

Was Father Patriotic When He Picked Your Name?



ABRAHAM LINCOLN REED



GEORGE WASHINGTON CRAIG



ZACK TAYLOR HOWELL



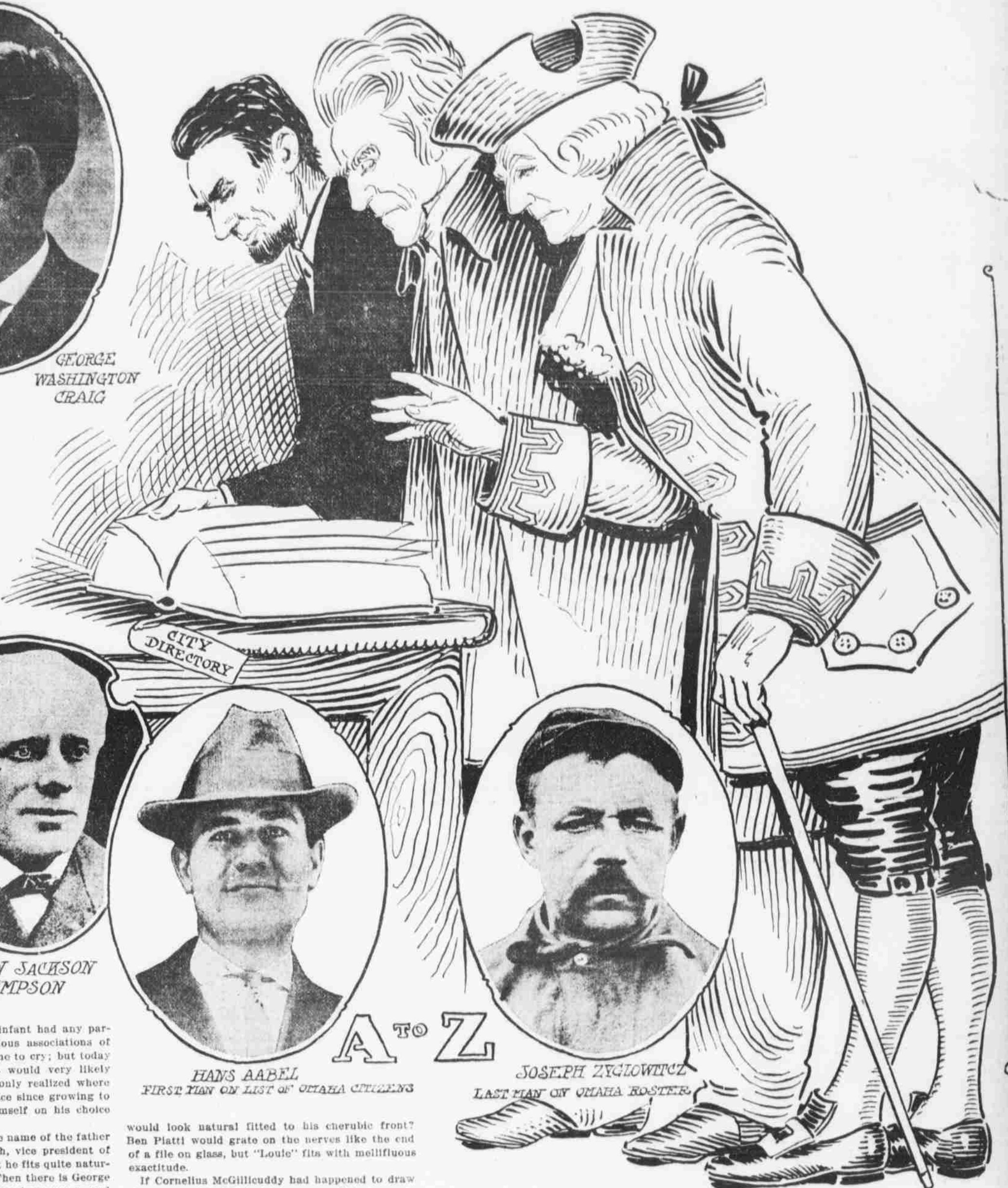
ANDREW JACKSON SIMPSON



HANS AABEL
FIRST MAN ON LIST OF OMAHA CITIZENS



JOSEPH ZYGLOWITZ
LAST MAN ON OMAHA ROSTER



A TO Z



SOMEONE has made the assertion that people grow to look like their names, and to be like them; that is, "Jack" or "Charley" will certainly differ in looks, actions and bearing from men sailing under the poetic and romantic names of Montmorency or Cecil; that "Gertie" and "Katie" will always differentiate the bearers from other girls who are always addressed in a form way—say, as Sarah or Mehltable. Perhaps there is something in this reasoning; and again, maybe not. But that there is something in a name is not to be denied lightly.

Suppose your name was Zyglowitz, and you were the last man on the roster of Omaha citizens—would you change it to Joe Smith just for convenience sake, or would you let your friends do the best they could, probably with a cough and a sneeze? Joseph Zyglowitz took the Smith route, although a scion of the old nobility in his own land.

Hans Aabel leads off on the list of Omaha citizens. He is an inspector for the Omaha Grain exchange. A brother heads the directory list in New York and a sister in San Francisco.

If you have been called Bill all your life, would you know yourself in the glass if everybody all at once began calling you Algernon? Would the delicate and aristocratic name of Percy fit half way decent on a chap who now answers to the homely name of Si; or would Jack, Ed or Sam be the same as precinct and ward leaders if their parents had hitched them to matinee aliases like Claude, Harold or Chauncey? This question presupposes, of course, that there is a psychological significance in names—that they fit the bearers, which may or may not be true.

First President Popular with Americans.

The man who was "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen," has been honored by many and many a patriot who has named his son George Washington. Perhaps no man bearing the name has a better right to it than Omaha's city engineer, George Washington Craig was born in the Mount Vernon mansion, and is quite proud of it. His father, James Y. Craig, was superintendent of the work of rehabilitating the famous Washington place, just after the war, and had temporary quarters in the mansion while the work was in progress. Thus it came about that his oldest son was born in the room formerly occupied by the first president as a library. Mr. Craig

does not recall that the lusty infant had any particular reverence for the glorious associations of Mount Vernon when it came time to cry; but today the city engineer confesses he would very likely have kept pretty quiet had he only realized where he was. He has visited the place since growing to manhood and congratulated himself on his choice of a birthplace.

Washington Clabaugh was the name of the father of George Washington Clabaugh, vice president of the Omaha Gas company, so that he fits quite naturally into the patriotic list, too. Then there is George Washington Holdrege, the railroad manager, and George Washington Johnston, president of the electric company of that name; also Washington Runyan and Washington Percival, the veteran newspaper man and dry farmer.

"Big Bill" Taft sounds homelike and natural to the American people, because the president has carried the hefty prefix ever since his college days. And where the ordinary citizen congregates and talks natural, who would think of Theodore in preference to "Teddy"? However, we have no Roosevelt in Omaha.

Used to be "Chet" Aldrich.

In prayer meeting and official documents it may be David Cole, but all around the circumference of the business world of Omaha "Dave" Cole is the proper name. And when you think of it, those other good Presbyterians, "Bob" Smith and "Bill" Ure are better known by the abbreviated than by the full name. So with "Tom" Flynn and "Mike" Endres, "Fred" Hoye and "Phil" McShane. To call them Thomas, Michael, Frederick or Felix would be wasting time and give cause for sarcastic laughter. Even so dignified a citizen as Senator Millard is "Joe" to the old-timers and to men who speak of him with appreciation, "Jim" Hill is another case of the diminutive applied to a major general.

In the old days, being a lover of a good horse, his intimates very probably called Aldrich, the country lawyer, "Chet." Today they universally allude to him as Governor Aldrich, or use his full name of Chester H. It would be slightly undignified to walk up and slap the chief magistrate of the state on the back and say, "Hello, Chet!" Mayor Dahlman is just as bald as the governor, and a grandfather to boot, but as the mayor of a city is naturally closer to ordinary folks than a governor, no rule seems to be fractured when friends greet him familiarly as "Jim." The mayor is so used to the term he feels a trifle embarrassed when addressed more formally.

Take Judge Baker, chairman of the Republican county committee. What other name than "Ben"

would look natural fitted to his cherubic front? Ben Platt would grate on the nerves like the end of a file on glass, but "Louie" fits with mellifluous exactitude.

If Cornelius McGillicuddy had happened to draw the name of Jeddiah Littleman, and had run to baked beans instead of corned beef and cabbage, would he now be wrapped in a championship flag? The chances are he would not, but would be scrutinizing bank figures. Or if "Bill" Rourke had been christened Jeremiah, could he have mourned more seriously than he has over shattered hopes? Tell Jed Sokol if you know.

The Abraham Lincoln Boys.

Being baptized Abraham Lincoln Sutton, it would be the natural thing to surmise that the well known judge of the district court was called "Abe" in his boyhood; but who among the members of the bar would dream of calling him by a short title today? Yet Judge Kennedy is "Howard" to many practitioners who have seen him grow up in Omaha; and it is quite safe to say Judge Sutton would not freeze up at the sound of the old name. The most solid dignity often melts under the intimate touch that recalls said lang syne.

Besides Judge Sutton, we have Abraham Lincoln Reed. Several other Omaha citizens have the initials that might stand for Abraham Lincoln—for instance, A. L. Mohler, the railroad president; A. L. Alexander, the shoe merchant; A. L. Hoover, a salesman. But in each of these cases the first name is Albert.

"The Millboy of the Slashes," pride of Kentucky and thriller of list'ning senates, has at least three namesakes in Omaha, Henry Clay Cheney, Henry Clay Richmond and Henry Clay Akin. Only Richmond can be dubbed politician.

Zachary Taylor Lindsey, the rubber man, and Zack Taylor Howell are the only persons here whose names recall the soldier-president who won glory in the Mexican war; but we have Millard Fillmore Funkhouser in the presidential list.

Benjamin Franklin Crummer and Benjamin Franklin Bailey typify a fondness of their parents for the grand old philosopher; while Charles Sumner Stebbins and Charles Sumner Hayward carry along the memory of the classic orator of Massachusetts.

Lincoln, our state capital, has several citizens

with patriotic baptismal names. There is Judge Lincoln Frost, Andrew Jackson Sawyer and John C. Fremont McKesson.

Few Patriotic Patronymics in Omaha.

And while on the subject of patriotic names, examination of the Omaha city directory indicates they are not being used at christenings as frequently as of yore. Perhaps that's why Grover Cleveland Alexander, of St. Paul, Neb., attracted so much attention as a ball player in Philadelphia, although it must be said he was also quite a success as a pitcher.

We find no George Washington in the city directory, and we also miss the names of Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, Patrick Henry, Daniel Webster, Wendell Phillips, John C. Calhoun, William Lloyd Garrison. John Hancock has not been written in this long list, nor do we find Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, Grover Cleveland, James G. Blaine, nor even William Jennings Bryan.

But Andrew Jackson Simpson, who has been building vehicles here since Omaha was a group of shanties, wears as well as the old warrior after whom he was named; and there is also one Andrew Jackson. Nine men bear the name Andrew Johnson, but no Omaha man carries the name of Ulysses S. Grant. John Quincy Adams has but one namesake in Omaha, while John Adams is almost as numerous as John Brown. We have one Benjamin Franklin, and one James A. Garfield, while two citizens are named Jefferson Davis and two are called Robert E. Lee, not to mention Robert E. Lee Herdman.

Daniel O'Connell is a foreman in a factory, William Tell is a printer; and the famous name of Lafayette is carried on by a laborer and a worker in the Lord's vineyard. Seven Omahans are named Walter Scott, one William C. Bryant, two Tom Moore, and one Robert Burns, but there is no Henry W. Longfellow, nor Edgar Allan Poe.

Passing to names out of the ordinary, what's the matter with Friends Tuv or Calafaire Tildelfo? Likewise, Thea Tvedt and Mary Vrz, or

Steve Acs, or Charles Hon, or Sam Acquaviva?—all good and proper people helping to build up Omaha. A bank cashier with the name of Tom Toy would be able to avoid many an ache in his wrist when signing checks. The contrary would be the case, of course, if the name were Nicholas Paraskeropolous, probably the longest name in the list, and carried by a smiling bootblack from the classic precincts of Greece.

Ireland and England are represented by good men and true, and a good many Scotts appear, but no Scotland. Several bear the name of Turk, but there is no Turkey. Goos and Quail are to be found, also Rabbit and Roost, but no Rooster. However, there is Bird, Partridge, Parrot and Robin.

Every Character of Names Represented.

We have Kis and Hug, Love, Angol, Darling, Peach and Pettie, but no Saint of either sex. The closest we come to the angelic host is through Canon, Priest, Bishop, Abbot, Monk, Dean and Rector. There is also Church and Kirk. Babel, Haman and Jordan are likewise with us.

Being shy on Sport, we can still fall back on Topp, Marble, Runn and Jumper. There is no Angier, yet plenty of Fish; and we can pack along Sudds and Beers who probably have as stout a pride in their names as P-dwell himself. High and Lowe, Weakley and Strong, all go into the list with the Shorts and the Longs, Quick and Spry. Even Mr. Was still is, alive and happy.

Drinkwater travels along with plain Waters, and Rivers and Lakes are not wanting.

South, North, East and West like Omaha well enough to camp here, with Spring, Summer and Winter. Wit and Wisdom are also struggling along with the common herd and philosophizing on the high cost of living. Battle is represented by a woman, Peace by a man, and Joy is not shadowed by Gloom. Beard and Whisker have a place in spite of the vogue for clean faces, but Barbars are not lacking; and there is a Curtain to shut off the play right here.