

The Founding of O'Neill,

By General John O'Neill

Burke's Hotel, Chicago, Illinois
March 22, 1876.

Patrick Fahy, Esq.,
Sir: It is just two years and four months, to-day, since I entered into a written agreement, for four months, sworn to by each of us, with yourself and S. M. Boyd, at Lincoln, Nebraska. You bought out another man's interest, as you informed me, for the purpose of enabling you to enter into this agreement. I had then spent some two years in traveling through the Western States for the purpose of seeing the country and selecting places for locating colonies of my countrymen, and on being informed by you that you were interested with others, in a town-site, then called Holt, Nebraska, where the land is exceedingly good, and a sufficient quantity of it, to locate one or more colonies, and that yourself and your associates in this town-site would allow me enough of money, one hundred and fifty dollars per month, for four months, to pay my expenses to go East and work up an immigration for the county. Having fully satisfied myself as to the quality of the land and the desirability of the location, I was more than anxious to enter into an agreement with you. This anxiety was increased by your uniform kindness and attention to me when I first visited Lincoln, to deliver a lecture on Ireland, and before we had any talk about entering into business relations. I might here remark that in my travels in the West, in almost every city and town I visited, I met Irishmen who treated me as you did, for which, I, of course, felt very grateful, particularly as I was then in delicate health, and no doubt felt the kindness more keenly than perhaps I would if I had been in good health. I merely mention this now because I have heard that you accused me of ingratitude, which I am not willing to admit is part of my character. I was also more anxious to make arrangements with you because you are an Irishman, and as my mission is entirely in behalf of the Irish people, I preferred dealing with one of my countrymen. While you were only one of the party to the agreement, I looked to you and not to Mr. Boyd, (who is not an Irishman and with whom I would not likely have entered into any business arrangements), for carrying out the agreement entered into, but in this I was very much disappointed. Both yourself and Mr. Boyd were fully aware of my financial circumstances, for I very candidly told you and you knew that I could not travel, or do anything unless you furnished the money as you had agreed to do. And yet to my utter astonishment, when you got me compromised in the business and started on the road, you treated me shamefully, allowing me to remain for weeks at a time, at Pittsburg, Philadelphia, and New York, under expense, without a cent of money to travel and meet the engagements I had made for attending meetings, etc., and would not even answer my letters or telegrams, but simply trifled with my time so that I was unable to do anything worth speaking of. Had it not been for the kindness of Mr. Ford, of the Irish World, who, when I explained to him the situation I was in, very kindly allowed me the use of his columns to write the matter up, my first effort to organize a colony would have been a complete failure. Although the money which you agreed to pay me has all been paid, yet it was little use to me. In the conversations which I had with you on the subject you threw the blame on Mr. Boyd, and on meeting that gentleman in this city a short time ago, I spoke to him about it and he denied that he was in any way to blame, and in a letter which he wrote me, he says: "My assessment I promptly paid, and on receiving letters from you that you did not receive the money, I made inquiry and was informed that the money had been sent to you by Mr. Fahy; and receiving a letter from you again that you had not received the money due you, I then refused to pay over any more money on the 'contract.'" From this letter and the verbal statements of Mr. Boyd, it appears that it was you and not him who was to blame in the matter.

Now, if my relations with you had ended here I should not write this letter, or publish it as I now intend doing for I had been so accustomed to disappointments and have had to bear

the blame for the failure of others to do what they had agreed to do, so long, that I could readily pass this over and try to forget it with other misfortunes. But your subsequent conduct, which has been a very serious drawback to me and highly injurious to the colony which I have worked so hard to build up, forces me to make some things public which I would much rather not be compelled to do.

On my arrival in Omaha with the first party of immigrants, you handed me a transcript from the Secretary of State's office, showing that Holt County had been organized and giving the names of the county officers, etc., but you did not say anything to me about the organization being fraudulent. Perhaps you did not know it at the time, although this appears a little strange, as the party who organized or pretended to have organized the county, a Mr. Charles Smith, as I am informed was one of the original town-site company, who, with yourself and others, located the town-site, and you should certainly have known, if you did not, that there were not enough people in the county to justify a county organization. If you did not suspect that there was something wrong in the premises, why did you go to the trouble of procuring a transcript from the Secretary of State's office to assure me that everything was all right.

When I got to the settlement and inquired for the county officers, whose names you gave me, I learned for the first time that the organization and election said to have taken place in Holt County was all a fraud, and that no election had ever taken place in the county. A man there, Mr. Inman, who was, I believe, the first white settler in the county, informed me that he had received letters from bankers in the East, who had bonds on the town, and on the county for sale, which were evidently gotten out by the same parties who organized the county on paper. This was certainly very pleasant and encouraging news for me who had gone there with the intention of locating with my family, and inducing others to do the same. Being in doubt as to whether the town and county could be held responsible for the payment of these bonds, I consulted some able lawyers in Omaha and other places, and was informed that neither the town nor the county could be held responsible, but notwithstanding this, Mr. Inman, and a few other bogoted persons in the county who hated to see our people settle there, used this bond business and the fraudulent organization of the county as an argument in trying to discourage our people who went there to settle, and openly insinuated that you were one of the party who got up the fraudulent organization and issued the bonds, and as I was to all outward appearances your agent or representative, I came in for a full share of the odium attached to the business. So well did Mr. Inman and others succeed in this nefarious business, that several of our people, who went there to settle, after hearing their statements left without waiting to see either myself or any of our settlers, and of course left with a false impression of the county and its advantages. One of the arguments used by our enemies to discourage our people from settling there was that you were not making any improvements in the town, and did not intend to, and that all you cared for was to sell lots in the town and make all the money you could out of it, and that it was all a swindling operation, etc., and as proof of what they said they would point to the town-site which had not the sign of a house on it. In order to put a stop to all this, I urged upon you the necessity of putting up some kind of a building, no matter how small or cheap it might be; but although you repeatedly promised to do this, yet you did not do it, and to mend the matter you kept your brother there all the summer of 1874, idle, (very much against his will as he often told me he wanted to go off some place where he could be doing something), which was an additional argument for our enemies that you had no interest in the place, and simply kept him there for appearance sake. I felt keenly the injurious effects of your giving no sign of having any interest in the town, and to think that O'Neill City, which I had done so much to advertise, was fast becoming a laughing stock. Parties who went out with the intention of starting business there seeing no signs of a town and hearing

the unfavorable reports about how it was started, left in disgust. All this I made known to you from time to time, but to use your own expressive language, you "didn't care a G—d—n what anybody said." No, you did not care, you were away from their taking advantage of the reputation which I had made for the place by selling lots, and would do nothing either to assist myself or help to build up the town, while I had to remain and defend you and defend myself and the reputation of the colony. I defended you because, while I was by no means satisfied with your actions and could not understand how the county could have been fraudulently organized and bonds issued without your knowing something about it, yet I did not, and do not now believe that you were a party to the transaction.

According to your own statements last summer, you had then sold over 300 lots in O'Neill City, which at the rate you advertised to sell at, from twenty to fifty dollars, say on an average of thirty dollars each, would amount to nine thousand dollars, (\$9,000). Now, if you only got one-half of this amount you could certainly afford to do something to assist me in building up the town. You are a young, or at least a single man, and reputedly wealthy, with no one to look after but yourself, while you knew that I was struggling with poverty and had a wife and family to provide for, and that I was working directly in your interest, but this you appeared not to appreciate. I do not expect you to enter into the spirit of the work in which I am engaged, you have neither the head nor the heart to understand, or appreciate it, but you have a stomach for dollars, and I now want to tell you what you have lost by your stolid indifference to my earnest appeals. If you had acted as you should have done, or, as almost any other business man would have acted, you might, to-day, be selling lots in O'Neill City for from \$50 to \$150, for they would be fully worth this amount.

Being satisfied that I could no longer depend on you for doing anything, and feeling heartily ashamed of not having a single house in O'Neill City, notwithstanding that there was a good settlement around it, which was constantly increasing, and feeling that in justice to myself and my family, I no longer had any right to continue working and spending money in enhancing the value of your property, I joined Mr. Patrick Hagerty last July in locating a soldier's addition eighty (80) acres as an addition to O'Neill City, which we intend building up or having it built up as the principal part of the town. This of course was a bank movement which you did not expect for you seemed to have acted all along as if I was completely at your mercy, and that I must continue to work for and build up O'Neill City, because my name happened to be connected with it. Well, I shall continue to work and do everything that I possible can to build up O'Neill & Hagerty's addition to O'Neill City, and I shall give every man who bought of me in O'Neill City a deed of an equal number of lots in this addition.

When you heard that Mr. Hagerty and myself had located this addition, you then for the first time paid a visit to the settlement, and engaged Mr. Maybury, one of the settlers to put up a shell of a building for you. This young man spent his own money in buying lumber and putting up this building, and he now writes to me claiming that you have not paid him, although he needs the money badly, and he has been obliged to take a lien upon the house to have it sold at Sheriff's sale. This is certainly helping the place with a vengeance.

A short time ago you published an advertisement in the Irish World, stating that you "owned all the unsold lots in O'Neill City." This you knew was not true—you knew that I had some lots for sale there—you knew that S. M. Boyd had some lots for sale there—a list of which I have got, and you knew that William McLaughlin, of your city, had some lots for sale there a list of which he sent me; but I suppose in your sublime selfishness you desired the public to understand that you were the only one from whom they should buy lots.

To crown your generous conduct toward me I learn that you have been going around like an old woman telling people that I took advantage of your brother being absent sick to "jump" his claim. I should think that respect for the memory of your dead brother, who I hope is in Heaven, would prevent you from thus lying about me. You know that your brother had no claim at or near O'Neill City had never entered a claim, and had never taken out his papers on one, and you also knew and so does every other man who knows me at all, that if your brother had entered a claim I would be the last man in the world to interfere with it. I am aware that your brother had selected a claim and talked of entering it; but although he was in the county some nine or ten months he never entered it, and any man who wanted a claim had a perfect right to take it, and neither you nor I, nor your brother could interfere with this right, and no man knows this better than you do.

Mr. Patrick Hagerty, one of the settlers who went up last spring, seeing that this claim was vacant, selected it for himself—which he or any other man had a perfect right to do—and now has one-half of it as part of his timber claim, and the other half we bought between us for the addition to O'Neill City. This "addition," I presume, is what grieves you most. I suppose the next thing you will complain of is my interference with your right to retain for yourself all the claims around the town-site, which you secured at the land office by entering soldiers applications on them; but in this you will be right for I had promised the settlers going out there that they should have the privilege of taking up these claims, and when you informed me at Omaha, that you had entered them, I protested against it and demanded that you give them up. As for my own claim, it was entered by you with one of the soldier's applications, William Phillips, and the papers relinquishing it you gave me

yourself, and they are now in my possession.

In conclusion, permit me to say, that it affords me no pleasure to write or publish this letter, but your own conduct has forced the unwilling task upon me.

Yours, etc.
JOHN O'NEILL.

M. O'Dowd, Agent for the Sale of Railroad Lands, Etc.

I have received numerous letters from correspondents making inquiry about Mr. O'Dowd, to which I reply, that I know but very little about the man, and that little is not very creditable to him. He being an agent for the sale of railroad lands when I first commenced organizing colonies, appeared to me, I suppose, from his great bulk, that the West was too small a country for anybody but himself, and as I was engaged in advising my countrymen to settle upon Government land, which they could get for nothing, he thought I suppose, that I was going to interfere with his business of selling land, and resorted to means which no honorable man would be guilty of to injure me. While he was in the pay and employ of the B. & M. R. R. Land Company, their lands were of course the best to settle upon; but when he changed his position to the U. P. R. R. Land Company, the Platte Valley, in Nebraska, was then the best, but now that he is in the employ of the Kansas Pacific R. R. Land Company, his opinions, of course, have undergone another change, and there is no place like the sunny South with its "shady dwellings, shady pastures, etc." If he should take a notion to remove to the North pole next time, and get well paid for his services, he will no doubt, recommend that country as a perfect paradise. His own published contradictory statements should satisfy any intelligent man that there is no reliance to be placed in anything he may say.

JOHN O'NEILL.

LOTS FOR SALE
—O'NEILL & HAGERTY'S ADDITION—
—O'NEILL CITY.

Lots around the public square are 23 by 180 feet, excepting corner lots, which are 30 by 180 feet. Corner lots are \$40 each, all other lots around the square \$35. Lots away from the square are 40 by 170 feet. Lots one block from the square are \$30, two blocks \$25, three blocks \$20 each.

Lots in Atkinson.

The lots in Atkinson are the same size as those in O'Neill & Hagerty's addition. Corner lots are \$35 each. All other lots around the square are \$30. Lots one block from the square are \$25; two blocks \$20; three blocks \$15, and those in the suburbs \$10 each. A deduction of ten per cent on the above will be made to all who buy two or more lots in either town.

For price of lot in new town see pages 22 and 23 of this pamphlet.

Persons who buy lots are not obliged to live on them, or to make any improvements until they get ready.

The taxes upon these lots will be very light.

Persons who have deeds of lots which are not recorded can send them to Robert Wilson, Esq., Clerk of Antelope county at Oakdale, Nebraska, or they can keep them for a short time until we get Holt county organized.

I give deeds for lots myself.

As to which town is the best to buy lots in, I think that there is very little difference as the necessary arrangements have been made for building up both places immediately. The number of settlers already located, and the number who are going out this spring clearly indicate that both towns will soon be built up.

O'Neill City will be made the County Seat of Holt county this spring, and Atkinson will, in course of time, be the County Seat of the adjoining county west; besides, being within 40 miles of the Pine region, it is bound to become a town of considerable importance. Money invested in either of these towns at the rate which I am now selling lots is sure to pay at least one hundred per cent. per annum for two or three years.

I will send a deed immediately for one or more lots to any person who will send me the money by P. O. Order, or Bank Check, care Burke's European Hotel, Madison street, Chicago, Illinois, up to April 19th, and after that date to O'Neill City. I might here state that this is the only means I have of procuring the necessary funds to enable me to continue the work of organizing and locating colonies in the west, and I respectfully request all of my friends who approve of my work to come forward and assist me.

JOHN O'NEILL.

Judge Hubbard's Letter.

The following letter is from Judge Hubbard, the President of the Covington, Columbus and Black Hills railroad, which will run through our settlement.

Sioux City, Iowa, April 5th, 1876.
Gen. John O'Neill, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir—Yours of the 1st inst., has been received and contents noted. We are pleased to learn that there will be a large emigration to Nebraska this season.

Work on the C. C. and Black Hills railroad will certainly be prosecuted this season. Engineers are now on the line locating it and we have some 25,000 ties out ready, and some 40,000 more contracted for, and are expecting to contract for 50,000 more soon. The company will commence grading as soon as the frost is out of the ground. Iron and rolling stock for the first division of the road are now being contracted for, so that it is now settled that some of the road will be built this year.

We think the work in which you are engaged will result in lasting and permanent good to all of Northern Nebraska. We will be glad to work with you to bring about the results desired.

Yours truly,
A. W. HUBBARD.
(THE END.)

(First publication August 21)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS.
Estate No. 1634.

In the County Court of Holt County, Nebraska, August 19, 1924.

In the matter of the Estate of Joachim Wabs, Deceased.

CREDITORS of said estate are hereby notified that the time limited for presenting claims against said estate is December 17th, 1924, and for the payment of debts is July 14th, 1925, and that on September 17th, 1924, and on December 18th, 1924, at 10 o'clock A. M., each day, I will be at the County Court Room in said County to receive, examine, hear allow, or adjust all claims and objections duly filed.

C. J. MALONE,
County Judge.

12-4
(County Court Seal.)

(First publication August 14.)
LEGAL NOTICE.

Thompson Rounseville and Willis A. Rounseville, non-resident defendants, impleaded with Patrick E. McKillip, A. Eugene McKillip, A. E. L. Zell, first and real name unknown, — Brazell, first and real name unknown and John Doe, real and true name unknown, also defendants, are notified that on July 12, 1924, Peters Trust Company, a corporation, plaintiff, commenced an action in the District Court of Holt County, Nebraska, against the defendants above named, the object and prayer of which are to foreclose a real estate mortgage executed and delivered by Patrick E. McKillip and A. Eugene McKillip, his wife, to plaintiff on December 26, 1918, to secure a note of \$1,000 and interest, which mortgage was recorded on January 2, 1919, in Book 122 of mortgages at page 717 in the office of the County Clerk of Holt County, Nebraska, and conveyed the Southeast Quarter of Section 17, in Township 32 North, of Range 13 West of 6th Principal Meridian in Holt County, Nebraska. Plaintiff alleges it is the owner of said note and mortgage and that they are due and payable, and prays that an accounting be had of the amount due thereon and that the premises above described be sold to satisfy the amount found due on said mortgage.

You are required to answer said petition on or before September 22, 1924.

PETERS TRUST COMPANY,
A Corporation,
Plaintiff.

11-4

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.

DR. J. A. GILLIGAN
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MARY McLAUGHLIN, Librarian.

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O'NEILL, NEBRASKA.

Send it to the Laundry

"HEARD A LECTURE THE OTHER NIGHT"

said Aunt Julia, "a spectacled-lady was scolding us all because we didn't take enough interest in the ballot. Well, just having the right to go into a polling booth doesn't count for much with a woman whose imagination is bounded on one side by the back fence and on the other by the front porch. After they've had their hands full twenty years looking after a house they're not so likely to have the time left to look after the nation."

We think Aunt Julia is putting it too strong. Women are getting away from the "housework mind" by using every modern convenience for shortening housework hours. For instance, more than 2,000,000 American Women are using the laundry today. May we add your name to the list

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