

Church Plays Important Role In Development Of Murray

By G. H. GILMORE
The origin and meaning of place names made many years ago are frequently hard to solve, yet the source of many Nebraska names have been recorded in "Origin of Place Names in Nebraska," by T. J. Link with a sub-title "Toponym in Nebraska."

The origin and history of the town-name of Murray, Cass county, Nebraska, is 1878 the United Presbyterian church was moved on wagons from the steamboat town of Rock Bluffs to the present location of the United Presbyterian church in Murray. A large sign was painted and attached to the west gable of the church which read, "Fairview United Presbyterian Church, 1878." This place at the cross roads with a church and a school house was known as Fairview. Soon after the sign was attached to the church, A. M. Holmes, a member of the

church and who had painted the sign made a motion before the elders of the church to change the name to "Pleasant Hill United Presbyterian Church." But in March of the same year the members of the church considered Fairview the most appropriate name which was adopted.

Fairview was retained as the name of this church and the community center until September 22, 1884, when a post office was established in the William Loughridge blacksmith shop and named Murray in honor of Rev. George Reed Murray who in the autumn of 1880 became the first resident pastor of the United Presbyterian church at Fairview.

Some of the citizens of the community favored the name of Walker in honor of James A. Walker who had donated land for the school and the church, but Mr. Walker considered Murray the most appropriate name. Some jolly neighbors of Uncle Sam Latta's offered to circulate a petition to have the town named "Sam Hill" in his honor.

Rev. George Reed Murray, son of Dr. Thomas J. and Elizabeth (Calahan) Murray was born in Cannonsburg, Washington county, Pennsylvania, June 25, 1845. He was a lineal descendant of Rev. George Murray who was pastor of the Associated Church of Annandale, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, and in a cemetery three miles from the church stands a monument with the inscription: "Here lies deposited the earthly part of Rev. George Murray, who died April 1, 1877, in the 42 year of his age and the 14th of his ministry. Meekness and zeal mutually qualified each other in a steadfast adherence to the truth of the gospel and to the testimony of Scotland's Reformation amidst general opposition to both were his distinguishing characteristics." His son, Rev. John Murray, was sent to America as a missionary and established the Marsh Creek Presbyterian church, a few miles west of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, November 2nd, 1874. He died here July 8, 1875, and left a son, George Murray, who had a son, Dr. Thomas J. Murray, who located and practiced medicine in Cannonsburg, Penn. Dr. Murray passed away at the early age of 33 and George Reed Murray was left an orphan at the age of nine. Through the kindness of relatives he and his sister Anna K. were given good education.

At the age of 17 George Reed Murray responded to Lincoln's call for 300,000 more men and enlisted August 13, 1862, in Company C, 140th Pennsylvania Infantry. He was with the regiment at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Mine Run, Campaign of the Wilderness on to Petersburg and present at Lee's surrender. He fought in the Wheat Field, the second day of the battle of Gettysburg, a few miles from the Marsh Creek graveyard where his great-grandfather, the missionary from Scotland, lies buried.

After discharge from the army he decided to study for the ministry. He graduated from the Westminster College in Lawrence county, Pa., and the United Presbyterian Seminary, Newburg, N. Y. He graduated from Princeton in 1874 and received his license to preach and served one year as an itinerant preacher in New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

October 7, 1875, Rev. George R. Murray was united in marriage with Miss Mary McClees, daughter of Alexander E. and



Rev. Geo. R. Murray Mary McClees Murray

Matilda (Hodges) McClees, a native of Washington County, Pa.

In 1875 Rev. Murray was assigned to a pastorate at Centerville, Apponose County, Ia., and four years later, 1880, he accepted a call to the Fairview United Presbyterian in Cass County, Nebraska, the first resident pastor of this church.

Soon after accepting this pastorate Rev. Murray purchased 120 acres of land three miles south of Fairview, June 14, 1880 from T. Z. Linnell for \$3200, all in section 2, Liberty Precinct. Timber being very essential for fuel for the home he purchased five acres of rough, hilly timber land in Liberty precinct near the Missouri river, lot five in section 18.

The Buck school house, District 14 was half mile due west of the Murray residence and two of the Murray children attended this school. School census of April, 1887, gives "George R. Murray, father, Harry age 10 and Arthur age 6."

The Murray farm is now the home of Delbert Todd and family and the well which served the Murray family 74 years ago now supplies the Todd family with plenty of fresh water. A rubble of stone and broken brick two rods east of the well shows the site of the Murray residence.

While on this farm for ten years serving his church he took great pride in his Clydesdale horses which were used in the fields and as a driving team when calling on members of his church.

Sadness and bereavement entered the Rev. Murray home May 14, 1889, when his wife passed away after a lingering illness of consumption at the age of 33 years. Mary H., their daughter, was born two weeks before her death. Anderson Root family, nearby neighbors, furnished a home for her but on July 20, 1890, she passed away with cholera infantum. Lou Russell, at the death of his mother, was cared for by the Rev. J. McNary family at Tarkio, Missouri, but he succumbed to typhoid fever in 1889 at the age of two years. The mother and two children were laid to rest in Oak Hill cemetery near Plattsmouth.

Rev. Murray was a beloved member of the community and active in church work. In his little country church there were 94 communicants and a flourishing Sunday school.

Rev. Murray received a call to Mt. Prospect church at Thomas, Pa., where he was born and returned with his three sons and began services August 22, 1890.

In Cass county commissioner's report August 10, 1891, we have the following: "The Rock Bluff precinct shall be divided so as to constitute a new precinct to be known as Murray Precinct and shall be bounded as follows (the present west Rock Bluff precinct). Many old timers not wishing to lose the name 'Rock Bluff' urged the county commissioners to return to the old name Rock Bluff which they did October 6, 1891.

December 30, 1900, Rev. Murray was united in marriage with Mrs. Agnes Campbell Blair, Monmouth, Illinois, and thus established a home for his three young sons.

Harry A. Murray, oldest son, was born in Centerville, Iowa, July 9, 1876, and passed away May 20, 1938. Most of his life he had spent as a merchant.

Dr. Arthur T. Murray was born March 20, 1881, on his father's farm south of Fairview. In 1908 he graduated from the Pittsburg University, receiving the degree of Doctor of Medicine and located in the town of Nineveh, Pa., where he is still engaged in the practice of medicine.

Lieutenant James McClees Murray, a son, was born on his father's farm September 14, 1883. While a student in Westminster College he received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at Annapolis and after graduating spent several years with the navy in many parts of the world, later was transferred to the Aviation Corps. He was considered one of the ablest and most daring aviators in the navy. While on a flight over Pensacola Bay, Florida, February 16, 1914, his plane plunged from an altitude of 800 feet into the bay causing his death. His fa-

ther who was spending the winter in Florida, soon learned of the sad tragedy.

Rev. Murray was popular in a much wider circle than the membership of his church. He had an influence for good which extended beyond his community, his power for good impressed many who had never attended his church.

In the summer of 1912 Rev. Murray paid his last visit to the town named in his honor. He passed away March 18, 1931, at the age of 86 and laid to rest at Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania, in the family lot of his father and grandfather.

Elmwood

MRS. GRACE PLYBON, Correspondent.

Mrs. Nunn of South Bend entered the Ebeler Nursing Home on Saturday.

Mrs. Maud Newlin visited her daughter and family at Panama over the week end.

Bluebird Club Hostess Recently

Mrs. Emily Gonzales was hostess to the Bluebird Club on Tuesday with Mrs. Sumner and Mrs. Plybon assistant hostesses. Mrs. Chas. Marshall led the music opening. Stephen Foster was the composer recognized. She gave a report of the Home Project Club Leaders State convention at Chadron. One interesting feature was the visit to the Pine Ridge Government school and Indian Mission. The lesson about Health centered on easier methods of house-keeping. Mrs. Edna Fleischman gave an article about our duty as voters. Mrs. Horton's book talk was about "The Greatest Story Ever Told." Mrs. Leavitt and Mrs. Marshall were the lesson leaders.

Fellowship Group Honors Drafter

The young people's Fellowship group held a six-thirty dinner on Sunday evening at the Methodist church in honor of Gordon Lannin, who is to be among the ones to report to Plattsmouth, November 12, for military service.

Mrs. Roy Armstrong is convalescing from a back ailment that kept her down for several days.

Chas. Marshall was speaker for Layman's Day at the Methodist church on Sunday, and Howard Pool held the devotional service. Mrs. Totman was organist. The pulpit arrangement has been changed to meet the requirements for better organ service for the wing pews. The choir is on the west side and the minister on the east.

Dr. and Mrs. Bert Story were in Franklin Sunday for the annual birthday celebration for his mother, who was 91 years of age, and his birthday too.

Mrs. Gustin Is Kensington Hostess

Mrs. Linda Gustin, assisted by several of her relatives, was hostess to the Community Kensington on Thursday. Mrs. Mendenhall opened the meeting and Emily Gonzales led in the program. Mrs. Stege read a Hebrew article and Mrs. Horton gave a humorous reading, "At the Football Game." Mrs. Merle Eveland chose as her travelogue subject their recent trip to Colorado and the Hereford cattle and livestock group trip through the ranch country of northwest Nebraska. They enjoyed the McBride Ranch visit and the numerous food contributions presented to the members of the interested travelers on the tour.

Mrs. Cora Gerbeling was a Sunday guest of her son Ralph and family in Lincoln. They attended services at the First Church in University Place.

Baltimore, Md.—When Edward Bozier, 38-year-old crane operator tried to free his crane boom from an overhead high-tension wire, he was electrocuted.

Sixteen Resolutions Are Adopted By Farm Bureau

Sixteen of 24 resolutions submitted to the membership of the Cass County Farm Bureau were approved at the group's annual meeting held Tuesday night at Weeping Water. Resolutions included a variety of subjects ranging from school redistricting to hunting regulations.

Presented to the membership by Paul Eveland of Elmwood, chairman of the resolutions committee, the resolutions had previously been adopted by individual farm bureau units within the county and submitted to the general membership for approval.

The Farm Bureau turned down two resolutions which would promote and compel redistricting of schools, and approved a resolution favoring direct election of the president and abolishment of the electoral college.

Resolutions acted upon by the Farm Bureau, in the order submitted to the membership were:

It proved expanding foreign trade by buying products abroad to enable foreign countries to buy larger quantities of American goods.

It repealed a 1951 resolution which asked that eggs be sold on a weight basis. Repeal was okayed because the bureau believes that it is already possible to sell eggs on that basis by selling by grade.

The farm bureau also repealed a resolution which doubted the value of the weed district and questioned its continuance, but went on record in favor of moving the office to Weeping Water.

After lengthy discussion the group also recommended that the date governing the age of children entering school be changed from October 15 to January 1.

It voted against a resolution which would "prohibit school districts from contracting with other districts for educating their children."

And a resolution which favored the repeal of a 1951 resolution of compulsory redistricting of schools was also rejected.

The farm bureau, however, okayed reinstating basketball for girls in high school.

For what were described as obvious reasons, the Bureau passed a resolution calling for the repeal of a 1951 resolution which concerned the special bridge levy.

Acting on two similar resolutions, the group voted against recommending that the County Commissioners spray all road sides of all newly graded roads, but also considered a resolution which would require farm owners to keep road sides and fence rows clean of growth which would cause drifting of snow or poor visibility at intersections on roads with an all-weather grade.

Cass county farmers favor purchase and installation of a "moderate" amount of snow fence.

On subjects relating to taxes, the Bureau went on record against favoring a gas tax refund law based on a system where tax is not collected, but suggested that the State Farm Bureau Research unit consider the problem.

The group voted in favor of a sales or income tax as a partial replacement for the property tax and real estate tax—the rate of such tax to be determined every two years.

It opposed licensing operators for farm tractors, and voted in favor of requiring all car and truck owners to have liability insurance amounting to at least \$10,000 or post a \$10,000 bond before obtaining a car or truck license.

Other resolutions okayed by the farmers were to reverse the 1951 state resolution calling for the entire state of Nebraska to be a brand area; that truckers who are owners of an RC permit and not using it, be prohibited from sub-leasing it to others; a direct election of the president and abolishment of the electoral college; the state hunting permit be changed to conform with the national constitution; and that all policies expressed in resolutions adopted in previous annual meetings be retained.

By the unit turned down resolutions recommending an increase in the number of game wardens for deputizing farmers to enforce game laws; a move for a direct presidential primary for the whole nation to be counted as a single unit; to eliminate confiscating guns for hunting violations; and to permit hunters to retain shells in the magazines of automatic and repeated shot guns.

BATTLES ANTELOPE

Lewiston, Mont.—Allan Van Horne missed an antelope with five shots, while out hunting recently. The enraged animal charged him and Van Horn grabbed the animal's horns rodeo style, and wrestled him to the ground. There he stayed, with one foot on the antelope's horns and the other on his neck until another hunter came along and took Allan off the hours of a dilemma by cutting the animal's throat.

BOOTS SAVE FARMER

Tarkio, Mo.—Lightning struck the cow barn of Maurice Ryan while he was milking a cow. The cow and a pig nearby were killed. Ryan was stunned but the rubber boots he was wearing apparently saved him from being killed.

Sale Nets \$30 For Polio Fund

Mrs. Henry Dickman, assisted by Mrs. John Everett, Mrs. Harley Morton and Mrs. Nelson had charge of the Good Will Club's food and bake sale held at Union.

The club netted \$30 which will be turned over to the polio fund.

Greenwood

Mrs. Rose McDonald Journal Correspondent.

Mr. Herbert Carter has returned home from the hospital and is getting along fine.

Miss Charlotte Versch of North Platte, Nebraska was a week end visitor at the Claude Osburn home.

Mr. and Mrs. Turley Wall called at the home of Mr. Wall's brother at Eagle Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Dorothy Green and children were week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Meisinger.

Mrs. Retz of Omaha and Mrs. Etinger of Lincoln, cousins of Mrs. Harry Maroff, were week end guests of the Maroffs.

Mr. and Mrs. Miriam Carter had as their guests Friday afternoon, Mrs. Elsa Hornbeck of Murdock, Nebraska.

24 Help Lady Note Birthday

Saturday, October 25th, 24 ladies gathered at the home of Mrs. Lu Hurlbert to celebrate her birthday.

The out-of-town guests were Lizzie Hartsook of University Place, Mrs. Mattie Armstrong of Lincoln, Mrs. Carl Foster, Mrs. Retz of Omaha and Mrs. Etinger of Lincoln. A lovely 12 o'clock dinner was served, and a lovely time had by all.

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Miss Jenkins Notes 21st Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Jenkins and friends celebrated Miss Ester Jenkin's 21st birthday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins with a lovely buffet lunch on Sunday afternoon.

The guests were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Johnston and Terri, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Reighard and family, Doris, Shirley, Dorothy and Bill Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jenkins of Lincoln, Mrs. Rose McDonald, Mr. Jack Reighard, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lee, Esther received many lovely gifts.

Greenwood

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth O'Rourke and daughters spent the week end in Omaha at the home of Mrs. O'Rourke's cousin, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Turner.

Mrs. Fern Buckingham and Mrs. Claude Osburn shopped in Lincoln Monday and also called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Benny Buckingham.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Meisinger and Mr. Todd shopped in Lincoln Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Ellen Smith of Lincoln has been a guest at the Wall home the past week.

Tuesday evening Mr. A. L. Todd attended the oyster supper given by the Farm Bureau at Wahoo, Nebraska.

Visiting at the Harry Maroff home are Mary Hoppie and Mrs. Ruth Rexroth and Mrs. Mary Owen of Fremont, cousins of Harry Maroff.

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