

# INCIDENTS OF CASS COUNTY'S EARLY HISTORY

FACTS GATHERED BY MRS. W. L. STREET, HISTORIAN OF FONTENELLE CHAPTER, D. A. R.

Upon the organization of Nebraska territory following the transfer of the Italian title to the government, Francis Bart was appointed governor and Thomas B. Cummins secretary. On October 10, 1854, the new governor arrived at the old mission house at Bellevue in ill health and continued to fail and on October 18th died. Secretary Thomas B. Cummins became acting governor, who immediately set about securing a proper territorial organization. His first act was appointments of marshalls to enumerate the population, to commence October 24th, returns to be made November 7th, 1854. There were comparatively few actual residents in the country, many who expected to be such were still living on the Iowa shore, and it was said to be a fact that Marshal Murphy actually crossed the river and secured the most of his material for returns.

In the proclamation of Governor Cummins calling for the election, Cass county was described as the county lying between the Platte river on the north, and the Weeping Water on the south, and from the Missouri on the east, to the limit of the cedar lands on the west, a distance of about one hundred miles. It was divided into two precincts, Martin comprising the northern part of the county and Kenosha, the southern part. In Martin's precinct the polls were at the old Barracks, with James O'Neil, Stephen Wiles and Thomas G. Palmer, as judges, and T. G. Gaskill and Levi G. Todd as clerks. In the Kenosha precinct with the polls at the house of Colonel Thompson, Mr. J. J. Griffith, Thomas B. Ashley and L. Young acting as judges, Benjamin B. Thompson and William H. Davis, clerks. The number of votes were seventy-eight, many of whom were not actual settlers in Nebraska until 1855.

In the year of 1861 began the contest for the county seat, a special election being called for April 15, at which time Plattsburgh received 368 votes, Rock Bluffs 223, Mount Pleasant 109.

October 18, 1875, another election was held to consider re-location of the county seat, Plattsburgh receiving 856 votes, Weeping Water 1024 votes, and Louisville 147 votes, a majority of three-fifths being required to make the change. May 14, 1878 a third election was held which gave Plattsburgh 1061 votes, Weeping Water 1291 and Louisville 64, with scattering votes 81. Shortly after this Plattsburgh began to grow rapidly in population.

Early in the spring of 1861 came

the news of the firing upon the "Star of the West," there were many who thought that it might be averted, but few of these pacifists were found in Cass county.

The news reached Plattsburgh just as the Platte Valley Herald was going to press. Its editor was away and Dr. R. R. Livingston was in charge of the office. He had the press stopped and a brief announcement of the facts inserted in the forms, and when issued he scattered the papers broadcast. He also had dodgers printed and distributed and that very night a meeting was held and an organization effected that became known as Co. A, First Nebraska volunteers.

June 11, 1861, the company was mustered into service of the United States. While the company was yet in Plattsburgh, the ladies of the city, prominent among them being Mrs. O. T. Johnson, Mrs. M. Dodge, Mrs. Dr. Deane, Mrs. Clements, Mrs. J. D. Simpson, Miss Sarah Butler, also the Misses Mollie and Sadie Minshall, made and presented the company with two beautiful flags, the presentation address being made by Rev. Philip Gaston of the Methodist church, the entire company kneeling and swearing to ever cherish, follow and protect the standard given.

Response by Dr. Livingston, then captain of the company, this occurred prior to any call for troops. June 11, 1861, the company was mustered into service as Co. A, First Nebraska volunteers.

December, 1861, Dr. Livingston was promoted to major and in June, 1861, to lieutenant colonel and in October of the same year, the regiment served in the south and were in engagements at Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh and Corinth. Dr. Livingston with others returned to Plattsburgh at the close of the war and followed his profession some years.

The first school in Cass county was a singing school, taught by Charles West, a little log building just a little west of Plattsburgh in 1855.

The first day school was taught in 1856 in a little frame building on Gospel Hill by Mary Stocking. The first sermon preached in the county was in October 1854, at the home of Thomas Ashley by Abraham Townner, appointed probate judge by Governor Cummins.

The following years of 1855 and 1856, religious services were held at various times by Judge Townner and other evangelists and missionaries. The first Baptist church was organized October 17, 1856, with ten members.

The Methodist church was organized June 23, 1857, with twenty members under pastorate of Rev. Hiram Burch.

The Presbyterian church was organized through the efforts of Rev. John Hughes. The first services were held in the school house on Gospel Hill.

The Christian church was organized in May, 1858, by Elder Thomas Todd and Charles Evans. Mr. Thomas Wiles was elected clerk, which he still holds, also acting as Elder.

The Episcopal church first occupied the Masonic hall, August 3, 1860, and the service was conducted

by Bishop Talbot, who resided in Nebraska City.

The Rev. Geo. C. Betts became resident minister on April 19, 1865, and through his influence and under his supervision the church building was erected.

It was in 1866, that a donation of about \$11,000 was made by Mrs. Edmund Murray Young of New York City, under condition that a church be erected and called St. Luke's. This was acceded to, property was purchased on the corner of Third and Vine streets, and the church was erected and consecrated on June 16, 1867, by the Rt. Rev. Robert Harper Clarkson, Bishop of Nebraska.

St. John's Roman Catholic church was erected in 1861 and 1862, and Father TeKachet assumed the pastorate.

Between the years of 1857 and 1881, some eleven papers were started in Plattsburgh, all coming to an untimely end. The first issue of the Daily Journal was on November 5, 1881, edited by C. W. Sherman (then conducting the "Mills County Times" at Glenwood, Iowa,) and it still lives.

The first regular physicians to settle in Plattsburgh were E. A. and W. E. Donelan, who opened an office on Main street in the fall of 1856. Two years later Dr. R. R. Livingston opened an office and practiced until he enlisted in the service of the United States. At the close of the war he returned and took up his practice. In 1861, Dr. G. H. Black located in Plattsburgh, and a year later Dr. Schildneck arrived and opened an office.

In 1855, Mr. Wheary Mickelwait received his commission as the first postmaster. It is said, there was no vacant room for an office, he carried the mail in his pockets until he could deliver it direct to the persons.

The first bank (a private concern) was opened in 1869 by Tootle and Hanna, and closed business in 1872. The First National Bank was organized in January 1872, with John Fitzgerald, president; C. H. Parmelee, vice president, and John R. Clark, cashier.

Hotel Perkins was completed and opened for business August 23, 1881, at a cost of \$30,000.

In September, 1869, the Burlington and Missouri railroad having been voted \$200,000 in bonds by the county and \$50,000 by the city of Plattsburgh, entered upon Nebraska soil, extending itself to the western borders of Cass county the succeeding year. Plattsburgh being general headquarters in accordance with the stipulations of the contract made with the city. In addition to the \$50,000 voted, additional lots were voted by the Burlington R. R. company on condition that it should erect and permanently maintain a depot and shops in Plattsburgh, and continuing it as headquarters of the company in Nebraska. It was further stipulated that the road should be put through to the west end of the county, in good running order, a contract to this effect being closed and duly signed by Mr. W. Theison, authorized agent of the company, and by the city council.

In 1869 the first locomotive (the American Eagle) was landed and from that time work progressed rapidly



# Renew the Lease

on that old suit. Don't move out because the trousers have "expired." We can match up a pair out of our

## Big Trouser Sale!

JUST THREE PRICES

**\$2.95**

**\$4.95**

**\$6.95**

Not dozens or scores to select from, but hundreds, and these pants are from our regular stock—mostly Dutchess. Sizes 27 waist to 52 waist. Come now and get the best selection.

A few more shirt boxes left. Get them now if you want them

## C. E. Wescott's Sons

"EVERYBODY'S STORE"

We are cleaning house in here, literally and figuratively.

### CONDEMN HIGH PRICED STOCK FOODS

Prominent Hog Raiser Says Prices Charged Are Unwarranted—Makes His Own Hog Food, With Better Results.

"That he is all through paying fancy prices for stock foods and hog remedies and that he is raising some of the best hogs ever placed on the market" was the statement made recently by E. H. Beckstead, well known hog raiser and authority on live stock.

Mr. Beckstead's hogs are the envy of his neighbors, and have "topped the market" for several years in Iowa. He states that for years he bought high-priced hog foods and hog remedies, but he is all through paying extravagant prices for what he can make himself. He states that what the hogs need are minerals, and tells the secret of his wonderful success by explaining that he takes about five pounds of ordinary mineraline (which is pure concentrated mineraline and cost only a couple of dollars) and mixes same with enough bran or filler to make a hundred pounds. All hogs, and especially brood sows require minerals as they keep them free from worms, and in the pink of condition, and are essential to the hogs growth and a well balanced ration. This inexpensive mixture placed in a sheltered box where the hogs can get at it as they need it, will produce far better results than any high priced so-called stock foods.

Send two dollars to The Mineraline Chemical Co., 1638 North Wells St., Chicago, Ill., and the ywill forward you by prepaid parcel post, enough mineraline to make a full hundred pounds. (Adv.)

### RED RIVER OHIOS

Johnson Bros. have a car of pure, genuine Red River Early Ohio seed potatoes, \$1.49 per bushel sacked. Going fast; mail orders saved until called for. On sale at Field's & Johnson's store, Nebraska City.

### For the Liver and Bowels

When your liver and bowels become torpid get a bottle of Chamberlain's Tablets. They will tone up your liver and cause a gentle movement of the bowels. They also improve the digestion.

### LOCAL NEWS PUBLIC SALE!

From Thursday's Daily.

James Tander of Louisville, was in the city today for a short time attending to some business matters at the court house.

Dr. G. H. Gilmore of Murray, came in this afternoon from Omaha, where he was present at the operation performed on Mrs. Lee Brown of near Weeping Water.

George Hennings and son, Dale, departed this morning for Omaha, where they will visit with Mrs. Hennings at the Methodist hospital, where she is recovering from an operation.

From Friday's Daily.

District Judge Begley and Court Reporter L. L. Turpin, returned last evening from Nebraska City, where they have been holding court.

Mrs. Pearl Overman of near Murray was among the visitors in Omaha today for a few hours, going to that city on the early morning Burlington train.

Norman Dickson, who has been located on a homestead near Buffalo, Wyoming, came in yesterday to enjoy a visit here with home folks for a short time.

D. C. West, the Nehawka banker, was a visitor in the city yesterday afternoon, enroute to Omaha, where he was called on some matters of business.

George W. Snyder came in this morning from his farm home and departed on the early morning Burlington train for Omaha to look after some matters on the stock market.

G. G. Meisinger and wife were among those going to Omaha this morning where they will visit for the day in that city with their daughter-in-law, Mrs. Elmer Meisinger at the hospital where she is recovering from an operation.

The undersigned will offer for sale at Public Auction at his home one-half mile north of the Eight Mile Grove church, 3 1/2 miles west and one mile south of Myrnard, seven miles northwest of Murray, on—

### MONDAY, FEB. 28

commencing at 10:00 o'clock a. m., with lunch served at noon by Oscar Naylor, the following described property, to-wit:

#### Live Stock

One team of geldings, 7 and 8 years old, wt. 2890; one mare, 5 years old, wt. 1500, in foal; one gray gelding, 7 years old, wt. 1500; one bay gelding, 8 years old, wt. 1500; one black gelding, 3 years old; one black mare, 3 years old; one bay gelding, 2 years old.

#### Farming Implements

One Deering 7-foot binder; one independent 8-foot binder; one 3-section harrow; one 16-inch sulky plow; one riding lister; one New Deerpature cultivator; one Badger cultivator; one P. & O. riding cultivator; one Weber wagon; one roller bearing wagon; one bob sled; one 2-row stalk cutter; one hay rake; one 16-disc Superior press drill with tractor or horse hitch; new; one disc sharpener; three sets of work harness; three steel oil barrels; one Fordson tractor and plows; one 20x36 Wood Brothers separator that has threshed only 120 acres; 7 or 8 tons of timothy hay in mow and other articles too numerous to mention.

#### Terms of Sale

All sums of \$10 and under, cash in hand; over that amount a credit of six to twelve months will be given purchaser giving note with approved security bearing seven per cent interest from date of sale. All property must be settled for before being removed from the premises.

### JOHN S. VALLERY, Owner.

COL. W. R. YOUNG, Auct. GEO. O. DOVEY, Clerk.

#### FOR SALE

Five room cottage on easy terms; also some well located vacant lots, 3rd St. R. B. WINDHAM.



## CONGOLEUM GOLD SEAL ART-RUGS

### Here's News for Thrifty Housewives—

AN opportunity like this comes but seldom and deserves the attention of every intelligent housekeeper. We have just received a big shipment of the famous Congoleum Gold-Seal Art-Rugs and Floor-Coverings which we shall offer, as long as they last, at the following prices.

9x15 feet	\$23.75	7 1/2 x 9 feet	\$11.85
9x12 feet	19.00	6x9 feet	9.75
9x10 1/2 feet	16.60	3x6 feet	3.20
9x9 feet	14.25	3x4 1/2 feet	2.40
Cold Seal yard goods,	per sq. yd.		1.00

There is only one grade of Congoleum and that is Gold-Seal Congoleum. It is identified by the Gold Seal, facsimile of which is shown above.

practical, so sanitary and so easy to clean that they will make your housework ever so much easier. Think of it—a few minutes with a damp mop and presto—your cleaning is finished.

Congoleum Rugs lie flat without fastening, and will not curl or "kick up" at the edges.

Come in and see these Art-Rugs right away, while the selection is complete and there are so many beautiful patterns from which to make your choice. Many of the designs are new this season and have not been shown here before.

Every rug is of the famous Gold Seal quality, backed up by the double guarantee of the manufacturer and ourselves. Congoleum Gold-Seal Art-Rugs are so

## H. M. SOENNICHSEN,

Call Phones 53 or 54

Plattsburgh, Nebraska

### The Legend.

There is an Indian tradition that somewhere near the source of the river known as the Weeping Water, there once dwelt a powerful but peaceful chief, governed by sound laws, ruled by a chief as mild tempered as he was valorous, whose warriors were as straight as their own arrows, as strong and fleet as the horses they rode. Whose maidens were lithe and lovely, their beauty far exceeded that possessed by any surrounding tribes, and it is further said that the fairest of these maidens was the chief's daughter, so fair that she captivated the heart and brain of the ruler of a still more powerful tribe, upon the west, who asked her father for her and was refused. But finally he succeeded in abducting the maiden while she was bathing with her companions in the deep still lake adjacent to the village. Pursuit was made, the lodges being left in charge of the women and the infirm. The chase was a long and hard one, and the results disastrous, every man of the pursuers being killed in the fight that followed. For three long days and nights those who had been left in the village waited, then started out in search of their fathers, husbands, and lovers, only to find them dead upon the plains and finding them, wept so long that their tears formed the stream that will exist, Nehawka, the Weeping Water.

### SEEDS THAT GROW

Scarified white sweet clover \$8.50 per bushel; choice reseeded alfalfa \$10.00; sudan grass 6c per lb.; samples, 50c. Limited quantity, order now. Samples sent. We pay the freight. Johnson Bros., Nebraska City.

### VISITS OLD HOME

Frank M. Herold of Minneapolis, who has for the last five years been representing an electrical jewelry company of Minneapolis, on the road, is in the city for an over Sunday visit at the home of his uncle, Henry Herold and his aunt, Mrs. A. L. Tidd, as well as with his host of friends here of childhood days. Frank is as pleasant and genial as of old, and has in his work won a well deserved success that his host of friends here will be pleased to learn of. Mr. Herold states that his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Herold, are now located in Minneapolis, and enjoying success and good health, which will be pleasant news to their old friends.

## Keep Your Shirt On!

Shirts are down in price, and way up in quality. To those who are not already our shirt customers we ask that you make this your

### Shirt Headquarters

Many of our advance Spring lines are now on display, and we have one for every man and any occasion.

We are featuring the Famous Ide Shirt with collar of same material—very up for the young fellows, at

**\$2.25**

Nice assortment of men's soft cuff shirts—sizes 14-17 1/2, from our regular selling lines, up to \$2.75, now—\$1.50.

Price on the big full cut, fast color, Kenwood Work Shirt—\$1.00.

Guaranteed Shirts

Philip Thierolf  
VALUE GIVING CLOTHIER