

BRIEF LIFE SKETCH OF A PIONEER NEBRASKAN

Historical Review of the Life of the Late Levi G. Todd—Was Prominent in Early State Politics—Once a Candidate for Governor

(Written by Basil S. Ramsey)

DIED—At Union, Cass county, Nebraska, on February 14th, at 2:30 o'clock, p. m., Levi Goodsell Todd, aged 76 years, 11 months and 2 days.

Levi Goodsell Todd was born in Stockton, Chautauqua county, New York, on March 22, 1829, and was one of a family of sixteen children, ten sons and six daughters, all of whom have now answered the last summons. His father was Bela Todd and mother, Lucy, whose maiden name was Hemingway. Mr. Todd left the home of his birth in boyhood, when twenty-one years old or about 1850. Like many other ambitious young men of the eastern states, he turned his steps westward and for a time resided in Mills county, Iowa, where he taught school during the winter of 1853-4.

During this winter our subject frequently visited the Nebraska side of the Missouri river, stopping with one, Samuel Martin, then residing near Plattsmouth, and who was one of the noted Indian traders of that time. Mr. Todd became the owner of about 200 acres of land south of Plattsmouth—the old fair grounds. This valuable tract of land he sold to James R. Porter about the year 1857, and then removed to the farm at Buck's Grove, where he resided the greater part of his life, or until Dec. 18, 1904, when, owing to the infirmities of age he gave up farm life and removed to Union, where he has since resided.

The Todd farm, near Buck's Grove, which our subject brought to a high state of cultivation and where he and his most estimable family lived for nearly half a century, is one of the many fine grain and stock farms in Cass county. It was here Mr. Todd took a genuine pride in the finest products of grain and the rearing of finest horses, cattle and hogs. And during the freighting period in the sixties, before railroads were constructed in Nebraska, many a wagon load of produce from this farm was hauled overland to Denver and other western markets.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY.

At West Point, Iowa, February 20, 1855, Mr. Todd was united in marriage to Miss Lydia Jones, of Monroe, Ohio, who has ever proved a most helpful assistant to her husband in building up fortune and fame. To this union the following named children were born: Albina P. Thomas, born at Plattsmouth, Neb., Feb. 20, 1856; died at Plattsmouth, Neb., April 18, 1888. Elizabeth Todd Eigenbrodt, born March 28, 1858; died Feb. 20, 1886. Lewis C. Todd, born May 20, 1860; resides near Nehawka, Cass county, Neb. Albert L. Todd, born Feb. 23, 1882; died March 6, 1894. An infant son, died in infancy. Horace G. Todd, born Feb. 9, 1864; resides at Murray, Cass county, Neb. Miss Jessie B. Todd, the only living daughter and now living with her mother at Union, Neb. John B. Todd and Levi Goodsell Todd, both residing at Union, Cass county, Neb.

There are twenty-two grand-children and five great grand-children, and it is a singular coincidence that Mr. Todd's grand-child, George W. Thomas, and great grand-child, Carl Thomas, each has the same birthday as that of their distinguished ancestor, the first March 22, '75, the latter March 22, '01, and in this connection it is a matter of historic interest to note that the first white girl baby born in Cass county was Albina P. Todd, who married Thomas J. Thomas, and was the mother of George W. Thomas, and grandmother of Carl Thomas above referred to.

MR. TODD'S EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES
In boyhood and early manhood Mr. Todd had few educational advantages. He attended the common schools of his native county and acquired a fair business education. However, he was a student all his life, and few persons were better posted on the current issues of the day, whether in politics, religion, finance, or the sciences. In fact he had few superiors when it came to argument, upon any subject which he had investigated.

CLERK OF ELECTION IN 1854.

Under a proclamation of Acting Territorial Governor Thomas B. Cumming a general election was held on December 12, 1854, for the election of members of the Territorial Council and House from Cass county. This proclamation described Cass county as "the county lying between the Platte river on the north and the Weeping Water on the south, and from the Missouri river on the east to the ceded lands on the west."

It was divided into two precincts—Martin's, comprising the north part of the county, and Kenosha the southern

part. For judges and clerks of that election, Governor Cumming made the appointments, and our deceased friend was appointed one of the clerks for Martin's precinct.

ELECTED JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

At this election Mr. Todd and Allen Watson were elected justices of the peace for Plattsmouth precinct, then comprising what had been Martin's precinct, Kenosha precinct having been changed to Rock Bluffs precinct.

'SQUIRE TODD'S FIRST LAW SUIT.

On April 16, 1855, 'Squire Todd tried his first law suit—a case of forcible entry and detainer. James O'Neill, one of the early pioneers of Plattsmouth, was plaintiff, and one James Raines was defendant. The trial resulted in judgment in favor of O'Neill, and Raines is said to have appealed to the district court. For some reason the docket of the district court was lost, and this is believed to be the first case ever filed in the district court for Cass county. In the capacity of justice of the peace it has been said that 'Squire Todd gave universal satisfaction, but no inducement could persuade him to hold the office beyond the one term.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER IN 1860.

In the year 1860 Mr. Todd was elected county commissioner for Cass county. He served with signal ability in this capacity for one term but could not be induced to serve longer. The office of county commissioner then as now necessarily absorbed much of the official's time, and Mr. Todd found more congeniality in cultivating and improving his now famous farm near Buck's Grove than in hearing petitions for roads and attending to the routine of the office of county commissioner.

MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE IN 1862.

In 1862 our subject was elected a member of the house of representatives for the Territory of Nebraska. This was during "war times" and the people generally were more absorbed in the great conflict between the north and south, than in legislation, hence little legislation was done during this session.

STANCH REPUBLICAN IN PIONEER DAYS.

From the time of his settlement in Cass county, Mr. Todd took an active and leading part in the development of the country. His large, beautiful



LEVI G. TODD

and well improved farm, northwest of Union, where he lived for so many years, is a living monument, commemorative of his energy, industry and great success as a farmer. He took an active part in politics throughout his entire life, and there were few who could compete with him in forensic discussion. In the early days he was a stanch supporter of republican principles and there were few campaigns in which he did not take an active part. He was well known, not only in Cass and adjoining counties, but throughout the state as well.

But in 1870, there arose disaffection in the republican ranks and particularly in Cass county; many of the leading republicans bolted their regular nominees and joined hands with the democrats in an independent movement. Mr. Todd was an earnest and loyal supporter of this independent movement, and was rewarded by the election of the independent legislative ticket in Cass county with one exception.

This bolt in republican ranks was directed against the re-election of Governor David Butler for a third term, and also against the re-election of General John M. Thayer, United States senator. The former was re-elected but the latter was defeated.

OPPOSES STATE ORGANIZATION IN 1866.

Old settlers will recall the great contest for state organization in 1866. It was a contest to organize Nebraska Territory into the State of Nebraska. Levi G. Todd was one of the strongest opponents of the proposed change. In that celebrated contest he was compelled to oppose his own party and especially the republican nominee for governor—David Butler. As the writer remembers, this was the only time Levi G. Todd and the late J. Sterling Morton met on common political grounds. Both were opposed to state organization, although Morton was the democratic candidate for governor. The result of election was in favor of state organization and of Butler for governor.

BOLTS REPUBLICAN TICKET IN 1870.

Four years after the contest for

state government, Mr. Todd, with many other good and loyal republicans, bolted the republican nominees for different offices, among them being that of Governor Butler for re-election for a third term and the re-election of General John M. Thayer for United States Senator. An independent legislative ticket for Cass county, composed of republicans and democrats was elected with one exception. The result of that election was the defeat of Senator Thayer, but Governor Butler was re-elected for a third term by a greatly reduced majority.

It was in that election that party lines were completely broken in Cass county, and a number of old-time republicans gradually drifted away from party affiliations and among them, our deceased friend. Not long afterward the old greenback party was organized and became a potent political factor in the United States and more particularly in the west and south, although there were many strong advocates of the principles of this party throughout the east.

GREENBACK CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR IN 1878.

About this time the Greenback party began its formation. Our deceased friend was one of the first converts to the doctrine advocated by this party and became one of its strongest advocates. The party continued to grow in numerical strength all over the nation, more particularly in the west.

In 1878 Mr. Todd was the candidate of this party for governor of Nebraska and polled 9,475 votes. Although defeated, yet he never surrendered his views and convictions upon the doctrine as advocated by George H. Pendleton, James B. Weaver and many other intellectual giants and statesmen of national fame.

When in 1890, William J. Bryan became a candidate for congress from the First district of Nebraska, Mr. Todd became a great admirer of the young statesman and became a convert to Bryan's theories upon tariff and silver coinage. And in 1896 and 1900 Mr. Bryan had no more earnest and enthusiastic supporter than Levi G. Todd.

LAST SAD RITES.

On Monday, February 25, 1906, at 12 o'clock, at the family home in Union, Cass county, Nebraska, funeral services were held, where many gathered to pay the last tribute of respect to one of the honored pioneers of Cass county. Rev. Newton Mann of Omaha conducted the services, and dwelt in beautifully chosen words on the long, upright life of the deceased. The choir consisted of Mr. and Mrs. George L. Farley, the Misses Florence White and Estella Baird, and Messrs. B. A. McElwain and Ralph W. White, all of Plattsmouth, and whom most touchingly rendered the following: "Lead Kindly Light," "Abide With Me," "Nearer My God to Thee."

The honorary pall bearers were: Lewis Bird, Isaac Pollard, M. H. Shoemaker, D. W. Foster, R. D. Clark and J. W. Pitman.

The active pall bearers were: John Bramblet, J. D. Cross, W. B. Banning, F. A. Frimble, T. W. Swan and W. D. James.

Interment was made in Buck's cemetery, near Union, where many of the old pioneer settlers of Cass county now silently rest in that last, long, dreamless slumber.

BRIEF TRIBUTE.

Levi G. Todd was a man of more than ordinary intellectual equipment. Handicapped by very limited educational advantages in his youth, yet with a mind at once strong and assiduous in investigation, he soon grasped ideas, and was fitted by nature—not alone to communicate the same to others, but to carry conviction with his logic. Somewhat positive in his convictions, yet he always treated with great courtesy and consideration those who differed from him, whether the differences were political, scientific or religious.

He was most genial and social in his nature, and his home one of hospitality. Although surrounded by wealth and the many comforts of life which many years of hardest toil of himself and family had accumulated, yet his hospitable home was always open and a cordial welcome awaited all, especially the old pioneers of Cass county.

Like the autumn leaves which so silently fall, the old pioneers of Cass county are rapidly falling by the way-side. Our deceased friend had come to Cass county when only a boy. His fortune and fame were to be carved out of what, with personal effort and industry, the future might bring. Here more than half a century ago the boy of twenty-one saw a wild, untamed west. The Indians and various wild animals were the principal settlers. But with sturdy courage and energy the New York boy went to work. He not only found a home; he accumulated wealth. He became a leading, valued, influential citizen. He became prominent, useful and commanded universal confidence in his integrity. His life work is a legacy to children, grand-children and great grand-children.

And as with all who pass the final boundary of earth-life, we must bow to the inevitable and patiently await the next summons to return home.

AMONG JOURNAL FRIENDS

The Editor Takes a Couple of Days Off for a Recreation Trip.

VISITS AT UNION AND NEHAWKA

Two of the Thrifty and Enterprising Towns of Cass County.

On Friday last the Journal editor, coming to the conclusion that a visit among the people of Liberty and Nehawka precincts would do him much good socially, physically and financially, he boarded the southbound train on the M. P. at 9:45, for Union. The Journal has a host of friends in and around Union, and we always feel at home among them, and spent much of the time in that village.

We visited a number of the principal business houses, among them were Roy Upton, the hardware man, and R. H. Frans & Co., the merchant prince of the town. Roy was up to his eyes in business, and Mr. Frans and his clerks were as busy as bees dispensing dry goods, groceries, etc. Mr. Frans carries the largest stock of general merchandise of any firm in the town, and his goods are as finely displayed as are the goods of those who carry on business in towns of from 2,000 to 6,000 inhabitants. Mr. Frans had just returned from Ottumwa, Iowa, where he and Mrs. Frans had been called on account of the sickness and death of F. W. Young, an uncle of Mrs. Frans. The wife of the deceased returned with them and will make her home with Mr. and Mrs. Frans for a short time. Mrs. Young is 70 years of age, and is an only sister of E. H. Fitch.

We called upon numerous other business men, among whom were W. F. Tracy, the general bank cashier, W. B. Banning, ex-county commissioner, and the lumber king of Union; Joe Banning, W. A. Taylor, F. W. Young and J. H. Frans, all of whom renewed their allegiance to the Old Reliable for another year. And not only do we feel grateful to these gentlemen for their favors but we also desire to thank the following gentlemen who became new patrons at the Union postoffice: B. F. Hoback, R. D. Stine, M. Lynde, Will Frans, Eli Eaton, Ed McClellan and Reuben Foster. The latter gentleman is an old resident of Union and vicinity, and formerly resided in London, Ohio, where the old man of the Journal first saw the light of day sixty-three years ago.

Union is one of the most important points in Cass county, and is situated in the center of some of the finest farming lands in Eastern Nebraska. It is well built up, the citizens energetic and enterprising, and we seriously doubt if there is a town of the same size in Cass county that can equal it as a business point. Situated as it is, at the junction of the Lincoln branch and main line of the Missouri Pacific, Union is destined at no very distant day to be one of the most important points on the Missouri Pacific railroad in Nebraska.

Saturday morning we jumped aboard of one of Blair Porter's elegant turn-outs, and with Blair hold of the reins, we were hurried out to the home of Charley Banning, where we found many Journal friends who were attending the public sale of Mr. Banning's effects, previous to that gentleman's removal to Furnas county, Nebraska. Here we met our good friend, J. G. Wunderlich, who steered us around and introduced us to many whom we never had the pleasure of meeting before, who very materially assisted in our enrolling quite a number of new patrons to the Journal. For his kindness in the Journal's behalf we desire to return to Mr. Wunderlich our most sincere thanks.

From the sale we drove into Nehawka for a few hours, where we met a number of patrons of the Journal and where we secured a number of new ones. While in Nehawka we visited the store of F. P. Sheldon, and was very much surprised to find such a mammoth establishment in the town. Mr. Sheldon is an up-to-date merchant, and the immense stock of goods he carries denotes that he is doing an immense business, as well. He is a most clever gentleman, and his popularity among the farmers of that section of Cass county is supreme. His store is one of the nicest in Cass county, which demonstrates that he is energetic, enterprising and a splendid business man.

Cunningham Bros. have the only livery barn in Nehawka, and their facilities for accommodating the traveling public are thorough and up-to-date. Our time was limited in Nehawka, but as we expect to visit the town again in a short time we will defer further reference to the prosperous village until we can give it a more worthy write-up.

The following is a list of new names added to the Journal's already big list at the Nehawka postoffice: F. P. Sheldon, Cunningham Bros., W. H. Porter, J. W. Murdock, J. P. Stoll, A. B. Tacker and J. F. Dale.

Obituary.

James Thomas Petersen was born in Keya Paha county, Nebraska, on the 28th day of October, 1887, and with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Petersen, came to Plattsmouth about twelve years ago, where he attended the public schools.

While in school he maintained the respect of his teachers and the good will and esteem of his fellow students. About three years ago, desiring to learn a trade he quit school and entered the employ of the Burlington railroad in their shops in this city. He at first worked in the hammer shops and subsequently decided to learn the blacksmith trade, and with that end in view entered the employ of the Burlington blacksmith shops under Foreman Mike Mauzy. He was industrious and was always genial and was held in high regard both by his employer and fellow workmen. The esteem in which he was held was evidenced by the beautiful floral offerings and by their attendance in a body at the funeral.

The funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at the home, and were conducted by Rev. Youtzy. Many beautiful floral tributes were presented by loving friends and relatives of the deceased, and accompanied by a large cortege the remains were conveyed to Oak Hill cemetery, where they were interred.

THE PASSING OF ANOTHER PIONEER CITIZEN

Martin Probst Died This Morning at His Home Southwest of Plattsmouth.

The remains of the wife has scarcely been laid at rest, when the Journal is called upon to chronicle the death of the husband.

Martin Probst passed away at his home, five miles southwest of Plattsmouth this morning at 10 o'clock. His death was rather a surprise to his friends, as he had been ill but a short time, and was caused from stomach trouble. We have failed to learn the exact time of his funeral, but it will occur sometime tomorrow, when his remains will be interred in the Horning cemetery, beside those of his wife, who preceded him but a few days since. The deceased came to Nebraska in 1864, and located in Cass county, where he has since resided. He was 75 years of age, and a most worthy citizen, highly respected by those who knew him. Thus another Cass county pioneer has passed to the unknown.

Torture by Savages.

"Speaking of the torture to which some of the savage tribes in the Philippines subject their captives, reminds me of the intense suffering I endured for three months from inflammation of the kidneys," says W. M. Sherman, of Cushing, Me. "Nothing helped me until I tried Electric Bitters, three bottles of which completely cured me." Cures Liver Complaint, Dyspepsia, Blood Disorders and Malaria; and restores the weak and nervous to robust health. Guaranteed by F. G. Fricke & Co., druggist. Price 50c.

District Court.

In the district court the case of Mrs. Katie Johnson vs. Louis Boedeker et al., is being tried in the court today. From the facts gathered in regard to the case it appears that as an adopted child of Louis Boedeker, deceased, the plaintiff lays claim to a share in the estate against the children of Louis Boedeker, deceased. The plaintiff claims that the adoption papers were made out in the state of Iowa, and that she was duly adopted by Louis Boedeker, deceased, but that the papers were either lost or destroyed recently. There are ten children against whom the action is brought by the plaintiff, through her attorney, A. N. Sullivan. The estate of which she claims a share is valued at \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Bodies—Our Gardens.

Shakespeare says through Jago: "Our bodies are our gardens; we can either have it sterile with idleness, or manured with industry." We can as well through our own negligence make our bodies the seat of constant discomfort and sickness, or by a slight effort make them fragrant gardens of health and vigor. Do as a good gardener is doing; destroy the weed as soon as it makes its appearance; you banish the sickness by fighting the first symptom—impaired appetite. Triner's American Elixir of Bitter Wine will do it for you. It will give to your digestive organs a solid foundation, a fighting power against diseases. It will bring these organs to a healthy activity in a natural way, because it does not irritate the mucous membranes, but strengthens them; it does not destroy but it builds; it makes new, perfect blood which distributes nourishment to every particle of our body. Give it to the child, to the youth, to the adult, to the senile; it will benefit every one. Use it as soon as you will notice a decline of your appetite or your strength. At drug stores. Jos. Triner, 799 S. Ashland ave., Chicago, Ill.

DEATH OF MRS. SVOBODA

At 2 O'clock This Morning in the Immanuel Hospital at Omaha.

SHE UNDERWENT A SURGICAL OPERATION

All the Children and Husband Were at Her Bedside to Say the Last Farewell.

The sad news was received in this city this morning of the demise of Mrs. John J. Svoboda, sr., at 2 o'clock this morning at the Immanuel hospital in Omaha, where she was taken about two weeks ago to undergo an operation for a tumor. The operation was thought to have been successful, and the deceased seemed to be improving until Sunday, when the stitches were removed from the incision, after which the deceased began to decline very rapidly, and on Tuesday morning the doctors in attendance stated that Mrs. Svoboda would not be able to survive another day, so all the children were summoned to her bedside for the last fond look and sad farewells.

Mrs. Svoboda, nee Frances Schor, was born on the 4th day of September, 1845, in Brotkovye, Moravia, wheresh she was married to John J. Svoboda on the 7th day of November, 1873. The happy young couple immigrated to the United States in 1873, coming direct to Plattsmouth, where they made their home and reared their family of six children, all of whom live in Plattsmouth.

The children who mourn the loss of their dear beloved mother are John J. Svoboda, jr., Mrs. W. J. Bookmeyer, Mrs. Geo. Koehnke, Miss Josephine, Frank and Tom Svoboda; besides the husband, five grand children and many other relatives and friends of the deceased.

The remains will arrive this evening at 4:25 over the Burlington. No arrangements have yet been made, and a notice of the funeral will be published later.

Notes to Lincoln March 6.

The Lincoln Journal says: "Arrangements have been made with the railroads to give reduced rates to the democrats who will journey to Lincoln on March 6 to attend the "dollar dinner" that will be given at that time. T. S. Allen has received a letter from the western passenger association which says that an open rate of a fare and one-third will be given from all points in Nebraska to Lincoln and return good going March 5 and 6 and returning to and including March 7. This will permit the people of the state who desire to make the trip to the capital city on reduced rates and will enable the democrats to come in large numbers to the big celebration which the leaders in this city have planned for March 6."

Doctors are Puzzled.

The remarkable recovery of Kenneth McIver, of Vancoboro, Me., is the subject of much interest to the medical fraternity and a wide circle of friends. He says of his case: "Owing to severe inflammation of the Throat and congestion of the Lungs, three doctors gave me up to die, when, as a last resort, I was induced to try Dr. King's New Discovery and I am happy to say, it saved my life." Cures the worst Coughs and Colds, Bronchitis, Tonsillitis, Weak Lungs, Hoarseness and LaGrippe. Guaranteed at F. G. Fricke & Co.'s drug store. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

Just received a car of the American fencing. If in need of any please give us a call before buying.

ASEMISSEN & LOUCKS.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION

OF THE

Plattsmouth State Bank

of Plattsmouth, Nebraska.

Charter No. 786

Incorporated in the State of Nebraska, at the close of business, Feb. 17, 1905

RESOURCES:

Loans and Discounts	\$ 72,956 55
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured	60 72
Stocks, securities, judgments, etc.	NONE
Banking house furniture, fixtures, etc.	714 50
Other real estate	9,627 00
Current expenses and taxes paid	86 62
Cash items	24 40
Due from national, state and private banks and bankers	28,522 55
Checks and items of exchange	130 12
change	2,912 34
Cash	31,885 01
Total	\$ 115,484 80

LIABILITIES:

Capital stock paid in	\$ 20,000 00
Surplus fund	300 00
Undivided profits	1,087 07
Individual deposits subject to check	\$ 75,294 93
Demand certificates of deposit	135 30
Time certificates of deposit	7,429 50
Notes and bills re-discounted	83,917 72
Notes payable	NONE
Total	\$ 115,484 80

STATE OF NEBRASKA,

CORNER OF CASS.

I, J. M. ROBERTS, cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is correct and a true copy of the report made to the State Banking Board.

J. M. ROBERTS, Cashier.

ATTEST: J. P. FALLEN, Directors

W. H. NEWELL, Directors

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of February, 1906. MAR MURPHY, Notary Public, (SEAL)

My commission expires November 18, 1911.