

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

Q. Which is the healthier state, Minnesota or Missouri?  
A. I believe Minnesota is.

Q. How often do you get the mail at O'Neill City?  
A. Twice a week, at present, but we will soon get it once a day. O'Neill City will be made a money order postoffice the first of next July. The representatives of our state, at Washington, are very kind in procuring everything they can for us there.

Q. How many months of winter in Nebraska?  
A. About three months, with frequent intervals of mild sunny days.

Q. When does plowing commence in Holt county?  
A. You can commence plowing new ground from the first to the tenth of May; old ground when the frost is out.

Q. Is the land in Holt county good for wheat?  
A. Excellent.

Q. Would it pay to bring a stove along?  
A. Not unless several persons join together and charter a car.

Q. Is there any alkali land in Holt county?  
A. No; not an acre.

Q. What do the settlers use for fuel?  
A. Wood. There is every indication of coal in the county.

Q. Is there good brick clay in Holt county?  
A. Excellent. Mr. Daniel Donahue, of Chicago, is going out with the colony to start a brick yard. He says he can make brick there to sell at for \$4 per thousand.

Q. Do you raise broom corn in Holt county?  
A. Yes. And a young man from Chicago is going out with the colony to start a broom factory.

Q. Had a man better go out himself first, and after he gets fixed send for his family?  
A. Practical experience would indicate this to be the better way.

Q. Where is your nearest market?  
A. At the doors of the settlers. The immigrants going out buy up everything that the settlers have for sale.

Q. Have you good water in Holt county?  
A. No better can be found any place.

Q. Can a number of families, old neighbors, get their claims together?  
A. Yes.

Q. Is it necessary to be an experienced farmer in order to get along?  
A. No. If you are only willing to work you can soon learn all that is necessary for you to know.

Q. Can a person get a place to board for a while?  
A. Yes. But you must not expect to find first-class accommodations. There are no houses for rent.

Q. State the exact location of O'Neill City and Atkinson?  
A. O'Neill City is located in Section 29 township 29, Range 11 west, Atkinson, in Section 6, Township 29, Range 14 West. The settlements are located between latitude 42 and 43 near longitude 99.

Q. Can soldiers get their pension back pay, etc., at O'Neill City?  
A. Yes, the same as they can get any place else.

Q. Have any of the expeditions for the Black Hills gone through your place?  
A. Yes, the first expedition that went out in the fall of 1874 went through our place, and a number have gone through since. Men are now going by that route every day.

Q. Does a man who abandons his claim for over six months forfeit his right to it?  
A. Yes.

Q. What about lost discharges?  
A. Soldiers who have lost their discharges should write to the Adjutant General of the State in which they enlisted for certified copies.

Q. Is Holt county a good place for a Surveyor and Civil Engineer?  
A. There will be considerable work for Surveyors on the railroad this summer, but persons who contemplate

tend and address them on the subject, and assist in organizing Irish Emigrant Aid Societies. I shall expect societies who invite me to pay my expenses while there, nothing more. As I intend to travel and select locations for a number of colonies this spring and summer, I will be able to give considerable information on this subject. Irish Emigrant Aid Societies can be organized in Canada as well as in the United States, but I will not promise to go there to assist in organizing them, I would be afraid of having my expenses paid too well.

When these Irish Emigrant Aid Societies are once started we can easily establish Banking Loan Associations in connection with them.

Letters addressed to me at O'Neill City, Holt County, Nebraska, will reach me.

Burke's Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, December 27, 1875.

Editor Irish World: On looking over the report of the Land Commissioner at Washington, as published in the newspapers, I find that during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, there were disposed of, under various acts of Congress, seven million seventy thousand two hundred and seventy-one (7,070,271) acres of Government land. How much of this land has been purchased or

**Taken Up By The Irish People**  
I have no means of knowing, but I fear that they have secured but a very small share of it. Although there has been a decrease of two million four hundred and sixty thousand six hundred and one (2,460,601) acres as compared with the previous year, yet at the rate at which it was disposed of last year, all of the good land belonging to the government will, ere many years roll by, be in the hands of individuals, and the Germans, the Swedes, the Norwegians, and the Russians will become the principal landowners of the great Northwest. Unless they bestir themselves in time the Irish people of this country will continue to be the "hewers of wood and carriers of water."

**For The Landed-Proprietors.**  
I am well aware that the Irish World has done a great deal of good for the last few years by imparting information on this most important subject, yet much still remains to be done. There are thousands of poor families in the large cities, both East and West, who could do well on Government land if they only had the means to take them to it, and get a start on a farm. Now, the question is, how can these people be supplied with the necessary means, for it is but poor comfort for them to know that Uncle Sam will give each of them a farm almost for nothing. "Alas!" they will say, as many of them have said to me personally and by letter, "we have

**No Money To Take Us West.**  
Or to get a start on a farm, and but very poor prospects of being able to get any in these hard times, when we are so sorely tried to get a mouthful to eat for ourselves and our families." I believe I have read and carefully studied every letter that has been published in the Irish World for the last two years under the head of "Lands and Homes," but I have yet to notice a satisfactory answer to the question: "How can the poorer classes of our people be assisted to the West and getting a start on a farm?" My expectations in traveling through the West for the last four years fully confirm me in the opinion that no class of people prosper better on the land than the Irish. Now I am well aware that there are very many charitable-disposed people amongst the wealthier classes of our race in these United States, and that thousands of them would willingly contribute of their means to assist their more unfortunate countrymen in bettering their condition. But this is a work that will require millions of money to carry out on a grand scale, and I have but very little faith in attempting it on a charitable basis. When you can show to men of means how they can invest their money safely with profit to themselves, and at the same time to do an invaluable good to others, you approach them with an irresistible argument. Here is my

**Plan of Operation.**  
In every parish in each of the cities and towns of the Eastern and Middle States there are a number, more or less, of wealthy men. Now let these men, or a few of them with the assistance of the parish priest organize an Irish Emigrant Aid Society, and let one of their own number, or a reliable man from amongst those who are going West, visit any of the Western States or Territories where there is plenty of government land and select a suitable place for a colony, and at the same time locate a town site, which shall be owned by the Society, (a portion of this town-site can be set apart for the benefit of the settlers who will locate around it, and another portion to assist in building a church and supporting a priest for a couple of years, or until the settlers are able to support him, and as the settlers will be sufficiently numerous in each settlement to elect their own men as trustees, they can employ Catholic teachers for the public school.) Then let the society select such men of their parish as desire to

**Settle Upon The Land**  
select, and loan them the money necessary, taking the notes for the same, to be paid back with interest, in installments, in three, four, or five years, or whenever they are able to pay it back, and a trustworthy man along who will purchase their railroad tickets, and such farming implements and cattle as they may need, and put up a mortgage on every thing that they supply, so as to secure themselves at least for the greater portion of the money advanced. Of course, there will be some who will have a little money themselves, and will not need much assistance, while others again will have sufficient money of their own. This will be the starting point for a colony. Now, the moment you can get one hundred families located around a town-site, it at once becomes worth from twenty-

to thirty thousand dollars; and when you have two hundred families around it, it becomes worth from fifty to sixty, or perhaps one hundred thousand dollars, and in five or six years may treble this amount. Every man who has watched the

**Rapid Growth of Towns in The West**  
Will agree with me in this estimate. Town-sites should be located with a view to making them county seats, which, in cases of this kind, is very easily managed. Now, you may think that this is giving the owners of the town-site too much for their investment, but, in the first place, I desire, in order to get moneyed men interested, to hold out to them very superior inducements, and, in the second place, I want to protect them against any losses that they may sustain by any dishonesty. Of course, the society will have to be very careful in selecting the men whom they assist, and know that they are honestly disposed. When it becomes known that a colony has once been started in any part of the West where the land is good and the climate healthy, then men of means, farmers, mechanics, merchants and others will soon flock there, and bring money with them, and furnish employment to poor men, and in a few years all will be prosperous and happy, and be able to build their own churches and schools, and support their own priest, and have their own society.

**The Work Commenced in Chicago.**  
As I have always believed in practicing what I preach, I commenced in this city a few weeks ago to organize societies on the plan suggested, and at the present writing have two societies partly organized, and expect to organize six societies in this city alone. When I get through here, I will be pleased to visit any other city or town in the country where the people are willing to organize on the plan suggested, and assist them in any way that I can.

JOHN O'NEILL.

**SUPERVISORS' PROCEEDINGS.**  
(Continued from last week.)  
The following claims were audited and on separate motion were allowed on the bridge fund:

Frank Barrett, labor	\$ 6.00
Frank Valla, labor	1.50
Ed Sparks, labor	13.50
C. B. Nellis, labor	7.60
Wm. Sparks, labor	14.25
Geo. Meals, hauling trip	4.60
J. W. McDermott, labor	10.50
D. J. Sullivan, labor	15.00
C. L. Hull, labor	8.70
Garold Nellis, hauling	15.98
Ed Sparks, labor	15.00

Delegation from Steel Creek township appeared before the board in the matter of a County road.

To The Honorable County Board of Holt County, Nebraska:  
We, the undersigned, being the owners of the land adjacent to the proposed road, hereby petition your honorable body to grant and establish a public county road, described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at the southeast corner of Section 12, township 21, Range 9 West, thence North 1 1/2 miles to Road No. 296, thence along said Road No. 296 as recorded, to Road No. 4 North of the northwest quarter of Section 1-31-9, thence along Road No. 4 to the northwest corner of Section 6-31-9, thence South 1907 chains, thence 5.89 degrees 10 minutes West (on the Carson Road) 25.24 chains, thence North 34 degrees 40 minutes West 18.32 chains, thence North 60 degrees West 273 chains, thence North 78 degrees West 7.79 chains, thence North 41 degrees West 4.44 chains to the north line of Section at a point 23.24 chains West of the northeast corner of Section 1-31-10, thence West to the northwest corner of said Section 1-31-10, thence North on Road No. 43, 4 1/2 miles to the one-fourth section corner west of Section 12, Township 32, Range 10 West, near Red Bird Post Office and there terminate.

If the road be established as above described we relinquish and waive all claims for damages except for the amount set opposite our names, which sum we agree to accept in full satisfaction for all damages to our respective lands as follows:

A. F. Treinies	NE 12-31-9
Mrs. Louise Treinies	NE 12-31-9
47 other signers.	

We, the undersigned, are interested in the establishment of said road and reside within five miles of the said proposed road and we have, each given the location of our land and residence opposite our respective names in section town and range:

B. B. Thomas	NW 1/4 1-31-9
A. W. Tomlinson	NE 1/4 25-31-9
Louise Volquardsen	SE 1/4 23-31-9
C. I. Marston	NW 1/4 1-31-9
Joe Jerahek	SW 1/4 2-31-9
Henry Kranig	
J. E. Wiley	NE 1/4 NE 1/4 10-31-9
Lloyd Phelps	NW 1/4 4-31-9
V. V. Rosenkrans	SE 1/4 4-31-9

Mr. Chairman: I move that the petition of A. Treinies and others for the establishment of a County road be granted and that the road over the following line be designated as a County road known:

Commencing at southeast corner of Section 12, Township 31, Range 9 West, thence North 1 1/2 miles to Road No. 296, thence along said Road No. 296 as recorded, to Road No. 4 north of the NW 1/4 NW 1/4 of Section 1-31-9, thence along Road No. 4 to the northwest corner of Section 6-31-9, thence South 19.07 chains, thence South 89 degrees 10 minutes West (on the Carson Road) 25.24 chains, thence North 34 degrees 40 minutes West 18.32 chains, thence North 60 degrees West 275 chains, thence North 78 degrees West 7.79 chains, thence North 41 degrees West 4.44 chains to the north line of section at a point 23.24 chains west of the northeast corner of Section 1-31-10, thence West to the northwest corner of said Section 1-31-10, thence North on Road No. 43 4 1/2 miles to the one-fourth section corner west of Section 12, Township 32, Range 10 West, near the Red Bird postoffice and there terminate.

E. GIBSON.  
JOHN SULLIVAN.

Upon same being put to vote by Chairman it was declared carried. The following claims were audited and on separate motion allowed in the Road Draggng fund:

L. W. Nnapp	\$ 23.10
Jos. J. Funk	20.30
H. G. Tucker	23.33
Clifford French	19.95
W. A. Ulry	27.90
John F. Johnson	9.10
M. J. Golden	10.50
Harold Smith	4.50

Mr. Chairman: I move you that the county order a car of coal of Fred T. Robertson, guaranteed block size at \$7.51 per ton laid down in O'Neill in accordance with bid presented by him.

JOHN SULLIVAN,  
L. E. SKIDMORE.

Upon same being put to vote by Chairman it was declared carried.

At 10 o'clock a. m. on motion board adjourned until July 29, 1924, at 10 o'clock a. m. unless sooner called by the Clerk.

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

O'Neill, Neb., July 16, 1924, 9 a. m.

Parts Supplies Hemstitching

## The Singer Shop

New and Second-Hand Sewing Machines  
All Makes Cleaned and Repaired

**W. A. Guy, Manager**  
O'Neill, Nebraska

---

**FOR**

Farm Loans; Fire, Lightning, Tornado, Windstorms, Cyclone, Hail, Auto, Compensation, Public Liability, Property Damage, Collision, Accident, Health and Life Insurance, see

Phone 9. L. G. GILLESPIE, O'Neill, Neb.

and on separate motion allowed on the road fund.

John Sullivan, inspection	\$ 49.00
Laurence Tenberg, labor	12.00
C. B. Nellis, road work	9.00
W. R. Tenberg, Jr., labor	3.00
E. Gibson, inspecting labor	40.00
Ed Sparks, labor	22.50

At 5 o'clock p. m. on motion board adjourned until July 16, 1924, at 9 o'clock a. m.

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

O'Neill, Neb., July 16, 1924, 9 a. m.

Board met pursuant to adjournment. All members present. Board called to order by Chairman. Minutes for July 15, 1924, read and approved.

The following claims were audited and on separate motion allowed in the Road Draggng fund:

L. W. Nnapp	\$ 23.10
Jos. J. Funk	20.30
H. G. Tucker	23.33
Clifford French	19.95
W. A. Ulry	27.90
John F. Johnson	9.10
M. J. Golden	10.50
Harold Smith	4.50

Mr. Chairman: I move you that the county order a car of coal of Fred T. Robertson, guaranteed block size at \$7.51 per ton laid down in O'Neill in accordance with bid presented by him.

JOHN SULLIVAN,  
L. E. SKIDMORE.

Upon same being put to vote by Chairman it was declared carried.

At 10 o'clock a. m. on motion board adjourned until July 29, 1924, at 10 o'clock a. m. unless sooner called by the Clerk.

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

O'Neill, Neb., July 16, 1924, 10 a. m.

Board of Equalization met at the call of the Clerk, all members present. Board called to order by the Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: In view of the fact that the County Assessor has received word from the State Tax Commissioner, that the State Board of Equalization are not satisfied with the assessment of the real estate as returned from Holt county and intimated that the assessment was liable to be raised, I move you that the Chairman appoint a Committee to go to Lincoln to appear before the State Board at the time set for the hearing in case they attempt to raise the assessment and that said Committee include the County Attorney.

L. E. SKIDMORE,  
JOHN SULLIVAN.  
(Continued on page four.)

NEBRASKA CULVERT AND MFG. CO.  
AUSTIN-WESTERN ROAD MACHINERY  
ARMCO CULVERTS  
Everything in Road Machinery  
Western Representative

**L. C. PETERS**  
O'Neill :: Nebraska

**DR. L. A. CARTER**  
Physician and Surgeon  
Glasses Correctly Fitted.  
Office and Residence, Naylor Bldg.  
Phone 72  
O'NEILL :: NEBRASKA

**W. F. FINLEY, M. D.**  
Phone, Office 28  
O'Neill :: Nebraska

**George M. Harrington**  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW  
PHONE 11.  
O'NEILL, NEBRASKA.

**NEW FEED STORE!**  
In the Roberts Barn in connection with the Feed Barn. All kinds of feeds and hay carried in stock. We make delivery.  
We do custom grinding.  
Office, 336. Res. 270 or 303  
**ROBERTS & HOUGH**

**THE O'NEILL ABSTRACT COMPANY**  
—Compiles—  
"Abstracts of Title"  
THE ONLY COMPLETE SET OF ABSTRACT BOOKS IN HOLT COUNTY.

**DR. J. P. GILLIGAN**  
Physician and Surgeon  
Special Attention Given To DISEASES OF THE EYE AND CORRECT FITTING OF GLASSES

**H. L. BENNETT**  
GRADUATE VETERINARIAN  
Phone 304. Day or Night.  
O'NEILL, NEBRASKA.

**PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS.**  
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.