

## Winning History Contest Essays Printed

AVOCA — Essays written by Billie Lou Edwards, 14, eighth grader, and Michael Baier, 13, seventh grader, were judged winners in the History Contest sponsored by the Jonathan Cass Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution during February in the Avoca Public School.

Evelyn Wolph is American History Chairman for the D.A.R. Mrs. Dwight Cook is Regent of the Jonathan Cass Chapter.

The essays:  
**THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE BY BILLIE LOU EDWARDS**  
Eighth Grade

The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 was given its name after the king of France, Louis XIV who had encouraged its exploration.

At this particular time in history President Jefferson wanted to protect the welfare of the West and also prevent war, so he instructed Livingston, minister of France, to buy New Orleans. Mr. Jefferson also sent James Monroe to Paris to help Livingston with his business.

The people of France were presently rebelling against their king, Napoleon Bonaparte. He planned to regain the part of the new world that France had lost to Spain by purchasing it from them. But before he had done everything that he wanted to do, Great Britain with the strongest navy, made it impossible for the French colonists

to resist them. Consequently, he needed money. So he astounded Livingston and Monroe by offering all of the Louisiana Territory to the United States for fifteen million dollars.

Livingston and Monroe had not been allotted such a large sum and the United States didn't need all the land but they felt it was too good of a chance to miss because it included 885,000 square miles making the unbelievable cost less than three cents per acre. The treaty for the sale was signed May 2, 1803. This treaty was not to cause any tears but was to bring happiness for the human race.

After the purchase of this large piece of land, many people in the eastern part thought that the new land consisted of nothing but wild animals and Indians. Jefferson sent Captain Meriwether Lewis and Captain William Clark to explore this new land. The journey was to be a difficult but important one. They were to explore the rivers, mountains, and land from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Coast and study the Indians, animals, vegetable life, soil and minerals.

The expeditioners were expected to take notes of the trip. To keep the notes dry, oilskin wrappers were provided. They took a large boat 55 feet long which carried the men and their equipment. In late October, 1804, the par-

ty reached the land of the friendly Mandan Indians. Two more people joined their expedition making the total number of the party at thirty-five. They were a French-Canadian fur-trader and his wife Sacajawea, the "Bird Woman" Sacajawea, a Shoshone Indian, was of great help as a translator when the explorers got among her people. She also served as a guide whom Lewis and Clark referred to frequently in their journals. The reports of this expedition caused further exploration, paved the way to fur trading, and laid a basis for our claim to the Oregon Territory. They safely returned in 1806.

In 1803 the Nebraska region became a part of the United States through the Louisiana Purchase. Acts of Congress made it a part of the Indiana Territory from Oct. 1, 1804, to July 4, 1805, with its capital at Vincennes; a part of the Louisiana Territory from July 4, 1805, to Dec. 7, 1812, with its capital at St. Louis, and a part of Missouri Territory until 1821, the capital remaining at St. Louis. In 1821 Missouri was made a state and the Nebraska region was thus cut off and left under no organized white government until 1854.

The Louisiana Purchase gave the country a chance to expand to the Pacific Ocean which would not have been likely to happen if any other nation would have owned this territory. The northern boundary in 1818 was declared to be the 49th parallel from the Lake of the Woods to the Stony Mountains. This purchase consisted of thirteen states. They are: South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, parts of Montana, Wyoming, Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Minnesota.

These lands offered a wealth of natural resources. Farming and mining were to be very important. In the Nebraska part of this land, farming soon became the chief occupation. The inhabitants of this part of the United States were guaranteed and are still enjoying the protection of their liberties, property and religion.

### THE HOMESTEAD ACT BY MICHAEL BAIER

Almost everyone who came to the Nebraska territory was anxious to secure land of his own. Either a farm or a place in town. At that time all the land was owned by the federal government. The first step was to survey the land. Within a few weeks they had the Kansas line set. Here an iron post was placed to mark where they started. It was a slow job and wasn't surveyed completely until 1910.

The law said that any homesteader could stake out a quarter, or one hundred sixty acres, of ground if they lived on it and improved it. Later it would be put up for sale and they could have first chance to buy it for \$1.25 per acre. Before the territorial and county governments were well organized the settlers started a claim club. It protected them from claim jumpers. The claim jumpers were looked upon as a little better than a horse thief.

## News From Greenwood

Mrs. Frank Hurlbut — Phone 789-3435

Mrs. Pete Hill entered St. Elizabeth Hospital March 13. Mrs. Roy Love entered St. Catherine's Hospital of Omaha Monday, March 18 and underwent surgery Tuesday.

Mrs. Walter Marolf returned home from the hospital Saturday. Mrs. Minnie Marolf helped out at the Walter Marolf home while Mrs. Marolf was hospitalized.

Wednesday evening guests of Mrs. Niles Coleman were Mr. and Mrs. Roger Harbeck, Jeff and Tommy of Greeley, Colo. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tate of Enid, Okla. and Mr. and Mrs. Watson Coleman of Lincoln.

Ben Howard was Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Finlay and they called on Watson Howard at the Elmwood nursing home.

Wednesday morning caller on Emil Meisinger was Emil Rieke. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Seefeld and Mr. and Mrs. John Seefeld spent Friday and Saturday at Davenport, Iowa visiting at the home of Charles and John Seefeld's sister and her family. A niece and 2 nephews returned home with them to be with them several weeks.

Glen Williss was the honored guest for his birthday Sunday at the home of Mrs. Mabel Lambert. Other dinner guests were Mrs. Glen Williss, H. J. Williss and Miss Gladys Williss of Prairie Home, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Lambert and boys and Willis Lambert.

Sunday visitors at the Ted Stratton home were Mr. and Mrs. Herman Zierott of Murdock.

Sunday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Osburn were Mrs. Lennie Billings and daughters of Ashland.

Sunday afternoon visitors with Mrs. Niles Coleman were Mrs. Carrie Leaver and Evelyn.

Ben Howard was a Friday evening dinner guest at the Vern Shapler home at Springfield to help their son Bob Shepler celebrate his birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Tennant and sons attended the State

During the Civil War the Homestead Act was passed. This act gave a quarter section of land free to anyone who would live on it for five years. This act was passed May 20, 1862. The first homestead in the United States was in Gage County by Daniel Freeman, a soldier in the Union Army. While in Nebraska on his furlough, he selected his homestead along Cub Creek and persuaded the head of the land office at Brownville to open up for a few minutes shortly after midnight Jan. 1, 1863, so he could file before leaving to rejoin his regiment.

The fee for the land that the settlers paid was sixteen dollars. Mr. Freeman died in 1906 at the age of 82. Later his claim was entered as Entry Number One and still later it was marked Certificate Number One and Patent Number One at the Brownville land office. There were a lot of other entries in other land offices which were marked number one entry on that very same day. The people of Brownville still recall him filing so early in the morning. He was staying in a hotel beside the land office.

The Free Soil Party was a political group organized in Buffalo, New York, in 1848. The members of the party many of whom had once belonged to the Liberty Party, opposed the admission of any new slave states into the Union. The party was joined and strengthened by a discontented faction of the Democratic party in New York known as the Barnburners.

Martin Van Buren was the free soil party's candidate for president in 1848. The campaign slogan of the Free Soilers was "Free soil, free speech, free labor and free men." The party didn't carry any state but polled over 291,000 votes. Thirteen Free Soil candidates were elected to the National House of Representatives and one Free Soiler, Samuel Chase of Ohio, won a seat in the Senate.

The Free Soil Party lost the support of the Barnburners before 1852.

Some people who were in dire need of the land paid from 25 to 100 per cent interest. One million homesteaders lived in Nebraska. One hundred twenty five million acres of ground were sold.

The Homestead National Monument in Gage County, Nebraska, is one part of Freeman's claim. Last June, a homestead centennial celebration was held at Freeman's homestead near Beatrice, Nebraska, marking the signing of the act.

This homestead act helped Nebraska in a big way. It helped build new communities and aided in the settlement of the West.

tournament basketball games in Lincoln Friday night. Emil Meisinger spent Sunday afternoon at the Richard Todd home.

Sunday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beller were Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Grady and sons of Lincoln and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Buchholz of Murdock. Additional evening guests were Mr. and Mrs. Robert May of Lincoln.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Bollier spent Sunday afternoon and evening with Mr. and Mrs. Marion Dimmitt of Ashland.

Sunday afternoon and evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hansen were Mrs. Hansen's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Ziemer of Omaha.

Mrs. Gordon Hansen spent Tuesday with Mrs. Jake Hammer of Eagle.

Sharon Hansen was Friday overnight guest of Kay Griffith. Sunday visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Seefeld were Mr. and Mrs. Roger Hatzenbuchler and family of Lincoln.

Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Simpson spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Gene Barkhurst of Weeping Water.

Sunday evening visitors with Mrs. Lytha Bauers were Mr. and Mrs. Everett Lapham of Ashland.

Tuesday afternoon visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kyle were Mr. and Mrs. Otis Rager of Gordon and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Kinney of Palmyra. Mr. Rager is Mr. Kyle's nephew.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Stratton attended a Pollard Hereford sale at Clarinda, Iowa, Friday and called on Mr. Stratton's sister at Shenandoah, Iowa when enroute home.

Sunday afternoon callers at the Mrs. Mabel Lambert home were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dyer.

Thursday visitors with Mr. and Mrs. George Carter were Herbert Carter, Jeffery and Douglas of Omaha.

Mrs. Gus Brakhage received word that her sister-in-law, Mrs. Minnie Beyer of Pierce died March 16. Funeral was at Pierce Tuesday, March 19.

Mrs. John Johnson and Arlene attended the Mrs. Charles Parks piano recital at the Ashland Methodist Sunday afternoon. They also called on Mrs. Walter Marolf at her home after the recital.

Sunday afternoon visitors with Mrs. Elsie Kelly were Mr. and Mrs. Carl Parks of Ashland.

Saturday and evening visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Turley Wall was their grandson, Michael Wall of Ashland.

Sunday afternoon visitors with Miss Lola Allen were Mrs. Lyie Reighard and girls of Lincoln and Mrs. Roy Reighard.

Sunday supper guests of Miss Lola Allen were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Weichel of Alvo.

Sunday visitors at the Lloyd Grady home were Mr. and Mrs. Jim Platt and family of Lincoln.

Mrs. Clara Pershing received word, her brother William Schilmever underwent surgery at the Veteran Hospital at 5901, East 7th St. Long Beach, Calif. Mr. Schilmever formerly lived near Ashland.

The Busy Bees 4-H Club met with their leader, Mrs. A. W. Velder, Tuesday after school hours with five members present. The girls made corn bread. Next meeting will be with Susan and Sara Greene at their home March 27.

The Greenwood Womens Club met at the home of Mrs. Ed Stradley March 12. Mrs. Dee Card was assistant hostess. Members of Fine Arts Committee were in charge of the program. They contributed handicraft, art and literature. Mrs. Harold Wright represented the club at the District I Fine Art Festival was held at the Miller and Paine Auditorium in Lincoln. Election of officers will be at the April meeting.

Doreas Society met Friday at the Christian Church with Mrs. Aaron Wright as hostess. Mrs. Wright also presented the devotions.

The St. Joseph's Altar Society met Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Bill Lesley with seven members present.

The American Legion had a St. Patrick's Dance at the Greenwood Legion Hall March 16, with a good attendance.

Two guests were present at the meeting of Little Miss Muffets 4-H Club when they met March 14. Guests were Patty Wall and Cindy Blum.

President Retha Hansen made a motion to have a bake sale before Easter vacation, which met with approval of all present. Sandra Wright and Terry baked corn bread at the meeting, but met with little resistance when the electricity in town went out due to the high winds. They borrowed Mrs. Tin-

## Open House To Honor Couple

GREENWOOD (Special)—The children of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Brakhage will honor their parents on their 57th wedding anniversary at an open house Sunday, March 24 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Brakhage in Greenwood. Friends and relatives are invited to call without further invitation. The couple requests no gifts.

## Bridal Shower Of Interest Here

Miss Ellen K. Born who will wed Mr. E. G. Robinson, Riverside, Calif., on April 12, was honored at a personal shower March 16 during the evening hours at the home of her parents.

Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Don Born, former Plattsmouth residents, now of Riverside; and Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Robinson, also of Riverside.

Mrs. Dorothy Stoehr, who will be matron of honor at the wedding, was hostess for the bride-to-be. Colors of the bride-to-be, apricot and blue, were carried out in room decorations and flowers. Refreshments of ice cream, cake, coffee and tea were served.

Bride bingo prizes were won by Marilyn Richards and Marie Van Der Toorn.

Among those invited were mothers of the nuptial couple, Mary Jane Damron, grandmother and Jane Jones, sister of the prospective bridegroom; Mrs. Ralph Scheil, aunt of the bride-to-be; of Downey; and Mrs. Laura Peets, aunt of Mr. Robinson, of Riverside.

Out-of-town guests were from Garden Grove, Long Beach, Fallbrook, Anaheim, Idyllwild, Downey and Corona.

## New 4-H Club Is Organized

GREENWOOD (Special)—The Greenwood 4-H Leaders are starting a club for third and fourth grade boys. As yet the club is un-named, but has a membership of seven boys and has made a display for 4-H.

The first projects planned are yard beautification and gardening.

First project planned for citizenship is to clean-up and beautify the park in town.

First meeting was scheduled for March 20 at 4:30 at the home of Mrs. Kenneth McDonell.

After the meeting the boys will test the fine March winds by flying kites.

**Mental Footwork**  
"Does your husband get much of a kick out of his vacation?"  
"Indeed he does. It gives him a lot more leisure to grumble."

wish to thank Mrs. Tinnean for her kind help. Margaret King, news reporter.  
new's gas stove to bake the bread.  
All the Little Miss Muffets

## Union Items

Mrs. L. C. Todd

Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Witt of Omaha were Sunday afternoon callers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Zorn.

Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Burbee were: Louis Burbee and son Dennis of Weeping Water and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Kriefels and family of Nebraska City.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Cross and Mr. and Mrs. George Stine drove to Elkhorn on Monday, March 11th where they attended funeral services for Ernest Carroll at 10:30 a.m.

The School Carnival was held at the Union School House on Friday evening, March 15th. There was a fine crowd and plenty of amusement. Booths to entertain the guests. The "Mystery Woman" was quite a problem to solve but finally she unmasked and was found to be Mrs. Wm. Whipple.

The Camp Fire Girls attended services at the Methodist Church last Sunday. Mrs. George Stine is their leader.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Leiner, Mrs. Mabel Wolfe and sons Tom and Edwin, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Burbee and Rev. and Mrs. Russell Jones and family, attended the Baptist Missionary Conference at Omaha last Sunday evening. The conference is sponsored by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

Word has been received that Mr. Julius Grunwald of Weeping

Water, and father of Robert Grunwald, had died last Monday. No further details are known at this time for funeral arrangements.

Mrs. Donald Wolfe received word last Monday from Keita-ville, Mo., that her mother had undergone serious surgery that morning.

A Fellowship Supper was held at the Baptist Church last Monday evening with about twenty-five in attendance. Many were unable to attend on account of bad weather and bad roads.

At eight o'clock a meeting was held in the sanctuary with Mary Suderman, a Missionary nurse from India was the guest speaker introduced by Rev. Jones, pastor of the Baptist Church.

Miss Suderman gave a talk telling of the work being done in India.

Mrs. Earl Wolfe modeled the native Sari worn by all Indian women. Miss Suderman draped the six yards of material into the garment.

— Journal Want Ads Pay —

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## PUBLIC SALE

I will sell the following described personal property at public auction at the farm located 4 miles east, 1 mile north of Greenwood; 4 miles south of Ashland; or 1 mile east and 1 mile north of the Greenwood Interstate interchange, on

### Monday, Mar. 25

Sale Will Start at 12:30 P.M. Sharp.  
Lunch served on grounds by Grange

### FARM EQUIPMENT

1955 John Deere 60 Gas Tractor with live lift, cylinder, and power steering; 1954 John Deere 2-row No. 200 Cultivator with Quik-Tatch for 50-60-70; 1954 John Deere 2-row 730 Lister; John Deere 540 Lister; 1954 John Deere 15-ft. Disc with hydraulic wheels; 1958 John Deere 850 4-row Go-Devil; 1958 International 3-14 Plow; 1959 John Deere No. 45 self-propelled Combine, 12-foot Header; 1959 John Deere 227 Corn Picker with 60 mountings; 1961 John Deere 210 Corn Head, fits No. 45 Combine; John Deere No. 953 Wagon Gears with flare box and hydraulic hoist; 1955 Massey-Harris 7-foot Mower; John Deere 3-section Harrow with steel eveners; 1953 Massey-Harris 7-ft. Clipper Combine; Case 24-7 Drill with seeder; David Bradley 4-bar Rake on rubber; IHC Wagon Gear, 5-ton; Letz No. 220 Mill, P.T.O. and truck; John Deere Model H Spreader; IHC 2-row Go-Dig; 3-pen Hog House; Smidley 45-bushel Hog Feeder; International 45 Power Washer Separator; 300-gallon Barrel and stand; 50-foot Endless Belt; Comfort Cover for John Deere 60; Few Steel Corn Tunnels.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: This is a very good line of machinery with few small items, so come early.

TERMS: Cash, day of sale.

Not responsible for accidents.

## MARTIN LEAVER, Owner

REX YOUNG and EDWARD MORRIS, Auctioneers  
Plattsmouth Phone 4153 Ashland Phone 944-8218

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