

THE VOICE

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

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EDITORIALS
The views expressed in these columns are those of the writer and not necessarily a reflection of the policy of The Voice.—Pub.

REGISTRATION

Saturday, October 25 at noon closes the privilege of every American to register for the election to be held on November 4th. Registration is your means of stating in secret ballot, your choice of the type of official you wish to serve you in Federal, State and County office. A privilege that you should cherish. Many of us, have served our nation in time of stress, now serve your nation and state in times of political stress; your vote will count in the total cast to show the world that Americans of all classes, creeds, colors and choice of opinion can stand together. In the Communist part of the world, you either vote—or else—the implication is ominous, there they have only one slate of hand-picked candidates, that the populace have had no choice in selecting. Here in our great nation, we have the choice of our public officials, decided in a democratic manner in the primary elections. Remember, our boys are fighting and dying for the privilege of free thought and action, the least you can do is register for the same privilege.



by **JAMES C. OLSON**, Superintendent
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nebraska Counties (9)

Brown County, comprising 1,218 square miles in the north central section of the state, was one of the counties organized during the rush of settlement in the early 1880's. Originally, along with a dozen other present-day counties, it was a part of Sioux County. With the organization of Holt County in 1876, the area later known as Brown County was attached to Holt.

Earliest settlers in the region were ranchers who came in during the 1870's, attracted by the rich, abundant prairie grasses. Fort Niobrara, established April 22, 1880, became an important nucleus of white activity as well as providing protection for the settlers.

The winter of 1880-81 was a severe one, and many of the regions' ranchers were forced to abandon their holdings. This, in effect, opened the area for settlement once again, and settlers began to locate in the region in ever increasing numbers. Many of the first of this group of settlers went out on the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley railroad to its terminus at Oakdale, continuing the journey by wagon. The FE & MV was extended to Neligh in 1880. The Sioux City and Pacific Railroad, building west across northern Nebraska, reached Long Pine in 1881, greatly facilitating the settlement of the area that was to become Brown County. The next year the road was completed across the county.

By the end of 1882, population of the area had increased to the point where it seemed advisable to organize a new county. In

December of that year Frank Sellors and Merritt Griffiths went about the area with a petition asking the legislature to take such action. At the next session of the legislature, Senator Moses P. Kinkaid of O'Neill introduced the necessary bill. The petition has suggested no name. There were five legislators named Brown, so Brown County it became. Governor Dawes approved the bill, Feb. 19, 1883.

Ainsworth, where the first building—a log store on the freighter's trail—had been erected in 1880, became the county seat, although at the time it was not yet an incorporated village. The town was named in honor of J. E. Ainsworth of Missouri Valley, Iowa, who had charge of construction of the railroad which reached the town, June 11, 1882.

The 1880's were good years in Nebraska, and the settlers of Brown County raised excellent crops. In 1884 and 1888 the Chicago Board of Trade awarded prizes to cars of wheat received from Ainsworth. The early 1890's brought drouth and depression to Brown County, as they did the rest of Nebraska, and the county's population fell from 4,359 in 1890 to 3,470 in 1900.

The Kinkaid Act and returning prosperity brought a heavy influx of settlers during the first years of the 20th century, and by 1910 Brown County's population had jumped to 6,083. It reached a peak of 6,749 in 1920. The returns for 1950 show 5,157.

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THOMAS H. ADAMS

is a
Candidate for Re-Election
To the State Legislature
In the 19th District



Thomas H. Adams

Tom Adams was first elected to the State Legislature in 1945 and has served continuously to date. He received his Master's Degree in 1936 and his Law Degree in 1938, both from the University of Nebraska. He manages his own farm in Lancaster County and is a practicing attorney in Lincoln.

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