Sec 33  
Potmestl, A., Sec 25

Randall, C. A., Sec 21, 31  
Rensel, Louis, Sec 7  
Robinson, John S., Est., Sec 1  
Rosenberg, H., Sec 17

Sandin, O. P., Sec 6  
Satree, Theo, Sec 20  
Sawyer, John, Sec 15  
Scheer, John, Sec 27  
Schmuecker, A., Sec 3  
Schwager, M., Sec 29, 30  
Simonson, Geo C. Valley Stock Farm, Sec 26

Sjoberg, Matilda, Sec 33  
Stove, Jacob, Sec 21  
Strand, J. M., Sec 18  
Strand, M. M., Sec 32  
Strand, M. S., Sec 18  
Stuart, Lillie A., Sec 33  
Swenson, A. Sec 12  
Switzer, C. B., Sec 8  
Switzer, C. W., Sec 8  
Syverson, H, Sec 19

Tarbel, Robet, Sec 26  
Texley, Gilbert, O., Sec 28  
Texley, H. G., Sec 20  
Texley, Ole H., Sec 28  
Thompson, A. W., Sec 9  
Thompson, G., Sec 34  
Thompson, Gunder, Sec 33, 34  
Thompson, Jens, Sec 34  
Treinies, L., Sec 2, 11

Vaage, Geo L., Sec 23  
Vaage, J. L., Sec 4  
Vaage, J. J., Sec 9  
Vaage, L. M. J., Sec 24  
Vengestad, Knutt, Sec 33  
Vogt, Guilson, Sec 34

Westerman, Herman, Sec 4  
Whitcher, G. A., 33  
Whitcher, Geo A., Sec 28, 33  
Williamson, M. J., Sec 22  
Williamson, W. J., Sec 15  
Winstrom, P. A., Sec 26  
Wold, Ole, Sec 35

Young, Dora D. Sec 6, 25

Zovodsky, Mary, Sec 11, 14

Early in Newman Grove history Gunder Thompson had an ice business. He had large quantities to be sold to residents during the summer months. In June 1911 he sold his ice business to F. L. Widergren and Son but took it over in 1917. Ralph Cain purchased the business from Gunder Thompson when he had a restaurant and bakery in the late teens. Source: Newman Grove, Nebraska 1888 – 1988 Centennial book

### **A news item from the Newman Grove Era in 1892:**

The ice harvest on Shell Creek commenced the week of January 20<sup>th</sup>. It was of extra good quality about 16 inches in thickness and was shipped to neighboring towns.

Source: Newman Grove, Nebraska 1888 – 1988 Centennial book



**CITY OF NEWMAN GROVE**, located in Section 33, Township 21 North, Range 4 West of the 6th P.M., Madison County, Nebraska. Information was extracted from the STANDARD ATLAS OF MADISON COUNTY OF 1918. Extracted by Jeanne Rix.

The city was divided into the following additions:

Cain, Alma L.  
Cain's, S. B. 1st  
Cain's, S. B. 2nd  
Crowell's  
Hauge's Church  
Johnson, A. C.  
Johnson, Albert C.  
Railroad  
Thompson

**People living in Newman Grove**

Anderson, A. P.  
Anderson, Claus  
Anderson, Clause  
Anderson, Ellen  
Anderson, Peter A.

Backrude, C. H.  
Batty, F. S.  
Bensen, F.  
Bergstrom, A.  
Browning, H. J.  
Bulla, L. A.

Cain, Alma L.  
Cain, R. T.  
Carlson, Swan  
Channer, R. B.  
Comrath, Christina  
Congram, R. J.

Edmonds, E.  
Engleka, W. F.  
Engleka, Wm. E.  
Evans, E.

Field, Bertina Mrs.  
Field, S. S.  
From, C. J.  
Fulsas, E. K.

Gerhart  
Gerhart, E. H.  
Granlun, Chas  
Granlund, G.  
Gregerson, O.

Guffey, O. E.  
Gunnison, Mary  
Gustafson, A.  
Gustavson, C. R.  
Gutru, G. H.  
Gutru, Geo H.

Hancher, A. G.  
Hasting  
Halderson, G.  
Halderson, H.  
Halverson, Lars  
Harison, J.  
Harvey, Cora E.  
Hauge, A.  
Haugh, F. Frant  
Hellickson, H.  
Hinman, C. R.  
Husenettier, J. A.

Jacobs  
Jacobson, H.  
Jensen  
Johanson, C.  
Johnson, Axel  
Johnson, E. W.  
Johnson, Hilda

Knapp, W.

Lakan, O. H.  
Larson, A. O.  
Larson, C.  
Larson, Edw  
Lethaby, Chas  
Lind, A. E.

Martian, C. H.

Nelson, Bill  
Nelson, J.  
Nelson, Oscar

Olson, J. V.  
Olson, Lars  
Olson, O.  
Olson, O. H.  
Olson, Mrs. S.  
Oppen, B.  
O'Shea, J. J.

Paulson, Ilda  
Peterson, Lena

Randall, Mary  
Robinson, A.

Sawyer, R. J.  
Sjoberg, Swan  
Sundell, C.

Texley, G. H.  
Thompson, Gunder

Vogt, G. D.

Week, Anna  
Whitt, L.  
Wildergren  
Wildergren, F. L.  
Witt, B. F.  
Witt, Mrs. D.

Young, D. D.

Those who lived in the section of the city of **Newman Grove** located in **Platte County** are:

Anderson, P.  
Anderson, P. A.

Brinnell, G.  
Brinkman, G.

Eng, Oscar

Froistad, Mrs. M. O.

Houland, Lars

Johnson, A. A.

Krong

Lymath, John

Nordgren, A.

Sievers, A.  
Switzer, C. W.

## **The beginnings of Newman Grove, Nebraska**

(Source: Excerpted from Tri-County Pioneers by H. Halderson)

### **John W. Bloomfield**

The beginnings of Newman Grove started in 1867. The first homesteader in Shell Creek precinct, Madison County, Nebraska, was John W. Bloomfield, popularly known as "Johnny Smoker". His homestead entry for the S ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 28, Township 21 North, Range 4 West of 6<sup>th</sup> P. M. was made on May 17, 1867. It was claimed that this was the first homestead entry in Madison county, but on examination of the records it was found that William Boche had filed on a homestead northeast of Madison on May 14, 1867, three days prior. Bloomfield then obtained a Government Patent on November 20, 1874. Johnny Smoker was unmarried and lived a secluded life on this land for several years until it was sold to Syver Neilson (Field). Few facts are known about him as it seems he was more friendly with the Indians than with the white settlers. He lived in a dugout on the south bank of Shell Creek running through his land and another dugout was for his pony.

In 1873, Johnny Smoker asked Ole Texley to look after the pony while he went to Battle Creek for a short visit. While Johnny was gone, the highest flood in Shell Creek history came. While the water was rising, Ole Texley came across the dugout and saved the pony. Johnny agreed to sell some 160 acres of land to Syver Nelson (Field), and on February 7, 1876, Johnny, Syver Nelson (Field), and Gundeer Hamre went to Norfolk where the deed was delivered, and Bloomfield received \$800.00 in currency. The deed was acknowledged by Geo. B. Fletcher, a notary public, and witnessed by Geo. B. Fletcher and John Sonbessen. It is said that Bloomfield gave the money to a friend to keep for a day or so; that he went there one dark stormy night about ten or eleven o'clock, received the money from the custodian and walked on into the night alone. His disappearance has never been satisfactorily explained. Wm. Bickley headed a group of men who made an unsuccessful search in the Shell Creek region in an attempt to solve the mystery.

### **Lewis Warren and Newman Warren**

Lewis Warren was one of the first three settlers in Shell Creek precinct. Johnny W. Bloomfield was most likely the first one. Lewis Warren and Geo. A. Whitcher came about the same time about a year after Bloomfield. Lewis Warren filed Agricultural Script location No. 1673 for the S ½ of NE ¼ Section 33, Township 21 North, Range 4 West [City park location in 1949] for his minor son Newman Warren and filed No. 1674 for the N ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 33, Township 21 North, Range 4 West for himself. Both tracts were patented July 1, 1871. Lewis Warren was born in Killingsley County, Connecticut. He was married in West Day or Westdale, New York and came west to Red Oak, Iowa, where they lived until after the Civil War. He had enlisted in the Union Army, Company K, 15<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry, and served to the end of the war, after which he was awarded a pension for a service connected disability. About 1866, he arrived in an area east of Schuyler, NE. with some livestock, farm tools and \$1.50 in his pocket. Then he moved to the Shell Creek location and built the first log home on the corner where the Lars Olson filling station is located [as of 1949].

The following is a quote from the book, Tri-County Pioneers.

"Mr. Warren took an intense interest in the affairs of this pioneer settlement, and being a man of means furnished work for, and helped many of the new settlers to make a living. In 1871, Geo. A. Witcher and Lewis Warren established the wagon road route from Newman Grove to Cedar Creek near Oakdale to the intersection of the Elkhorn Valley road leading to Wisner. They stopped at the dugout of F. L. Putney's father, three miles south and one mile west of Oakdale. Warren marked the course of the road by plowing one furrow with a breaking plow. While living here, Warren's son, Newman Warren, a very fine young man died at about the age of 20/21 years, (about 1873), leaving his father his homestead and other property. The town of Newman Grove was named after Newman Warren. The word "Grove" was added because there was a beautiful grove on Newman's homestead."

The Old Town was located on his timber clad land, and in commemoration of this young pioneer this town was named "Newman's Grove".

The log house built by Lewis Warren was used, rent free, as a schoolhouse for the purpose of the first term of school under the public school system in Shell Creek precinct. E. M. Squire was the teacher. Hellick G. Texley and E. G. Squire and five or six others were the pupils enrolled at that term.

Another quote from Tri-County Pioneers, "He (Lewis Warren) is described as a big man of fine appearance, energetic and versatile in business matters, surveyor, railroad contractor and lawyer. He was admitted to the bar, presumably in Columbus, removed from Newman Grove about 1879, practiced law in Oakdale and Neligh in partnership with G. G. Sparks, later with Tom O'Day, moved on to Bassett, and finally settled in Kent, Kings County, Washington, where he died on May 18, 1901."

In another article from the book, Lewis Warren was very versatile, energetic, and had considerable financial means---a good farmer, surveyor, lay lawyer, and horse doctor. Mr. Warren served in Co. K, 15<sup>th</sup> Iowa and in Co. B, 13<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry during the Civil War.

### **Austania Warren**

Austania Warren was about seven years old when her father homesteaded in Shell Creek. She planted the cottonwood trees north of the Hauges Church, some of them now [as of 1949] measuring 16 feet around. Lewis Warren plowed furrows with an ox team while she planted the saplings as instructed by her father. In an article in the book Tri-County Pioneers about Mrs. Austania (Tania Warren) Shephard is the following information: "The giant cottonwood trees north of the Shell Creek church were planted by Tania Warren in about 1868 when she was eleven years old," and "Some years later the walnut trees west of the church were planted by Chris Simonson who was employed by Lewis Warren." The exact birthplace of Tania Warren is not known, but she was born someplace in Missouri in 1857. Her father moved from there to Red Oak, Iowa, when she was three years old. The next move the family made was to a farm located a few miles east of Schuyler, NE. in 1866. Then about 1868 they moved to Shell Creek precinct.

Tania was of school age when her father married for the second time. She went to Columbus and found work and attended public school there. A Rev. Reed helped her while she was in Columbus. He secured a railroad pass for her to go to Hartford, Connecticut, where she visited her father's birthplace and his relatives [year not listed]. Later she went to Saratoga County, New York, where she visited with the relatives of



her deceased mother. It was while there she married A. D. Shepard, on March 11, 1878, and lived in Saratoga County, New York for fourteen years. The family then moved to Woodbine, Iowa. On February 22, 1908, Mr. Shepard was killed in an accident. The widow and children continued their residence at Woodbine, Iowa. After she left for Columbus in about 1870, Tania was separated from the Warren family and from the strange events that subsequently occurred. The whereabouts of Austania was unknown to the Warren family. From all the information available all of the children of Warren's second marriage passed away and Austania was the only known survivor of the Warren family.

There is another story in Tri-County Pioneers that talks about the killing of cattle and the end result that finally took place to locate Mrs. Austania Shepard and give her \$152. This was the sum she received after expenses were paid from the settlement of \$190. This settlement was made 43 years after the claim was filed, 28 years after it was allowed and 65 years after the date of the killing of the cattle that belonged to Lewis Warren.

### **George A. Witcher**

Our third resident in Shell Creek precinct was most likely George A. Witcher. He was born January 22, 1844, in White County, Indiana, where he lived until he volunteered to join the Union Army. In 1862, at the age of eighteen he enlisted in Company A, Regiment 46, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He served faithfully and was honorably discharged at the close of the war in 1865. He then returned to his original home in Indiana where he remained for a brief time. In 1867 he departed for the frontier of the Middle West. He related to the author of Tri-County Pioneers that he traveled through the Shell Creek region in 1867, but it seems he went on to other parts, looking for land and employment, and did not decide to locate here permanently until two or three years later.

On September 29, 1870, he made a homestead entry for the SE ¼ of Section 28, Township 21 North, Range 4 West and was issued a patent on June 30, 1876. It is said he was living in the neighborhood for a time prior to his homestead entry. The dugout was built on the west bank of Shell Creek on the southwest forty of the quarter now owned by H. Halderson, author of Tri-County Pioneers in 1949. Mr. Witcher's nearest neighbor was John W. Bloomfield "Johnnie Smoker," about 80 rods west on the Sever S. Field land. Both of them were unmarried, and they spent a great deal of time together in hunting, fishing and visiting each other in the evenings. Mr. Witcher was not satisfied with life in a dug out and made plans early to build a log house on higher ground. The location that was selected was on an elevation north of the barn and windmill on the present [as of 1949] Halderson land. Some timber workers were employed to speed construction of the house, but he attended to the main part of it himself. This was a large house and it had a real board floor in it. When completed, he gave a general and public invitation to a dance—the first dance in Shell Creek, 1872.

He was married to Betsy Jackson in October, 1873. Mr. and Mrs. Witcher were active in promoting the interests of church and school in the pioneer settlement. Their children were: Edith, Claude, Myrtle, Rose, Georgia, Grace and Willie. They all grew to adulthood in Newman Grove. Mr. Witcher was clerk at the first election held in Shell Creek and was the school district officer at various times. He was also a bondsman. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. They moved from the farm to



Newman Grove and later moved to Wichita, Kansas. Mr. Witcher lived in Wichita until his death on March 4, 1920. From the author H. Halderson, about Mr. Witcher, "He had the spirit to defend the constitution in war and to live and exemplify its principles in peace, leaving to his children and succeeding generations a fine example of life and service." Source: Tri-County Pioneers

### **Builders of homes and business**

Builders of homes and business also played a role in the growth of Newman Grove and the area. N. A. Hagenstein was a carpenter in 1886. A. T. Rodman was also a carpenter and a Justice of the Peace in the area in 1886. E. J. Crockett and Wm. Hartwick arrived in 1887. Mr. Hartwick was a plasterer and mason until 1899. S. August Johnson, arriving in 1909, built most of the concrete sidewalks in Newman Grove. Gust Brinell worked with Mr. Johnson. Mr. Sjoberg opened a carpenter repair shop in 1909 on Hale Street. Then in 1910, C. R. Vail started a cement block business west of the Opera House. Zieg Brothers purchased it in 1912 and then it was sold to Chris Knudson in 1914. Gunder Thompson had a brickyard in northeast Newman Grove around the time of 1914.

Newman Grove Milling Company, owners C. R. and Lex Gustafson and Joseph Johnson, put in a lumberyard and began as contractors in 1911. Lex Gustafson sold his share and went into the hardware business in 1918. Between 1911 – 1919 the milling company built the following business places in Newman Grove:

W. E. Harvey Garage	Newman Grove Post	Bruenig Building
C. J. From Furniture	Office	Newman Grove State
Farmers Union	Sophia Linderholm Bldg.	Bank
Marians Meat Market	E. W. Hallgren Store	City Cafe
First National Bank	F. L. Widergren Garage	Loup Power building

The residences built in town and the surrounding area by the Newman Grove Milling Company were:

E. H. Gerhart	W. E. Harvey	C. J. From
Lew Jacobs	Dr. W. C. Hastings	Dr. Frank Jensen
Gus Nelson	Dr. Adamson	Ted Jacobson
Lex Gustafson	Joe Johnson	Fred Mellberg
George Gutru	C. E. Barrett	Henry Jacobson
Carl Olson	Matt Froistad	John E. Johnson
Theo Happ	Otto Eucker	Wm. Hodges
J. Kuchar	Fred Satler	Zakarius Nelson
Victor Nelson	J. V. Nelson	Albert Flood
Hans Lee	Pete Bruland	Alvin Johnson
Alfred Olson	Henry Knope	Charley Schmadeke
Leu Kvam	Joseph Nelson	Charley Swanson
S. August Johnson		

C. Sundell, a builder, and W. S. King, housemover, bricklayer and carpenter arrived in 1916. They were joined in 1919 by E. E. Anderson and Mr. Vallerstet. E. E. Anderson sold Kragstone Stucco. Source: Newman Grove, Nebraska 1888-1988 Centennial book.

**Meetings:** The Madison County Genealogical Society meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except in December) at 7:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 404 W. Benjamin Ave., Norfolk, NE.

**Officers for 2000-2001:** President: John Kielty; Vice-president: Dr. Charlton Ryan; Secretary: Diane Ramaekers; Treasurer: Don and Dorothy Monson

**Madison County Remembers...** is published Jan., Mar., May, Jul., Sept., and Nov. Submissions are welcome. Newsletter Committee: Karen Rogat, Charlton Ryan, Sue Askew, Tommie Tracy, Bernice Dewey, Richard Streng, Nancy Zaruba, David Zaruba, and Jeanne Rix.

**MCGS Library** is now located at the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center, 515 Queen City Boulevard, Norfolk, NE. Phone: (402) 371-3886. Please call for library hours. Museum hours are 10-4 Tuesday through Saturday and 1-4 on Sundays.

**Dues** are due in September of each year. Dues are \$10.00 for individual or \$15.00 per couple per year.

**Mailing address** for the Madison County Genealogical Society is P.O. Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702-1031. Newsletter submissions and all correspondence should be submitted to this address.

**Web page address** is <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nemcgs>

**Madison County Genealogical Society**  
P.O. Box 1031  
Norfolk, NE 68702-1031

**Temp. Return Service**



**FIRST CLASS**

