

# The Founding of O'Neill, By General John O'Neill

## History of Nebraska

I shall not, in this pamphlet, attempt to describe Nebraska, her soil, climate, productions, etc. but, such questions as have been asked from time to time in the numerous letters which I have received. Those who desire further information about the State, or who want to buy land, should write to Hon. George L. Brown, State Secretary of Immigration, or to Hon. O. F. Davis Land Commissioner, both of Omaha, Nebraska, who will furnish maps, pamphlets, etc. I shall continue to answer letters in the future, the same as in the past; but all letters requiring an answer must be accompanied by a three cent postage stamp, and those who want a copy of this pamphlet must send an additional three cent stamp. I have never asked a man whom I brought out to the settlement for a dollar and have not, heretofore, asked any of my numerous correspondents for a postage stamp and, while some were thoughtful enough to send a stamp very many forgot all about it. I am willing to furnish all the information I possibly can, gratuitously, but correspondents should not require me to pay postage.

I received a number of letters last year which I was unable to answer for want of time, but as I sent the parties pamphlets, circulars, etc., which contained the information asked for I hope they will not attribute my silence to any lack of interest in their welfare.

## Where To Locate

Persons going out with this colony who desire to locate at or near O'Neill City, or Atkinson, can do so as we shall pass through both of these settlements. Nearly all the land close to O'Neill City, is taken up, but persons can get claims close to town of Atkinson, called after Colonel John Atkinson, of Detroit, Michigan, who bought out Father Fanning's interest, twenty miles west of O'Neill City. Mr. John F. Kelly, of Washington, D. C., and Patrick K. Ryan, of Chicago, are interested with me in this town. It is located upon half a section of land, 320 acres, and contains about 1200 lots, which are to be disposed of as follows: 150 lots for the building and support

of churches and schools, 150 to be given away to men who settle around the town, 150 to be sold to assist and 150 to be sold for the cause of immigrants who may need assistance. It is only forty miles from the pine timber. There is an immense quantity of good land all around it, enough for at least a thousand families. Persons going to Holt county to settle should see this land before selecting their claims. Mr. Charles Donnelly and John J. McCafferty, who have claims adjoining the town, will take pleasure in showing the land to all who may call on them. This summer a church and school, with stores, hotels, etc., will be erected in the town.

I expect to be able to sell a number of lots in Atkinson this summer, to assist immigrants who may want to settle around it.

## Caution.

I desire to caution persons going to the settlement against professed friends and designing knaves whom they will meet on the way going up the valley, and particularly at or near the settlement. As a general thing the native born Americans and those of other nationalities along the road are very friendly, and are pleased to see our people go there, but there are a few, very few fanatical bigots who would as soon see the Old Boy go that way, as to see an Irish Catholic, and with serpentine ingenuity they manage to see and have a talk with everybody going into the settlement, and when they find out that they are not of their own class, and that they have gone there to join the colony, they do all in their power by systematic lying to dissuade them from doing so. There is nothing too mean or contemptible for them to resort to in order to accomplish their purpose. This is particularly the case with the late postmaster, and on account of his meanness I had the post office taken from him.

## Provisions For The Road.

Bring along a good sized lunch basket, packed with good plain food. You can always get a cup of hot stations. As to drinking, be temperate road, and, if you can afford it, you can get good meals for 50 cents at dining stations. As to drinking, be temperate in all things, even in the use of water. If sick or exhausted, you can have a

lounge or bed in one of the palace cars at small expense. Mark your baggage distinctly on both ends of each article with your name and destination. Do not trust to locks alone, but strap and cord each article securely, and take nothing with you that you are not sure is worth transportation. You will have to pay for all luggage over one hundred pounds. Avoid all middle men, all confidence men and those who seek to make you purchase what you do not need, and pay what you ought not to. Beware of pickpockets and avoid showing your money, watch or jewelry in the presence of any one needlessly. Men of doubtful character are about when you least think of it.

Those who go out to stay should bring whatever money they may need along with them, as it takes too long to send after it when they get there. If they do not wish to carry it about them, they can get a bank check or send it by express.

Persons should pay no attention to the ridiculous stories that may be told them by friends, either at home or on the way. There is no more danger to be apprehended from Indians in Holt county, than there is in New York state.

## Money Necessary.

Heretofore, have not advised any man with a family to go to Holt county with less than from five to six hundred dollars—now, however, with the certainty of getting work immediately on the railroad, to be built from Sioux City to our settlements, and the prospects of getting work in the Black Hills, I have no hesitation in advising any man having from two hundred and fifty dollars upward to go out there, take up his claim and put in a crop, and then go to work for six months at a time. Single men can get a start in the same way on from seventy-five dollars upward, of course the more money a man has the easier he can get along and the sooner he can procure everything he needs on a farm.

What is absolutely necessary the first year:

Temporary house	\$50 to \$75
Team of oxen	\$80 to \$125
Breaking plow	\$24 to \$30
Hand corn planter	\$1.50 to \$3
Other tools	\$10 to \$15
Stove	\$24 to \$30
Cooking utensils	\$10 to \$20
Cheap furniture	\$20 to \$30
Cash for current exp.	\$50 to \$100
	\$269.50 \$408.

Those who have the money can also get a wagon costing from \$75 to \$95, and there are many other things desirable but not absolutely necessary where a man would find use for money.

Persons who cannot afford it need not buy a yoke of oxen or a plow the first year, but can get their land broken for \$2.50 per acre. There are plenty of teams at or near the settlements for breaking land.

## Routes Of Travel.

If you should go by way of Omaha call on Mr. Donovan, proprietor of the Donovan House, Harney Street, who will furnish you with all necessary information about the route. From Omaha to O'Neill City, by way of the Elkhorn Valley is a little over two hundred miles, and the fare, emigrant rates, is \$8.50. You travel by railroad to Wisner, a distance of about one hundred miles, and the balance of the way by stage. If you go by way of Sioux City, call on Judge John Brennan, who will furnish the necessary information about that route. Sioux City is about one hundred and twenty miles from O'Neill City, and it will be necessary for you to have your own team to travel with, as there is no railroad or regular stage on this route. If you should go by way of the Missouri Valley Junction, to Wisner, call upon Mr. McMillan, proprietor of the Elkhorn Valley House, who will furnish all necessary information.

## Grasshoppers.

The much dreaded grasshoppers which did some damage in Nebraska in 1874, which was greatly exaggerated by itinerant solicitors for relief, did little or no damage to our settlement, either in 1874 or 1875, and from the best information that I can get on the subject, did but very little damage last year in the state generally. I can speak from a personal knowledge of the Elkhorn Valley, and with the exception of two small settlements, where they had at least half a crop, the hoppers did no damage worth speaking of, and it is now the general belief among scientific men and others who have observed their movements, that the days of the grasshoppers in Nebraska are numbered, at least for many years to come.

## Sending Money To Parties Whom You Do Not Know.

I do not think it advisable to send money to parties whom you do not know who may demand it for selecting a claim for you. There are many men in this business in the west who cannot be relied on.

Any part of Nebraska where it would be advisable for an Irish Catholic family to locate must be known to some one of the Priests of the State; and before acting upon the advice or suggestions of any person whom you do not know, it would be advisable to write to a Priest and ask him if the man is reliable, and if it is safe for you to send him money, either to pay for land or to select a claim for you. The party writing to you, if he is a proper person, will not object to sending you the name and address of some Priest who knows him.

## Advantages Of Locating In Colonies.

Men of means, who can afford to buy land near railroads and town in a settled community, can go out singly, or two or three families together, and settle where they will be convenient to churches, schools, etc.;—but men whose circumstances force them to locate in a thinly settled county, should go out in colonies, so that they can soon build their own towns, churches, schools, etc. As for the railroads, they always follow set-

tlements, as it is to their interest to do so.

Reasons For Devoting So Much Time To The Western States.

My great object in commencing this business was to assist and encourage poor people in getting away from the overcrowded cities of the East—the cellars and garrets of New York and other large cities, and get them upon land but I find from experience that it is necessary to have a few men of wealth who have been accustomed to farming to settle amongst those poor people for where all are poor, no one can assist the other, hence I have devoted a good deal of attention to the western states this winter. Many western farmers who have been renting and others who owned small farms, and who have large families of grown up boys and girls, have either gone or are going out this spring. These men have considerable money which will give them a good start in a new country where they can get land for nothing, and they will be of immense service by their advice and example to those who have no practical experience either in farming or in western life.

Timber Claims Near O'Neill City.

Persons who have timber claims at or near O'Neill City, can have them attended to by writing to Thomas N. J. Hynes, Notary Public, O'Neill City.

Farms For Sale.

I have received a number of letters from parties asking me to buy land for them. I have not heretofore attended to any business of this kind. Now, however, I will be able to devote some attention to it, and on my return to Nebraska will carefully examine farms for sale, and all who want to buy land can write to me on the subject.

Buy Ice Cream in Brick or Bulk at Reardon Bros.

Supervisors' Proceedings.

(Continued)

At 5 o'clock p. m. on motion board adjourned until May 29, 1924, a 9 o'clock a. m.

L. C. McKIM, Chairman.  
E. F. PORTER, Clerk

O'Neill, Neb., May 29, 1924, 9 a. m.

Board met pursuant to adjournment. All members present but Larson. Board called to order by Chairman. Minutes for May 28, 1924, read and approved.

The following claims were audited and on separate motion allowed on the Bridge fund:

J. P. Connelly, work with team on bridge	\$10.50
T. J. Murphy, work on bridge No. 533	3.00
Frank Valla, work on bridge No. 149	4.50
The following claims were audited and on separate motion allowed in the Road Drugging fund:	
Wallace Ream	\$1.80
Guy Cole	33.00

The following claims were audited and on separate motion allowed on the General fund:

L. E. Skidmore, board session and mileage	\$14.20
John Sullivan, board session and mileage	15.50
C. B. Nellis, board session and mileage	22.00
L. C. McKim, board session and miscellaneous work	57.80
C. E. Havens, board session and mileage	19.40
E. Gibson, board session and mileage	19.40
Otto Gardner, Mdse. for county poor	\$40 32
J. F. Holcomb Mfg. Co., court house supplies	23.70
H. B. Hubbard, court house supplies	1.50
Walrath & Sherwood, coal for county poor	39.25
W. N. Coats, casket, burial suit and hearse, county poor	77.50
M. Campbell & Son, coal for county poor	19.25
Trent Emblem Co., G. A. R. Emblems	15.17
Fair Store, groceries, county poor	18.75
Scott & Harman, casket, embalming, hearse, poor	100.00
E. R. Baker, groceries for county poor	17.25
Ambrose Slattery, work, tearing out gutter	6.00
J. H. McPharlin, East Part, County Crow Hunt share	100.00
Frank Valla, work, tearing out gutter	6.00
Moses Campbell, West Half, County Crow Hunt, share	200.00
Aug. H. Smith, school house, Primary election	7.60
C. L. Sturdevant, medical assistance, county poor, Deeder	286.00
Barbara Ballon, room, county poor, Dierk	51.75
James C. Graham, groceries, county poor, Deeder	15.40
C. J. Barnum, funeral expenses, county poor	58.50
Harry Bowen, salary claim, May	110.00
John F. Johnson, election work, 1922	2.00
Roy Snyder, services on Primary election	3.90
Galena Lumber Co., coal, county poor, Swanson	18.00
John W. Hiber, canvassing Primary election	20.00
James Vargason, groceries, Goree	7.75
Dustless Brush Co., bushes, count house	9.30
Hilyard Chemical, court house supplies	63.35
Rudolph Adams, witness fees	6.20
Peter Litzgen, witness fees	6.20
J. A. Vargison, meat, county poor	11.05
F. L. Wilson, M. D., medical services, Wondercheck	17.50
C. J. Malone, witness fees	12.50
E. F. Porter, issuing certificates election	60.00
W. O. Feezer, lodging and meals, Damero, poor	52.50
Dr. W. J. Douglas, medical services, Deeder	20.00
J. I. Gray & Co., groceries, poor, Romine-Wakeman	44.08
Geo. Bay, serving warrants	9.99
T. V. Golden, maps	3.00
J. W. Bennie, births and	

(Continued on page four.)

IRON ROSE.  
Best on earth for the money.  
2-tf O'Neill Variety Store.

First publication July 24.)  
NOTICE OF REFEREE'S SALE.

By virtue of an order of court directed to me by the District Court of Holt County, Nebraska, on the report of the Referee appointed by said court, in the case wherein Anna B. Schmidt is plaintiff, and Anna E. Newman, Nee Schmidt, et al are defendants, to sell at Public Vendue at the Front door of the Court House in the City of O'Neill, Holt County, Nebraska, the following described real estate, to-wit:

The South 45 feet of Lots 9, 10, 11 and 12 in Block 17 of Hazeletts Addition to O'Neill, also beginning at a point 35 feet South and 45 feet East, of the S. W. corner of Block 17 of Hazeletts Addition to O'Neill, Nebraska, Thence South 225 feet, thence West 45 feet, thence South 203 feet more or less to the section line on the South side of Section 30, Township 29 North Range 11 West 6th P. M., thence East along said Section line 602 feet, thence North 428 feet, thence West 557 feet to the place of beginning, being a part of the W 1/2 of the S. E. 1/4 of the S. W. 1/4 Section 30, Township 29 North Range 11 West 6th P. M. being all of Blocks 19 and 20 of Hazeletts Addition to O'Neill, except Lot 8 of said Block 20 as surveyed and recorded, for cash, and in compliance with said order I will offer said real estate as above described for sale and will sell the same to the highest bidder for cash in hand on the 4th day of September, 1924, at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M., at the front door of the Court House in the City of O'Neill, Holt County, Nebraska.

Dated this 23rd day of July, 1924.  
STEPHEN J. WEEKES,  
8-5 Sole Referee.

(First publication July 17)  
NOTICE FOR PETITION FOR ADMINISTRATION.

Estate No. 1677.  
In the County Court of Holt County, Nebraska, July 10, 1924.

In the Matter of the Estate of Frank Jugler, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested in said state that a petition has been filed in said court for the appointment of Inez Laverne Danielson as Administratrix of said estate, and will be heard August 6, 1924, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the County Court Room in O'Neill, Nebraska.

(County Court Seal.)  
C. J. MALONE,  
County Judge.

death report	25
W. H. Briggs, birth and death report	3.50
W. G. Fletcher, births and death report	25
H. W. Hubbard, birth and death report	5.75
P. J. Keating, birth and death report	8.50
H. E. McGintie, birth and death report	1.50
Wm. W. Noyes, birth and death report	1.50
Elizabeth O'Malley, birth and death report	10.00
M. C. Palmer, birth and death report	4.75
J. W. Rhodes, birth and death report	4.50
Mrs. A. B. Wallace, birth and death report	25
Wm. P. Weber, birth and death report	25
Ross E. Harris, groceries for county poor, Deeder	53.87
Ross E. Harris, groceries for county poor, Deeder	20.29
Ross E. Harris, groceries for county poor, Deeder	47.00
Nye Snyder Jenks Co., coal for Deeder family	10.40
Nye Snyder Jenks Co., coal for Deeder family	5.50
H. E. Pelcer, meals for Dan Dierks	24.80
H. E. Pelcer, meals for Dan Dierks	48.80
Remington Typewriter Co., balance on typewriter	72.50
Remington Typewriter Co., typewriter ribbons	33.00
Scott Hough, making cement gutter	705.20

The following claims were audited and on separate motion allowed on the General fund:

W. S. McDonald	\$3.90
W. T. Dexter	30
Wm. Carpenter	6.30
H. S. White	6.30
H. M. Banks	6.00
Albert Klingler	6.00
J. B. Fullerton	6.00
Casper Larson	4.80
Ed Welton	4.80
Louis W. Barthel	4.80
J. B. Jonas	5.40
F. G. Boetcher	5.40
F. J. Dorovolny	5.40
Clara B. Miles	3.90
Otto E. Clevisch	3.90
Ed L. O'Donnell	3.90
J. W. Hiber	3.00
W. P. Curtis	3.00
Mrs. T. D. Hanley	3.90
Andrew Schmidt	3.90
Eva T. Harman	3.90
M. F. Cronin	3.30
W. J. Biglin	3.80
Harry Ressel	5.40
Hugh Carr	5.40
D. J. McCarthy	5.40
C. H. Johnson	5.10
O. F. Huston	5.10
Adelbert Fauquier	5.10
T. J. Wilbern	5.10
W. P. Simar	5.10
Roy Woods	5.10
Claude V. Wicks	3.90
N. J. Tuller	3.90
F. J. Brady	3.90
A. O. Weber	3.90
J. J. Nachtman	6.30
F. C. Watson	8.50
Mike Mullen	6.00
G. S. Williams	6.00
J. B. Fullerton	4.50
Bernard Gardpelwski	4.80
Lillie C. Bruner	4.80

THE NORTHWESTERN  
NEW TRAIN SCHEDULE

East Bound— West Bound—  
No. 6—2:15 a. m. No. 13—7:16 a. m.  
No. 22—10:00 a. m. No. 11—3:35 p. m.  
No. 2—2:00 p. m. No. 3—11:25 p. m.

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E. D. Henry, Secretary-Treasurer.

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The Public Library will be open each day except Sunday and Monday, from 2:00 until 6:00 p. m.  
MARY McLAUGHLIN, Librarian.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH CATHOLIC  
Sunday Services: First Mass 8 a. m., Second Mass 9 a. m., High Mass at 10:30 a. m., Vespers 7:30 p. m., Daily Mass 8 a. m., Catechetical Instruction for First Communicants 3 p. m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.  
Confession, Saturday from 3 p. m. to 6 p. m. and from 7 p. m. to 9:30 p. m. Children's Confession, First Thursday every month at 1:30 p. m.  
Very Rev. M. F. Cassidy, Pastor.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SERVICES:  
Sunday School at 10 o'clock.  
Preaching service at 11 o'clock.  
Sunday evening at 8 o'clock.  
Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock bible study.  
You are welcome to all of these services.  
Please note the change of time and change in the order of the services.  
GEO. LONGSTAFF, Pastor.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Sunday Morning Service, 10:00 a. m., Sunday School 11:00 a. m., Young People's Service 7:00 p. m., Evening Service, 8:00 p. m.  
Midweek Services: Tuesday, 8:00 p. m.; Young People's Prayer Service Wednesday 8:00 p. m., Regular Prayer Meeting, Thursday, 8:00 p. m.  
Rev. J. A. Hutchins, Pastor.

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