

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 1031

Norfolk, NE 68702-1031

VOLUME 12 - NUMBER 45

OCTOBER, 1990

1ST QUARTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Many of us have pleasant memories of great vacation we had this past summer or delightful moments of entertaining our friends and relatives who vacationed with us this past summer season. Autumn has arrived with much cooler temperatures and an array of colorful scenery. Now is a good time of eagerly getting back to the enjoyment of researching and gathering more information about our ancestors.

I am looking forward to a great year of gleaning our information about my ancestors and learning what made each of them unique.

Many thanks to each of you who gave monetary donations or items to be sold at the bazaar. Monies received will be used for another book-case - hopefully we can enhance our book collection for genealogical research.

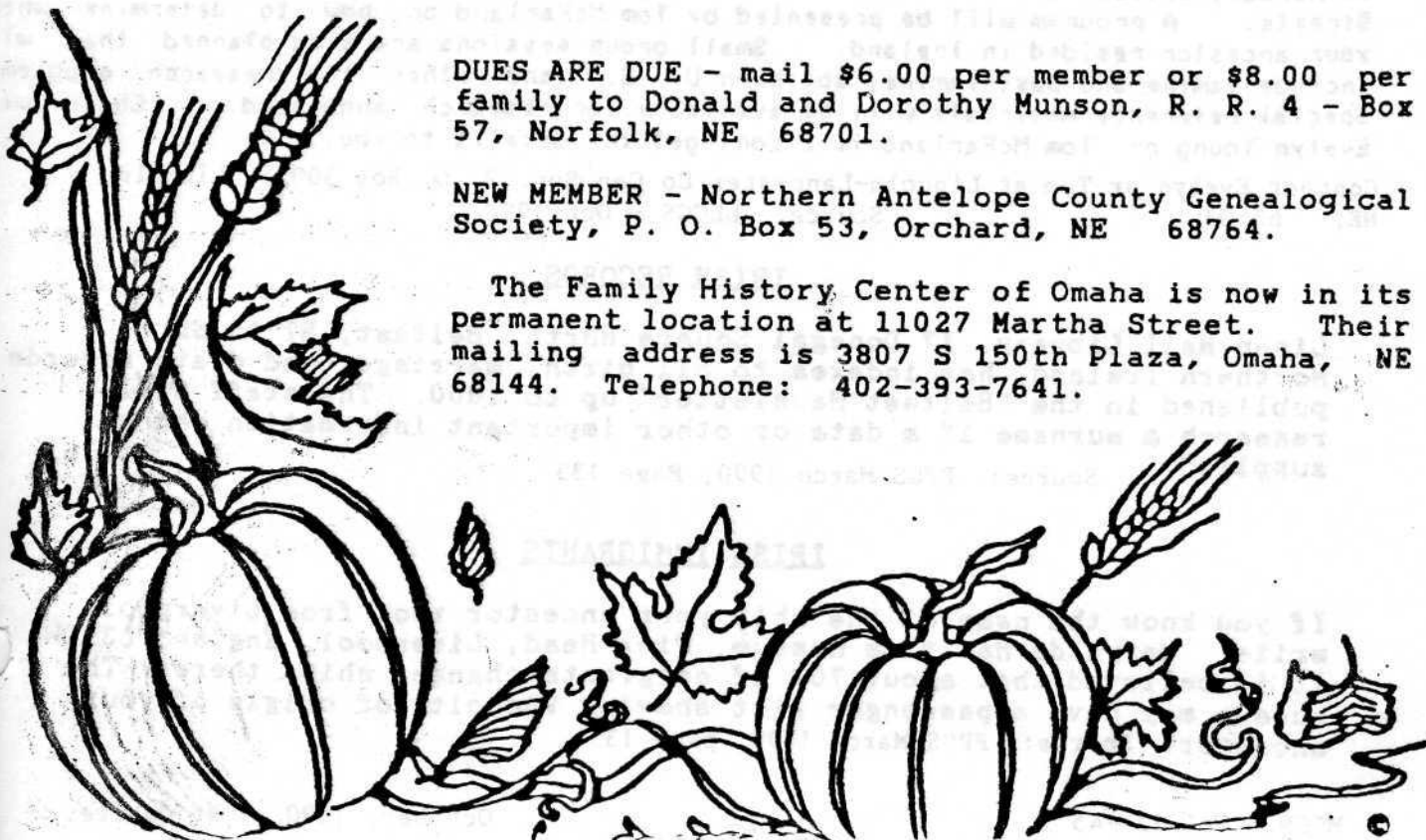
Sincerely,

Lottie Klein

DUES ARE DUE - mail \$6.00 per member or \$8.00 per family to Donald and Dorothy Munson, R. R. 4 - Box 57, Norfolk, NE 68701.

NEW MEMBER - Northern Antelope County Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 53, Orchard, NE 68764.

The Family History Center of Omaha is now in its permanent location at 11027 Martha Street. Their mailing address is 3807 S 150th Plaza, Omaha, NE 68144. Telephone: 402-393-7641.



MISINFORMATION ON IRISH PASSENGER LISTS

An article originally published in the Federation of Genealogical Societies newsletter, vol. II #2, March/April 1987 stated that the Merseyside Maritime Museum, Pier Head, Liverpool, Eng, L31 DW. could be able to locate the specific place of origin in Ireland where your ancestor lived. The article claimed that 70% of all Irish immigrants sailing for the U. S. during the famine years of the mid 19th century changed ships in Liverpool.

A genealogist from Los Altos, California wrote to Merseyside, giving names of family, date of sailing for U. S., name of ship and line, source of data, enclosed a \$10.00 donation, a SASE, and 3 International Reply coupons. The writer received back a printed form "Thanks for your donation" and a leaflet of printed material on how to get started in genealogy. One page of the leaflet stated the following:



"Contrary to popular belief, Liverpool's port records NEVER dealt with the embarkation of emigrants. The Port Authority was concerned with the clearing and docking of ships and NOT with individual ships' passengers.

The writer was concerned about other newsletters publishing this "news" in good faith and hoped that the Federation of Genealogical Societies would require stricter verification of source tips in the future.

A word of caution might be just to send a SASE requesting information on the material you are searching before sending any funds.

Source: LCGIS/8.3/April 1988

IRISH/SCOTCH WORKSHOP--Lincoln, Nebraska

The Nebraskans of Irish/Scotch Irish Ancestry will have a genealogical workshop on Monday, October 29th at 7-9 pm. at Aldersgate Methodist Church at 84th and South Streets. A program will be presented by Tom McFarland on how to determine where your ancestor resided in Ireland. Small group sessions are also planned that will include famine and post-famine, southern U. S., and other the research problems. Special reference materials will be available for research announced. Check with Evelyn Young or Tom McFarland if I dont get the details to you.

Contact Evelyn or Tom at Lincoln-Lancaster Co Gen Soc. P. O. Box 30055, Lincoln, NE. 68503.

Source: LLCGS - Oct 1990

IRISH RECORDS

Linen Hall Library, 17 Donegal Square North, Belfast, BT 15 GD, Northern Ireland, has indexes to all birth, marriage, and death records published in the "Belfast Newsletter" up to 1800. The staff will research a surname if a date or other important information can be supplied.

Source: PPGS March 1990, Page 133

IRISH IMMIGRANTS

If you know the name of the ship your ancestor took from Liverpool, write: Maryside Maritime Museum, Pier Head, Liverpool, England L310W. It is believed that about 70% of emigrants changed ships there. The museum may have a passenger list showing the city of origin of your ancestor. Source: PPGS March 1990, page 133

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
FAMILY HISTORY CENTER OF THE LINCOLN NEBRASKA STAKE
ANNOUNCES



THE FALL GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS
INTERNATIONAL "FARE"
OCTOBER 27, 1990



AN EXCITING AND INTERESTING DAY HAS BEEN PLANNED WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES BEING HIGHLIGHTED WITH A SAMPLING OF FOOD, DRESS, AND AUTHENTIC ITEMS REPRESENTATIVE OF THAT CULTURE.

AND INTRODUCING - - - FAMILY SEARCH
THE LONG-AWAITED COMPUTER PROGRAM ON COMPACT DISC

REGISTRATION 8:00AM COST \$10.00

PRESENTATION "FAMILY SEARCH" 9:00AM
THE NEW COMPUTER SOFTWARE DESIGNED TO HELP SIMPLIFY AND
SPEED-UP THE TASK OF FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

WORKSHOPS 10:30 - 3:30PM

THE IGI, FHLC AND ANCESTRAL FILE ON COMPACT DISC-Howard Camp
Blair Bench

HOW TO USE THE PERSONAL ANCESTRAL FILE (PAF) - Jim Randall Jr.
PERSONAL JOURNALS - AN INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY HISTORIES-Shauna
Valentine

COMPILING A FAMILY HISTORY - Dr. Robert Egbert
HOW TO BEGIN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH - Tommi Jones
HOW TO USE THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER - Bob Howell
GENEALOGICAL NIGHTMARE IN A BOX?! LET'S GET ORGANIZED-Audrey Nitz
THE ORPHAN TRAIN FROM NEW YORK TO NEBRASKA - Eloise Thomsen

FOREIGN RESEARCH WORKSHOPS WILL ALSO BE TAUGHT

REMOVING THE BARRIER TO CZECH RESEARCH - Marge Sobotka
ENGLAND - THE MOTHER COUNTRY - Mary Ellen and Alan Gould
IRISH RESEARCH THROUGH USE OF LDS RECORDS - Tom McFarland
HOW TO DO GERMAN RESEARCH - Ken Caswell
NORWEGIAN RESEARCH - Marta Mjeldheim
THE NETHERLAND CONNECTION - Nettie Leavitt

TO AVOID LONG LINES, PLEASE PRE-REGISTER: (\$10.00) _____

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____ PHONE _____

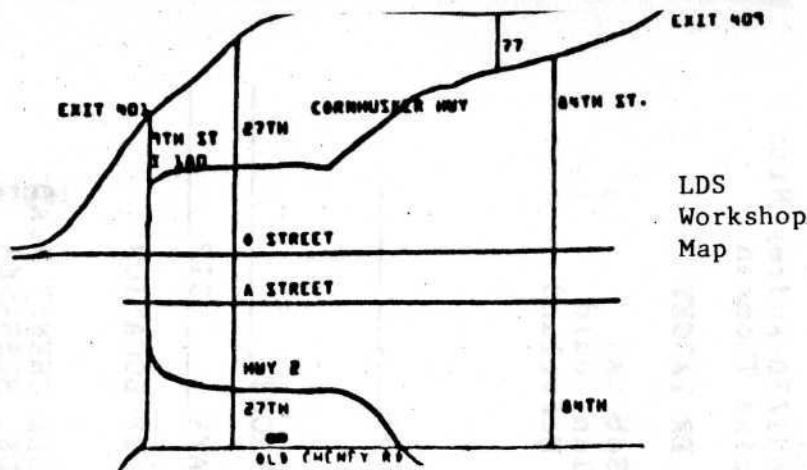
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

RETURN THIS FORM BY OCT. 14TH TO

WORKSHOP LOCATION:

LINCOLN NEBRASKA STAKE
FAMILY HISTORY CENTER
P.O. BOX 82202
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68501

3100 OLD CHENEY ROAD
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
(402) 423-4561



NEWMAN GROVE POST OFFICE

Prior to the establishment of a United States Post Office in Newman Grove, the nearest post office was Columbus, Nebraska. For the convenience of the few settlers in the Shell Creek vicinity, there was a voluntary arrangement made by which mail addressed to the residents of the neighborhood was taken from Columbus and left at a homestead location a short distance south east of Newman Grove. The town had no official name at that time. On June 23, 1874, the United States Post Office Department established the post office under the official name of Newman Grove and located it in Gunder J. Hamre's store in the Old Town, the plat of which was located a short distance north of Shell Creek, filed by Gunder J. Hamre. The first Postmaster was Gunder J. Hamre, followed by George B. Hovland. While the application for this post office was pending, a keen rivalry developed relative to the appropriate name for it. Christian Simonson and many others urged that the official name should be "Skjold," a locality in Norway where many settlers came from. Lewis Warren had a son named Newman Warren, about twenty-one years old, who died unexpectedly after having filed homestead entry on the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 33-21-4 W., that had a lot of fine trees on it. Lewis Warren insisted on having the post office name in memory of his son "Newman" combined with "Grove," descriptive of the homestead. Lewis Warren was resourceful and influential and succeeded in having the name Newman Grove officially adopted. In 1887 Wm. T. Searles filed Plat of Railroad Addition to Newman Grove, which included all of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 33-21-4 W., and the post office was moved to a location on Hale street, against bitter opposition of residents of the Old Town.

-4-

October, 1990 - 1st Quarter

LEWIS WARREN



LEWIS WARREN

Lewis Warren was one of the three first settlers in Shell Creek precinct. John W. Bloomfield, "Johnny Smoker", was undoubtedly the first. He made homestead entry May 17, 1867, for the South half of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, Twp. 21, R 4 W, now the Mrs. Sever S. Field land. Lewis Warren and Geo. A. Whitcher came about the same time about a year later. Lewis Warren filed Agricultural Script location No. 1673 for S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, (the present City Park location) 33T 21, R 4 W, for his minor son Newman Warren, and No. 1674 for the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 33 T 21, R 4 W, for himself both of which tracts were patented July 1, 1871. For over five years I made diligent search for a photograph of Lewis Warren in Neligh, Oakdale, Bassett, Newman Grove and Schuyler, and, having recently found one, I am now able to publish it as a part of the pioneer history of this region.

The photograph was taken by Wm. Lawrence, a Neligh photographer, about 1870.

Lewis Warren was born in Killingsley County, Connecticut, married in West Day, or Westdale, New York and came west to Red Oak, Iowa, where the family lived until after the Civil War. He

enlisted in the Union Army, Company K, 15th Iowa Infantry, and served to the end of the war, after which he was awarded a pension for service connected disability. In about 1866 he arrived in the vicinity east of Schuyler with some livestock, farm tools and \$1.50 in his pocket. From there he moved to the Shell Creek location above described. He built the first log house on the corner where the Lars Olson filling station is located.

Mr. Warren took an intense interest in the affairs of this pioneer settlement, and being a man of means he furnished work for, and helped many of the new settlers to make a living. In 1871, Geo. A. Whitcher 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 this 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 21 years, 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.

It would require a volume to write a full history of Lewis Warren. He 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.

The log house built by Lewis Warren on the present Lars Olson oil station corner, was used, rent free, as a school house 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.

In 1869 or '70 the Indians stole and killed some of his cattle and in 1891, after the establishment of the Court of Claims he filed a claim for Indian depredations, which was finally allowed in part, 37 years later. I prepared Whitcher's affidavit in support of this claim and later assisted in a world wide search for Warren's heirs, who

were to receive the amount allowed by the Court of Claims.

The following is a copy of a part of the record in Washington, D. C., touching this claim:

In the Court of Claims. Indian Depredations.

Lewis Warren, vs. the United States and the Sioux Indians.

No. 4863.

Abstract of evidence and brief for claimant.

The petition alleges that in April 1869 or 1870, Indians of the Sioux tribe took from the claimant in Madison County, Nebraska:

2 oxen at \$75.....	\$150.00
1 bull at	90.00
1 bull	75.00
1 cow	60.00
1 cow	40.00
2 oxen at \$75.....	150.00

Total.....\$565.00

The claim was not filed in the Indian office.

When the claimant came to be examined he modified his claim relieving the Indians and the Government from liability except for the following:

1 bull	\$ 75.00
1 ox	75.00
1 cow	60.00
1 bull damaged.....	90.00
1 cow damaged.....	40.00

Total.....\$340.00

For that amount judgment will be asked.

Depositions

LEWIS WARREN, Sept. 9, 1896, Age 71. Surveyor by trade and Attorney by profession. Resident of King county, Washington. I am the claimant.

I withdraw all claims against the Government and Indians except the following:

1 bull	\$ 75.00
1 ox	75.00

1 cow	60.00
1 bull damaged.....	90.00
1 cow	40.00

I paid cash down, exactly those amounts for these cattle and they were in as good condition when killed as when I bought them.

I was born in Killingsley County, Connecticut, of parents who were citizens of United States.

At the time of my loss I was living in the southwest corner of Madison county, Nebraska. Directly after my cattle were killed the Government sent soldiers there under the command of Lieutenant Wailess. My cattle were killed on the night of the 21st of April, 1870 at the time a woman was shot near the place and was taken to my house. I exhibit with this deposition a copy of my letter to the secretary of the Interior inquiring the date when Lientenant Wailess was ordered to Madison county, which shows that he was in command from July to November, 1870, and that his present address is unknown to the Department.

At night my cattle were all corralled close to the house and one of them was belled. I heard the Indians driving them out but was not prepared to protect myself. They drove the cattle to Shell Creek, about three-quarters of a mile, where they shot and killed one bull, one ox and one cow. They shot other cattle full of arrows, and they were ever after that worthless. It would have been better for me if they had all been killed.

My neighbors, Elias Stowe, Benny Stowe, William Manice, George A. Whitcher, and John Blumfield went with me to where the cattle had been killed. Those which had been killed and those which had been wounded were shot with arrows of the kind used by Yankton Sioux. The Indians had removed and cooked the entrails of the three dead cattle and had cut off meat from the carcass and strips of raw hide.

I can only find one witness, George A Whitcher who lives at Newman Grove, Madison County, Nebraska.

Cross-Examination: I draw a pension from the Government on account of the gun shot wound received in the Civil War.

No person has any interest in these cattle. Three of them were killed outright.

I say that the amounts I claim were the amounts actually paid for these cattle and that the cattle were in as good condition as when I bought them.

The nearest town to my ranch was Columbus, thirty-five miles away.

I have tried to find the other witnesses I have named but can learn nothing of them. Lieutenant Wailess would know of this loss for he saw the bones of the cattle.

I have no children who know anything of the circumstances of the loss. My boy, then twenty years old, was not at home. There was a little girl seven years old then who stayed at my house that night who would know of the cattle being killed. Her name is Austania Sheppard who lives close to Sioux City, Iowa. I traded off the wounded bull for \$9.00. I do not think I got anything for the wounded cow.

These cattle were taken 6 or 8 rods from my house and there were tracks of Indians where they were killed. The Sioux were right there and shot a woman who was brought to my house. These arrows were not Pawnee arrows, they were Sioux arrows. The Sioux were there to steal ponies from the Pawnees.

GEORGE WHITCHER (Oct. 10, 1906). "My age is 62 years. My residence is Newman Grove, Madison County, Nebraska. I knew the claimant, Lewis Warren, between 1860 and 1870. During that period he lived on Shell Creek in Madison County, Nebraska. He lost property at the hands of the Indians in the bend of Shell Creek, in Madison County, in the spring of 1869 or '70, the month of April. The property taken consisted of 2 oxen and one short horned bull which were shot with arrows; all of which died; a cow shot with arrows died the first day; a cow shot with arrows and an ox shot with arrows. I cannot state whether the ox died or not. The two oxen killed were worth \$150. The bull killed was worth \$75.00 and the two cows that I know died were worth \$40.00. The Indians were the Sioux. My opinion on that point is based on the shape of the arrows and also upon the fact that the Sioux stole horses from the Pawnee, about twenty miles below this place; and also upon the fact that these Indians told the Nelsons that they were Sioux.

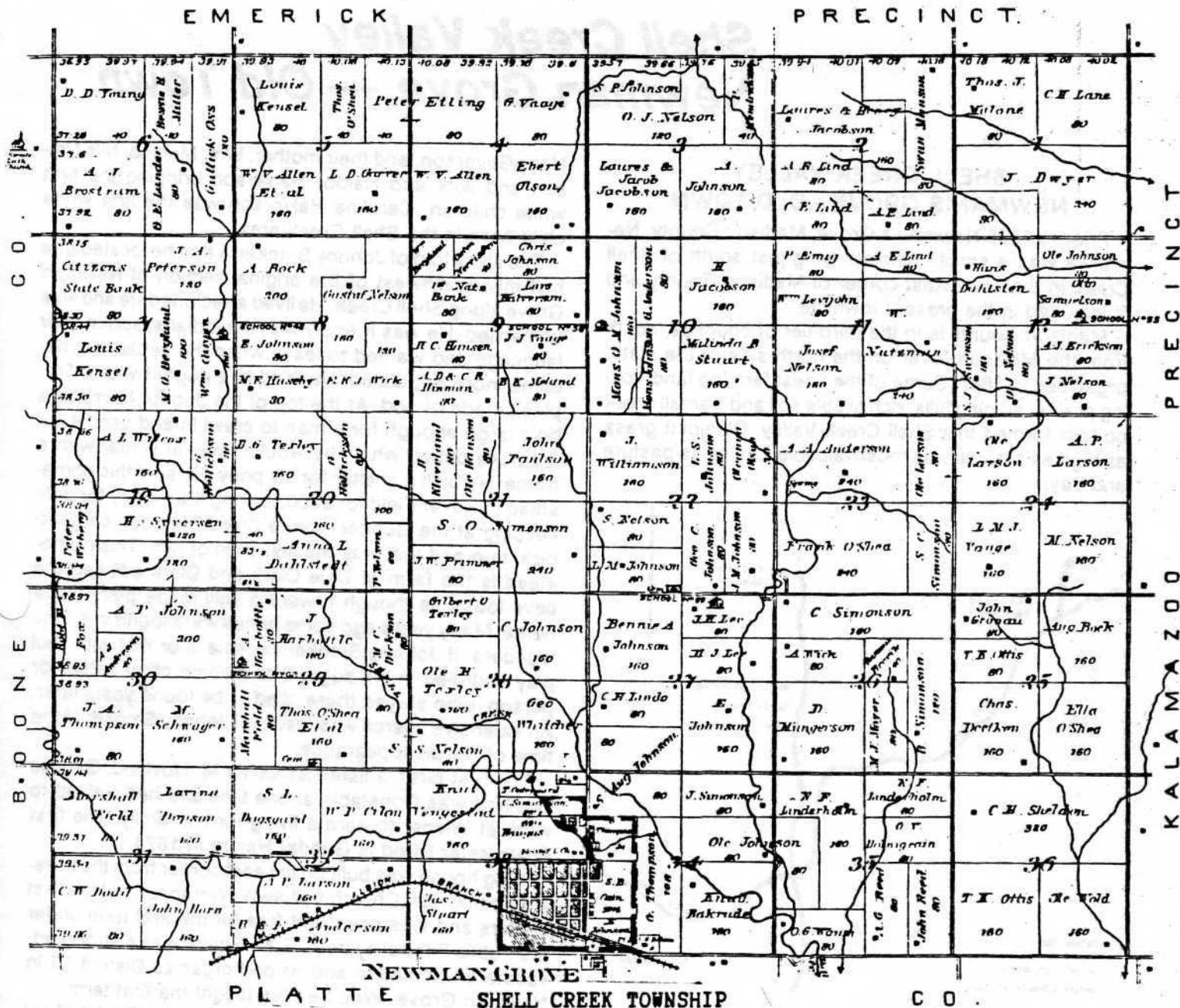
I say that this property was taken by Indians because I, myself, pulled the arrow out of the carcass of one cow and saw an arrow pulled out of one of the oxen."

SHIELL CREEK

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.

Township 21 North. Range 4 West.

of the 6th Principal Meridian.



Newman Grove is situated in the extreme southwest corner of the county, in Shell Creek Valley. This valley contains some of the finest farming lands in the county. The first settler was Newman Warren, who located in 1864. He died in 1867. John Blomfeel, Nils Nilson and William Mancoe came in 1866. First birth was Lewis M Hovland, born in 1877. First marriage, George B. Hovland and Jennie Simonson, on April 13, 1876. A school house was built in 1872, and a church in 1881. A post office was established in 1874, G. J. Hamre, Postmaster, who also opened the first store.

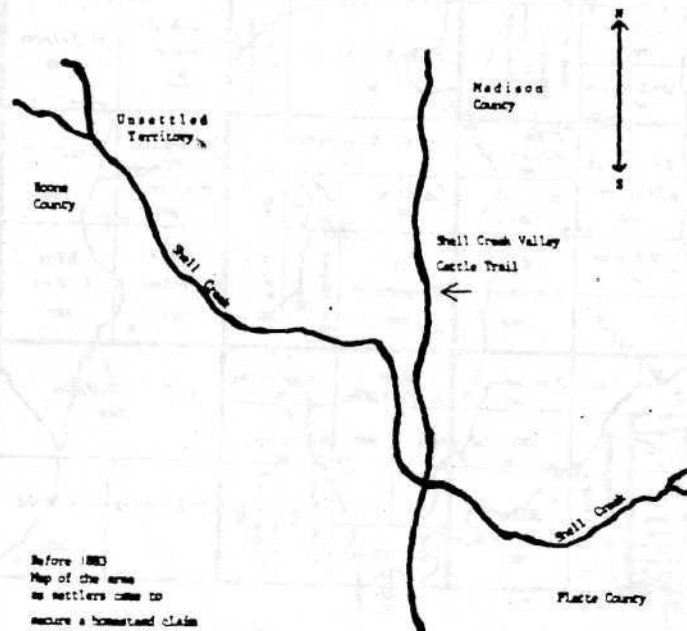
Newman Grove received its name from a beautiful grove of natural timber (cottonwood), of about one hundred and sixty acres in extent, which is situated in the vicinity. The grove belonged to Newman Warren and was known as the Newman Grove. The peak population, in 1920, was 1,260. The post office was established June 23, 1874.

Shell Creek Valley Newman Grove — Old Town

SHELL CREEK VALLEY NEWMAN'S GROVE - OLD TOWN

Prior to 1886 Newman's Grove, Madison County, Nebraska was a small "hamlet" lying just south of Shell Creek in the southwest corner of Madison County and is included in the present townsite.

Madison County is in the third tier of counties, south from the Missouri River on the north side of the state, organized in 1867. Some of the finest farming land, rolling prairie, sloping hills, rich tillable soil and a small creek bottom formed this Shell Creek Valley. Bluejoint grass as high as a horse was most valuable for use as pasture and hay.



A few scattered settlers found their way into the area searching for a place to locate and homestead a claim in this new strange land. Most came up the Platte River Valley through Columbus and a few came from the Elkhorn River Valley.

John Bloomfield (Johnny Smoker), a Scotsman, is felt to be the first settler coming to the Shell Creek community about five years before early settlers. Lewis and son Newman Warren came about 1864 followed by George Witcher, Wm. Searles, Snyder, Hans Olson, Ole and

Hans Severson, and their mother. Wm. Menice, Nils Nelson and wife and Haldor Halverson bringing the first white children. Caroline Halvorson was the first white child born in the Shell Creek area.

The story told of Johnny Smoker is that he located one half mile northwest of the original section of Newman Grove along Shell Creek. He lived a secluded life and was unmarried. He was friendly with the Indians, spoke their language and wanted to leave when the settlement became more populated. He lived in a dugout with a fireplace made of sod. At the top of the dugout he made a hole large enough for a man to crawl in and used it for a smoke outlet, which he would cover in winter with a frame. He built a shelter for his pony. He sold this homestead to Sever Field for \$800, leaving the money for safe keeping at the Gunder Home Store. He soon came to pick it up and that was the last seen of him. This homestead is the farm of Dale Clark and Clark advised the cave looks as though it were a well made place for a home. Many years ago some bones were found in it. One wonders, if Johnny Smoker became ill or met with foul play and died in his dugout, or if some other settler or person, who stayed there, died to be found years later. An extensive search was made for Johnny Smoker at the time of his disappearance.

The first birth is listed as Lewis M. Hovland; George Hovland was Constable at one time and had walked to work at Wisner to earn a living for his family. The first Postmaster listed is Gunder Hamre in 1874.

A log house was built on the east corner from the present Shell Creek Church by Lewis Warren, one of the first settlers and was used rent free for the first term under the Public School system. E. M. Squire was a strong advocate of education and helped organize District 13 in Newman Grove. Wm. Searles taught the first term.

There was a severe blizzard April 13, 1873. Wild fowl and cattle were lost as they could not find shelter. The grasshoppers of 1873 and 1874 were devastating. You couldn't face them. There were so many they shaded the sun. They came about 3:00 PM and left the next day about noon, when the wind changed. Two hours after they arrived, the crops were destroyed. Early settlers tell many tales of their trials and tribulations of their trips to the new land, the United States, storms at sea and illness that took its toll from dysentery and cholera. They came from Norway, Sweden, Scotland, Denmark, Germany.

Czechoslovakia, England-Wales, Ireland, Russia and other countries and states. Their faith and sturdy character kept them strong during these periods and helped them to rise about their problems to establish comfortable homes, farms and businesses to live "the good life" as known in Nebraska today. Their first thought was to establish a home from the dugout (taking a few days to build), the sod house (with a prairie sod floor and a prairie grass roof) and then a frame home and buildings. It was a three day trip to Columbus to get lumber for this purpose.

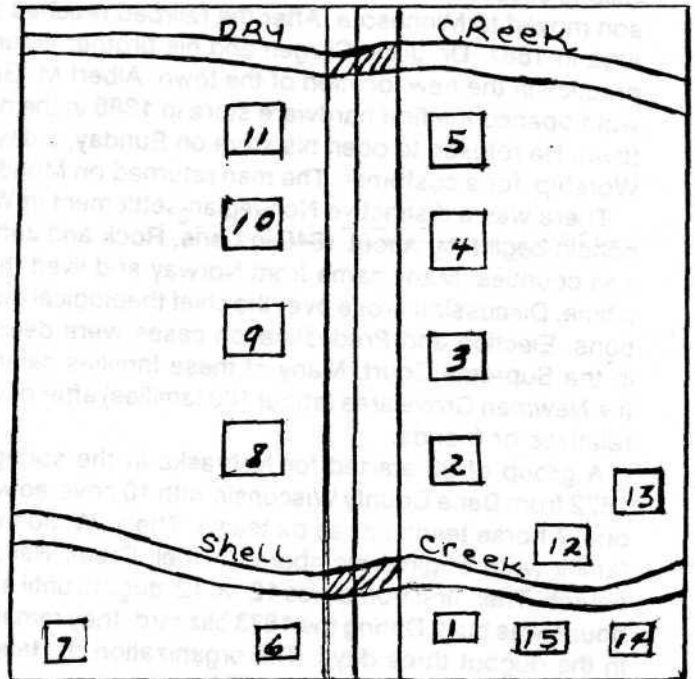
Harvest in the 1870's was done with the cradle and the blade of the scythe. Days were 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM. They raised rye and wheat at 56¢ a bushel, barley at 46¢ and oats at 36¢. The prairie was broken with an axe to make sod furrows, they dropped the corn, then stepped on it. It was cut by hand when mature, shocked and stored for winter feed, and used when seasoned. Corn was rotated with wheat every two years. Equipment was a breaking plow, and a homemade drag, V shaped, and made from a tree. Corn yield was 30-40 bushels an acre. Few hogs, cattle and some calves were raised.

Lewis Warren and George Witcher established a stage route from Newman Grove to Cedar Creek near Oakdale. They marked the route by plowing one furrow with a breaking plow. George was the clerk of the first election held in Shell Creek, the constable and a very respected man.

Newman Warren was the first white man to die in the valley, a young man of 21 (about 1873) leaving his father his homestead and property. After his death, his father, Lewis Warren, worked diligently to name the town for his son. Lewis and wife Mary Jane sold the property for the town site for \$2000. Since there was a lovely grove of trees, they decided to use the name Newman's Grove. Later the 's' was dropped and it is now known as Newman Grove. Some have said, when it was sent to the postoffice for registration, the name came back without the 's' and was never corrected. Lewis Warren died in Kent, WA 5-18-1901. There are reports that the town was named for a Mr. Newman, however records referring to the legal description indicate it was the Warren land and it is felt this was one and the same person.

The Indians were for most part friendly, but the people were fearful of Indian attacks after the 1870 attack by the Yankton Sioux in which they drove away Lewis Warren's cattle, killed some and damaged others with arrows. He drove the injured cattle to the Pawnee Reservation at Genoa and brought back soldiers for protection. He filed a claim with the Court for damages and 37 years later he was allowed claims of \$152. for five head. Lewis Warren's daughter had been out herding the cattle, who had become restless because the Indians were near. A woman, Mrs. Nils Nelson, was shot in the hip and recovered in the Warren home. Colonization slowed for three years and soldier camps were established every 6-10 miles in the area.

Austania helped her father and brother Newman plant cottonwood trees on their land. These trees which measure about 15 feet in circumference are located in our City Park giving much shade from their lofty heights. The trees would have many interesting stories to tell as they have been there over 100 years. Austania's granddaughter, Dorothy (Shephard) Poe learned in 1986 of the approaching Newman Grove Centennial, has visited the community and plans to return in June for the special Celebration.



Sketch shown in R. D. Wilcox book, "Scandinavian Influence on Newman Grove."

1. Immigrant house, built by B & M Railroad
2. Shell Creek Schoolhouse
3. George Hoveland Hotel
4. Mrs. Torguson's house
5. Mrs. Hoffman (Alvera Jackson) dressmaking & millinery
6. Livery Stable
7. First Shell Creek Church
8. Geo. Hoveland's General Store & Postoffice
9. Smith Brothers (Monroe & Clint)
10. John Horn, Blacksmith
11. George Witcher's, Gunder Morn's
12. Brickyard, Gunder Thompson
13. Peter Martin, Cheese factory
14. Gunder Thompson's Sorghum Mill
15. Gunder Thompson Ice Business

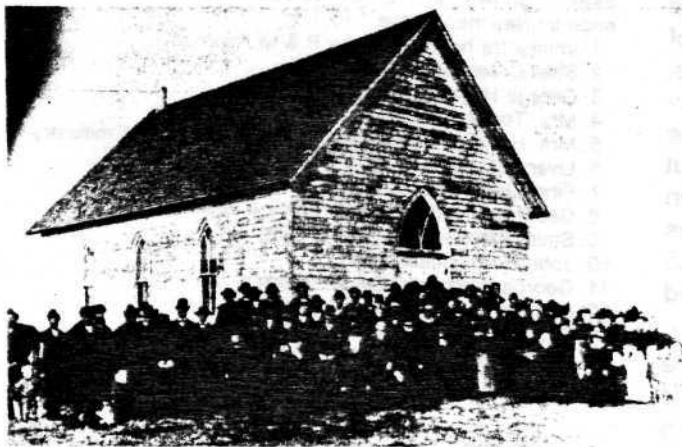
In 1873 Gunder Hamre built the first store from a red elm given him by Lewis Warren and lumber from Columbus, in "Old Town" north of the Shell Creek Bridge. He was the first Postmaster 6-23-1874. George Hovland bought the store and also became Postmaster. The town was located on the west side of Shell Creek Bridge. The Immigrant House, temporary home for settlers, was built in the summer of 1879 on the bank of Shell Creek by the B & M Railroad Company to encourage settlers to come to the area. The land was free if proven up. The settlers sought adventure, free land and success. By 1883 nearly

all homesteads were occupied in all directions.

Dr. Samuel E. Sanderson was the first practicing physician in Shell Creek 1874-75. Before that time the settlers had to go 40 miles to Columbus or Norfolk. Typhoid, diphtheria and ague were prevalent diseases. Several members might die within a day, as there was no medical help. Four members of one family contracted typhoid and the mother moved to the cooking shanty and escaped the disease though taking care of them. Dr. W. S. Gillette succeeded Dr. Sanderson in 1883, when Sanderson moved to Minnesota. After the railroad reached the area in 1887, Dr. John Cargen and his brother entered practice in the new location of the town. Albert M. Griswold opened the first hardware store in 1886 in the new town. He refused to open his store on Sunday, a day of Worship, for a customer. The man returned on Monday.

There was a distinctive Norwegian settlement in Wisconsin beginning about 1840 in Dane, Rock and Jefferson counties. Many came from Norway and lived there a time. Discussion arose over the chief theological questions. Election and Predestination cases were decided in the Supreme Court. Many of these families came to the Newman Grove area (about 100 families) after or with relatives or friends.

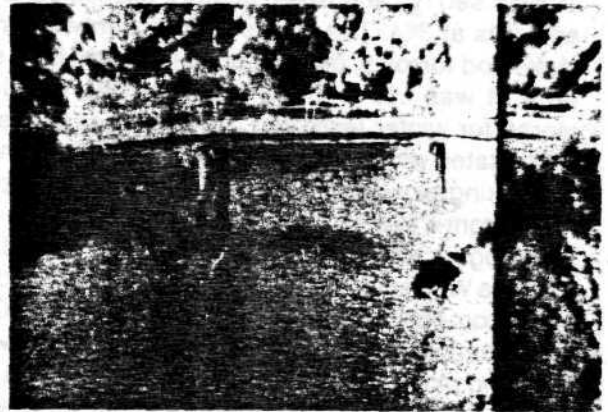
A group of 20 started for Nebraska in the spring of 1872 from Dane County Wisconsin with 10 covered wagons, 7 horse teams, three ox teams. The L. W. Johnson family were original members of Shell Creek Hauge's church. Their first home was 12' x 12' dugout until a sod house was built. During the 1873 blizzard, they remained in the dugout three days. The organization of Hauge's Shell Creek Church began in 1874.



First Church

Trinity Lutheran Church and the Methodist Church celebrate an 1874 beginning. Ole Texley built his dugout in 1872 on Dry Creek west bank using logs for ridge and roof poles donated by John Bloomfield. Ole had no team for two years and borrowed or hired the neighbors to break a few acres of sod. He walked to Wisner for employment until he paid for his trip to Nebraska and bought an ox team. The children fished and swam in Beaver dams (three in one mile) in the area.

The Genoa trading post included Nance County and was the Pawnee Indian Reservation. An Indian Agent and other officials and soldiers were stationed there. Ingeborg Olson married Levi Gutru in 1877. She assisted in the Indian school and learned the language well enough to be an interpreter. She would be there to comfort the children and mothers when word came that members of their families had been killed in battles with the Sioux Indian Tribe. In 1876 the Pawnee Indians were moved from Dakota south to Oklahoma. About 25 soldiers would escort them and camp in this area on their way to Columbus. The soldiers would then return for another group.



Bridge over Shell Creek

The Ostergaard Park was a tract of about 30 acres lying on Shell Creek near the city limits with a beautiful growth of native timber, being destroyed by its owners. Thomas Ostergaard decided to establish a park in 1881 as a resort for picnics with shade and fishing. He bought land, seeded to bluegrass and used areas as a gaming ground, a boat landing with boats, picnic tables and was a popular place in spring and summer and boating on Shell Creek was an enjoyable recreation. He was a philanthropist and encouraged planting trees, shrubs, improving homes, lawns and buildings. It was later known as "Acorn Valley" and enjoyed by many hikers and boy and girl Scouts.

Gulbrand Texley, a carpenter, built a 14' x 18' store for Gunder Hamre of lumber with windows, doors, furniture, roof and floor, which was considered one of the wonders of Shell Creek. Gunder Hamre platted the original town in 1883.

Mary B. Hoffman (2-21-1848/3-13-1909) was Postmistress in 1886. The postoffice was moved from Old Town to the Railroad Addition (new town) in 1887-1888. She was active in promoting the organization of Hope Cemetery, its maintenance and was buried there.

The Texas Cattle Trail passed through Shell Creek Valley at Newman Grove and at times thousands of cattle could be seen making their way to Texas from the north, driven by wild cowboys.

There were times when a tribe of Indians of about 1000 came through Newman Grove and camped in the area.

**NEBRATHKA — NEBRASKA —
MEANING FLAT WATER —
NAMED BY THE INDIANS**

Nebraska is part of the Louisiana Purchase from France in 1803. Now on the 15th day of July, 1804, Merriweather Lewis and Captain Geo. A. Clark with their band of explorers under commission of President Thomas Jefferson reached the 40° latitude on their perilous voyage up the Missouri River. Many tribes of Indians were the only inhabitants for nearly 50 years. In 1810 John Jacobs Astor owned the American Fur Co. It was then the Oregon Trail was discovered, which spread knowledge of Nebraska. The Fur Co. established the first permanent white settlement at Bellevue. No one knows just when the first white men settled in Bellevue but the fur trading records make mention of it. The first bill to make a land called Nebraska was introduced in Congress on December 17, 1844. For the next ten years there was a great struggle in Congress over the creating of the Nebraska territory. Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois was the champion of the Nebraska idea. Then in 1848 Douglas introduced a second bill. This also failed. In 1853 the third bill was defeated. Nebr. was organized as a territory, May 30, 1854, known as the Kansas-Nebraska bill. It comprised all the Louisiana purchase, west of the state of Missouri (Missouri River) and north of the 40th parallel of latitude. The Canadian line was its north boundary and the Rocky Mountains the western boundary. Francis J. Burt, who was appointed Governor died a few days after reaching the territory. On October 18, 1854 Thomas B. Cumming assumed the duties and became the first acting governor of the territory of Nebr. No ceremonies, no band, nor crowd met the new ruler.

The first Postoffice was at Table Creek (Nebr. City), Dec. 20, 1853. The first local mail route in the territory was Nebraska City, Bellevue and Omaha City by an act of Congress August 3, 1854. The Nebraska Palladium was the first newspaper published for Nebraska. Also the first published in Nebr. Its first number was issued 7-15-1854, at St. Mary, a hamlet just below Bellevue. The first issue printed at Bellevue was dated 11-15-1854. The Omaha Nebraskan, the Nebraska City News, and the advertiser experimented with daily issues as early as 1859. The Omaha Republican was the first permanent daily, with the first daily issue 1-7-1864. The capital was first located at Omaha and 1-16-1855, the first legislature met. Among those attending were Dr. Geo. Miller, A.J. Hanscon, A.J. Poppleton, J. Sterling Morton, Judge E. Wakley, whose names since became household names. The first homestead in the U.S. was taken by Daniel Freeman on Cub Creek in Gage Co. about 5 miles northwest

of Beatrice. The year after he watched for the Kansas-Nebr. Bill, and often said he wanted to be the first man to take a homestead. When the free homestead bill was signed, Daniel F. was a soldier in the Union Army. A few months later he was given a furlough and came to Neb. to look over the beautiful country then having few homes. He found the place that suited him. He went to the nearest land office, which was at Brownsbille, arriving there 12-31-1862. The little town was thronged with people, who had come to make entry on land for homesteads. The Homestead Act was to go into affect 1-1-1863. New Years Day, and the land office was not open. Mr. Freeman had orders to join his regiment and had to leave the next day. He told his story of his great desire to be the first homesteader in the US — all others agreed, that he should have first chance, and persuaded a clerk in the land office to open the office a few minutes after midnight Jan 1 for Daniel Freeman alone, thus it came to pass that Daniel Freeman made homestead entry No. 1 and afterwards received homestead patent No. 1 for 160 acres of land on Cub Creek near Beatrice. Since that time, there has been 120,000,000 acres of land as a free gift from our government. Of these homesteads over 100,000 are in Nebraska. Mr. Freeman died 12-30-1908, and it is thought by many that someday the government will purchase the Freeman homestead and make it a public park.

Nebraska people never voted for slavery in 1855. There were 13 slaves here and 1860 there were 10. A few slaves were hard to hold. On 12-5-1860 the sheriff of Otoe Co. sold at auction in the streets of Nebraska City one Negro man and one Negro woman. This was the last of slavery in our state. The Legislature voted to move the Capitol from Omaha to Lincoln in 1866. The new capitol was named for President Lincoln. The name was given by its enemies. Nebraska was admitted as a State, March 1, 1867.

The Union Pacific Railroad was the first. It was begun at Omaha in 1865 and was completed to the western border of the state in 1867. The Burlington and Missouri River Railroad was the second built and began at Plattsmouth in the spring of 1870 and was completed by the last of July. An act of the legislature 2-15-1869 to build a State University. S. D. Beale was the first State Supt. in 1869 or 1871. Nebraska has had her drawbacks. In 1874 grasshoppers invaded the state and stayed for nearly 4 years. They were terrible. I well remember them. Through the 1880's Nebraska was very prosperous. From 1890-94 there were drouths, but the fatal one was in 1894. On 7-25-1894 was the day we farmers had to give up that there would be no crops that year. Nebraska has always been one of the leading states. We have had many smart men, that have held high U.S. offices and I still expect to see our women and men lead in all the affairs of our U.S. I, no doubt, am the oldest one in our County here today. I was born one mile north of Madison, May 22, 1869.

JOHN W. BLOOMFIELD

The first homesteader in Shell Creek Precinct, Madison County, Nebraska, was John W. Bloomfield, popularly known as "Johnny Smoker." He made homestead entry May 17, 1867, for the S½ of the SW¼ of section 28, Township 21, North, Range 4 west of the 6th P. M., and obtained Government Patent therefor on November 20, 1874. This is known as the Field 80 where Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Jacobson now reside. Johnny Smoker was unmarried and lived a secluded life on this land for several years until he sold it, together with other land, to Syver Neilson (Field). It seems that he was more friendly with the Indians than with the white settlers and very few facts are known about him. He lived in a dugout on the south bank of Shell Creek running through the above land; and the shelter for his pony was also a dugout nearby. In 1873 Ole Texley was asked to look after the pony while Johnny Smoker went to Battle Creek on a short visit. It was thought that he had a girl friend there, but that is unverified. The highest flood in Shell Creek history came at that time and while the pony was tied in the dugout Ole Texley came across in some manner unknown, while the water was rising, just in time to save the pony.

Syver Nelson (Field) found it necessary to buy more land and John W. Bloomfield agreed to sell the above 80 acres, together with another 80 acres in section 29, 160 acres all told, for \$800.00. Gunder Hamre went with the parties to Norfolk on the 7th day of February, 1876, where Bloomfield delivered his deed and 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 unsuccessful search in the Shell Creek region in an attempt to solve the mystery.

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 * MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY *
 * P. O. Box 1031 *
 * Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1031 *

