

Early Day Settlers Quarreled Much Over Location of Capital

Nebraska Was Regarded as "Steady-Going" Compared to Turbulent Kansas—Territorial Government Carried on Largely by "Carpenterbaggers" Officials—History of State's Indian Tribes.

(Continued from Page Two.)

unique in respect both to population and disorder. Throughout its territorial period, six years and a half, there was continuous violent revolution over the slavery question. There was no slavery question in Nebraska, but the Platte river caused sectional strife for 20 years, about 12 of them in the commonly unsteady territorial period.

During this time there was fierce quarreling between the North Platte and the South Platte over the location of the capital. It was allayed in the main by a provision in the constitution of 1857 which made it nearly impossible to take the capital away from Lincoln.

There was the original fierce fight over the capital question in the first legislative assembly, then the break-up of the fourth assembly in 1857, aptly called the Florence fiasco; in 1859 the formidable undertaking of the South Platte section to secede and become annexed to Kansas; next the removal of Governor Butler by impeachment in 1871, followed by the anarchical prorogation proceedings in the legislature—1872—between the Lincoln cabal and the chronically hostile Omaha faction.

The repeal of the criminal and civil codes by the third legislative assembly in 1857 was not sectional or otherwise partisan, but the wanton, selfish trick of a cunning pettifogger in the council, and the defeat, by bribery, of the will of two-thirds of the members of the same assembly, expressed in the passage of a bill to remove the capital from Omaha to a blueprinted place on Salt creek, somewhere between the sites now occupied by Waverly and Greenwood, manifested a positive sense of irresponsibility which, I believe, was not matched in the territorial period of Iowa or Missouri.

Fight for Capital.

The Daily Missouri Republican, then a powerful wing and pro-slavery newspaper, complimented the steady-going virtue of Nebraska in contrast to the chronic revolutionary turmoil in Kansas. The first session of the territorial assembly of Nebraska adjourned sine die March 16, 1855; the members of the first assembly of Kansas were elected March 30, 1855. The Kansas assembly located the capital of the territory by an act passed August 5, 1855. The capitol of the Territory of Nebraska was begun about that time. During the short territorial period of Kansas its shifty insurgency changed the capital from Leavenworth, which was designated as the temporary capital by the organic act, to the Shawnee Mission, thence to Pawnee, thence to Leocompton and thence repeatedly to Lawrence, notwithstanding that Leocompton was recognized by the federal govern-

ment as the capital and a capitol was built there with a federal appropriation. The third, fourth and fifth territorial assemblies adjourned from Leocompton to Lawrence, and the laws enacted at the de facto capital were recognized as valid.

For four of the six years during which Leocompton was the legal capital Lawrence might more properly have been regarded as the actual capital. On the other hand, during the entire territorial period in Nebraska, 12 years, Omaha was the only capital, and there was only one attempt to hold a session of the legislative assembly elsewhere, and that was abortive.

"Carpenterbaggers."

Owing, in part, at least, to Nebraska's sparse population at the outset its territorial officers were nearly all carpenterbaggers. Neither of the territorial governors was a resident of the territory at the time of his appointment, all of the territorial judges but one were imported from distant states, the first delegate to congress was a citizen of Missouri and not even a resident of Nebraska, and at least nine members of the first territorial assembly came from Iowa and returned to reside there after the session ended.

While settlers were precluded from Nebraska because all the lands were held to belong to Indians at the time of the territorial organization, in Kansas strenuous colonization from the far east on the one hand and principally from contiguous Missouri on the other began immediately on the passage of the organic act and was pressed with great vigor. So that while 2,833 votes were cast in Kansas at the election of a delegate to congress in November 29, 1854, only 800 votes were cast at the election in Nebraska for the same purpose on December 12, 1854.

According to the United States census of 1860, the population of Kansas was 107,206; of Nebraska, 28,841; in 1870, Kansas, 364,399, Nebraska, 122,933; in 1880, Kansas, 996,096, Nebraska, 452,402; in 1890, 656,100, Kansas, 1,470,495, Nebraska, 1,066,300; in 1910, Kansas, 1,690,949, Nebraska, 1,192,214; in 1920, Kansas, 1,769,257, Nebraska, 1,295,502.

So the Nebraska tortoise is catching up with the at first swift Kansas hare. The gain in Kansas for the first decade was 239.9 per cent, in Nebraska 326.5 per cent; for the second decade, Kansas 173.4, Nebraska 267.8; for the third decade, Kansas 43.4, Nebraska 134.9; for the fourth decade—1890 to 1900, drouth period—Kansas 3, Nebraska 34; for the fifth decade, Kansas 15, Nebraska 11.8; for the sixth decade—1910 to 1920—Kansas 4.6, Nebraska 8.7.

May, 1855, to their reservation, where they still remain.

Terrors of Smallpox.

Lewis and Clark were informed that in the year 1800 the Omaha were reduced, mainly by smallpox, from about 3,500 to 300, and that in 1894 they numbered 600; but these estimates are guesses and may not be correct. In 1836 they had increased to 1,400; in 1910 there were 1,276; June 30, 1919, 1,382—1,072 of full blood; 824 acres of the reservation were the unallotted.

The Oto and Missouri Indians, who united many years ago, lived on the south bank of the Platte river, near the site occupied by the town of Yutan, in Saunders county. This place is named for Iatan, a noted chief of the tribe who lived in the first half of the 19th century. In 1833 they ceded to the United States all their claim or right to land lying between the Little Nemaha and Great Nemaha rivers, and on March 15, 1854, they ceded all the remainder of their territory west of the Missouri river. In part payment for this cession the Indians received the tract 25 miles long and 10 miles wide, intersected by the Big Blue river and about 50 miles southward from the nearest boundary of the territory which they conceded they had the right to sell. The reservation extended two miles into Kansas.

In 1835 these Indians were removed from their old village to a new home, also on the Platte, about seven miles, in a direct line southwest from Bellevue, and a like distance above the mouth of the Platte river. There they had a village on each side of the river, but in 1848 the savage Sioux forced them to abandon it and their principal farm on the north side.

After that they lived in various places on the lower Platte, and for a time on the Missouri river, a little below Nebraska City, until they were removed to their reservation on the Blue, in July, 1855.

Nearly three-fourths of this reservation—120,000 acres—was sold by authority of an act of congress, passed August 15, 1876, and the remainder was sold under the act passed March 3, 1881. The price paid for the land, an average of \$5.77 an acre, amounting to \$941,267.13, was invested by the United States government for the benefit of the tribe. A part of it was expended for a new reservation of 129,113.20 acres in Indian territory.

Like their kinsmen, the Omaha, and the Oto and Missouri, and their alien neighbors, the Pawnee, the Ponca were continuously harassed

by the Dakota, their neighbors on the north and west, and they were in constant fear of attack. It was partly on account of these troubles with the Dakota that in 1877, the Ponca, numbering 717, were removed to a reservation in Indian Territory where they still live.

Homesick Indians.

In 1879 65 of these homesick Indians ran away from their new home and came back to their old one in Nebraska, and by 1882, 210 had returned. After a great deal of trouble had been made about it, they were allowed to stay. In 1836 their number was about 800; in 1919, 642—only 266 of full-blood—in Oklahoma and 338 under the Yankton school. The forced removal of the Ponca was very cruel; yet, largely because they had always been very friendly to their white neighbors, the government of the United States at last gave them liberal rewards in land and money. None of these domestic tribes—Omaha, Oto, Pawnee and Ponca—ever made war upon the white people; but all of them, and the Pawnee worst of all, were addicted to stealing, and in following this habit they often killed their white victims.

In 1836 a reservation of 400 sections, situated on the south side of

the Great Nemaha, was assigned to the Sank and Fox of the Missouri river, and a band of the Iowa. About one-fourth of this land is in the southeast corner of Nebraska and the rest of it in Kansas. About four years later these Indians began leisurely to move to the reservation. By 1842, 479 Iowa and 417 Sank and Fox had settled there. In 1916 there were 303 Iowa and 98 Sank and Fox enrolled at the agency in Germantown; 33 of these lived in Nebraska, nearly all in Richardson county; June 30, 1919, there were 335 Iowa and 89 Sank and Fox, un-

der the Kickapoo school, in Kansas as their lands have all been allotted. The Santee were living in Minnesota at the time of the great Sioux war on settlers there in 1862. They were accused of taking part in it and were consequently removed to Crow Creek, in Dakota, in 1863. In April, 1866, they were again removed to a small reservation on the south side of the Niobrara river, now in Knox county. There were 1,350 of them then; June 30, 1919, there were 1,152, under the Yankton school. Having all received their lands in severalty, their agency has been discontinued.

divided among these Indians, 589 in number. The land has all been acquired by white people.

By the treaty of April 29, 1868, the Dakota Indians, who had roamed for a very long time over the country now contained in North Dakota and South Dakota, and often hunted on the Platte and Republican rivers, were limited to a reservation bounded on the north by the 46th parallel of latitude, which is not far north of the boundary between the two Dakotas; on the east by the Missouri river, down to the mouth of the Niobrara; its southern boundary extended along the Niobrara and Keyapaha rivers, to the 43d parallel, and along that parallel to the 104th meridian, which was the western boundary of the reservation and also of South Dakota. The people of Nebraska protested against the permission which the treaty gave the hostile Indians to trespass on their state; and on the 26th of September, 1876, another agreement was made by which the Dakota gave up forever all right to come into Nebraska.

The Sioux were the most populous Indian family, except the Algonquians, north of Mexico. They numbered 40,800, the Algonquians, 60,000—50,000 of whom lived in the United States and 10,000 in Canada. The Dakota numbered 28,780 in

1904, most of them on reservations in Minnesota, the Dakotas and Montana. According to the report of the commissioner of Indian affairs for 1919, there were then about 35,000, of whom 20,000 were in South Dakota. They were a family of conquerors and superior physically, mentally and morally to any other western tribe.

Only the Omaha and Winnebago, 2,448, are now reported as distinct Indian residents of Nebraska.

By the treaty of February 18, 1861, the Southern or Arkansas, Cheyenne and Arapaho ceded all their country to the United States, except the small temporary reservation in Colorado, which they ceded October 14, 1868.

Two years later a reservation in Indian Territory was assigned to them. The country they ceded extended westward from the Pawnee country to the North Platte, whose course at first is northward, and from the same river on the north as far southward as the Arkansas. It now forms a part of the states of Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, and Kansas. In 1865 there were 3,300 Arapaho—1,800 at the Wyoming agency and 1,500 at the upper Arkansas agency.

Agitation in Missouri in the late (Turn to Page Four.)

The Indians of Nebraska

Before the white man came, the Indians who lived in what is now the state of Nebraska, were of seven tribes and three different stocks and they spoke six different languages.

The Dakota had that part of what is now Nebraska, which lies north of the Platte river and west of a line running in a southwesterly direction and crossing the river at the fork.

The Ponca country lay along the Missouri river on the north side of the Niobrara river, partly in what is now Nebraska and partly in what is now South Dakota.

The Omaha country stretched from the Missouri river west to the sand hills, between the Niobrara river and the Platte.

The country of the united Oto and Missouri tribes lay along the Missouri river between the Platte and the Big Nemaha rivers. The Pawnee country was west of the Omaha and Oto, extending from the Niobrara south across the sandhills, the Loup river, the Platte and the Republican to the Solomon river in Kansas. The southwest part of the present Nebraska was then a part of the country of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe, who lived together.

The Pawnee, Ponca, Omaha and Oto and Missouri all lived in fixed villages along the streams, where they could have wood and water and could plant their crops in the fertile soil of the valleys. Their houses were of commodious size, built of timber framework covered with earth.

The traditions of the Dakota, Ponca, Omaha and Oto indicate that they migrated from the east into this country not more than a few centuries ago; but the traditions of the Pawnee indicate that they had occupied for many centuries the same country they were holding when white men first saw them.

The Pawnee.

The Pawnee confederacy, comprising four bands or tribes, ceded all their country to the United States—the part south of the Platte river in 1833, and in 1857 all their remaining lands save a reservation which now comprises all of Nance county except a tier of six townships on the extreme west.

In accordance with an agreement made in 1874, this reservation was sold during the six years from 1878 to 1884 for \$876,148.74. About the year 1835 their total number was estimated at 10,000 to 12,000; but, owing mainly to disease and losses in war with their relentless enemies, the Dakota, there were only 2,026 left for removal from Nebraska.

They gradually removed from their ancestral home on the Loup eastward nearer the white settlements for protection from the Sioux. In 1859 they were moved from their two villages situated southeast of Fremont, to their reservation; but soon the advancing white settlers wanted that also, so in the years 1873, 1874, 1875, they were removed to their present reservation, in Oklahoma.

Omaha Indians.

At the time white men first knew the Omaha Indians their regular, or favorite, place of residence had been within the limits of the reservation

assigned to them when they ceded the rest of their lands to the United States in March, 1854. In 1804 the Lewis and Clark expedition found that their village was situated on Omaha creek about three miles from its mouth, at a point now within Dakota county. In about 1840, they were driven by the Dakota from their old home, and they then settled temporarily on the Elkhorn river, 50 miles to the south. In 1845 for the same reason, they moved still farther south and east, settling on the Pawnee river, five miles west of Bellevue, where they remained until they were removed in

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