Cass County History Deals With Foundations of Nebraska's Wealth



FIRST HOUSE BUILT IN CASS COUNTY-ON FARM OF F. M. YOUNG, NEAR MURRAY.



NEBRASKA MASONIC HOME, PLATTSMOUTH



cially is this true at the junction of the ritory. Platte and the Missouri rivers. The Lewis and Clarke expedition left St. Louis May 21, 1904, and reached the mouth of the

ent fur companies crossed the Platte at mon preached in the county was in Octo- schools. various times during the twenty years ber, 1864, at the home of Thomas Ashley In 1861 began the contest for the county

which best describes Platts- Mormon by the name of L. T. Coon estab- with Elias Gibbs as minister. most equal balance between the manner a highway became established veloping on account of land speculation, souri railroad, having been voted \$200,000 days would wait from two to six days for interests and pursuits of a along the south bank of the Platte. The In 1856 a government survey of this county in bonds by the county, and \$30,000 in bonds their grist. The town was laid out by E. modern metropolitan city, and first settler permitted to locate in Ne- was made. Then came the entries of land, by the city of Plattamouth, entered upon L. Reed and L. B. Hunter in March, 1868. of a rural trading center. It has braska was Samuel Martin, who received Money was scarce and often brought from Nebraska soil. The general headquarters South Bend is another good town with a been built up by men of affairs who a permit from the government to enter 40 to 80 per cent. In the fall of 1857 the of the Burlington was placed at Platts- population of 200. The survey was made by were deeply interested in the improvement the Indians' country. Early in the spring first county fair was held at Rock Bluffs mouth in accordance with a stipulation of W. W. Harvey in March, 1857. The third and development of their city. The streets of 1853 be brought over on the log and it was decided a complete success. In the contract and the shops of the road and last plat was filled December 9, 1875, are a medley of every sort of vehicle, of his house in Iowa, and erected a sub- the summer of 1888 William Young and erected here. There are road-stained wagons with spien- stantial two-story building, afterwards Sam Buster bought the first reaper which did teams. Yet with all its activity known as the Old Barracks, for a trading was used in the county. It was a hand created by diversified interest corn seems house. This building was used later for rake McCormick. In 1860 there was a large office established was in 1835 with Wheatto take first place. Everywhere the word the county offices. Mr. Martin was a fear- migration to the gold fields in Colorado ley Michelwait as postmaster. He was also corn greets the eye and the ear of the less pioneer and was not only the first set- and a long line of freighting teams was a tier, but his was the first funeral in the common sight. In the years immediately following the county. He was buried December 15, 1864. The first grist mill was located in Plattscivil war men looked toward the west. The on a high bluff, but no one knows where. mouth and was run by a large overshot call of the frontier fell on many a listen- By a treaty made with the Omaha In- water wheel. It was built by Conrad ing ear and willing heart. The prairie dians on the 15th, and with the Otoes on Heisel in the spring of 1856. The first school

country from the great lakes to the Mis- the 16th of March, 1854, the lands border- in Cass county was taught by Charles West sourl river had been taken by the home ing on the Missourl were opened for set- in a little log building just west of Plattsbuilder. Beyond the Missouri was the tlement. The Indians received for their mouth. This was in 1855. In 1857 Mr. and great American desert. The Union Pacific lands a stated amount of provisions. The Mrs. J. P. Gorrell assumed charge of the was building its bands of steel to the west- Otoes on the south of the Platte then city schools. In 1880 D. H. Wheeler, county ocean. All roads seemed to lead numbered about 600. When they received superintendent of schools reported sixteen towards the great unknown. Adventurous their supplies, consisting largely of salt male and four female teachers in the men of the middle west looked longingly pork and sugar, more than seventy of county. In 1874 Cass county had 2.014 chiltoward central Nebraska and pointed them died within a week. At the opening dren of school age. From this time on the their prairie schooners toward the west. of this territory by the government, 250 There is no point on the Missouri river men penciled their names on claim stakes so rich in history as Cass county, espe- before the legal organization of the ter-It was not until the latter part of 1855

that other parts of the country began to Platte July 21. In 1866 Manuel Lisa, who be occupied to any extent. The returns of gave Bellevue its name, made some ex- 1856 show a population of 1,261 in the plorations south of the Platte. Francis county. The buildings of these early days De Roin in 1810, in the employ of the were largely dugouts with light sprink-American Fur company, established a ling of substantial log houses. The winter trading post in Sarpy county and traveled of 1866 was a hard and cold one. On Deover much of Cass county. In 1819 Long's cember 1, 2 and 3 of this year occurred schools. The representative business men of the city, exploring expedition, with the "Western the heaviest anowstorm of which there Engineer," the first steamer on the Mis- is any record in eastern Nebraska. The sourt, left St. Louis in July and reached first white and reache souri, left St. Louis in July and reached first white child born in the county was The traders and trappers of the differ- Stevens, in January, 1855. The first ser- ing lady county superintendents of the much for the city.

RAL city is perhaps the name the name of Fremont's peak. In 1865 a organize in the county, on October 17, 1856, trict court was held in the first school the center of a large circle of country in There exists here al- lished a ferry across the Missouri. In this . The county was somewhat slow in de- In September, 1869, the Burlington & Mis- ing this mill with corn and wheat in early

progress of the schools has been eminently satisfactory.

The Plattsmouth Town company was organized October 26, 1854. The first postthe first mayor of the city.

Cass county is one of the richest countles in Nebraska, taking the first rank in 30,000 and a valuation of \$10,000,000. It has lines of merchandise well represented. The county is entirely out of debt and 90 active and soon outstripped the neighborthat manufacture and ship out annually lished July 16, 1886. Murray, another good bash Milling company has erected a mod-population, is in the heart of a wealthy. 2,300,000 pounds of flour and 226,000 pounds town of 175 people, was established in July, ern steam roller mill, which was the out-farming district. It was surveyed by: best Burlington shops located here, 600 men on the pay roll, 163 has done and is doing much for the city. teachers in the county with 100 school dis- The Masonic State hospital was established tricts. There are ninety-four frame school here at a cost of \$50,000. A government buildings, fifteen brick and one stone school building to cost \$50,000 will soon be in the building. There are 145 lady teachers and course of construction. But Plattsmouth eighteen men teachers. The average salary has an organization that promises much for of the country school teacher is \$42.25. The the city. It is the newly organized Comtotal enrollment of pupils in the county is mercial club of 100 members, composed of 4,806. Miss Mary E. Foster is serving her the representative business men of the city. are in a most excellent condition. There with the daily and semi-weekly newspaper Nebraska Stevens, daughter of William are thirty-five counties of the state hav- working in entire harmony will accomplish

Cass county is by no means one of the small counties of the state, as it has 308,000 following. In 1842 Fremont's exploring ex- by Abraham Towner. Rev. D. W. Gage seat located at Plattsmouth. This con- acres in farms, with 215,000 acres under culpedition camped for one night on the pro- and Rev. A. L. Armstrong of the Method- tinued until May 14, 1873, when the county tivation. From these farms were sold and jecting bluff just below the present site ist church preached several times in 1856, seat seemed to be permanently located at shipped out last year 13,000 beef cattle, 46,of Plattsmouth. The place still retains The Baptists, however, were the first to Plattsmouth. The first session of the disthey sold and shipped out 4,379,000 bushels of corn, 270,000 bushels of wheat and 226,000 bushels of oats. If there is any one thing that the farmers of Cass county need more than another, it is a closer relationship to the dairy industry and to the growing of tame grasses, especially alfalfa. Last they sold and shipped out 191,000 pounds of butter and 191,000 gallons of cream. In 1908 the county had but 1,400 acres of alfalfa, yet they had 35,000 acres of clover, which is next to the largest amount of any county of the state. During the last year the farmers used 525 hand separators and kept about 8,000 cows on their farms. The farmer's wives marketed last year 392,000 dozen of eggs and 280,000 pounds of dressed poultry.

Case county, as a whole, is one which the state of Nebraska can well afford to be proud of. Its citizenship is of the best and its location and soil are second to none. In the fruit industry it is one of the best counties in the state. It has 156,-600 apple trees in full bearing, 6,000 pear, 71,000 peach, 8,000 plum and 11,000 cherry trees. But the great wealth of this county and its unusual prosperity is accounted for very largely in its many thriving villages, Weeping Water is a pleasantly situated town, nestled in among the hills, which pearly surround it, and laid out on both sides of the Weeping Water creek. It has a population of 1,200, and was a point well advertised in the early days, as it was

house in Plattamouth erected early in 1854, the milling industry. Many farmers visit-

Many of the early business men of the county got their early business education in this town. Rock Bluffs was one of the early towns of Cass county. It was laid outing. out by H. H. Fowler and W. R. Stafford Nehawka is a busy little town situated way. It was laid out by the Kansas Land out by H. H. Fowler and W. R. Statiora in November, 1856. Louisville, with a popu- on the Missouri Pacific railroad and has record December 26, 1890. This is one of lation of 750, on the construction of the about 800 population. It was platted by the coming towns of Cass county. It is Burlington railroad in 1876, the town grew H. S. Jones and the plat filed September surrounded by an unusually rich farming rapidly and at the present time is a well many respects. It has a population of kept, clean business town, with nearly all dents probably represent more wealth well represented. Greenwood is a town

of mill feed. The court house is one of the 1890. The Omaha division of the Missouri come of the enterprise of the people. George W. Fairfield in February, 1881. in the state, costing \$90,001. Pacific railroad furnishes the railroad Union is a town of 800 inhabitants, and In the early days, when there were from town of Wabash has about seventy-five great grain shipping station. It has a on any improvement that the government son, as it is one of the best picnic grounds are strong competitors for the surround- as it has in the past one of the rich. in the county. Its good boating and plenty ing towns.



CASS COUNTY COURT HOUSE, PLATTSMOUTH

of shade mades it an ideal place for a day's Murdock, a town of 150 population is out. the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific raff-123 miles of railroad and eighteen railroad Elimwood has a population of 550 and than any other town of its size in the situated in the northwest corner of Cass stations. The county has twenty-three represents nearly all branches of busirural routes with 600 miles covered daily, ness. The early promoters were very gether for the town's good and are suc- established by C. H. Smith October 7, 1870, ceeding accordingly. Just east of the From its beginning to the present time the per cent of the farmers own their farms ing towns and it is today one of the best town is situated a large stone quarry that town has enjoyed its full share of the free of mortgage. It has four grist mills trading points in the country. It was estab-

> facilities. The business of the town has was platted by Joshua Lynn in January, 200 to 400 boats on the Missouri river, kept pace with the times. Alvo, a small 1883. Nearly all lines of business are rep- Piattsmouth wrote much history and was town on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pa- resented here, and the surrounding coun- the center of a large freighting industry cific railroad, was platted by George W. try is one of the rich farming sections of It is today the center of a large-Curyea and the file recorded January 8, the state. Cedar Creek, a small station freighting industry by rail. What 1891. Eagle is a town situated in the south- on the Burlington railroad, has a popula- it will be in years to come whenwestern corner of Case county, with a tion of 200. It was platted by John In- the government has improved the population of 300. It was established by helder November, 1879. It is in the midst Missouri river and the boats have as-T. J. Nichols in July, 1868. Manley, another of one of the best farming district in the sumed their early day trips is of course thrifty town of 100 population, was platted county. Mynard, situated in Plattsmouth impossible to tell. It is plain and selfby August F. Went in April, 1883. The precinct, is a busy hustling point and a evident that Cass county is not dependent people and was established July 20, 1886. It population of 100 and was established in may or may not make. Its success is asis a popular place during the summer sea- July, 1892. The business men of the town sured and it will continue in the future



R. B. Windham, R. A. Patterson. OFFICERS OF PLATTSMOUTH COMMERCIAL CLUB.

J. P. Falter.

Hightest Town in the World

by which it is reached passes freezing point,

American enterprise.

The section of the railway which runs Cerro de Pasco Mining company, and is fast, considering the gradients. It passes through fine grassy valleys grazed by stages.—London Speciator. sky, the sparkling streams, the snow peaks, combine with the green pastures to give a delightful variety of colors which afford a striking contrast to the uniform brown hue of the barren Chilean Andea.

To get a fair view of Cerro de Pasco it in necessary to go to the top of a high rock near the railway station. Tis town, with its little thatched house and narrow streets, lies in a large undulating basin in which the chief features are the tail chimneys and other buildings belonging to the mines, In the distance a large lake can Thomas Edwards, the th'rd one in the

studded with snowcapped heights. winter there is a great deal of rain and the mother of Roy E. Edwards and R. E. slest, but the summer is bright and crisp Edwards, the father of Myrtle Edwards,

ERRO DE PASCO is the biggest and all the year round the temperature own in the world. The re- is equable, one of moderate cold in which markable broad gauge rallway the thermometer seldom falls much below

PLATTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL AT THE NOON HOUR.

over a higher altitude-about. Everything at Cerro de Pasco is "run" that of Mount Blanc-and there by the Americans. There is a spacious club, are mining camps and Indian villages at where bowis are played nightly, and in the greater elevations. On the Arequina-Pune hollow below there is a base ball ground. line the station of Crucero Alto attains the Both these games are characteristically stupendous elevation of 14,800 feet, but at American; they are played at high pres-14,200 fest above the sea level there is no sure the whole time, the biggest match can other real town of 8,600 inhabitants with be played in about one and a half hours, and the players are near enough to the churches, shops, clubs, nospitals and vice ing or otherwise, that are liberally beconsuls. It is a wonderful example of stowed. The hospitality of the Americans is unbounded and the life is one of the utfrom Oroya to this town belongs to the The only drawback to the visitor's enjoy-Cerro de Pasco Mining company, and is ment is the soroche or mountain sickness, extremely comfortable, smooth running and which is almost certain to attack a newcomer unless he ascends by very gentle

Four Generations

OUR generations are represented

in this photograph. There are two great grand mothers and two grand mothers. The former are Mrs. John G. Jones, the second woman sitting and Mrs. seen, and all around the horizon is group. Mrs. Jones is 77 years of age and Mrs. Edwards 83. The first woman and the At our feet is a busy scene. The useful fourth are Mrs. Robert Thomas and Mrs. Indian is everywhere—now driving herds Jane Edwards, respectively, it and to years of lamas, the universal mountain carrier, old. The couple standing with the baby are now riding mules or driving small car. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Edwards and daughter, ringes over the undufating roads-and all Myrtle. All live at Red Oak, Ia. Three his business is a part of the great work of the women, Mrs. Jones and the two of extracting copper and silver from the cider Mrs. Edwards, were born in Wales, deep shafts. The rosy cheeks of the Indian while Mrs. Thomas was born in Wisconwhose healthy color shines sin. Here is the line of descent including through their brown skin, is an unusual four generations: Mrs. Thomas Edwards sight in sallow South America, for the is the mother of Mr. Edwards, whose wife citmate is healthy and invignrating. In the is Mrs. Jane Edwards, Mrs. Jane Edwards,

Family of Interesting Proportions



FOUR GENERATIONS ARE IN THIS GROUP.

Scenting Danger from Afar

fly have been found attached Chicago Tribune. to skins sent to Washington as trophies of the Roosevelt chase in Africa. Some people have taken alarm lest the sleeping sickness become American-

ized through these potential pests. The his acries. He formed the drill team theory might be dismissed at once as a which won the cup at the Milwaulaughable one if the experience of Leo- kee convention in 1908. Then there pold Trouvelot was not a matter of record, is John W. Considine, a past grand In 1809 Trouvelot was making experi- worthy president and one of the founders ments with American and European silk of the order at Seattle. He is a memberworms. He brought some gypsy moths to of the Sullivan-Considine theatrical Massachusetts. They got away from him agency. The credited representative from while he was studying them. He promptly the mother aeric at Seattle is Frank P. informed the authorities, for gypsy moths Mullin, also a past grand worthy president, had caused great damage to fruit, shade, He is one of the Scattle boosters; he is a and forest trees in France, Germany, and member of the city council and a member other continental lands. Nothing was done, of the streets commission. The western however, until 1886, when the ravages of delegation would not be complete without the moths in Massachusetts began to be Dei Cary Smith of Spokane aerie No. 2. noted. Then the state spent nearly \$1,000 .- Mr. Smith is the only past grand worthy 000 to destroy them, leaving the job in- president who has held the office of presicomplete because of outcry against such dent for two terms. The law was changed vast expenditures. The state department near the expiration of his second term and of agriculture and the United States de- it is not now possible for the president partment, too, have published circulars, to hold office more than one term. telling about the ruin resultant from the The officers forecast a convention of un-

that the conditions for the sleeping sick- in the running for the next convention fly without going to Africa, but one might wieldy,

UMEROUS eggs of the tsetse pest to satisfy the curiosity of scientists.-

Who's Who in the Eagles (Continued from Page One.)

escaped specimens of an experimenter. usual harmony. They aver that there are In the case of the tastse fly, however, no known causes of unusual controversy it does not seem likely that a tropical pest and that the issues to be met are now well would flourish in the temperate climate formed. The three cities of St. Paul, St. of the United States. It is not certain Louis and New Haven are known to be ness would be found here. The danger The question of state autonomy, which seems remote, everything considered, but has been threshed over in every convenit would be safer not to take any chances tion of the last few years, will be brought-

with a fly so deadly in its native home up again. It is the contention of the adr for men and cattle. The scientists had vocates of the movement that the order better destroy all the eggs they may find has grown to such size that representations instead of trying to hatch them out. They to the national convention from aerics inwould like to study the habits of the tsetse dividually randers the central body too un-

get away from them. It would not be ex- "And say," remarked John Ryder of pedient to assume that in a new habitat Omaha, secretary of the convention, "If its dangerous qualities would be eliminated, this convention don't get off right it will The farmers and fruit raisers of this coun- all be because my old friend. Martin Farrer try have lost millions through the acciden- of Fitchburg, Musz., is not in attendance introduction of destructive insects. This pair struck up a great friendship There should be no trifling with another the last convention,