

# The Plattsmouth Journal.

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## SOME EARLY VALLEY HISTORY

### Judge Deemer of Iowa, Reads Interesting Paper On Early Days.

At a recent meeting of the Pottawattamie County Historical society, held at Council Bluffs, Ia., Judge Horace Deemer of the Iowa Supreme Court, read a paper dealing with the early days in the Missouri valley which was full of interest to the people of this section. Below is reproduced some of the statements of historical value which the paper contained:

Of especial interest were the accounts of the founding of Kanesville, as Council Bluffs was known in the early days, and of the landing upon the present site of Omaha by a Council Bluffs hotel keeper, W. T. Brown who dubbed the place Hutton—the first name of the present proud metropolis of Nebraska and the western prairie.

The paper was prepared and read last spring before the Nebraska State Historical society at Lincoln but as it contained so many references to the early days of all the Missouri river towns, and especially Council Bluffs, Omaha, Bellevue, Florence and town on both sides of the Missouri further down, he was induced to read it before the Council Bluffs society.

There was an attendance of probably sixty people, a large proportion of whom were themselves early settlers, or perhaps the descendants of other pioneers. Following the reading of Judge Deemer's paper, whose topic was "The Influence of Iowa Men upon the Organization of the Territory of Nebraska," many of those present offered suggestions and told reminiscent stories of the early days. Judge Deemer was introduced to the company by John Galvin, president of the local society.

#### Missouri Not First Boundary.

Judge Deemer called attention in opening to the close relations that had always existed between the towns on opposite sides of the Missouri river. In that connection he recalled that the Missouri river was not the first boundary line between the proposed territories of Iowa and Nebraska. The bill as originally introduced in congress called for the watershed between the Mississippi and the Missouri rivers as the western boundary as the proposed territory of Iowa.

In recounting the early history of Nebraska, before the formation of the territory as the result of the famous Kansas-Nebraska bill, he told of the many pioneers of western Iowa, particularly of Fremont, Mills, and Pottawattamie counties, who took such a prominent part in the affairs of the county across the Missouri.

The first delegate to the national congress from the proposed territory, he recalled, Hadley D. Johnson, was an Iowa man, residing in Council Bluffs at the time of his election. That election, by the way, was the result of 358 citizens of the three southwestern counties, who, gathered at Traders' Point and were ferried across the Missouri river to Bellevue where the election resulted unanimously for the Council Bluffs man.

Upon arriving at Washington he found another Johnson, from Wyandotte county, now Kansas, also chosen as delegate, and the proposed territory was divided, Hadley D. Johnson suggesting the division line along the fortieth parallel of latitude, which has since bounded the two states. Both the Johnsons were subsequently unseated by congress.

One of the earliest of Nebraska settlers was an Iowa man—Peter A. Sarpy—For whom Sarpy County, Nebraska, was named. He established himself in Bellevue in 1823, was married there to Nakoma, an Indian squaw; established Traders' Point,

#### Looking It Over.

Col. M. A. Bates of Plattsmouth, float representative from Cass and Otoe counties, is looking over the scene of his future labors. Colonel Bates is a newspaper man with the distinction of having founded eighteen papers in Illinois and seven or eight in Missouri. He has been in Plattsmouth for seven years now and acts like a man who intended to go no further in search of prosperity.—State Journal.

Joseph Wolpert of Louisville came in this morning to transact some business at the county seat, and while here made this office a very pleasant and much appreciated call. Mr. Wolpert is one of the substantial citizens of the Louisville neighborhood, a fine farmer and a most genial gentleman to meet and he will always find the latch string of the Journal on the outside for him.

Hudnet's Perfumes—Gering & Co.

#### Don't You Ever Worry.

Our county seat town built a paper-milling factory and an alfalfa mill two weeks ago, and had it running by electricity from Omaha, and everybody for miles around raising corn, tomatoes, apples, pumpkins and alfalfa. In some mysterious way the paper got destroyed, the promoter journeyed on, and they are now back into the same old rut, depending on a few men in the B. & M. shops, and their flood preventative, to keep their heads above water. Stand up for Weeping Water.—Weeping Water Republican.

Never mind, Brother, Plattsmouth still has the court house and that site on the rocky hill in Weeping Water is still open for takers. It might be stated that when this town does build it will have a cannery and alfalfa mill and that it will be the best in the state, and it will be built.

## MISSOURI PACIFIC DOES WELL

### Opens Ladies Waiting Room and Promises Other Reforms.

The Missouri Pacific Railway has again made a move in the right direction and is now exhibiting some desire to give the people of this city and vicinity the right kind of treatment. Largely through the efforts of Agent Norton, the road has opened a waiting room for the lady patrons of the road, the same as the Burlington maintains. The waiting room in the north end of the building which has heretofore been used as a store room has been cleaned up and put in shape, lights being installed and a stove set up and made as comfortable as possible. By this arrangement it is possible to keep the two sexes separate, a thing which most of the ladies will surely appreciate.

Agent Norton assures the public through the Journal that there will be no complaint in the future of no lights or fires in the depot as he is giving these matters his personal attention and intends to see to it that the public gets the very best accommodations the company gives any place. He is also making every possible effort to obtain the correct time of the arrival of trains in ample time so that patrons can be notified and he is confident there will be less complaint in this respect than heretofore.

These various moves by the company are received with much pleasure by the public who have been so used to inadequate and poor accommodations from this company, that they nearly abandoned their efforts in the direction of securing them in diligent. Agent Norton has never been blamed by the public for these conditions, however, as he is one of the most accommodating gentlemen the company has ever had at this point.

#### Horrible, Horrible.

A man came down from Union a few days since and proceeded to lay in a supply of ether which is not sold at his home town and then he loaded up with a little on the side. He purchased a gallon of whiskey and before he reached the depot someone had swapped the whiskey for a half gallon jug of beer and when he reached the depot some of those who make that their headquarters stole the jug and fixed to have a good time and judge their surprise when they got off behind the box cars they found the jug filled with stale beer. They emptied it and after filling it with water returned the jug to its owner who carried it home. One can judge his surprise the next morning when he was singing "Oh how dry I am" and turned up the jug, expecting to drink of the fluid that cheers and get a dash of water. This man will carry home nothing but sealed packages in the future.—Nebraska City News.

#### Out Once More.

W. W. Jessup, who has been laid up for some time with an attack of inflammatory rheumatism and confined to his room, is once more able to be out and among his friends, his genial face having been seen on the streets today for the first time in a number of days. He has found the affliction to be a bad one and his many friends are rejoiced to know that the pang has partially left him and he is once more getting in shape to be about. It is hoped that his improvement will continue to show progress and that before long the grip of the disease will be broken and he will be himself once more.

#### Will Appeal the Case.

County Attorney D. W. Livingston is not satisfied with the finding of Judge H. B. Travis in the case of the State vs. James and Hermin Hand the negro and the white man who were living together as man and wife and claimed they were married, and their testimony was the only thing and the entry of the negro woman in a bible to show they were married, at Council Bluffs, as they contended. He will appeal the case to the supreme court and get a decision on the matter. This is the first case of the kind that has ever been tried in his state and the attorneys are all anxious to have the supreme court pass upon the question as to whether such a marriage, even if in another state, is binding in this state when he parties knowingly went to the other state to avoid the laws of this state. The case will be appealed as soon as the records can be made up.—Nebraska City News.

#### Recouping His Loss.

Lloyd and Oscar Gopen, the two prominent farmers from southwest of the city, were in town today attending to business matters. These two gentlemen are two of the most prominent farmers of their section and are busied in every way. It will be recalled that Oscar Gopen suffered a very severe loss not long since by fire. His usual bustling ability has manifested itself and he is now in a fair way to soon entirely recoup this loss which will be good news to his many friends in this vicinity.

#### A Severe Injury.

Mrs. Akesson, who makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. J. L. Breckinridge, about ten days ago went to Plattsmouth to visit. In getting off the train she fell and broke two ribs. It was not until her return, and the pain became so intense that she knew the ribs were fractured, and since that time she has been quite sick.—Weeping Water Republican.

## HAD A VERY NARROW ESCAPE

### Joe McMaken Loses Eyebrows and Other Hair In Explosion.

This morning Joseph McMaken of the firm of McMaken & Sons had a very narrow escape from the loss of his eyes or at least, very severe burns about the face and head. He had come down to their office on South Sixth street to open up, and thought he would look into the stove to see how the fire was had left overnight. The stove is a soft coal burner and during the night a great deal of gas had gathered in the reservoir. A change in the wind had brought it from the north this morning and the chimney being too low to clear the adjoining buildings, the opening of the stove door caused a few drafts which blew the gas down upon the coals, resulting in an explosion. Fortunately Mr. McMaken saw the cloud of gas roll out of the cylinder and dodged back escaping the full force of the explosion which was even then strong enough to singe his eyebrows off and severely burn the skin about the left eye. His mustache and the front hair on his head also got a scorching and his escape from really severe burns was a matter of congratulation. As it is he will go about for several days with short eyebrows and with a portion of his mustache left.

#### The First of the Season.

The first wolf hunt of the season took place last Wednesday near Louisville when a large number of farmers of that vicinity, gathered at the farm of J. R. Noyes and had a big time attempting to corral the animals. The drive covered a large tract of territory and was the occasion of much excitement. When the circle was completed and the closing in came, it was found that there were five large wolves gathered in. They proved too smooth for the hunters, however, and every one of them made its escape, much to the disgust of the nimrods. It is probable that another effort to control them will be made in the near future.

#### Buys Cass Land.

Harry Smith tells us that he has bought 30 acres 1 1/2 miles west of Plattsmouth and is on a deal for 30 acres more. He will move there March 1. We will be sorry to see the family leave Glenwood.—Mills County Tribune.

## NEW QUARTERS FOR BUSINESS

### McMaken & Sons Open New Office. Interesting Decorations.

The firm of McMaken & Sons have now moved into their new offices in the old Knapp property on South Sixth street. This enterprising firm have fitted up a fine office in one of the buildings, dividing the room into two rooms, the front one of which they will occupy as an office while the rear one will be used for storage purposes. This makes a splendid location, the office being large and commodious and big enough to handle all the business of their several lines which are expanding every day. In addition to their complete business, this enterprising firm is making the transfer and storage business one of their leaders and also devoting a large amount of attention to the oil business, being agents for the Standard Oil Company. The firm is composed of Co. Henry C. McMaken, one of the veterans of the city, Jos. H. McMaken and Guy McMaken both hustling and bright young business men.

Their new offices are really interesting places to visit. The front room has been splendidly fixed up by the Colonel who has called upon his store of curios for decorations. The side wall on one side is occupied by a set of large cabinets which are in themselves neat adornments to any room. These cabinets contain a wealth of mineral specimens and many exhibits of Indian work and war relics. In these particular lines Col. McMaken cannot be excelled locally and even in the state and nation his collection is generally rated as one of the best as he is a discriminating judge of such things and with his long experience in frontier life with Indians and outlaws and all the attendant terrors which infested the state in its early days, coupled with his experience in several wars, he is in a position to know what is the real goods. He has devoted much time to collecting the fine exhibit he now has.

His cabinet contains minerals picked up all over the west. A detailed account of them would make a large volume but they will repay a visit alike. He has also in the cabinet many buffalo horns, highly polished and handsome—fine reminders of an age fast lapsing into oblivion. An old flag made in 1846 is another relic which repays more than a passing glance. Then there are animal furs, beaver tails and the like which speak eloquently of days long past. An interesting article is a stone ax found upon the Dovey section, ancient relic of a long-gone race which once roamed these prairies. Then a relic from early United States in the shape of a cannon ball from Ft. Meigs, an early Ohio pest. A stone tomahawk, dread relic of the terrible Minnesota massacre of the '60s, stares one in the face from a shelf while local ground has contributed some stone pipes and tomahawks taken from the

old Neovotny place northwest of the city. The cabinets contain many other interesting mementoes of the past gathered from the four quarters of the globe but they are only the commencement of Col. McMaken's many wonders.

The walls of the room are neatly decorated with many ancient firearms and Indian relics. There are muskets of almost every conceivable vintage. There is the old flint lock which was made in 1822, quaint and picturesque in its appearance. There is a brass tumbler and the rest of the kind ever invented. This was made in 1834 and in a crude and unbusinesslike affair. It was not a success but it had the nucleus of the idea in it and today it stands in its perfected form. Then there is a musket which saw days of service in '62-'64 and a crossbow relic is attached to the wall in the shape of a gun taken from a field strewn with skulls and skeletons in the Black Hills, fearful reminder of the bloody days of Custer and his men. Then there is a Gallagher carbine made in 1860, ancient and now discredited war piece. Then there are innumerable revolvers one of which Martin Propst had donated to Col. McMaken and one which had been carried through the civil war on the confederate side by Beverage, one of his relatives.

The Indian relics include a canteen taken from an Indian battle field on the Republican River where the Pawnees and Sioux fought a fierce battle in the early days. Then there is a ghost shield, relic of Indian superstition, and the tom-tom with Indian war bonnets and innumerable strings of wampum. A blanket bought from Crazy Horse is another interesting thing in the collection while one of Sitting Bull's war clubs hang from the walls.

Space unfortunately forbids the even commencing of this fine and attractive collection. Col. McMaken has scrap books galore which teem with history of the wild west—the west of the story writer of romance, a land now counted with the dead and gone, but a land from which the glances will never wear and the history of which forms the most readable page in the long chronicle of the human race.

Col. McMaken is willing to furnish this sort of entertainment at 50c per person to the city if it would furnish a place for them and supply us with a tin and it would be a mighty fine thing if this could be done. Surely the collection is worth it. Until that time the collection will be kept in his new office and the public is ever fully invited to call and view it. An obliging attendant will always be present to show them to those who are interested and tell the story which their mystic faces forbid.

## VETERAN ELMWOOD MAN DIES

### Captain J. C. White, Pioneer and Soldier Goes to Reward.

Last Wednesday Capt. J. C. White, a veteran resident of Elmwood died at his home in that city from complication of diseases. The gentleman had been suffering for a number of years from various complaints which finally culminated in the attack of last Wednesday causing his death. He was a pioneer resident and during the rebellion served in the confederate army with distinction, reaching the rank of captain. He was a prominent member of the Masonic order which will have charge of the funeral which will take place from his late residence at Elmwood. Captain White was survived by a wife and a number of children, two of whom are residents of Elmwood, his sons James and Edward living at that place.

Dyspepsia is America's curse. Burdock Blood Bitters conquers dyspepsia every time. It drives out impurities, tones the stomach, restores perfect digestion, normal weight and good health.

#### Delightful Birthday Party.

Last evening at the home of Mrs. Geo. Weidman, Misses Ida and Frances Weidman entertained a party of friends in honor of Miss Ruth Johnson, the occasion being Miss Johnson's birthday. The evening was very pleasantly spent, the young ladies enjoying themselves hugely with various games and other amusements the evening being crowned with a luncheon of supreme delicacy. The guests departed for their homes at a late hour after having extended Miss Johnson their best wishes for a recurrence of many other anniversaries.

#### To Christmas Shoppers.

It will be to your advantage, and I will be pleased to have you call and inspect the finest line of watches diamonds, solid gold jewelry, sterling silver and fine china ever brought to this city. Look for big ad next week. Yours for business,  
B. A. McElwain,  
Jeweler.