

Where Missouri Meets the Platte, Told in Address

Address by Addison E. Sheldon at Organization of Cass County Historical Society.

Following is the address given by Addison E. Sheldon at Weeping Water, Nebraska, May 20, 1936 at the organization of the Cass County Historical Society:

It has been my custom, now more than thirty years, when invited to speak upon occasions similar to this to go, first, to the authentic documents and condense from them the facts of greatest historical and dramatic appeal, to put them in type-written form before I left my study. So that, whatever I might say or fail to say in direct speech to those assembled, there would abide in the archives of the State Historical Society some evidence of what I designed to say upon the occasion. That has been my plan for this meeting.

Cass County, Nebraska, is certainly worthy of an active County Historical Society. Whether one consider the evidences of pre-historic man; the migration of Indian tribes; the appeal of explorers known and unknown who have navigated these rivers and looked upon these entrancing landscapes; the westward march of empire; the strategic position of this tract of territory bounded by the Missouri, the Platte and the prairie; the drama of the frontier; the sharp clash of personalities; the leadership in war and peace of Cass county men and women or the prophecy of future years, there are no counties within the state which hold greater possibilities for the creation of historical literature and the preservation of mighty events.

Let us then consider together what

are some of the things which properly furnish inspiration for a Historical Society especially devoted to Cass County.

The Platte and the Missouri rivers kissed each other for the first time more than a million years ago. That is a long time to remember. And if one cared to revive still older records within your county he would need go back to the period many million years ago when the foundations of the thousands of feet of limestones and sandstones were laid upon the top of the granite mountains beneath and were again build upward to make a firm foundation for the homes and the cities which now are upon them in Cass County. Put that down as a foundation of Cass County history—its wonderful geology and paleontology folded away beneath your feet and now in process of discovery and description.

After the shell-fish, the ferns and the cycads, and the big marsh reptiles and mammals which trampled the mud and left their skeletons for future geology there came, at some time man. That is the primal problem today for all science in Cass County, in Nebraska and in the world. Where did man come in, and where and how do we know? And scattered over the hill-tops and buried in the valleys of Cass County are many partial answers to that question. You have made some beginnings. Dr. Stern of the Smithsonian Institute, Dr. R. F. Gilder and your own Dr. Gilmore have already found enough to stimulate the real explorers in your county. Nothing is more fascinating than the search for the unknown. And one of the best promises of immortality is that there will always be an unknown to search for.

Prehistoric life and its pursuit will certainly be a challenge to the Cass County Historical Society so long as it shall endure.

Indians

Then there are the Indians. Have you ever thought it a remarkable fact that when the first white explorers came up the Missouri river

they found no occupied Indian villages along the Nebraska shores from the mouth of the Nemaha to the mouth of the Platte? I have thought of that for some years. I have discussed it at historical meetings in Richardson, Pawnee, Nemaha and Johnson counties. It is a remarkable fact. It is paralleled upon this continent by a similar fact relating to Kentucky. That was a hunting ground and battle ground between Indian nations to the north and to the south. So Cass County has a real subject for study in the absence of living Indian villages on its soil at the time the explorers came up the river over a hundred years ago. Set that problem as one of your goals.

Early White Explorers
In the printed records of the early white explorers and from the hasty records of the earliest French, like Truteau, down the years are a multitude of interesting references to the shores, the woods, the waters of Cass County. The study and organization of these references to this region has never adequately been done. It ought to furnish an incentive and a guide for study by the intensive historians of this county.

The Platte river was the natural dividing line in the early years between the lower and the upper Missouri rivers. It was a kind of equator and its crossing was celebrated by the rough river men in somewhat the same way as the old-time sailors celebrated a similar crossing of the equator.

The North and South Platte War
The leading feature of early Nebraska Territorial history was the war between the North and South Platte sections. Through the controversies upon all other subjects remain interminable struggle between the North and the South Platte. Plattsouth should have been the capital of early Nebraska by the rules of great city foundations elsewhere. The junction point of two great rivers has always been regarded as a strategic location. It was otherwise favorable in the matter of elevation, access to territory and navigation then the great city would be at the junction at great rivers. Then why did not Plattsouth achieve that great distinction? Exploration of facts and debate upon them in this field furnishes splendid material for historical discussion and what a field for earnest debate! When the Burlington railroad secured \$200,000, bonds from Cass County and \$50,000 from Plattsouth upon its agreement to locate the headquarters of the Burlington road west of the Missouri at Plattsouth why did not the Burlington stick to its bargain? When the great Overland Trails from the Missouri river to the mountains and beyond were planned by the pioneer fur traders, freighters and immigrants why was not the Plattsouth route the popular one? Destiny holds so much of the future within the hollow of her hand. And she keeps her hand so nearly shut that to people who play with her never can see all she has within her hand.

Some Notable Cass County History
I love to linger upon the romantic events connected with the early history of Cass County. The first complete weather records in Nebraska were kept by Dr. A. L. Childs at Plattsouth in the '60's and '70's. These weather records were a great aid to the settlement of Nebraska. They showed an increasing rainfall from year to year. Robert W. Furnas was the first genius who saw the value of these records and published them to the world in his own newspaper and in the early State Board of Agricultural reports, notably the one of 1873. Upon the foundation of these rainfall figures all the early promoters of Nebraska builded. Furnas pointed out, and others, followed, that these rainfall figures showed as good rainfall in the growing season for Nebraska as might be found in the favored regions east of the Mississippi river. So that most important data for the future of man upon these plains had its beginnings in Plattsouth.

You know the first Nebraska literary book was the "Legend of Weeping Water," written by A. C. Dake, first professor of English in the University of Nebraska. The book reads as though the author had just risen from reading Virgil's "Aeneid." And the legend of Weeping Water is certainly as much a work of the imagination as Virgil's story of the founding of Italy. But there it is. The beginnings of Nebraska literature. The ripping of the Nehawka on the rocks and a story of an impossible event told in an impossible way. But first—the beginning.

Then there is the part that Cass County played in the rally for the Union. The gathering of patriotic spirits from all parts of the county. The formation of the first Nebraska regiment, with Company A organized at Plattsouth. The leadership of Colonel Livingston and the spirits which gathered about him. And here I show you a flag of Company A, First Nebraska, Shilo and Corinth battle torn.

You all know the part played by Cass County in the organization in the state of Nebraska. That forever famous tale of the Rock Bluffs precinct election. The casting out of the precinct vote which made the state of Nebraska a Republican instead of Democratic in its beginning. In the lurid literature of our past there is none that flames with greater violence than the literature which discusses the Cass County politicians and their part in controlling the

destiny of this new commonwealth.

The Early Settlers
Within its borders Cass County possesses the nearest New England geography of any part of our state. Was it an accident that this New England of the west with its hills, tops and wooded streams and rocks and little valleys had among its dominant settlers from New England of my forefathers and many of yours—that New England with all its virtuous Yankees and Yankee failings,—the ability to trade horses, the habit of going to church on Sunday, the capacity for continuous work and for a plan to go along with the work which made the early homesteads so soon like the old homes in New England. Besides the Yankee ingredients there were plenty of others, good standard stuff. The sturdy German, the adventurous Missourian and the whole retinue of the frontier which made the early society so full of social surprise.

Some Familiar Cass County Names in Nebraska History
Familiar to me since my boyhood are some of the pioneer Cass County names. My father came to Nebraska in 1867, locating in Seward county near Beaver Crossing. The family came out in 1879, traveling by covered wagon with two yoke of oxen over the old Steam Wagon Road from Nebraska City west at the rate of (15) miles a day. Father used to make the trip to the Missouri river two or three times a year with ox team. He found better bargains in merchandise at Plattsmouth than those of Nebraska City and several times he made the journey to Plattsmouth and return, taking over a week for the trip. So we were familiar from childhood with names that are familiar here in Cass County today. Among only a few I mention today: Isaac Pollard, Lawson Sheldon, both of these came from the good old Vermont stock of my ancestors, Peter A. Sarp, Dan Wheeler, Isaac N. Wiles, L. G. Todd, Judge Maxfield, Judge Chapman, Colonel Livingston, S. M. Kirkpatrick, Orlando Tefft, John A. MacMurphy, H. D. Hathaway,—the roll stretches on beyond the limitations of this hour. These were men who were active all through the territorial and early state period. Their contribution to Nebraska, as well as their home county has never adequately been put in print. And they should be on the objectives of the Cass County Historical Society.

Why Have a Historical Society?
Sometimes this question is asked. The answer is found in every day life. And every day the world today and the world tomorrow is the direct product of the past. All the elements of thought and action which appear now spring from the thought and action which preceded it. The sum of patriotic purpose and progressive action grows from knowledge of the past. Literature in all its forms must arise from the minds of yesterday and the records which give it life. So, we have the great American literature which arose on the Atlantic coast out of the heroic records of the original white settlers upon that coast. That literature could never have been written if the historical record had not been preserved. Longfellow could never have written Paul Revere's Ride, or Evangeline or Hiawatha unless the historical record which he used had been preserved. Theodore Roosevelt wrote most of his masterpiece "The Winning of the West" by actual personal study of the original documents in the Wisconsin Historical Society Library. Marl Sandoz wrote her prize winning book "Old Jules" from a three years study of the newspapers of western Nebraska preserved by the Nebraska State Historical Society, supplemented by her own memory. But her memory could never have supplied the definite details which she wove into her story.

So, here in Cass County, you have a work to do which cannot be done adequately by any people except those of your own county. It is impossible for the State Historical Society to do this detailed work in 93 counties of the state. So in the last ten years there have been created, with the co-operation of the State Historical Society these County Historical Societies in about 50 counties. In some of these counties the historical meeting of the County Society have become one of the great social and literary events of the years. To them come the striving pioneers, the descendants of pioneers, the general history loving members of the community, and they make a feast day. They give their own programs and they teach the rising generation the worthy past history of the local community. The State Historical Society welcomes the organization of a Cass County Historical Society. We pledge you our active cooperation in all you may undertake, and we know that you can render to the state as a whole some of the most valuable historical service out of the abundant inspiring records of Cass County.

NAMED CLUB PRESIDENT
William (Bill) Christy was elected president of the Community Building club Wednesday night. Since he was in good standing by having his dues paid, he was declared eligible to hold the office to which he was named and has been paid the \$50 salary.

PATIENT TAKES A WALK
Nebraska City—William Bassinger is back in the hospital. He walked out the other day to see his wife and find out if she had enough money to get along on while he was confined to the hospital with a neck injury suffered in a fall from a ladder.

COWBOY HAT CLUB TO BOOST RODEO

Decatur, Neb., May 21.—County-wide plans have been formulated to boost the Burt county rodeo-fair. The publicity committee has announced the formation of a cowboy hat club and it is hoped the wearing of big hats will extend to all sections of the county.

The Oakland baseball team will be known as the Cowboys and the backs of the baseball suits will announce the dates of the rodeo fair Aug. 25, 26 and 27. Booster trips have been planned.

OHIO MINISTRY UNFROCKED

Mansfield, O.—By a vote of 103 to 72 the Ohio synod of the Lutheran church unfrocked the Rev. R. N. McMichael on a charge of "conduct incompatible with the moral purity of the ministerial office." Mr. McMichael, pastor of two churches at Lucas, near here, has the right of appeal to the synod, but said he was undecided whether to bring the case up again. He was divorced in 1932 on grounds not approved by the church. The penalty is dismissal from the ministry.

WYOMING COLDEST SPOT

Cheyenne, Wyo.—Western Wyoming was reported by the weather bureau as the coldest spot in the United States. At Yellowstone park and Rock Springs a low of 30 degrees above zero was reported, and at Lander 32.

F. L. Disterdick, federal meteorologist, said east central and north-eastern Wyoming face a serious drought unless there is moisture very soon. The entire state, with the exception of the irrigated sections, needs moisture badly.

FARMERS TO GET REFUNDS

Washington.—More than \$750,000 will be refunded to farmers and country livestock buyers as a result of the supreme court's decision this week upholding commission rates set by Sec. Wallace for the Chicago market, the agriculture department said. The refunds impounded in federal courts, represent the difference between the rates charged by Chicago market commission men and the lower rates ordered by Wallace Jan. 8, 1934.

DIAZ KEPT FROM CHURCH

Mexico City.—The interior department refused Catholics permission to move the body of Archbishop Pascual Diaz y Barreto, who died Tuesday night, from his home to the national cathedral.

A crowd of 1,000 had waited during the evening at the cathedral for the expected arrival of the churchman's body, while more than 10,000, it was estimated unofficially, had viewed the body in his residence and kissed the glass top of the casket.

RUTH CHATTERTON COLLAPSES ON SET

Hollywood, May 22.—Collapsing under the strain of her attempt to live up to the tradition "the show must go on," Ruth Chatterton was taken from the set on which she was working Friday with a high fever and ordered to bed for at least three days. The titian-haired star had been at work for two weeks despite an attack of influenza. Her condition became weaker and Friday her temperature rose alarmingly.

STATE CANCELS 65 OLD AGE PENSIONS

Lincoln, May 21.—The state assistance office Thursday said old age pensions of 65 persons were canceled in the past three months. In most cases, the cancellations followed reinvestigation of the cases and findings that the persons were ineligible. Thirty-one men and 34 women were affected. Five of the group were 85 years old or older.

FIND 4 MAROONED GIRLS

Green Bay, Wis.—Four girls missing on the waters of Green bay for more than eight hours were found marooned on tiny Frying Pan island. The girls were Doris and Phyllis Parmentier, 21 and 13, Kathleen Shequin, 12, and Ruth Gerhard, 13. They were rescued by Police Sergeant Chester Walters and Patrolman Frank Deviley of Green Bay.

FRED CAREY IS APPOINTED

Omaha.—Fred Carey, veteran Omaha newspaper man, was named secretary to Mayor-Elect Butler. Butler said Carey would have considerably more responsibility than the average mayor's secretary, and would draw more salary.

Black & White Wednesday Specials

Pure Fruit Jelly, 2-lb. jar 23c
Apple and Raspberry Apple and Grape
Soda Crackers, 2-lb. caddy 19c
IGA Soap, 10 bars for 25c
Matches, 6-box carton 19c
Salmon, 1-lb. tall cans, 2 for 23c
Peaches, No. 10 (gallon) tin 45c

30^{1/2} Shi-nup CLEANER AND SILVER POLISH FREE!
25^{1/2} Johnson's FURNITURE POLISH FREE!

2 Free Gifts
with purchase of 1 lb. size
JOHNSON'S WAX
or **GLO-COAT 59c**

Pork and Beans Red Beans or Spaghetti
Large Full Cans
Your Choice
3 for 25c

ROLLED OATS Large Tube 18c
PINEAPPLE 2 Large Cans 35c
Broken Slices

Cudahy's Smoked Picnic Hams 19c

Hockless, 5 to 7 lb. Ave., LB.,

Minced Ham, lb., 13c

CUDAHY LIVER SAUSAGE Special Price, per Lb. 19c	CUDAHY REX BACON Half or Whole, Lb. 25c
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Fresh Sliced Pork Liver, lb. 12 1/2c

Ring Bologna, lb. . . . 15c

Fresh Ground Hamburger . . 2 lbs. 27c

VETERANS CAN GO FISHING

Washington.—Postal officials said veterans who are on vacation when their bonus payments are delivered will find them waiting at the post-office when they return. Under special rules announced recently, postmasters were instructed not to deliver bonus packages to anyone except the men to whom they are addressed.

If the veteran is not at his address, his bonus package will be held by the local postmaster for 30 days. If the veteran fails to return within 30 days, the package will be returned to the central government office from which it was sent.

HAVE SOCIAL TIME

The local court of the Catholic Daughters of America held a very delightful social meeting on Tuesday evening at the Knights of Columbus hall, where the evening was spent in the pleasures of a covered dish dinner as well as an evening of cards.

The committee in charge, Mrs. Cyril Kalina, Miss Genevieve Whelan and Miss Antonia Vanek, had arranged a very fine time and the families of the members were invited in to enjoy the dinner.

The event was to honor Mrs. Edgar Creamer, retiring grand regent and Mrs. Fred L. Rea, district deputy, both ladies being presented with tokens in recognition of their splendid services to the order in the past.

The remainder of the evening was spent at cards, in the bridge contests, Mrs. Frank Mullen being the winner of high score, while in pinocle, Mrs. Anna Zitka, proved the most skillful.

PRINCIPAL FORBIDS ROMANTIC STROLLS

Gorham, Me.—Principal Walter E. Russell banned walking hand-in-hand for boy and girl students at the State Normal school Friday.

Also subject to disciplinary measures were students of the two sexes who walk on Norman Hill in the twilight with arms clasped about each other's waists. Girl students were particularly resentful of the new rules.

NEW SUITS for Memorial Day

Ready to Put On
\$15 - \$18 - \$19.50
Blues - Grays
WESCOTT'S
Personalized Tailoring

USED CAR BARGAINS

1935 FORD DELUXE COUPE—Finished in black. Upholstery like new. Only **\$435**

1931 OLDSMOBILE SPORT COUPE, DeLuxe model. Completely reconditioned. New tires and battery. Bargain at **\$250**

1930 CHEVROLET COUPE—Motor reconditioned and car refinished in a beautiful green. A **\$165** good value at **\$175**

1930 OLDSMOBILE COUPE—DeLuxe model. Refinished and in excellent condition throughout. Special low price, only **\$175**

R. V. BRYANT
OLDSMOBILE SALES AND SERVICE

Van Camp's Pure Tomato Juice
10-oz. Can 5c
14-oz. Can 7c

HINKY DINKY

Plattsouth, Tues., Wed., May 26-27

Pal Brand Peanut Butter
2-lb. Jar 25c

Belle of Belgium PEAS
No. 2 Cans 3 for 25c

Sunrise COFFEE
3 lbs. 49c 17c
1-lb. Pkg.

Peaches or Pears
No. 10 Can 43c

Indian Valley Tomatoes
No. 2 1/2 Can 11c

SALMON Bright Fall (Piece) Lb. 11c

Sliced, 2 lbs., 25c	Your Choice
NECK BONES, meaty	4c
PIGS FEET, tender	Pound
PORK HEARTS, young, tender	Your Choice
PORK HOCKS, meaty	7 1/2c
BOILING BEEF, Rib	Pound
BEEF STEW, choice	
BEEF SHANKS, tender	

HAMBURGER	Your Choice
BULK SAUSAGE	10c
PORK LIVER	Pound
PORK BRAINS	
PORK HOCKS, smoked	

MINCED HAM	Your Choice
RING BOLOGNA	12 1/2c
SPARE RIBS	Pound
FRANKFURTS	
SALT PORK, Dry	

Grape Nuts
Pkg. 17c

Sunlight Margarine
1-lb. Carton 15c

Casco BUTTER
1-lb. Carton 29c

PINEAPPLE, large, fancy, ripe Cuban, each 10c
Per Case, \$3.49

TOMATOES, firm red ripe Texas, lb. 12 1/2c

CELERY, large, crisp well bleached stalks, each 10c

CABBAGE, fresh, solid green Texas, lb. 4c

ORANGES, Calif. Sunkist Sweets, 288 size, doz. 23c

LEMONS, large 300 size Calif. Sunkist, doz. 39c

GRAPEFRUIT, Calif. Marsh Seedless, 100 size, ea. 5c
6 for 25c

CUCUMBERS, green Texas for slicing, 3 for 10c

F & G, Crystal White or Omaha Family
SOAP 10 Reg. Bars 31c
Lewis Lye, 3 cans 25c

Otoe Chief
FLOUR, 48 lbs. \$1.35
Victor (2 1/2-lb.)
Cake Flour, pkg. 15c