

system of boring wells and guaranteed success in finding water.

M. B. Sullivan was buying cattle and hogs in the vicinity of Spalding. J. Lynch, J. M. and C. Mahoney were leaving for Denver. Messers Fagan, Hannon and Inman had started on a deer hunt. Michael Rutledge had taken a trip to Pennsylvania. Frank McKeown had left for Utah. Frank Mahoney was teaching at Ewings school, the four month term. James Fox was attending school at Valparaiso, Indiana. Mr. Murphy was building a new residence. Most of the farmers were visiting the nearby railroad towns, hauling coal, flour and other supplies. County Clerk Connell and Sheriff T. C. Cantwell, from Scotia were in Spalding. Miss Quirk of Buckley, Illinois was visiting relatives and friends, Mrs. Connell, Mrs. Walworth, Mrs. Dunning and Mrs. Connor, all former residents of Buckley. Will Bean had closed his school in Leo Valley. Michael Murphy and Rev. DeVos had gone to Omaha to consult railroad officials there about extending the railroad into Spalding. Hackaberry and Mud Creek ball teams were to play ball. Miss Cashman from Chicago, was visiting her brother E. F. Cashman, in Leo Valley. Miss Mary O'Keefe was a visitor from Lincoln. Frank Mahoney had purchased a fine driving horse. Citizens of Spalding were endeavoring to persuade George Patterson of Moran to move his grist mill to Spalding. Reverend Cashman of Chicago was a Spalding visitor. Mr. Quilty had purchased another 160 acres of land. P. H. O'Connor had purchased 50 head of thoroughbred calves from Mr. Hadley of Cedar Rapids. Miss Crennan was teaching east of town in the new school house. A party of young people attended the St. Patrick's day celebration at O'Connor.

In 1888 Peter Gilroy was assessor in Cedar Valley. Robert Fox up on the Cedar had 1800 bushel of corn shelled. Thomas Pritchard's wind mill was blown down in a storm, and he also lost a fine hog which he had purchased at the county fair at Albion. Peter Carlin's threshing machine threshed 1300 bushel of

oats at the farm of the Walsh brothers in Freeman Valley. John P. Murphy of Leo Valley was in "the center" raising funds to buy a team for Father Devos at Spalding. Father Damen, the renowned Jesuit missionary gave several addresses at the Mission held at St. Michael's church. Peter Gilroy was hauling lumber for a new frame house. Michael Keenan had started for the west Edward Gilroy had shipped a load of hogs. Efforts were being made to secure a bridge across the Cedar rive near the Gilroy places. Dr. A. D. Cameron was rearranging the inside of his drug store. The Bank of Spalding was opened by Will Hannon and T. D. Connell of Scotia.

The name of Iowa Valley precinct was changed in 1889, to Leo Valley precinct. Two post offices had been established while it was still known as Cedar Valley.³⁰ Troy in December, 1879, with Mrs. Matilda J. Whitely as postmistress. Leo Valley in March 15, 1880 with John McCarthy postmaster. The office is said to have been named for his son Leo.³¹ For several years Troy served residents of four cornering precincts, Cedar, Spalding, Freeman Valley and Leo Valley. James Montgomery became postmaster in 1881. Mail was carried from O'Connor twice a week in the early days, which came from St. Paul. After the Union Pacific railroad reached Scotia in 1883, a route was established between Albion and Scotia. The mail carriers drove a team as far as the John Walsh place in Leo Valley, from either point, changed to the fresh team which they had left the day before, and proceeded on their way. Mr. Walsh was the post master for many years at the Leo Valley office and kept the mail in a basket so that patrons could sort their own mail.

When the Walsh family left Scotia, after they had arrived from the east, in 1884, they drove overland to their new home in Leo Valley. Richard Walsh, a son, recalls that while crossing the north branch of Spring Creek, their wagon upset, going down the steep banks of the creek, and they were all thrown into the

water. The adult members of the family were able to save themselves, but the presence of mind of D. E. Lanigan, who was riding with them, in catching the two small children, saved them from drowning.³²

Daniel D. McCarthy who came from Jackson county, Iowa, in 1880, took a homestead in the Leo Valley neighborhood. He spent several years teaching school after he first arrived. He taught Thayer school for two terms and lived with the John Harrahill family while in that neighborhood. In 1882 he taught the school in Leo Valley. Between terms he worked and improved his homestead, and as the years went by became a large land owner. In 1890 he served on the board of county supervisors.

His brother, Richard McCarthy, was also an early settler in this section of the county, and served in the legislature.³³

One of the early teachers in Leo Valley was J. P. Noonan, who received a certificate to teach in 1881. Thomas Keenan taught at a later date.

Charles E. Hughes, who had been a miner in Pennsylvania, settled in Leo Valley late in 1879, on a timber claim. He carried the mail for five years between Albion and Scotia, making two trips a week. His daughter, Mrs. Sarah Kavanaugh, recalls that the fuel problem was a serious one for their family in the early days and that there was little to burn but twisted hay and corn stalks. Her mother had a large family and received only the care that some kind neighbor could render when the children were born. Water was carried from a nearby buffalo wallow, by her mother, for the family washing and on one occasion the exertion of lifting and carrying the water, caused her to be very ill, before she was found by her family and taken to the house.³⁴

Other early residents of this section were Frank Meehan, Henry Ferguson, Thomas Joyce, Hugh Curran, Edward Hurley, Dennis Murphy, Michael Noonan and Daniel Fallon.

Almost without exception the residents of Leo Valley pre-

cinct had settled in the county as a result of the efforts of the Irish Catholic Colony and attended church either at Spalding or O'Connor.

As the country developed and farms were improved, Leo Valley became one of the richest sections of Greeley county.

Chapter VII

COUNTY SEAT RE-LOCATION

The famous county seat fight between Scotia and Greeley was the outgrowth of the special election held on January 17, 1888, for the relocating of the county seat. It was the fourth of five county seat elections.

The first election located the county seat at Lamartine, February 11, 1873. The second relocated it at Scotia, November 18, 1874. The third was a contest between O'Connor and Scotia, December 6, 1881.

The Union Pacific railroad extended its line from St. Paul to Ord in 1882, then to Scotia in 1883, and with that great advantage over the rest of the county, Scotia felt secure in the thought that the county seat was permanent. A commodious and modern court house had been built and presented to the county and the town was expanding.

However, the county was building eastward and because Scotia was located in the extreme southwestern section of the county, considerable inconvenience was experienced in reaching the village.

Greeley Center was becoming a thriving community and growing ambition included both a railroad and the county seat. The B & M railroad had decided to build through Greeley instead of O'Connor and plans were that Greeley should become a division point on the Black Hills route.

Enterprising citizens were responsible for the circulation of many petitions among the farmers and various towns people, asking for a special election on the relocation proposition. The campaign became very warm, and a good many joint debates between partisans of the two towns took place before the election on January 17. More than the required number of names were secured and a remonstrance was very promptly filed by Scotia

against the petition. The big blizzard of January 12, intervened, but the election was held on the 17th, and the first returns showed that Greeley had lost by twelve votes. A two-thirds vote was necessary for a victory.

A day or two later the returns were being carried from Spring Creek precinct to Scotia, by way of Greeley, by Willis Gould and H. A. "Hank" Hill, judges of the election. It was then that the incident occurred that started long and expensive litigation and generated a bitterness between the two communities that only the passing of years has obliterated.

Even after fifty years, no man has ever been found who admitted he "knew" the miscreants who were daring enough to abstract the ballot box and poll book while Gould and Hill ate their dinner at the hotel in Greeley. But a master mind conceived the plot, and sixty-one names and ballots were added to the Spring Creek returns while Gould and Hill dined leisurely. One young bride of the town pondered silently over the "mysterious" business being transacted in her kitchen, while she was persuaded to visit a neighbor. Whether two and two make four, she was never told.

The two judges, Hill and Gould, proceeded to Scotia, where they spent the night, delivering the returns to the canvassing board the next morning. When the ballots were opened, the fraud was discovered and the men were promptly arrested. A complaint was filed in justice court before Judge N. H. Parks, charging them with "willfully, feloniously and knowingly, writing and inscribing sixty-one names on the poll books" and "attempting to defeat the will of the people". T. J. Doyle, prominent Scotia attorney was appointed to prosecute the case. The defendants at once telegraphed to Greeley for legal help, and all four of the village lawyers, M. B. Gearon, J. R. Swain, J. R. Hanna and G. A. Neuman, responded to their appeal. They left Greeley at dark in a double buggy with a four-horse team. The heavy

snow of the blizzard was still on the ground, and the roads were mostly trails, and were neither graded nor cleared. When they reached the Reed Hill west of town, which was then still a hill, and not a cut, the lead team balked. No amount of persuasion, profanity or prayer moved them in their intent to balk, so the fraternity had no other alternative than to pile out in the dark cold and snow, unhitch the team and change them fore and aft. They arrived in Scotia at midnight very cold and very hungry, and persuaded the landlord of the hotel to provide them with sandwiches and coffee

The old files of the case, in the office of the clerk of the district court, disclose that complaint was signed by citizens of Scotia, Lewis Herbert, D. C. Hall, S. Wilcox, A. R. Pearce and Charles McMillian, before T. P. Lanigan, Notary Public.

On the 21st, the case was heard before Judge Parks and the record reveals that defendant's attorneys, Gearon, Swain, Hanna and Neuman, filed a motion to discharge the prisoners, because "there is not sufficient evidence to show probable cause that the defendants committed the crimes charged."

But the judge found after listening to the evidence and the argument of counsel, that "there was a probability of the guilt of the defendants, and they were therefore ordered held to the district court of Greeley County." Patrick Hynes and P. M. Cadegan signed their bond as sureties.

The case in the District Court was called for trial in October, 1888, but the defendants stated that they could not go to trial because of the absence of a material witness, M. McBeth, who was absent in the territory of Wyoming. The case was postponed and many witnesses were called for the trial, April, 1888. The last instrument in the files is a "Recomendation" by the attorney for the state, T. J. Doyle, "that the prosecution of this case be dismissed because it is obvious that there is not sufficient testimony to justify further proceedings," dated Novem-

ber 1, 1889. However, in February, 1888, following bitter controversy through newspapers, a Writ of Mandamus was applied for in the State Supreme Court by attorneys from Greeley. Extracts from the Greeley Independent concerning the case lend a light upon the subject, somewhat colored and flavored with bias.

An article dated January 20, 1888, very adroitly lays the blame at Scotia's door.

"Never before has man thought that in this fair land where right, truth and freedom were the watchwords of liberty that red handed fraud steal the privileges of the ballot and set at naught the will of the people. In this hellish act suspicion must rest on Scotia whom a 'blind man tho a fool' could but say would profit by it. It is evident on its face and the developments have demonstrated the reason Greeley Center was by right the victor and can justly claim the honor.

"But aware of the frauds in Scotia precinct and that there would be a contest, this last desperate act was performed to make more difficult the work of contesting. The returns of Spring Creek were thrown out and for what reason? Simply because some fiendish villain of Scotia recognized the fact that the vote was so close and the evidence so plain that Scotia would be thrown out and Greeley Center counted in if desperate means were not resorted to. Yes, their work so far has been accomplished. They succeeded in throwing out Spring Creek Precinct and for a time defeating the will of the people. Why was it not O'Connor precinct or Wallace Creek precinct that was tampered with? We will tell you. Because had it been one of those precincts and it should have been thrown out, Scotia would have lost more than Greeley Center. No, the deed was done when Greeley Center felt secure. The precinct where almost four out of five votes were for removal was tampered with and at last thrown out. Farmers think it over. Taxpayers count the votes and see if it were not the farmers and taxpayers who voted for removal! Reason one moment and see how the dearest rights of an American free man has been trampled under foot and many of your fellowmen disfranchised only to fatten Scotia for another term of years at the expense of the rest of the county."

January 27, 1888, a long account of the trial is given.

Hill and Gould were judges of the election in Spring Creek and Daily and Kennedy, clerks of the election. They are unani-

mous in their statements that the election was conducted properly, that 47 votes were cast for Greeley and 13 for Scotia. That the ballots were counted and sealed as prescribed by law.

The day following the election, so the story goes, they went to Greeley Center and a short time thereafter, a stranger appeared at the residence of Mr. Hill with an order purporting to be from him, asking for the precinct poll book. The mysterious stranger was said to be riding a "piebald" pony and headed for Scotia. Mr. Gould went on to Scotia, but arriving late, went to the hotel and retired for the night, but the returns were still in his coat pocket. The next morning he delivered the returns to the authorities, who proceeded with the canvassing of the votes. Opening the Spring Creek ballots, it was quickly discovered that 120 votes had been cast whereas only 60 were legal. They at once summoned Mr. Gould and the "news spread like wildfire". Mr. Gould indicated his willingness to swear that the returns were false and to do all in his power to correct the "dastardly act that had unknowingly been perpetrated on his charge." The other judges and clerks were summoned and all swore to the correct vote. The Independent states that Mr. Gould and Mr. Hill were upright and honorable men and no suspicion had ever been attached to them before. Insinuation is made that the deed may have been done in the night while Gould was asleep at the hotel, as he testified that his door was not locked. The article continues that Scotia citizens are highly indignant that any suspicion should be cast on them in connection with the fraud.

A later editorial remarks—

"The taxpayers and honest voters can only look with contempt on the heinous 'bloodism' practiced to defeat the honest vote of the people and render difficult the work of a contest. The tampering with the vote of Spring Creek and falsifying the returns shows that the viperous wretch not only wanted to glut his revenge on Greeley Center by making more difficult the work of contesting, but cheat Greeley Center out of 47 votes and only lose 13 for Scotia."

Another article refers "to the fiend who sought the revenge on a young and thriving city," and "if the guilty man be found, punishment should be meted out to the fullest extent of the law."

According to the State Journal of Febr. 10, 1888,

"A petition was filed in the Supreme Court for a Mandamus in the matter of the State ex rel, J. R. Hanna et al v. John Kavanaugh et al. This case comes from Greeley county and relates to the relocation of the county seat of that county. It appears that a vote on the question was taken on the 17th of January last. The town of Greeley Center was among the candidates for the location. The petition alleges there were cast for this town 710 votes but that the board of canvassers failed and neglected to count but 593, throwing out entirely the precinct of Spring Creek. A Writ of Mandamus is asked to compel the board of canvassers and that they be instructed to count the entire vote of the county. M. B. Gearon and J. R. Swain are attorneys for the relators."

In March the case came up for a hearing, and became somewhat complicated when the County Attorney, H. S. Sprecker, appeared. He and the "Scotia citizens and their Union Pacific advisers" could not agree on the procedure. John Kavanaugh, who was then county clerk for Greeley county, P. H. Barry, Patrick Hynes and others thereupon retained William Jennings Bryan to appear in the case. It was his first case in the supreme court as well as for one of the young attorneys from Greeley county who appeared against him, James R. Swain. The court agreed to the suggestion of the Greeley county attorney to appoint a referee to take testimony with a "shorthand reporter," a decision to be handed down at a later date.

In September, 1888, the Independent quotes from the opinion handed down by Judge Reese in the Mandamus action. Ending with "Writ denied."

Thus, for Scotia the spectre of relocation was laid, but only for a time. Within two years the question was revived by Greeley citizens.

In 1890, for the fifth time the matter of the county seat location again came up. Petitions with some eight hundred names were presented to the county commissioners on June 18, requesting that the matter again be submitted to a special election. Remonstrances signed by more than 150 persons were presented at the same time, but the commissioners held that the petitions were valid and granted the request for the election, setting the date for August 12, 1890.

Judging from recollections of old timers and from newspaper articles, considerable animosity was again fanned into flame. The contest, however, this time developed into a race between Greeley and O'Connor. Scotia citizens, tiring of the expense and controversy that kept continually arising and realizing that the county population was advancing eastward, withdrew and made little effort to conduct a campaign. Sentiment appeared to be divided as to support between Greeley and O'Connor. The Scotia Herald, came out in open support of Greeley, while other papers labored tirelessly that O'Connor might land the plum.

Greeley, not to be outdone by Scotia, which had built and presented a fine building to the county for the court house in 1888, had secured a block of ground, which the Lincoln Land Company, the holding company for the land held by the Burlington and Missouri railroad, had presented as a gift. A two story, brick court house, costing \$5,000.00 was built complete with vaults and a jail, the money having been raised by popular subscription.

It was a very convincing argument of the interest and determination of Greeley citizens and those of the surrounding territory that they meant eventually to possess the county seat. During the heat of the campaign certain citizens of O'Connor T. C. Phaelan, D. E. Lanigan, John McEaney, John Harrahill, John McIllduff, Peter Killeen and others, pledged themselves to present to the county, a fine, brick, two story building with vaults, in case the county seat was placed at O'Connor. Some of the

newspapers of the county charged that factions were seeking to dominate the control of the county seat. But when the election was finally held and the returns in, Greeley was victorious with 764 votes. O'Connor received 424 and Scotia received but three votes. Thus after eighteen years and five elections the matter was finally settled and harmony began to reign.

The citizens of Greeley lost no time in moving the records. The next day teams and wagons in an impressive procession proceeded to Scotia to load up the records and office equipment; upon their return they were met far beyond the city limits by the regular and an improvised band, and the celebration that followed was memorable. It is said that many of the leading citizens of Wolbach came to join in the celebration over the county seat election. Among them, E. A. Wight, Wiley R. Davis, Frank Bissel, Tom Roberts, Nels Henderson, Hans Johnson, F. E. Seavey, F. M. Cutler and John Sherman.

An item in the Greeley Leader referred to the fact that Uncle Jerry Murphy, one of the heroes of Fort Sumpter, was the first to raise the flag over the new Court house.

Chapter VIII

SCHOOLS, PRAIRIE FIRES, BLIZZARDS.

Schools

On April 30, 1873, while John G. Kellogg was county superintendent, Greeley county was divided into three large school districts. Number Two, which was twenty miles wide and twenty four miles long, contained 475 square miles. Number Four was formed in 1876; Numbers Five, Six, Seven in 1877, during the term of Mansell Davis as county superintendent. These seven districts have since been divided and sub-divided until there are now 63 districts and 6 consolidated districts in the county.¹

The pupils of today cannot easily conceive of the sod school houses, the farm buildings, the barns or granaries that served as school rooms in the early days of this county. The first school in the county was in the Lamartine district in a sod house, but a frame building was built very shortly which served as school, church and for other occasions of public interest. The teacher of this first school was Miss Belle Scott.

The first examination for teachers was held at the home of Samuel C. Scott on April 25, 1873, at which his daughter, Miss Belle, passed the test and received a second grade certificate.

On December 9, of the same year, Mansel Davis, a young man who was later to serve as county superintendent, appeared to take the examination before the superintendent, fearing that the ice would thaw before the date set, the 12th, and that he could not then cross the river. The examination was given and the applicant passed. On December 12th, A. Gillespie took the examination and passed. Loring Gaffey was county superintendent in 1874, and William Shaw in 1875. Mansel Davis, county superintendent, awarded certificates on February 7, 1877, to William Shaw and Mary A. Sullivan, who took the examination, and on October 25, 1878, Rachel Patterson of Cedar Valley precinct

passed the examination.

In 1879 teachers who passed the examinations were: Mary Roberts, Maggie McMillian, Linda Pierce, Nellie Chase, Thomas Keenan, Agnes Foster, J. B. Paddock, Gene Rood, Hope Kellogg and Jennie Brown.

Taking the examination in 1880 before County Superintendent S. E. Horton, those who were successful, were: Louis Thorpe, Thomas P. Lanigan, Hattie Reed, Rosalie Crunican, Benjamin Crunican, Mary Ann Crunican, D. D. McCarthy, Julia O'Keefe. There were then sixteen districts and the pay ranged from \$15.83 to \$56.74 per month.

In 1873, the salary of the County Superintendent "was allowed at \$3.00 per day for time actually spent in work".

In June 1876, the state apportionment to the county schools was divided as follows:

District No. 1.....	\$ 9.01
District No. 2.....	25.78
District No. 3.....	3.12
	<hr/>
	\$ 37.91

January 1, 1877, the apportionment was as follows:

District No. 1.....	\$ 17.78
District No. 2.....	34.19
District No. 3.....	27.88
District No. 4.....	22.83
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	\$102.68

S. E. Horton, superintendent, in June 1880, divided \$377.07 among fifteen districts.

District Number 9, known as the "Thayer School" was organized November 6, 1877 at the home of O. M. Harris. On May 22 a certificate was granted to Mary Ella Wallace who was the first teacher. The pupils were Carry and Mary Hill; Eva, Elmer, Jonathan, Arlena, Ida and Mary Harris; Lottie, Ellen, Lawrence,

Martin and Eva Nestor; Ernest Mawe; Carrie and Charles Thayer and Rufus Ford.

Institutes for teachers were important in the life of the early day teacher. The first such meetings were held at Scotia and were attended by the dozen or more teachers in the county. In 1886, the attendance had greatly increased. Excellent and instructive programs were prepared, all teachers showing a lively interest in the advancement of county schools. In August 1887 at an Institute held in Scotia the following program was presented:

Written Spelling Lessons	Maggie Hynes
Language, How To Teach It	Prof. Ramsey
Sunshine In The School Room	Mary Moore
How To Retain Attention	T. J. Crawford
Mistakes in Teaching	Maggie Cadegan
Mispronounced Words	H. L. Ganoe
Methods of Instruction	Georgia Black
Teachers Institutes and How To Make Them Profitable	J. G. Neal
Music	Mrs. H. L. Ganoe
Short Analysis	T. J. Stoetzel
Education by Repression	Lou Watt
Music in the Schools	T. R. Twamley
Opening Exercises	D. S. James
Purposes of Teaching	Harry Wright
Effects of Alcohol on the Circulation	Dr. L. J. Sloan
Respiration	Dr. Callender
Essay	Miss Archer
Arithmetic, Fractions	Mary Tracy
Primary Reading and How to Teach It	Emma Hahn
History	J. R. Swain
Executive Committee	
.....	Maggie Cadegan, Hattie Rogers, Lizzie Strawweight

In the nineties, institutes were held for one week, and for several years for two-week sessions, usually in Greeley, where the county superintendent was in charge. Instructors were engaged for lectures and to conduct classes in various subjects each

day during the session. In the early days some of the teachers were not high school graduates, and the yearly institute was their sole contact with higher education. Many, however, had a "term or two" at some advanced school. Normal schools were in their infancy, and universities were attended for the most part by those seeking professional training. Institutes were social as well as educational affairs in the early years, and Institute dances were real events.

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Prairie Fires

Prairie fires were a constant and terrifying menace to early settlers. None of the hardships which were a part of pioneer life aroused so much fear as did a whiff of smoke carried from afar by the wind, or the sight of high, raging flames rolling across the prairie. Settlers were on the alert for sign of fire from early spring until snow fell late in the fall.

Farm buildings, school houses and hay stacks were usually protected by ploughing fire guards around them, turning over several strips of prairie sod, sometimes as many as eight or ten furrows, a few feet apart and burning the grass between them. These precautions saved many lives, as well as homes and buildings from being burned. There were no advance warnings of fires to warn settlers, but telltale signs of smoke, the reflection of the flames high in the sky or again a faint film of fine ash or dust on creeks or the water tank often served as warning and the men of the family would rush to see that the fire guards were in order, to plough additional ones, to back-fire, by burning the prairie in the path of the oncoming fire.

In 1887 Austin Nurton, who lived in the western part of the county, lost several hundred bushel of grain and his stable in a fire. Mr. Keuhne and John Sautter and Mr. Vairy also lost considerable hay and grain in the same fire.¹

Up on the Cedar river in June, 1888, Edward Gilroy lost

twenty-nine stacks of hay in a serious prairie fire. On Davis Creek, March 2, 1889, A. H. Sweet lost his house in a prairie fire and the school was saved with difficulty by the neighbors. Emmett Love, cashier of the Exchange Bank at Greeley, and his wife, while driving to North Loup across the prairie, in the summer of 1889 were over taken by a prairie fire. They were saved, only by stopping and setting a fire to meet the one raging toward them.

Ellsworth Cary, north of Greeley, in the later nineties lost his house in a prairie fire and all of his feed and hay and was compelled to borrow money to buy feed for his cattle.

Jacob Vanosdall died as a result of trying to save his horses and stock when a disastrous fire swept over his farm, destroying his barn.

Along the Cedar river in April, 1888, Thomas Pritchard lost his barn and a quantity of hay. Mr. Bevin Moncrieff of Greeley, tells of a narrow escape he once had, while burning a fire guard around his orchard. A wind came up and whipped the fire about until he was completely surrounded. He had to run through the fire to safety, being somewhat singed and scorched in doing so. The fire however, burned meadows and prairie clear to Horace before it stopped.

The Independent of March 28, 1890, refers to "A terrific prairie fire which burned most of a day and night before it was brought under control. It started up near the Cedar river and rushed on, fanned by a high wind. The loss was large, as many school houses and farm buildings were destroyed as well as considerable amounts of hay for the farmers living north of Greeley."

Most of the able bodied men from town were out fighting the fire as it neared the village. Wells in the north part of town supplied water for the fire fighters, who used wet sacks and blankets to beat out the flames. Fire guards were hastily ploughed, but many times with the high wind the fire would leap the

ploughed strips.

A most desolating experience was that of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gray in an early day, who were working in the field near their home when a prairie fire swept over their land, burning their house and their small baby asleep inside, before they could get to the house.

Another tragic experience from a prairie fire befell the family of George Stuart on April 1, 1887. Mr. Stuart with his wife and family of small children had migrated from Gloucestershire, England to Greeley county in 1883, and had homesteaded on land not far from the east bank of the Loup river. There was no bridge then and they were towed across the Loup in a row boat. Mrs. Alice Colby of Greeley, a daughter of the Stuart family, recalls the tragedy. On this day in April, Mrs. Stuart, when she learned that her husband would be at home during the day plowing the garden, and could watch the children, decided to visit her aunt, Mrs. John Hillman at North Loup. Taking some sewing with her, she set out to walk the two or three miles to her aunt's home. The children accompanied her a short distance over the hills, and, when they returned, told their father they could smell the smoke of a prairie fire. He looked and estimated it might be seven or eight miles away. As the morning advanced, the fire came closer. "Fire" says Mrs. Colby, "travels swiftly up hill, but going down hill burns more slowly. When it gets into the deep ravines, with brush and tall grass, it rages and creates a high wind". This fire passed their place before noon, but did no damage as they were protected by a wide fire guard.

Along in the afternoon, the children again climbed the hill to watch for their mother to return. This time instead of the fresh green of spring, the hills were black and charred. Mrs. Colby tells that some irresistible force led her to a nearby ravine, where she discovered the body of her mother, who had been caught in the fire. She had never reached her aunt's home, but

had turned back in the hope of reaching safety. She was buried on the third day of April in a blinding snow storm in the Scotia cemetery.

This fire was one of the many started by unscrupulous hunters. Some hunters in the early days adopted the practice of setting fires in the ravines and on the prairie in order to flush up game. This practice was stopped when indignant citizens threatened to take the law into their own hands.

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Blizzards

The blizzard of January 12, 1888, has gone down in history as being one of the most terrific and disastrous storms in the entire middle west. Great damage was done, thousands of head of stock perished, and the toll of human life was heavy.

In this new and sparsely settled country, the settlers were totally unprepared for the cold and violent wind driven snow. There were no warnings or weather reports in those days sent out to travelers and stockmen. The miracles of the telephone and the radio were still in the future.

Though some snow lay on the ground, the morning of the 12th was calm and mild with a soft mist in the air. But suddenly shortly before noon, with no hint of what was to come, a wildly howling wind began to rage, carrying with it a heavy blinding, smothering snow. No one who lived through the storm has ever been heard to say they do not remember it. It is one of the things that has remained vivid, that made a lasting impression upon the memories of young and old. Many kind and noble deeds were recorded of that day and night. Many heroes and heroines lived to tell their experiences. Others did not.

Two young teachers who taught in the country north of Greeley county, Miss Shattuck and Miss Royce, were among those who gave their lives in trying to save their pupils. Both were so badly frozen that amputation of arms and feet were necessary in

the hope of saving life. Funds were raised by sympathetic settlers in several counties to send them to hospitals, but neither lived.

Peter Bohan was herding cattle on his homestead in Boston Valley when the storm struck. He was wearing a long red scarf, which he tied to the horns of a cow, as he started the cattle homeward. In the fury of the storm they lost their way, but finally reached a sod house which proved to be the home of James Dolan. Above the tumult of the storm the family inside could hear the cries, "I am lost! I am lost!" Mr. Dolan and a man from Albion, who sold stock remedies and was a refugee from the blizzard, started out and were able to reach Mr. Bohan and lead him to the house. The cow, they tied in the shelter of a corn crib, but in the night she broke loose and wandered away. The next spring Mr. Dolan and Peter Bohan came across the bones of a cow on the prairie, the red scarf tied to the horns. Humbly Mr. Bohan gathered them up and buried them saying, "She saved my life."¹

The loss of stock in the county was so great it could not be estimated. Hardly a farmer but lost some, and many of the large cattle owners and feeders lost entire herds, which were swept along with the wind into rivers or canyons where they perished.

Patrick Tracy, who conducted a shoe store in Scotia while his family lived on his claim in Freeman Valley, had started to walk home from Scotia, across the hills, when he was caught in the storm. He had a serious time fighting his way through the canyons and over the hills but finally reached his home late at night, chilled and frozen, although not seriously. His daughter, Mary Tracy, was teaching her first school in the Curtain district near Spalding, and she kept her pupils all night in the school, being fortunate in having plenty of fuel to keep them warm.³

The night before the big blizzard, eight business men from

Greeley went up to a school house meeting in upper Parnell district to debate the question of county-seat removal with Scotia citizens. Not knowing the trails that served as roads, on the way up they stopped at the home of Homer Kelley who rode with them horse back, to the school house. After the meeting, which was well attended and at which there had been some pretty warm debates, the party started back about twelve o'clock. They lost their way and wandered around over the prairie in the dark and snow, dropping into ditches and holes, until three-thirty in the morning before Mr. Kelley finally located his house. Mrs. Kelley met them at the door, invited them in and made beds on the floor in the kitchen, which all eight gratefully dropped into. They left about nine-thirty the next morning, the weather having moderated and the morning being pleasant and mild. By the time they got to Greeley, the weather suddenly changed. They were enveloped in the blinding storm, and all had a difficult time getting to their homes.⁵

Mrs. Herbert S. Cram of Greeley is one of the heroic band of school teachers who struggled with her pupils though the 1888 blizzard. As a result of that experience gave up her cherished ambition of becoming a teacher in a girl's school.

She was Sarah Hill, twenty years of age, and lived with her parents on a homestead in Wheeler county, and was teaching just over the line in Boone county about a mile from the Akron post office.

Her pupils included two boys eleven and fourteen years of age, two larger boys seventeen and nineteen, and several little girls about seven or eight years of age. Several of the children were members of the Saxton family with whom she boarded, about three quarters of a mile from the school. Teacher and pupils started to school the morning of the twelfth, glad that the day was mild, as the coal at the school was very low; the school board were to get a fresh supply from Albion on Saturday.

After the children had eaten their noon-day lunch and school had been called, suddenly, the former teacher says, a terrific gale struck the school house; frightened, she rushed to the door to see what had happened. She could see nothing; it was as though a heavy, thick white sheet had been hung before the door. Realizing at once that the situation was serious, the older boy said "Teacher, the best thing to do is to get the children together and get them home." The boys all wore heavy boots with heavy stockings inside and she asked them to take off their stockings and pull them over the feet and legs of the smaller children.

Within a half hour all were bundled in their wraps and they started out in the face of the storm and the shrieking wind to the Saxon home, three quarters of a mile away. The teacher and the seventeen year old boy led the way, holding the hands of the smaller children, the eldest Saxton boy and the other pupils following. They found the road, a worn wagon and cattle trail, with a high center and deep tracks on either side. By staying in those tracks and feeling their way, they eventually reached the Saxton home safely, fighting the storm for two hours. Had they stepped out of those tracks they would have lost their way as they could not see a single land mark or building. They were forced to stop many times, turn their back to the wind to get their breath and strength to continue the battle. If the house had not been on the road it never would have been found. Mrs. Saxton helped them off with their wraps and got them warm drinks and food. The teacher was completely exhausted and for several days her eyes felt as though they had been frozen. She was able to finish out the term of school but never taught again. Because of serious eye trouble which followed, she spent months in a hospital.

The 16 year old son of the Saxton family had gone to the hay flats in Wheeler county for a load of hay that morning and

had remarked that it was the last time he would miss school to go for hay. He reached his destination during the morning, loaded his wagon and as he turned for home, without warning the storm struck. Knowing he would soon be lost, he unhitched his mules and turned them loose and he and his collie dog burrowed into the load of hay to spent a long day and night. The dog kept him from freezing and thus saved his life. In the morning he made his way to a sod house, knocking on the door with hands so stiff from cold, he did not realize they were frozen. He later lost all the fingers from one hand and all but the thumb and forefinger from the other. His school days at the country school were over, but he attended high school in Albion and some years later became a successful accountant.⁶

Mary Steenson (Mrs. George Birt) was 14 years of age and was in charge of her five brothers and sisters at their home on her father's homestead, the day of the blizzard. Her mother was helping at the nearby Gould ranch and her father had gone to town. The children felt that a storm was coming. Birds were flocking and stock was running about in an uneasy manner. They began to do the chores and to carry in corn which they were using for fuel. The children got everything done except milking the cow before the storm struck. The younger brother insisted that he must do that so that the baby would have milk, and against the wishes of his older sister went out to the barn. When he did not return she went out to look for him and found him with the milk pail, battling the storm close to the house. Together they managed to get back to the house. The baby had the milk, but they were prisoners for three days before their parents could get home.

A blizzard in 1891 proved to be almost as bad as the "big blizzard" of 1888. The wind was said to have blown at a greater velocity but the snow was not quite so dense or temperature so cold. J. H. James lost four cows and horses in the storm. A. B.

Emery was forced to climb through a window to get out of his house and then tunnel under the snow to reach his well, after the storm had stopped. The passenger train on the Burlington was snow bound at the Loup river bridge near Palmer. The freight was snow bound in a cut near Brayton, and trains from Burwell did not run for a week after the storm.

Chapter IX

THE FOUNDING OF GREELEY CENTER

Greeley Center began in the spring of 1885. Thomas Fox conceived the idea that a town in the center of Greeley county might attract one or more of the several railroads that were eyeing the unopened territory north and west. He sold his land holdings in Valley county and purchased land in the heart of Greeley county in sections ten, eleven, twelve and thirteen in Township Eighteen, Range Eleven.

Some prairie had been broken by earlier homesteaders, but most of it was still grass land and made excellent range for the cattle which were herded by Mr. Fox's young nephew, Charles A. Harris. In September a townsite was staked out on the north forty rods of the south west quarter and the north forty rods of the south east quarter and the undivided two-thirds of the north half of Section twelve, Township eighteen, Range eleven. The site was described at the time as being "the natural junction of the Cedar, Wallace Creek, Fish Creek, Leo Valley and Spring Creek valleys."¹

Mr. Fox had prevailed upon Henry LaFrench of Scotia, one of Greeley county's commissioners, and Frank Green, a contractor who had lately arrived at North Loup, to join in establishing the town. Work was started in 1886 upon a commodious two-story building. When it was finished H. A. Martin, a druggist from Cedar Rapids, opened a drug store, James W. Wallace and G. F. Spooner, two enterprising young men from Council Bluffs, started a store. Dr. W. B. Callender at the same time established his office upstairs in the building, while H. L. Ganoe launched *The Independent*, a newspaper which appeared first on October 9, 1886, boosting the opportunities and advantages of the new town.

Other buildings were built, settlers arrived to occupy them, and the demand for houses soon far exceeded the supply. With-

in a few weeks the Independent was carrying the advertisements of C. S. Jessup, Real Estate and Insurance; Henry LaFrench and James W. Wallace, farm loans; Fox and Finck, Hardware and Agricultural Implements; Swift and Snyder, Blacksmiths; William P. Luse, Greeley County's Broom Maker; Warren Crumrine, Builder and Contractor; Frank Green, Flour and Feed mill; Dr. J. H. Grimes, Physician; James R. Swain, Attorney at Law.

The Greeley State Bank was organized in 1887 with a capital of \$25,000.00. W. W. Wallace was President, James W. Wallace, Cashier and James R. Hanna became Vice President and Attorney.² The first post office had been established December 9, 1885, in charge of Thomas Fox and was named Spading. The name was changed to Greeley in 1887 by direction of the Post Office Department. J. R. Swain managed the office for Mr. Fox and was assisted by William J. Hynes.³ Before the arrival of the railroad in 1887, mail routes were established between Scotia, Greeley and O'Connor. Henry LaFrench, S. Dustin and Patrick Murray were early mail carriers.

One of the first social organizations in the new town was a Literary Society, which presented its first program on Christmas Eve, 1886, in the partially finished Town Hall. Recitations were given by Lydia Taylor, Anna Winn, Mina Courtney, Katie Gaffney, Cora Morsch, Etta LaFrench and Maimie Taylor. Songs were rendered by Benjamin Snyder, Oscar Dalbey, Miss Anna McFadden, James W. Wallace. Miss Emma Hahn read an essay. Readings and Dialogues were given by Miss Elsie Reed, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Ganoë, T. C. Foster and J. L. Harter, and a duet was sung by Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Doyle.⁴

To aid in the improvement and advancement of the village, the Town Hall Association was organized in April, 1886. John B. Gaffney was president, J. E. Tyler, vice president, G. J. Spooner, secretary, James Wallace, treasurer, Thomas Fox, H. A. Martin and Henry LaFrench, trustees.⁵ A two-story building

26x60 was erected to be used as a community hall. Later in the year it was purchased by J. C. White of North Loup, who remodeled it into a store for his stock of merchandise. The hall on the second floor was furnished and equipped for an opera house and became a gathering place for civic and community affairs.

By early spring news of the pending arrival of the railroad was the chief topic of conversation, and great enthusiasm prevailed as to the future of the community. New business enterprises were opened, the town and surrounding country acquired more settlers, crops had been good and business in general was thriving.

April 2, 1887, the Independent came out in gala dress, an unfurled flag at the top of the front page, a rooster in full plumage crowing lustily, the headlines announcing that Greeley, the "Gate City Of Five Great Valleys," had been chosen as the junction of the B & M. "Greeley To Be The Metropolis Of North Western Nebraska!" "200 Teams And 500 Men Already At Work!" The efforts of the pioneers had been rewarded. The line was being extended from Central City, one branch bearing to the north from Greeley to the Cedar and the Northwest, and the other by way of Ord and the North Loup river to Burwell.

A tent city sprang up which housed the grading crews. Piles of ties, bridge timbers, and iron appeared and work proceeded full speed. Men laying track followed close behind the grading crews so that by August 15th the first train made its appearance. By May, 1888, trains were running on regular schedule to Ericson.

The Fourth of July was celebrated with genuine gusto! James R. Hanna was Chairman of the day. Vice-Presidents were A. B. Campbell, Iowa Valley; J. N. Baker, Logan; M. B. Gearon, O'Connor; Patrick Tracy, Scotia; E. W. Jeffres, Wallace Creek; Ira Bishop, Parnell; C. H. Hayden, Clear Creek; A. Merchant,

Spring Creek; Marshall, Charles Redelon; Assistants, Owen Courtney, J. B. Gaffney, William Toliver and George Worth. An Address of Welcome by the Chairman, the recitation of the Declaration of Independence by Dr. W. B. Callender, addresses by J. R. Swain and H. L. Ganoe, a solo by Thomas McFadden comprised the program. A ball game between the Sand Hill Cranes and Greeley Center Fly Up the Creek nines ended in a score of 23 to 5 in favor of the latter. A horse race between Edgerton's and Temple's horses was so close, the decision had to be made by drawing slips out of a hat. Some of those who had money up on the outcome, were reported none too well satisfied at this method of deciding a race. A grand display of fireworks and a dance in the evening ended the day.⁶

The small one-room building a half mile south of the townsite still served as the school house in 1887 when school opened in September with James Crunican in charge. In December a meeting of patrons was held to discuss sites and plans for a new school building. Meantime the pupils had been transferred to the Gaffney building up town, where the high school was conducted on the second floor of the building and the grades assembled on the first floor. Seventy-nine votes were cast at an election called to decide the matter, a majority favoring Block 15 on Kildare street for the new school. Teachers at this time were Maggie Cadigan, Mrs. J. L. Harter, Maggie Hynes and H. L. Ganoe.⁷

Cooperating to advance the interests of the farmers, businessmen and farmers formed the Agricultural Society, with E. W. Jeffres, President, H. LaFrench, Vice-President, H. L. Ganoe, Secretary and James Wallace, Treasurer. In 1889, the officers of the organization, which had become very active, were President, P. H. Barry; Secretary, Dr. J. L. Sloan; Directors, E. J. Cashman, E. C. Walworth, M. B. Sullivan, C. T. Meechan, J. P. Noonan, J. H. Watts, H. Riley, W. J. Groves, James McIllduff, H. A. Hill, T. C. Phelan, P. J. Rooney, A. C. Philips, E. W. Jeffres, P. W.

Steelsmith, Homer Kelly, F. H. Farnsworth, C. H. Morsch, Ed Gilroy, John Sautter, and Michael Cahill.

Out in Boston Valley, David Moore had the misfortune to lose his new frame house by fire. A neighbor, James Dolan, passing by discovered the fire, but they were unable to save the house. Insurance of \$1000.00 covered less than half the loss. John Fitzpatrick in the same neighborhood was building a large barn on his farm. J. V. Sullivan had planted a large orchard and had added some pure bred stock from Iowa to his herd. J. P. Sampson had arrived from Wisconsin and was building a house on the land adjoining town which he had purchased from Thomas Fox. A husking bee was held at the farm of P. A. Kerrigan.⁹

With the assurance that the railroad was passing through Greeley, many of the business firms at O'Connor in the spring and summer of 1887 accepted the offer of free business and residence lots and moved up the valley to Greeley. Among them were the O'Connor Democrat, published by M. B. Gearon; the O'Connor Banking Company; the Salmon Hotel; the Immigrant House; a blacksmith shop, a saloon and a store.

The status of the village as a stock market was definitely established with the arrival of the railroad. As with the arrival of the Union Pacific at Scotia, so again was the distance to market shortened. Early in September the first shipment of hogs by Redelon and Worth and T. A. Kelley, stock buyers, was made. In November they were reported to have shipped five carloads a day over a period of several weeks. The price was quoted at four cents a pound.¹⁰

In 1887, the railroad camp located south of town was the scene of a murder one night, when Charley the stable boss was stabbed in the heart by the night watchman, one Quinn, who escaped and was never apprehended. The stable boss died within a few hours after reaching a Grand Island hospital. There was a great deal of drinking and carousing during the building of the

railroad, and the four saloons in the village were well patronized. Several holdups were reported during the time the camps were located in the vicinity, a butcher from Spalding being held up and robbed, and a citizen from Scotia being victimized in a like manner¹¹.

Two new banks made their appearance. The Exchange Bank was incorporated to run from August 1, 1887, to July 31, 1937, by Lee Love, Emmett Love, A. B. McPerson, Thomas Fox and Jesse Love. Lee Love became president, and Emmett Love Cashier, being succeeded by C. C. McPherson in 1888. The Citizen's Bank was opened in December 1888 by McCormick Brothers. Ed McCormick was president, George McCormick, cashier and H. S. Young, assistant cashier. M. H. Nugent succeeded the latter in 1893¹².

Enterprising business men organized a Board of Trade in 1888 with Patrick Tracy, president, J. C. White, vice president, J. R. Swain, secretary. Pike & Hale opened a store that year; T. M. Brown and C. A. Antrim were partners in a new lumber yard; E. P. Connor opened a jewelry store; W. L. Townsley was proprietor of the "New Temperance" billard parlor. L. J. Sloan and A. C. Woodward were practicing physicians; Anna Byrne opened a dress making and millinery shop; Farnsworth and Pomeroy had purchased the store of Wallace and Spooner; P. J. Cook opened a drug store; John Reifers was advertising brick and stone for sale; John E. Kavanaugh and H. E. Lisle opened an office for the practice of law and the sale of real estate. Peter Faherty, landlord at the Faherty House, had returned from a visit to his old home in Ireland. Foster Brothers later opened a general store. Dr. Callender was appointed company physician by the B. & M. A 1500 barrel water tank had been completed by the railroad company. The Grand Army of the Republic had held a big "Camp Fire" meeting at Scotia, which was attended by veterans from all over the county. T. J. Howard, traveling auditor for Kendle

and Smith Grain Co. of Lincoln, arrived in Greeley to take charge of their elevator. Alice and Margaret Murphy ran a boarding house famed for the excellence of its service. J. C. Harris operated a blacksmith shop and sold farm implements. Painting and paperhanging was done by E. D. Curran.

The Greeley Center Building and Loan Association was organized in 1888 by responsible citizens. Those interested were Emmett Love, R. R. Hutchinson, Frank Green, H. L. Gano, W. J. Bean, Mathew Murray, J. C. Williams, Patrick Tracy, C. A. Antrim, E. T. Conklin, S. Parsons, D. F. Allard, W. D. Conklin, F. L. Pierce, Vet Conklin, and J. W. Ream. Steps for the incorporation of the village were taken in April, 1888, when the county commissioners, acting upon a petition showing that there were more than one hundred residents in the village of Greeley Center, appointed D. J. Farrell, J. C. White, J. B. Gaffney, R. Hutchinson, and Charles A. Antrim, trustees. At the first meeting of the city council, F. H. Farnsworth was made clerk, James Wallace, city treasurer, M. B. Gearon, attorney and Mathew Murray, marshal.¹³

Three years elapsed before the first church building in the village was built, although more or less regular church services had been held by the Presbyterians, Methodists, and Congregationalists. Ministers from nearby towns who conducted services in the Opera House or the Gaffney building were Reverend Thomas Sexton, Superintendent of Presbyterian Missions, Central City; Reverend Harris, Scotia; Reverend Shank, Presiding Elder of the Methodist Conference, Grand Island. A Presbyterian Church was organized and funds solicited to build a church early in 1888, but the desired support was not forthcoming and the task was taken over by the Methodists who were successful under the leadership of Reverend Shank. Reverend E. H. Dupuy, a divinity student from Drew Seminary, New York, was sent out to be in charge of the building operations. He was an energetic type and popular in the community. Work on the building proceed-

ed during the summer of 1889 and early in September the church was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies and a bountiful supper served by the women of the parish. His successor was Reverend H. D. Foote who was assigned also to look after the small church at Brayton. Later incumbents were Reverend Henderson, Reverend Bartholomew, Reverend Crawford, Reverend Day, Reverend Kellogg, Reverend Dewulfe. The assignments of Ministers were limited to one year. Members of the first choir organized in November 1888, were Stella Rowland, Emma Lindwall, Ona Hill and Mrs. H. L. Ganoe, sopranos. Mrs. Charles McPherson and Mrs. J. R. Hanna, altos. A. H. Bigelow, H. G. James, Mr. Whitehead, tenors. J. O. Breech and Carl Lindwall, bassos. Mrs. C. C. McPherson, organist and Miss Lotta Smith, assistant organist.¹⁴

An Episcopal Mission was established in the early nineties by Bishop Anson R. Graves of the Missionary District of Western Nebraska. Reverend Louis A. Arthur of St. Stephen's Church, Grand Island, made regular visits for many years as did Reverend J. M. Bates, Reverend Van Fleet, Reverend Russell, and Bishop Allen A. Beecher.¹⁵

Catholic residents of the community attended services at O'Connor but by 1888, feeling that their increasing numbers justified a church and resident priest, they advertised for sealed bids on a building to cost \$2500. Not until 1892, however, did plans for a church materialize. Mission services were held regularly by Reverend J. F. Hayes at the Gaffney hall or in the first school house before it was moved to the townsite; in 1891 permission was granted by the county commissioners to use the court house until the church was finished. In 1893 the first priest was assigned, Reverend Judge, serving for six weeks in the late fall. In March, 1894, Reverend Peter McLaughlin arrived and completed the building of the frame church for the parish to be known henceforth as Sacred Heart Parish.

The influence of Father McLaughlin upon the community was a profound one. Especially interested in the welfare and education of children, he formed classes in music, violin and singing. For interested adults he taught a class in Spanish and also in typewriting.¹⁶

Members of the first church choir were: Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Doyle, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick H. Barry, Jr., Mrs. Mary Connell, James B. Barry, Mrs. E. J. McCarthy, with Mrs. Fanny Jordan organist.

When the bell was hung in the new church, it was blessed to bring comfort and protection from storms. The community was visited frequently during the summer months by violent wind and hail storms, fierce lightening and thunder. The sound of the bell above the din and turbulence of a tempestuous storm, ringing and ringing, until it seemed the very elements were subdued brought comfort to all who heard it regardless of faith.

The custom of ringing the Angelus was observed in the early years. It was rung three times daily, morning, noon and evening. A picture is etched on the memories of the early residents of the community, of old Mr. McGirr, holding his cane for support, white head bowed as he knelt in humble reverence, his face toward the church, wherever he might be, at first sound of the Angelus.

Thomas Fox had seen his town grow and prosper. Although he had been working to establish a mill, it was not until 1889 that his hopes were realized. The Greeley Roller Mill was erected in that year largely with capital from Des Moines, Iowa, which he was instrumental in securing. His brother-in-law, W. A. Wright, came from that city to begin operation. The products were excellent quality, and the mill was profitable for many years. Farmers hauled their grain from a radius of twenty five miles to sell it or exchange for flour and feed; it was no uncommon sight to see twenty five or thirty farm wagons lined up in front of the

mill waiting to unload.¹⁷ Local merchants in later years began competing with mill prices, shipping in flour in carload lots from larger milling companies, with the result the local mill could not meet the prices.

In 1889, Timothy Foley who had located in Greeley in 1887, after finishing grading contracts with the B & M in Valley and Garfield counties in the vicinity of Fort Hartsuff and Willow Spring, formed a partnership with Emmett Love and let the contract for the most pretentious building yet built in the village. The two story brick block was located on the corner of O'Connor and Galway streets and housed the Exchange Bank, Foley Brothers Hardware Store and Undertaking parlors; The Woodman and Workman lodge hall and numerous offices were on the second floor.¹⁸

The new brick school house was finished in that year. Early teachers were A. H. Bigelow, 1887; William Moyer, 1888; Professor Russell, 1889; James T. Sparks, 1889-1892; Walter Rowe; W. W. Remine, 1896; E. L. Jones, 1897; Mrs. L. M. Guttery, 1899; and Mary Moore (Mrs. Luke Finn) and Grace Griffith. In the grades were Miss Sarah Flaherty (Mrs. W. J. Doyle), Miss Barbara Flaherty (Mrs. A. J. O'Malley), Miss Nellie O'Neill (Mrs. James Keating), Miss Mary Tracy (Mrs. Albert Hahn), Miss Maude Conklin, Miss Mary Brown (Mrs. P. J. Ahern), Miss Kate Taylor and M. J. McGirr.¹⁹

The Court House Building was built and presented to the county in anticipation of the removal of the county seat to Greeley, and the site was a block on Kildare street between O'Connor and O'Neill avenues, donated by the Lincoln Land Company, land holding company of the B & M railroad.²⁰

In the early years when cases were tried in court rather than settled outside, the court house was the scene of many legal battles, some dramatic, some tragic, some with touches of humor. The late attorney J. R. Swain often told the story of a case he tried

before an eccentric old county judge of the early days. The decision of the court being in favor of his client, the attorney immediately sat down and wrote the finding in the judgment docket, so that there would not be any mistake about it. The next day he met his friend, John C. Harris, who remarked that he had heard that he lost the case. Answering that he had won it, Mr. Harris said, "Oh, no, the case was tried again last night down in the saloon, and you lost it!" Rushing up to the court house to investigate he found that it was all too true. The judge had reversed his decision and had cut out that portion of the page with the decision upon it, from the judgement docket, and had pasted in a new decision.

Fraternal organizations and lodges flourished. In 1889 the Knights of Pythias lodge was organized with a large membership; their meetings were held in their own well furnished hall in the Greeley State Bank Building. Other lodges were the Modern Woodman, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Shamrock Club, The Knights of Labor, the Grand Army of the Republic, the Sons of Veterans, the Royal Neighbors and the Degree of Honor. The Greeley Cornet Band was organized by W. A. Wright in 1890, who directed it for fifteen years. Early members were T. J. Howard, James Fox, George Reiter, J. L. Ream, F. L. Pierce, E. J. Martin, E. T. Conklin and C. A. Harris.²¹

A Woman's Club was organized early in the nineties which affiliated with the state Federation. Members included Mesdames M. B. Gearon, T. J. Doyle, J. R. Hanna, C. C. McPherson, W. E. Morgan, T. F. Mahoney, J. J. Doyle, W. J. Doyle, T. J. Howard H. S. Young, P. J. Cook, A. B. Talkington, W. W. Remine, Emmett Love, J. R. Swain, Mary Connell, T. G. Burke and Miss Barbara Flaherty.

Th. Hoellworth and L. A. Winchell were merchants who opened stores in the early nineties. The former once related the

story that during the hardtimes following the drouth year of 1894, he sold an immense amount of merchandise on credit to farmers who were absolutely without means. When crops were again good he was able to collect all of the outstanding indebtedness, losing less than \$100.00. Mr. Winchell purchased a stock of hardware, later expanding it to a lumber and coal yard, which he sold to Koupal and Barstowe of Ord, when he engaged in the general mercantile business in a store on O'Neill street.

Thomas Gannon, an early resident, who lived on a farm adjoining Greeley on the northeast, was noted for the work he did with a spade. Farming implements were scarce and expensive in the early days and Mr. Gannon undertook the task of leveling down some of the hills on his land and filling the canyons. A tireless worker, over a period of years he made amazing headway in the task. In addition, he dug practically all of the gardens in the town, in the late eighties and early nineties, when everyone had a garden or went without fresh vegetables. Greeley for several years was a village of young married couples and Mr. Gannon's advice was eagerly sought on the matter of planting potatoes. He encouragingly told each young couple that their garden was "the richest ground I ever dug, for the size of it."

Greeley was regarded as a good "show" town and many of the theatrical troupes on the road in the eighties and nineties were billed at the local Opera House, playing to well filled houses. Some of the better companies played a week's stand, two of the most popular being Leora Lane's company and Edith Dursteen's troupe. Favorite plays of the time were: Little Dutchess, Esmarelda, Rip Van Winkle, Uncle Tom's Cabin, Romeo and Juliet, The Count of Monte Cristo, Damon and Pythias, The Three Guardsmen and East Lynn.

Medicine shows traveling from place to place with horse and wagon were a never failing attraction. The gaudy painted sides and end of the boxed-in wagon were let down to form a

platform, which was lighted by sputtering gasoline lights that flickered and flared while the two or three performers rendered "Box and Cox" or some other farce, sang negro dialect songs and cracked ribald jokes. Between acts the slick-tongued speiler proclaimed the cure-all qualities of his linaments, snake-oils and salves, that "positively were guaranteed to cure any disease from dandruff to rheumatic fever"; his magnetic personality and persuasive voice fairly hypnotized the dollars out of the pockets of the credulous in the audience. Negro minstrel shows were other popular entertainments; while a traveling bear which ambled from town to town with his owner once gave a street performance of dancing and wrestling that held the children in the audience spell bound.

Favorite diversions in the community were baseball and horse racing. All of the towns in the county supported good ball teams in the late eighties and nineties, and games between Scotia, Greeley, Spalding and O'Connor were spirited contests. Spalding and Greeley waged an undeclared war on the ball diamond for twenty years. Since the teams of both towns were mostly Irish, there never was any lack of excitement at any time. Baseball tournaments were popular in the early years, and, in addition to meeting the teams of the county, teams from Lincoln, Omaha, Central City, Grand Island, Albion, St. Paul and Ord were frequently played. Members of the Greeley Ball teams in 1889 were Smith, Swain, Witham, Riley, Mahoney, McCarthy, Drake, Knox and Rowe. The team called themselves the "B & M's" and had defeated the Lincoln "Universities" team, Grand Island and Kearney by substantial scores.

The suits worn by members of the teams were appropriately green in color, and were made by a group of wives and women interested in the appearance of the boys; a card of thanks and appreciation was published in the Greeley Leader August 17, 1888.

After the era of the Ox team had passed, good work horses

and fine driving teams became the rule rather than the exception, and many among the Irish, a race long noted for their love of fast horses, began to indulge their passion for gaited stock. After the Agricultural Society introduced racing at the fair in 1887, for several years a number of horses with fast track records were owned in the community, and a racing association was formed. James W. Wallace owned several track horse, as did Charles Swift, Eugene F. Cashman, M. McBeth, P. J. Kerrigan, T. M. Brown, E. D. Gould of Wolbach, and B. J. Harris. Michael T. Kavanaugh acquired "Volunteer Wilkes" from the Lily stables. T. G. Burke, Luke Finn, Martin Flynn, James Peterson and T. P. Lanigan were others who drove fine driving teams, some with track records. J. C. Sullivan, M. B. Sullivan and Dr. A. D. Cameron of Spalding were owners of fast driving teams.

A number of Swedish families began settling in the county near Greeley in the early nineties, many of them coming largely through the inducements of Charles Lindwall, an energetic Swede who had located on a farm adjoining the town in 1887. He found the clay in the hills good for making brick and started a brick yard, which he advertised as having a capacity of turning out 15,000 bricks per day. Exceedingly shrewd, he also became a real estate operator and engaged the columns of a Swedish newspaper to inform land-seeking Swedes of the attractions of Greeley county. Some of the well-to-do residents of other communities found the land a profitable source of speculation and many Swedish immigrants found a place where they could buy or rent land cheaply. Frequently homestead rights in land could be purchased reasonably from early settlers. For the most part Swedish settlers located north and west of Greeley; most of them were from Iowa or the older settled areas of Nebraska, Clay, Saunders, Kearney or Polk counties.

In 1893 O. T. Lund with his family, drove his stock and cattle overland to settle in Mount Pleasant precinct.²² Louis

Johnson, who left Sweden in 1889, left Saunders county where he had first settled, to rent land from Reverend Torel of Wahoo, who had invested in Greeley county land. Later he purchased land east of Greeley.²³ F. O. Carlson, after his arrival from Sweden, worked in the Union Pacific shops in Omaha, and together with Charles Linden purchased a farm east of Greeley. Carlson worked and invested his wages in stock and helped pay for the place, while Linden lived on the land and farmed it. Sleeping on grain stored in a drafty barn proved to be hazardous to health, and Mr. Linden contracted pneumonia and died. Mr. Carlson later moved onto the farm²⁴

Other early Swedish settlers were Alfred Bloombeck, Gus Allinder, Albert Allinder, Victor Allinder, Charles Johnson, August J. Peterson, Carl Bergstrom, C. P. Burke, Nels Olson, Nels Nelson, Leander Johnson, John A. Swanson, Martin Swanson, Axel and John Palmer, Charles Peterson, David Leonard, Jon Alm, Halmer Peterson, August Bloombeck and G. O. Landon.

A Swedish church was organized in 1892. For sometime the services were held in the Court House and were conducted by John A. Swanson, a layman. The church was built about 1897 and was officially known as the Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Stromsberg Conference of Nebraska of the Augustana Synod. As many of the members of the church were but recently arrived from Sweden, the services were conducted in the Swedish language. Early pastors were Reverend C. T. Grener, Reverend A. Gander, Reverend Lonner and Reverend A. Selander of York. In 1912 a call was extended for a minister "competent to conduct services in both English and Swedish." As the older generation had preferred to worship in the language of their native land, so likewise did the growing generation of young Swedish-Americans wish for services in their native tongue, English.²⁵

In the years between 1886 and 1890 there were many ru-

mors of railroads building through the county; many surveys were made and many railroads organized on paper.

The Chicago and North Western completed a survey through a section of land owned by The J. I. Case Company in the northwestern part of the county.

A delegation of business men from O'Neill visited officials of the B. & M. in December, 1888, in the hopes of securing a promise to extend the Burlington from Ericson to O'Neill, a distance of forty-five miles, which would give O'Neill a direct line to Omaha.

The Yankton SW railroad proposed a line from the Missouri river through Cedar, Knox, Pierce, Madison, Platte, Greeley, Hall, Howard, and Buffalo counties to Kansas. Greeley county papers were in an argument as to which part of the county the road should pass through.

In March 1889, Articles of Incorporation were filed for the Broken Bow and Western Railroad. Custer, Loup, Valley, Garfield, Greeley, Boone, Wheeler, Holt, Knox, Lincoln Logan, Keith, Perkins, and Cheyenne counties were included in the territory through which the line would run.

Petitions were presented to the Board of Supervisors in 1889 from Scotia, O'Connor, Logan, and Fish Creeks precincts, asking for a special election to vote bonds to aid the Missouri River, North Platte, & Denver Railroad to run its line through that section of the county. The special election was set for December 10, 1889, and the bonds duly voted by the residents of those precincts.²⁶

Earlier in the year meetings were held at Grand Island and Greeley to promote interest for the Albion, North Platte, and Denver line, running from Albion to Denver. The company was capitalized at \$10,000,000.00.

Both sportsmen and pioneers engaged in hunting, the amount of wild game in the early years being sufficient for the

needs and pleasures of all. Prairie chicken, quail, deer, antelope, and other wild game provided meat for most of the early settlers. One woman recalls that when only ten years of age, she carried a gun with her when ever she herded the cattle, which was often, and supplied the family with all of the prairie chicken that they could eat.²⁷ Within the memory of many living persons the huge herds of buffalo, deer, antelope, the flocks of quail and prairie chickens have disappeared. Game laws were passed after the protests of settlers became general in the state over the wanton slaughter of wild animals by greedy residents and sportsmen.

Mention is made in an early newspaper of an insurance men from Chicago who, shortly after the railroad arrived, spent a week hunting in the vicinity of Wolbach and was reported to have killed three hundred and thirty birds in his brief stay and to have departed well satisfied with his trip.

In 1888 after a party of hunters had spent a few days near Greeley, a lady who operated a restaurant, made herself a striking masquerade outfit of a dress, cape, hat, and muff from the breast feathers of prairie chickens which the hunters had killed.²⁸

Farmers in the sand hill country in the early nineties were greatly incensed when they found huge piles of decomposed birds, the heads only having been taken to prove the skill of some mighty nimrod.

Wolf hunts were frequently organized and it was a sport indulged in by town and country residents alike. A party from Grand Island once staged a hunt in the late eighties which lasted two days and which provided excitement for a whole neighborhood near O'Connor.

The county voted a bounty on wolves, as this predatory animal molested stock, raided chicken coops, killed small pigs and calves, often growing so bold as to slink into barn yards or to give chase to farmers' wagons and jump at the horses. In July 1894, 328 scalps were brought to the court house in one week and

bounty allowed at \$3.00 each.

The civil war was but a scant six years in the past when the first settlements were made in Greeley county. Four-fifths of the first settlers in the Loup Valley had been soldiers in the war and were devoted followers of Abraham Lincoln and his political objectives.

Politically, Greeley county for the first years of its existence was substantially republican. In 1876, Tilden, the democratic candidate for President, received three votes in the county, while the republican candidate, Hayes, received thirty eight votes.²⁹

By the time of the German and Irish immigration in the eighties, other issues were paramount, and the democratic party which advocated "government by the masses rather than the classes" appealed to these new citizens. When the center of population in Greeley County moved from the Loup Valley to the central and eastern sections, political convictions changed and for the next fifty years Greeley county was in the democratic lists on national issues. On the occasions that the democratic party showed symptoms of becoming controlled by conservative elements within it, many of the Irish and German members in Greeley county joined in the rising tide of the Populist movement. Returning to the democratic fold when it again liberalized.

The Populist party was attempting among other things to break the control of the railroads and the Republican party in Nebraska, and many life-long republicans as well as democrats joined its ranks.

Memorable contests in county campaigns were a three cornered race in 1889, when Eugene F. Cashman was declared the winner over Henry N. Milne and P. J. Rooney; the race for county attorney in 1889 when B. F. Griffith of Scotia defeated J. R. Hanna and J. R. Swain; in 1895, when, Luke Finn was elected over J. B. Nealon and B.F. Watts. In the contest between A. L. Covey and J. R. Hanna for state representatives in Novem-

ber, 1888, the democratic party was accused by a republican editor in Greeley of having had fraudulent republican ballots printed and distributed so that republican candidates could be defeated. Australian ballots were not in use until after the bill providing for their use was passed in January, 1891, by the state legislature.³⁰

The high altitude and semi-arid climate of Greeley county was healthful, and ailing residents from eastern states found themselves cured of asthma, tuberculosis and other ills after a few months residence.

Notwithstanding the climate, the community was subject to periodic epidemics. On such occasions, the doctors of the village would be on the road day and night, riding horse-back or driving their two wheeled gigs over roads that were frequently little more than trails, across hills, through ravines, and over unbroken expanses of prairie. Snow drifts, spring thaws, and floods deterred them not at all. Often the night would be spent by the bedside of a very sick patient, or, yet more often, the worn out physician would start on the road home, "give the horse his head" trusting in its instinct to follow the road home, while he snatched a bit of sleep in the saddle or on the seat of his buggy.

Surgery performed on kitchen tables by kerosene lamp light saved many lives; infections and blood poisoning in such instances were so rare as to be almost unheard of. Good hot water was the most accepted antiseptic then known and chloroform and ether, the only anesthetic.

A pair of forceps and main strength combined to produce effective dentistry, aching molars and bicuspids yielding to a good hard yank by the doctor, usually an M. D., without benefit of a pain deadening anesthetic. No class of pioneers deserve grateful tribute more than the country doctor.

An epidemic of diphtheria took a grim toll among children in the winter of 1887; three small children of Thomas Fox were

stricken within a week and a bride of six weeks, Mrs. Thomas Foster, was also a victim. Lung fever was a spring epidemic, typhoid fever appeared in the fall and cholera morbus took regular toll each summer among infants and small children.

Dr. J. L. Brannen, who began the practice of medicine in Greeley in 1901 although not an early pioneer in his profession, has practiced longer than any other doctor in the county with the exception of the late Dr. Bowen. He has experienced the same long, cold country drives, however, floods, muddy roads, poor patients and tragic situations. During his practice he has seen medical methods and instruments transformed into almost magical perfection.

Dr. W. J. Doyle, a native of Tennessee, was an early practitioner at Greeley, opening his office in 1892.

The small settlement of Jacksonville, which is frequently mentioned by very old residents of the county, was located in 1878 along Spring Creek on the southwest quarter of Section 18, Township 18, Range 10, about a mile below the present town of Greeley. It adjoins land which was owned by Charles Jackson and took its name from that gentleman.

A two-story frame building was constructed by William S. Freeman in which he kept a small general store and the post office, his family living in the rooms up stairs.

Two blacksmith shops and a sod school house added their activities to the settlement. The school was the first located in district Number Seven and was taught in 1878 by F. G. Harris, who took the examination and received his certificate to teach the same year. Agnes Foster taught the school the next year and T. P. Lanigan in 1880. The hopes that were held for the enlargement of the community were blighted when the townsite of O'Connor was laid out three miles south. A short time later the store burned down and the post office was moved to O'Connor January 30, 1880, where it was kept in the store of Patrick Hynes.³¹

West of Greeley, John S. Harris was renting land from Thomas Fox, which a few years later became the farm of John Fitzpatrick. Mr. Harris after a year or two, took a homestead and a timber claim in Cedar precinct, near the Cedar river.

Adam Knox left Iowa in 1883 to locate with his family on a homestead in this vicinity. Nearby neighbors were the W. J. Ferris family who left Indiana in the eighties to locate in Greeley county.

Of the pioneers who had arrived in 1879 in this section, one of the first was Patrick McManus, who had been a miner and had worked on the railroad in New York. The family lived in a half dugout, half sod house, and Miss Sarah McManus, recalls that they were all forced to climb up on top of it, to escape a prairie fire that raged by the place on one occasion. Their first neighbors, came three weeks later and were the families of Jacob Reed and his three sons-in-law, H. E. Wilcoxsen, J. H. Stauffer and John Long, all from Maryland. For several weeks they all lived in one house, until their homes were ready on the homesteads. The school house, which has always been known as the "Reed school" was built on the McManus land and was first taught by Hattie Reed.

* * * *

Brayton

Conforming to the plan of the Burlington and Missouri railroad in laying out towns every six or seven miles along their lines, two small stations, Brayton and Horace were located, one south and the other north of Greeley.

Brayton was named to honor a director of the railroad who bore that name and who was a resident of New York city.¹ Within a few months of the advent of the first train up the Spring Creek Valley, the village boasted a store, a newspaper, a bank, a saloon and a church.

H. M. Thorpe, an early settler who left Wisconsin in 1883,

and located on a farm in the central part of the county, and his brother-in-law, A. H. Floaten of Scotia, opened the first store in the new town. Michael Killeen kept a small stock of groceries in his residence on a farm near the townsite for a few months, opening a store in town when his building was ready. February 15, 1888, he became the first postmaster. The Brayton Independent was edited by Frank Colvin. In 1888, the O'Connor Banking Company moved from Greeley to Brayton and reorganized as the Brayton Commercial Bank. John McEnany, who came from Peoria, Illinois, sold farm implements. Dr. G. S. Bowen and P. J. Cook opened a drug store which was managed by Carl Lindwall. Dr. Murphy arrived from the east to open an office. Will Hynes was a grain buyer for Kendal & Smith. The small church was erected by several interested families and in the beginning was non-sectarian; with the removal of some of the members, William Starrett and James McClung offered to finish the church if the Methodist Conference would take charge of it. The offer was accepted and for several years services were held by Methodist ministers from Greeley and Wolbach. In 1894, the building was sold to W. H. Sutton who moved it to his farm and converted it into a residence; the furnishings were sold to the Swedish Lutheran Church at Greeley.²

Miss Stacia Murphy opened a millinery store. A. Campbell operated a hotel in the village. Will Colvin was the proprietor of a livery barn. P. J. Rooney engaged in selling lumber and coal for several months in 1887. He began buying and shipping hogs taking as partner, J. H. Maguire, one of the early settlers in Boston Valley. The firm continued to buy and sell hogs and enlarged their yards to include the feeding of cattle. A large amount of stock was shipped from Brayton.

Most of the pioneers in and around Brayton were families who had come from the east to join the Catholic Colony, many buying colony land. Among those were Peter Killeen, who settled

in 1885; Barney Callahan, who purchased land in 1888; P. V. Slattery, who came from New York in 1885; the Phillip Bopp family were also early settlers. Mrs. Thomas Ryan came from Iowa in 1888 to join her husband who rented land from Mrs. Whitehead for a few years before purchasing land northeast of Greeley. Mrs. Ryan, on the trip out from Iowa, met Mrs. John Bolin, who with her small children joined her husband who had preceeded her to Greeley.³ James Murphy located on land one and a half miles west of Brayton, his family arriving from Peoria, Illinois, in 1882, to join in the Catholic Colonization. Unlike many of the early settlers, they built a five room frame house. They drove good horses but purchased oxen to do the farm work. The first year after they arrived, there was no school, but Miss Mary Moore (Mrs. Luke Finn) taught in a school built and located on land owned by Nicholas Maginn the next year.

* * * *

Horace

Horace was located at a point where the railroad crossed Wallace Creek. The first agent for the Burlington was Ephraim Welch. He built the first store and sold the first groceries in the summer of 1888. Aside from the stock yards and the section house no other building was done there for several years.⁴ The post office was opened in April 1890, with Elias W. Jeffres, post master.⁵ Settlement along Wallace Creek, however, began as early as 1878. The families of A. W. and George Stubblefield, William Swan and George Rutherford were among the first to locate on homesteads. A. W. Barker, J. B. Williams, and the four Jeffries brothers, Elias, Al, John, and Perry were early residents in this vicinity.

In 1881, J. B. Willoughby arrived from his home in England on a visit to his former neighbors, the five Hillman brothers who had settled near Scotia and North Loup. He liked the fresh air, the freedom and the wide open spaces of this new country, and

remained to take a homestead and a timber claim. His first home was a sod house, Scotia, the nearest post office. Like many of his neighbors, he planted 20 acres of his timber claim to cottonwoods and elms and watched them grow into a stately grove.⁶

One of the early weddings in the country was that of a daughter of the Rutherford family, Kaladora, who was married to William E. Daily December 11, 1878, by Reverend George Hillman. The first year of their married life they spent on land which had been homesteaded by John Winn near Boston Valley. Mail was received at the Jacksonville post office. It was necessary to make occasional trips to St. Paul and Grand Island; whoever made the trip usually brought back mail and provisions for all of the neighbors. Church services and Sunday school were held frequently at the sod house of William Weekes and were attended by the families of Jonathan Crow, Zack Harris, W. S. Freeman, A. M. Thayer, The McAllister family, Mrs. Whitehead and daughters. In 1880, the Dailys moved to a homestead in lower Parnell precinct near Wallace Creek where there were few settlers and the country was still unbroken prairie. Their closest neighbors were the family of William Swan and that of J. B. Paddock, whose wife Hattie, kept the post office known as Floss, established in March, 1881, in their home. This office was discontinued in August, 1887, and the mail sent to Parnell.

A dipthera epidemic broke out in the neighborhood in the winter of 1881, and there were several deaths among the children. Neighbors aided each other in nursing the sick. The Daily children all recovered and Mr. and Mrs. Daily helped other families. Mr. Daily sat up eleven nights with one lad whose life was dispaired of, but who made, at last a miraculous recovery.

One night in February, 1885, during a bad blizzard, a rap came at the door of their house, a man pushed it open and fell on the floor. Somewhat frightened, they quickly discovered that he was suffering from exposure and proved to be Mr. Mueller,

who carried mail between Scotia and Ericson. One of his horses had fallen in the nearby creek and he had become badly frozen in trying to rescue the animal. His fur coat was frozen tightly to his clothing and his hands were stiff from cold. Reviving him, they rendered what aid they could until the storm abated and a doctor could be reached. It was two weeks before he could continue the trip to Ericson. Still unable to use his hands to drive, he wrapped the lines about his shoulder when he started out. Ezra and Milton Daily, brothers of W. E. Daily, left Galesburg, Illinois to homestead in Parnell precinct. The former in 1880 and the latter in 1885.⁷

The northwestern portion of the county, sometimes referred to as the sandhills, settled very slowly. As late as 1900, there were still many sections of government land in Clear Creek and upper Parnell precincts. Although cattlemen early recognized the value of the native buffalo grass for cattle range, settlers were not convinced that the light sandy soil was adapted to raising grain and corn. Hay was abundant. The hills and valleys were covered with thick, shoulder high, blue stem grass.

R. A. Standish was one of the first homesteaders in what became Wallace Creek precinct, locating a homestead in 1881. He, too, planted trees, many of which were destroyed by a prairie fire. A second grove made substantial growth.⁸

George Vanosdall filed on a claim in 1882, in the same neighborhood, but did not establish residence until in 1884, when accompanied by his mother and sister he drove overland with a team of oxen from their home in Illinois. In addition to breaking prairie and putting in crops, he put down many of the wells in the county those first years. Finding that the settlers needed horses, he began at an early date to buy wild range horses in Wyoming and sell them to his neighbors. The horses were unbroken broncoes and some of the settlers achieved reputations as "bronco busters" in breaking them to ride and to work. David and Jacob Vanosdall, brothers, took homesteads nearby a

few years later.⁹

Three generations of the Emery families arrived in Greeley county from Wisconsin in 1883 and settled on homesteads in Mount Pleasant precinct. Ratzman Emery, his son, A. B. Emery, and the latter's sons, Will, Frank and Elmer.

B. J. Harris was an early homesteader in this vicinity, proving up on his homestead in 1887.

Michael Judge and family settled on a homestead in this section in 1884. Within a few years the family acquired several sections of land and the sons in the family engaged extensively in the cattle business. As the country settled, the demand for prairie hay became greater, and the Judge brothers cut and shipped it to market in carload lots, on several occasions sending out train loads from Belfast, a shipping point near their ranch.¹⁰

J. F. Donovan left Ireland at an early age for America and settled in Illinois, where he became a railroad engineer. Deciding he would like to own land, he came to Greeley county, working in Scotia for a year or two before he filed on a homestead in Mount Pleasant precinct, where he settled with his family.¹¹

W. S. Bengel was with the party which surveyed the railroad right of way in 1886, and remained to take a homestead six miles north of Greeley, upon which he planted an extensive orchard and hundreds of forest trees, and otherwise improved it. A neck yoke which he used on his first team of oxen was hung on a tree many years ago and has grown into the tree. Many Indian relics were found on the land by Mr. Bengel.¹²

Ira Bishop, who came to Greeley county in 1879, was one of the earliest settlers in Parnell precinct. In 1881, the post office of Parnell was established and Mr. Bishop was the post master until his death in the spring of 1889. Freeman Cary was appointed to succeed him in April of that year.¹³

In 1881, the four Madison brothers, Eugene, Charles, Calvin, and Hallie, located homesteads in the clay hills on the west

side of the precinct. They were followed shortly by Ira, George and John Dennis. The Madison family was successful in raising peach trees, and their orchards bore well for many years. They were ardent hunters and trappers, and found it profitable selling coyote skins as well as beaver and muskrat and mink which they trapped along the river.¹⁴

John Price and Julius Kelley were early homesteaders in Parnell. Others were Charles Striker, Charles Huges, A. R. Leavitt, Fred Brothwell and L. Clapp. Charles Woodward kept the postoffice called Acme at his home from 1885 to 1891.¹⁵ Washington Cornell settled in 1888 in upper Parnell.

Ross Johnson arrived with his father in 1888, and lived near Horace for a time. A few years later he filed on a homestead in Parnell precinct. He broke prairie on both his father's land and his own and estimates that during the first twenty years he lived in the county he broke out at least a thousand acres of prairie in that section of the county, using a grasshopper plow, which was lighter and more easily handled than the old style breaking plows.

Ezra Cargill and C. W. Baldwin settled in the eighties in this precinct.

Sod Town was the name bestowed upon a cluster of sod houses built on four quarter sections which cornered a mile west of the Parnell school house in the early nineties. One house was occupied by a group of bachelors that included Hallie Madison, Fred Callender, Frank Madison and Frank Clements. Mrs. Eugene Madison and daughter, Lily, occupied another, while the Jones family and the C. Johnson family lived in the other house. One well served for the community.

J. F. McCune came west with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. McCune, in 1890, driving overland with a team and covered wagon from Decatur, Illinois. Locating homesteads, they found a great expanse of the county unsettled northward; there was but

one house between them and Ericson at that time. A few deer and antelope roamed over the hay flats and hills. Sod houses and buildings were erected, one house taking eighteen days to build. Because such care was taken in its construction, it lasted for 27 years. On a number of occasions, members of the McCune family remained up all night, to fight prairie fires and to plow fireguards around their buildings and hay stacks to guard against the prairie fires that menaced the settlers each year.¹⁷

James Carlson, Charles Meehan, Day Cummings were settlers in the early nineties in this section of the county. Mrs. A. C. McCune carried mail from Horace to Amity and on to Ericson in these years. Occasional church services and more frequently Sunday school were held at the Mt. Hope and Amity school houses, a minister from Scotia or North Loup officiating.

A. B. Acker settled in Parnell in 1893. J. S. Everett came to Greeley county from Cumings county in 1894, trading twenty head of horses to Timothy Foley as part payment on a quarter section of land. He eventually owned 800 acres and became an extensive cattle feeder and horse buyer. Mrs. Everett taught Sunday school at the Glendale school for twelve years, riding horseback across pastures to reach the school; her baby on the saddle in front and her small daughter holding on the saddle back of her, in the early years.¹⁸

The blizzard of 1891 is said by early settlers to have been almost as bad as that of 1888; the canyons were drifted full of snow and for weeks thereafter, farmers were able to haul hay and corn across them. Many of the older residents were convinced that had it not been for the comfort and protection of the sod houses during those bad storm of the early days, when fuel was scarce and hard to get, that many people would have been actually frozen to death.

By 1905, the population of upper Parnell precinct having increased, it became a separate precinct called Homestead. The

southern half of the precinct remained as Parnell. A. W. Throckmorton served as the first postmaster for Homestead post office.

Land seekers came into Freeman valley in 1878 from two directions: From the northeast by way of Halifax and the Cedar valley, and from the south through Spring Creek valley. Freeman Creek was a tributary to Spring Creek, and in the early days ran bankful across the precinct; after a rain it was frequently flooded so that settlers often were unable to cross.

One of the first settlers to take up a homestead was Edward Snell, in 1878, who left Wisconsin for Greeley county. Finding his way up the Cedar valley, he stopped to see Michael Sullivan, who helped him locate his homestead six miles southwest of the Cedar river. Six months later his family arrived from Prairie du Chien to live in the newly built sod house and to adjust themselves to pioneer life. It was necessary to ford the Cedar river to reach the post office at Halifax or to attend mass at the Michael Sullivan home. On one occasion in the spring of 1881 after the heavy winter snows and spring thaws, the mother of the Snell family wanted the new baby baptized when the priest made his regular trip. Unable to leave home, she delegated the task to her eldest daughter, Margaret (Mrs. M. McBeth), who was then twelve years old. Driving the team and wagon down the river bank into the high water was a hazardous business. The little girl, thoroughly frightened, sat beside her father on the high wagon seat and held the new baby very close, as the horses swam out into the river, the water flowing over their backs and into the bottom of the wagon. There was no mishap, however, and the baby was baptized and brought safely home again.

The Snell family did not have a well for sometime, but carried water in barrels by ox team from the well of their neighbor, Joe Montgomery, who preceded them by a few months. A hard blizzard came up one day after Mr. Snell and a neighbor had gone to Columbus seventy miles away, for provisions. It was a trip

which took several days each way, and Mr. Montgomery feared that the family might run short of water during the storm. He filled a good sized keg and carried it on his shoulder a mile to the Snell home. He was very cold and one ear was frozen when he arrived, but he insisted it was nothing that mattered! It was six days before the father could return from Columbus.

S. E. Horton, Layfayette Brazille, and Henry Gonder left Illinois in 1878, to take homesteads in Freeman Valley, coming in by way of Spring Creek valley. Mr. Horton built one of the first frame houses in the county on his claim, hauling the lumber from Grand Island. The road through Freeman Valley from the southeast is said to have been an old Indian trail, and Indians going from the reservation in Nance county to the Cedar or Niobrara rivers frequently traveled this way. One day when Mr. Horton was not at home they drove off a cow and a calf from his place. The cow broke away and returned, but the calf was butchered, most of the meat being left behind when the Indians left in haste. Although it was very tempting, the settlers, fearing that it might have been poisoned, did not eat it.

The first crop of wheat from his land Mr. Horton hauled to Grand Island, sold it, and then lost his pocket book, with the money in it, on the way home. When he arrived in St. Paul he was obliged to ask the storekeeper there for credit to buy some needed groceries.

As a bride in 1891, Mrs. Horton arrived with her husband from Illinois to find the country had become quite "civilized".²

Christopher Morsch also homesteaded in 1878. He was successful in raising a fine orchard and within six or eight years was selling large amounts of apples, plums and other fruits.

Christopher Hahn in 1883 left Ottaway, Illinois, with his family to take a homestead and to buy the timber claim of Dan Murray. O'Connor was their nearest post office, to which they drove their ox team "Duke and Dine". These same oxen were

used to break prairie and instead of the usual ox yoke, harness was used to hitch them to the wagon or plow.

The only well in the neighborhood was used by all of the neighbors and was on the farm of John Anderson. It was a rather shallow well and yielded only about a half a barrel of water at a time. Cattle were driven to the creek for water, which, since there were no fences across the prairie, was only a matter of distance.³

The John Long and the Patrick Kennedy families left comfortable homes in New York state to take up land in Greeley county, settling in Freeman Valley in 1882. John A. Foster took a homestead in this neighborhood in 1883.

Edward McFadden, in Philadelphia listened to the lectures of the Irish Catholic Colony Association and decided to cast his lot with the Nebraska colony. He arrived with his family of grown daughters and sons in 1881.⁷

Later settlers were Dennis and John Cannon who settled in the neighborhood in 1888. James McNelis lived for several years in the same neighborhood, after he arrived from Ireland with his family of motherless children.⁸

G. O. Landon purchased land in Freeman Valley in 1890, setting out a splendid orchard which produced much fruit within a few years. Charles M. Johnson was another who settled in 1890.⁹

While living in Freeman Valley, General P. H. Barry in the early eighties carried two mail routes. One was from O'Connor to Erina by way of Wallace Creek and the Parnell post office kept by J. B. Paddock, the other, from O'Connor to Petersburg, was traveled twice a week and went by way of Akron, Dublin and Loretto.¹⁰

After a hard rain one night, in the early nineties, Freeman Creek rose so high, so the story goes, that Patrick Barry, who was calling on his bride-to-be, Miss Rose McFadden, at the home of her sister, Mrs. J. J. Doyle on the Doyle homestead, was unable

to get home and was obliged to stay all night. Having no extra bed, they placed a table leaf between two chairs where he reposed for the night.

The roof of this same sod house leaked, and the night of the big celebration in Greeley over the arrival of the railroad Mrs. Doyle and her smaller children were at home alone. During the hard rain on that memorable night there was but one dry place in the roof of the house, and she placed the lamp under that. She tied an oilcloth table cover over the bed in which the children were sleeping to protect them from the rain, while she herself sat on a chair and held an umbrella over her head all night. During the long wet hours, she could not help but wonder why the family had ever left a comfortable home on one of Philadelphia's best streets, to settle in such a wild country.¹¹

Freeman valley became a voting precinct in 1889, and very shortly thereafter became more or less of a political barometer for the county; the saying, "as Freeman Valley goes, so goes the county," being frequently heard.

* * * *

By the middle nineties, more than twenty years had elapsed since the first settlers had arrived in the county, with their ox teams to break up the first prairie land and to build their sod houses. The county was well settled and was entering upon an era of prosperity. Four towns, two small villages, churches, schools and two railroads that crossed the prairie, and hundreds of well improved farms, were the evidence that the pioneers of all races, creeds and classes were building for the future.

LETTER FROM MRS. MANSELL DAVIS.

The following letter is a letter written by Mrs. Mansell Davis of North Loup to Mr. James R. Swain in response to an invitation to attend an Old Settler's Picnic in 1922.

"I am sure my diary will not be of interest to the general public as I generally recorded items of personal or family affairs.

"Soon after our marriage in Wisconsin in September, 1871, Mr. Davis, with my father, C. P. Rood, brother Herman and John Sheldon, started for Nebraska to seek homes. Mr. Davis and John Sheldon took claims, ours just across the river west of Scotia. After filing on their claims they returned to Wisconsin. These claims were the first ones taken on the west side of the river. In company with several other families we started from Wisconsin April first, 1872, and reached our homestead May tenth. Mr. Sheldon sold his place years ago. We still own our place on which we lived continuously till Mr. Davis's death, November 6, 1916, just forty-five years after the date of filing.

"Settlers came in rapidly and church services were held the first Sabbath after our arrival near the present town of North Loup, and church services have been held every week since, excepting during a small pox epidemic. Several years ago a memorial stone was set to mark the place of the first service.

"After the county was organized fifty years ago this fall, school districts were formed. Our District was Number Three. Mr. Davis taught the first term in a little sod school house on the land now owned by Rolla Babcock.

"In common with all pioneers in a new country, we had our share of troubles, lots of good times too. In April, 1873, was the April blizzard, which all the settlers remember so vividly. Several lives were lost and much stock. We lost our ox team and saved the cow by bringing her in the house. In 1874 clouds of grasshoppers swooped down on us and devoured everything eatable. They came again the next year but made a shorter stay and did less damage. Prairie fires in those early days were not uncommon, when both property and life were in peril. The most notable of these fires that of October 12, 1878, has come to be called the "Big Fire", though this fire did not do much damage in our locality. In October, 1872, a smaller fire swept across our place, burning everything but the house, a dugout which for some reason did not catch fire.

"We were very glad when the bridge was built across the river. High water took it out in a few years and it was not rebuilt. Also there was much rejoicing when the Union Pacific railroad was built up our valley, then we felt we were connected with the outer world.

"Before we got used to this country and its peculiar conditions, something was every little while coming to pass that we did not expect and taking us by surprise. But we were young and hopeful and soon forgot the unpleasant things. A few things bordered on the tragic but all came out well in the end. In the fall of 1878 my mother was bitten by a rattlesnake. She started to the house, then thought she had better kill the snake. She did so, then went to the house and told the family; prompt action on their part, with the help of Dr. Badger, soon got her foot in good condition again.

"We had only been here a few weeks when I got lost and spent a long night alone on the prairie. I had started from our place before dark to go to a neighbor's, when a terrific storm came up; it soon grew dark and I was so beaten by the wind and rain that I was completely lost. I was frightened, you may be sure.

then to add to my terror was the yelping and howling of the coyotes, a sound new to me, also the fear of falling into a deep water hole that was near our house. The storm ended before morning, and in the early morning light I found my way home. Mr. Davis was not at home when this happened.

"I must say I do not like to talk or even think of the hardships of those early days; I would rather forget them. Through them all we looked ahead with the eye of faith to the better times coming. Very few of those that came in the early seventies are left, and we can only hope that the coming generations may enjoy the fruit of our labors in settling this country."

EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF GEORGE W. McANULTY.

Mr. George W. McAnulty, who came into the Loup Valley in 1873, and is now past eighty-six years of age, is perhaps the only person left in Greeley county who knew "Happy Jack" Swaengen when he scouted, trapped and hunted up and down the Loup valley before and just after it became organized territory.

"Happy Jack" lived on the bluff near Scotia in the chalk hills, which has ever since been called Happy Jack's peak, in a half hut and half dugout, hidden from the prying eyes of roving Indians. Tall and well built, he was a striking figure in his buckskin clothes, with blond hair falling to his shoulders. When the country became too congested to suit him, he moved up the river to take up land and to have a canyon named after him, in Garfield county. In this country he was one time captured by a band of Indians, bound hand and foot, while they gathered wood for a fire to burn him alive. Some of the less vengeful of the band interceded and he was released on the condition that he "never return to the Indian country."

"Little Buckshot" Wentworth was another of those picturesque characters of the frontier who hunted and trapped in the Loup valley, and is said to have shot the last buffalo in Greeley county near Davis Creek.

When Mr. McAnulty left his boyhood home in Latrobe, Pennsylvania in 1871, his first adventures were in the southwest, in Texas and Mexico. He helped drive 1500 head of long horned steers over the old Chrisholm trail, before the lure of the west led him into the Loup valley, in 1873, where he took up land in the upper valley. The settlers were exposed to the pillaging bands of Indians which roved through the country and the Peeble Creek fight in the upper Loup valley brought the matter of seeking some protection from the government to a head.

Mr. McAnulty has told the story many times and although it did not take place in Greeley county, nevertheless the few settlers living near Scotia were affected by the event.

Mr. McAnulty and several hunting companions, one Sunday afternoon, January 19, 1874, beheld a band of Sioux Indians raiding the home of Richard McClimans. Malevolently, they took all of the food and provisions in the house, drove off most of the stock and ended up by killing all of Mrs. McCliman's prized chickens. This was the crowning indignity, for chickens were hard to raise, and hard to get in those days. The hunters decided to follow the band in the hope of making them return the stolen property, but did not overtake them until early the following morning. Other settlers had arrived to reinforce the party. In the gray dawn of early morning, they beheld the tepees of the Indians in the distance. One of the party, "Buckskin" Charley White who knew some Sioux jargon, advanced to find the Indians finishing the remains of a cow they had stolen the day before. They were in a bad humor and when the chief came outside the tepee, instead of parleying, he took a cartridge from his belt, held it high above his head, at the same time uttering the Sioux war cry, said by Mr. McAnulty, to be the most blood curdling sound imaginable. For two hours the firing was brisk, the Indians attempted several strategic moves, but were repulsed by the settlers and finally fled. With almost the last shot of the battle, Marion Littlefield, a young man of 21, was shot and killed. The settlers were greatly saddened and greatly aroused. They determined that some protection must be had. Mr. McAnulty was delegated, among others, to inform congressmen and senators of the need for military protection. Within a month word came from Washington, that congress had appropriated \$50,000.00 to build a fort.

A company of soliders from the Department of the Platte were sent out and established at Camp Ruggles, near Happy Jack's canyon. Later in the summer, Captain E. O. C. Ord, whom Mr. McAnulty refers to as that "gallant old civil war veteran" arrived with a party of engineers to locate the site for the fort. They were met at Grand Island and escorted in proper military fashion up the valley by Captain Munson and a detachment of soldiers to Camp Ruggles.

The site selected for Fort Hartsuff was along the Loup river below the junction of the Calamus and Loup. It was also adjacent to gravel beds and the famous Jones canyon of native pine and cedar trees. The destruction of crops by grasshoppers in the summer of 1874 had been complete and the work on the fort was a boon to the country. Mr. McAnulty and many of the other settlers helped in the construction. A saw mill which had been set up at the canyon, sawed giant pines and cedars into lumber to be used at the fort.

The first company at the new fort was the 9th U. S. Infantry, under command of Captain Samuel Munson. Mr. McAnulty was twenty-two when he enlisted and served for three years. While in the service his company was sent to Fort Laramie, Wyoming, and while there engaged in the fierce campaign against the hostile Sioux Indians, who were fighting under the chieftains, Sitting Bull, Red Cloud and Crazy Horse to retain their hunting grounds against the advance of the frontier.

Mr. McAnulty knew Frank Grouard, the famous scout with General Custer, attached to General Crook's command, and credits him with saving the lives of the company. When they were about to attack a decoy Indian village, they were warned by Grouard, who rode up from a trip in time to stop their advance.

He also witnessed the killing of Crazy Horse at historic Fort Robinson in September 1877, after he and his warriors had wiped out General Custer's command the year before at the Little Big Horn. Mr. McAnulty recalls that it was a regrettable incident and although Crazy Horse was a bad Indian, he was brave and fearless and beloved by his own people. He was entitled to different treatment at the hands of his captors.

The company returned to Fort Hartsuff in 1878 where Mr. McAnulty received his discharge from the army two years later. In 1880 Mr. McAnulty married Miss Lillie Moore, whose family were among the first settlers in Greeley county. They lived on a farm east of Scotia for fifty-four years, their happy married life broken when Mrs. McAnulty died in 1934.

BOSTON—ERINA COLONY.

In addition to the colony established at O'Connor, the Irish Catholic Colonization Association was instrumental in forming a colony at Erina in Wheeler county, at the head of the Cedar river, fifty miles northwest of Spalding. Numerous settlers who were unable to secure land at O'Connor were directed to the Erina colony. Patrick H. Barry of Boston, who had met Bishop O'Connor in the east while he was encouraging Catholic immigration to Nebraska, organized a group who left Boston on March 3, 1880, in a special car for Grand Island, Nebraska. There were thirty-five in the party among them General Barry's sons, James, Patrick, John, Frank and Thomas.

After a trip of three days and three nights, they reached the small village of Grand Island, where the families remained for two weeks while the men of the party went on to Erina to select homesteads. The small boys from Boston had a thoroughly good time roaming through the streets of the prairie village, until the men returned to file on the claims that they had selected, at the land office in Grand Island. The party had outfitted themselves with oxen, horses and wagons and provisions for the long overland trip to Erina. Unaccustomed to hardships and without experience in farming and the privations of life in the west, they were cheerfully unaware that courage would be their greatest asset in the future.

The first summer the colonists broke a few acres of prairie land and raised some wheat, sod corn and potatoes. All had built the usual sod houses and used their oxen to break prairie and to haul their wheat to Albion where it was milled into flour. The winter of 1880 was the "hard winter" with blizzards and snow storms one after another; not being prepared for such severe cold and snow, many of the colonists suffered considerably and before spring many of them were without provisions.

For more than six weeks they had no light of any kind at night, their matches, candles and coal oil were gone. Coffee, tea and sugar were exhausted, their potatoes had frozen as they had no place to store them. For coffee they substituted parched bread and called it "bread and butter" coffee. Having raised wheat and laid in a good supply of flour, the Barry family shared with other colonists until their supply, too, was used.

Although the weather was still very bad, the men finally banded together to go to Albion for supplies, taking oxen with them to break a trail. The snow was so deep the oxen floundered and the settlers who drove horses were compelled to take the lead and to break trail until they reached Halifax, where Michael Sullivan lived. There he provided them with a team; to get to Albion where they were able to lay in a supply of flour and other provisions. The trip down from Erina and back took ten days.

Among the members of the Boston-Erina colony were Frank McCabe, Gerald O'Halloran, William, Lawrence and John Connolly, James Riordan, Michael O'Donahue, Benjamin Jones, Michael Leonard and family, Andrew Philips and family, Michael and John O'Connor, their sisters, Nellie and Mary, General P. H. Barry, his wife and sons.

In 1887 a frame church was built by the members of the colony at Erina, and services were conducted at as frequent intervals as the roads and weather conditions permitted. The church was destroyed by a prairie fire a few years later.

One of the real tragedies connected with the Erina colony was the death of James Riordan. On the trip from Grand Island to Erina in March the party

was caught in a severe blizzard on St. Patrick's day. Being entirely unprepared for such weather, many in the party suffered bitterly, but Riordan most of all, as his feet were badly frozen. Blood poisoning set in and although the rest of the party ministered to him, he never entirely recovered, and his health was bad all the following summer.

He lived alone in his sod house which others in the colony had helped him build, but in the winter Jerry O'Halloran and Thomas O'Neill, who lived together in their one-room sod house, with a lean-to at one end for their team, took Riordan to their cabin to care for him. When he died in mid-winter, they summoned P. H. Barry, the head of the colony, and it was decided that he should be buried as soon as a grave could be prepared. A casket was made out of rough boards and the body was made ready for burial. The snow was so deep and ground so frozen that it took several days to dig the grave. When it was finished a team and wagon carried Riordan's body in the rough casket to the place on the bank of the river, where the saddened neighbors were assembled to pay their last respects; to hear the commitment service read by General Barry, and to offer prayers for the departed. It was expected that his family might wish his body returned to the home in the east, but as no request was ever made, the grave marked by a homemade cross kept a lonely vigil on the bank of the Cedar river.

Desiring that his children attend school, General Barry in 1881 moved down the Cedar valley to a farm near Spalding, where they again broke prairie, planted sod corn and wheat. Halifax was their post office and N. E. Worden was the post master. While living there the Indians from both the Pawnee and Omaha reservations traveled up the Cedar river, camping while on hunting trips. The Indians were always friendly but were inveterate beggars.

After a year the Barry family moved to a farm near O'Connor where they were closer to church and the children could attend school nearby. The next year they purchased railroad land in Freeman Valley precinct which was their home for many years.

General Barry was very active in furthering the progress of the county as well as the settlement. He was a promoter of the first Agricultural society in the county. He organized the Thomas Meagher Post of the Grand Army of the Republic and was deeply interested in the welfare of the veterans of the civil war. In 1892 and again in 1894 he served in the state legislature and was appointed Adjutant General of the state by Governor W. A. Pointer, serving until 1901. General Barry had a long record of service with a Massachusetts regiment during the civil war and his service during the Spanish-American war to the State of Nebraska was especially distinguished.

DIARY OF E. A. WIGHT.

Extracts from the diary of E. A. Wight, which is now in the possession of his daughter, Mrs. David Keef of Wolbach.

January 1, 1883—I went to Cedar Rapids to work for Mr. Sargent picking corn. Picked 14 bu. this afternoon. 4 below all day.

January 2, 1883—Went to John Smiths and took dinner. Mary and I went over to Mr. Colvins and stayed all night. It is very cold.

January 9, 1883—Went to St. Paul with Daddy Cutler and it thawed the snow most of the way and then froze up again tonight. We came back to Colvins.

February 10, 1883—Pleasant and warm. Drew 20 bu. of corn down to Mr. La Grange's ranch. Got 35 cents per bu.

February 13, 1883—Went to St. Paul and got a harrow and it rained this afternoon. The old sow had pigs last night, all died.

March 5, 1883—Went to Grand Island to take some land. Very foggy all day.

March 6, 1883—took a preemption this morning and came home today. Cold wind all day. Stopped to Logarts to dinner.

March 8, 1883—Husked corn for Ed Phaelan. Husked 42 bu. Warm and pleasant.

March 14, 1883—Worked at my well all day. G. Debord helped me. I dug 24 feet. Warm and pleasant.

March 17, 1883—Finished my well. It is 57 feet. Worked awhile on my stable.

March 18, 1883—Sunday. Went over to Father Cleveland's this afternoon and got a keg of syrup and a sack of flour. Very cold and windy all day.

March 22, 1883—Started my house. Laid it three feet high. Will Cleveland helped me. Cold wind this afternoon.

March 23, 1885—Went up to the old place and sowed my oats. Willie dragged them. And I put my corn in the house and tore down my corn crib and fetched it home with me.

April 3, 1883—Sowed my wheat, and dragged it and dragged my oats over again. Warm day. Mary went down to Mrs. Lamberts to day.

April 4, 1883—Laid sod this forenoon and this afternoon and went up to the old place and got the roof and floor and door. Cold wind all day from north.

April 6, 1883—Put the roof on my house to day. Warm and pleasant.

April 10, 1883—Moved into our house to day. Went after hay up to the old place. Kinney went with me.

April 26, 1883—Broke prairie this afternoon.

May 7, 1883—Planted sod corn for the first time and planted some garden this forenoon. Dragged 8 acres up on the old place.

May 17, 1883—Went to Scotia on the jury. Sat on one trial. Rained all day. Mr. Hill went over with me and so did Mr. Lambert. Stayed at Scotia all night.

May 25, 1883—Finished planting corn up on the old place. It is very warm. I went down to C. Warners after some corn to plant. I planted corn all day where the gophers had taken it out. Colvin cultivated for me. Very warm and sultry.

June 30, 1883—Went down to the creek after some wood. Got some brush.

July 4, 1883—At home all day. It rained a pretty good shower. Corn is about 15 inches high on the average. Some of it is two feet and some later planting 6 inches. Mary wasn't very well.

July 20, 1883—Very warm this morning. Had a baby today at noon. Mother

Cleveland and Mrs. Debord was here. She was named Hattie.

August 8, 1883—Helped Mary wash.

September 1, 1883—Put up my hay. Frank and Alta Kinney helped me and so did Willie Cleveland. Very warm.

September 23, 1883—Went to Mr. Duffins and took a job digging a well this forenoon. This afternoon I went up to the old place and got a load of corn.

September 27, 1883—Commenced digging Duffins well. Dug 24 feet. Warm and pleasant.

October 18, 1883—Went upon the old place and got a load of corn and dug 10 bushel of potatoes. Come home and gathered our beets and carrots and cabbage.

October 19, 1883—Went after wood down to the Cottonwood. Got a good load.

November 3, 1883—Dug 60 bushels of potatoes today. John Duffin and Charley Cleveland helped me. Lots of prairie fire round today. Warm but windy.

November 13, 1883—Went to Scotia on court business. Very windy and cold. Big prairie fires all over. Lambert got burnt out today.

November 14, 1883—Worked on Duffins well. Cold and windy. Struck water today.

November 16, 1883—Finished Duffins well today. It is 173½ feet deep.

January 1, 1884—At home all day. Charley Cleveland took the mules and went up to Nestors to a dance. Very cold.

January 5, 1884—Went over to Father Cleveland's to a school meeting. He was elected moderator for the term of 3 years. Snowed hard tonight.

January 8, 1884—Went after a load of corn. Mary went with me and went down to Mrs. Shermans.

January 25, 1884—Went to the creek after wood and some oak to make a windlass wheel. Very warm and pleasant.

February 9, 1884—Stormed. Husked corn in the house and burnt husks for several days.

February 29, 1884—Fixed the room up on the north of the house so we could put a stove in there. Had a dance tonight. Had a good time. Had 16 neighbors.

March 14, 1884—Finished Henry's well. Very hard digging. It is 164 feet. Pleasant and warm.

April 11, 1884—Went to Fullerton with 25 bu. of potatoes. I got 35 cents per bu. for them. Mr. Powell went with me. Cold wind all day.

April 30, 1884—Helped Mr. Powell build on his sod house. Warm and pleasant.

August 14, 1884—Finished Duffins well today. It is 125 feet deep. Went over to Father Cleveland's after plane and square tonight.

August 28, 1884—Went over to Powells to their baby's funeral. Hot all day.

November 12, 1884—Went after wood down on the Cottonwood. Got a big load. Warm and pleasant.

November 28, 1884—Was up in Leo Valley today to Ed Phaelans. Warm and pleasant all day. School marm had supper all ready when we got home.

December 1, 1884—Went to Scotia and back today and paid my taxes. Dry and warm and pleasant all day.

P. J. ROONEY.

Mr. Rooney has been actively engaged in business in Greeley county since his arrival from Ireland in 1881. In addition to being outstandingly successful, Mr. Rooney, has no doubt, remained the active head of a business enterprise longer than any other person in Greeley county. In 1896, he extended his stock business to Greeley. Over a period of forty years of the time he has been engaged in handling stock, he estimates that he has fattened from 600 to 800 head of cattle for market each year and has fed on an average of 1000 head of hogs each year. He declares that Greeley county is an excellent stock country and recalls that at one time, the branch line of the B & M which runs through this section of the state, was one of the busiest and most prosperous of the B & M lines. The secret of success in his opinion is perseverance and staying with an undertaking. Mr. Rooney has been philanthropic and lent financial support to many community and civic ventures.

He was in O'Connor when the first church blew down in 1881, and helped haul lumber from St. Paul for the second church, which was located on level ground instead of the top of the hill, where the wind could have a clear sweep.

Mr. Rooney recalls that during the administration of Grover Cleveland some of the land grants which had been made to railroad companies, were cancelled, on the ground that they had not lived up to their agreement. The railroads had sold hundreds of acres of land, induced immigrants to make settlements and had paid no taxes. Smaller lines, in some instances, were put out of business, but larger companies began hurriedly to build and sent contractors here and there over the country to grade road bed, some of which never was used, but served the purpose in retaining their land grants.

Among the first people Mr. Rooney met on his arrival in America were the members of the Quan-Donahue wholesale grocery firm of New York and Chicago, who later purchased hundreds of acres of railroad land in Greeley as a matter of speculation. He knew also, W. J. Onahan, city treasurer of Chicago, who was an official of the Irish Catholic Colonization Association, and at whose suggestion Mr. Rooney came to Greeley county.

LAMB CASE

Cattle stealing on a small scale had not been unheard of in Greeley county, in the early days, but an instance in 1902 was of such daring that is served to focus attention on the county for several years.

On the morning of April 22, ten head of fat steers were missing from the feed lots of Rooney and Maguire at Brayton. Investigation by the authorities revealed that cattle answering their description had been shipped from Cedar Rapids with other cattle, by Michael Lamb to a commission firm, Ralston & Fonda at South Omaha. Lamb was arrested and charged with the theft and "aiding and abetting and inciting one Harry Hill to steal said cattle." The cattle were valued at \$85.00 a head.

At the preliminary trial in the county court before Judge John C. Byrne, Lamb was bound over to the district court on an \$8,000.00 cash bond. The case was prosecuted by James R. Swain, who was then county attorney and the defendant was represented by H. C. Vail of Albion and T. J. Doyle of Lincoln.

The cattle had been shipped to Ralston & Fonda, commission firm in South Omaha and by them sold to a packing company in St. Louis. Hides of the slaughtered cattle were recovered, identified and proven to be those of the cattle stolen

from the Rooney & Maguire feed yards at Brayton.

In the district court the case was fought hard by both sides. There were numerous witnesses, and the defendant contended that he had raised and fed the cattle in question. He was found guilty, however, by a jury in a verdict on July 19, 1902. He was sentenced to nine years in the penitentiary at hard labor, and solitary confinement on the anniversary of the crime each year.

As a result of the outcome of the criminal case an action was brought in equity by Rooney & Maguire to recover forty-nine head of cattle purchased by Lamb, from the commission firm, with the proceeds of the ten head of steers. The cattle were in custody of the sheriff during the summer. Rooney & Maguire were represented by James R. Hanna and James R. Swain. Lamb, by T. J. Doyle and H. G. Vail. In September the case was heard by District Judge J. N. Paul and the plaintiffs were awarded the cattle and the costs of feed, advanced by them.

As an additional sensation, Harry Hill, who was implicated in the cattle stealing case, together with his companion Verne Stewart, also employed by Lamb, stole two head of valuable horses from Thomas Pritchard near Spalding, on April 24. Considerable excitement was created among the citizens and an armed posse was formed to trace the culprits. They were discovered at the Criss home, in the big canyon in Valley county, between Greeley and North Loup. They made their escape into Sherman county and later in the day, were overtaken by the posse in a barn where they had taken refuge. A gun battle took place and Stewart was killed. Hill was brought to Greeley, by the officers, pled guilty and was sentenced to six years in the penitentiary at hard labor.

Files of the State v Michael Lamb.

Files of Rooney & Maguire v Michael Lamb.

Files of State v Harry Hill.

Interview with Judge J L. Scott.

Interview with Mr. P. J. Rooney.

NATIVE ANIMALS, TREES AND FLOWERS

Prairie chickens were about 18 inches in length and weighed usually two to three pounds. Their natural habitat was the open prairie and after the land became closely pastured and broken up into fields it was difficult for them to survive. Their plumage was plain, in browns and yellows with black and white, mottled above and distinctly barred below. During the mating season the males perform queer antics before the females, which are suggestive of a dance. Puffs of feathers on each side of the neck rise like horns, the tail raises and spreads, the wings droop and the bird rushes forward a few steps, pauses, inflates the air sacs on his neck and with jumps and jerks, booms a call, which one old settler described as saying "I'll pound you." These performances were always in the morning and always on a hill top.

Nests of the prairie chicken were concealed in the grass and weeds on the ground and contained twelve to eighteen gray eggs.

Other native animals included the coyote, badger, prairie dog, small striped gopher, cotton tail and jack rabbits. There were a great many rattle snakes in many areas in the early day, but they were rapidly destroyed by the settlers.

Native wild fruits were wild plums, grapes, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, chokecherries, elderberries and sand cherries. Hopvines, woodbine and sumach were native. Wild flowers included fox glove, pasque flower, spiderwort, violets, wild asters, sorrell, roses, golden rod, arrow head, cattails, larkspur, wild sweet pea, spurge, Queen Ann's lace, milkweed, cone flower, smart weed, sweet everlasting and wild morning glory. Sun-flowers were gorgeous and prolific. A scragly tumble weed rolled across the prairie in the early day. The grayish green plant which resembles the western sage brush grows in pastures and on rough hillsides and is called shoe string.

With the migration of people into the county, many foreign weed seeds were carried into the fields among them cockle burrs, red root and Russian thistles. Poison Ivy warns with "leaves three, let it be."

Wild onions were abundant and were sometimes eaten by the early settlers. Yucca or soapweed grew on the hills, deriving its name from the fact that the roots when rubbed in water form a soapy lather. Its beautiful flowers born on a tall stalk are waxy white and belong to the lily family.

Trees native to the county are jack oak, ash, elm, cotton wood, box elder and willow.

Native fruits became less abundant as the land was cultivated and pastured. Canyons and gullies which in the early day were rich with wild fruit, have been tramped and worn down by cattle and stock. Cultivation of land has produced much erosion and the numerous small streams that abounded over the county have been filled or choked with dust and silt, and only a few remain.

The above information was arranged by Mrs. James Steenson of O'Connor.

CASHMAN CASE

The famous Cashman case which involved a \$30,000.00 shortage in the county treasurer's office was started in the county court and after ten years of hard fought litigation through the district and supreme courts, was finally ended in the U. S. circuit court. The case which created much controversy developed feuds and bitterness which lasted a generation.

In a contest case in the county court over the outcome of the election for the office of county treasurer in 1889 between N. H. Milne and E. F. Cashman, the latter was declared elected by county judge N. H. Parks, although Milne had received a majority of 7 votes at the election. Cashman qualified for the office and served until October 21, 1891, when a decision of the district court, to which the case had been appealed was handed down in favor of Milne. The office was immediately turned over to Milne by Cashman and no appeal taken from the decision.

At the November election in 1891, Cashman was elected to the office and entered upon the duties in January 1892, having given a bond signed by 46 electors and property holders, which was accepted by the board of supervisors. In 1893, a shortage of \$30,556.17 was discovered in the office accounts by auditors. Cashman left the county, and suit was instituted in the county court to recover the amount from him and his bondsmen. An appeal was made to the district court and orders of attachment were issued against Cashman's property, real and personal. Several of the bondsmen resisted the case on various grounds and the case was carried to the supreme court. The county attorney in 1897, engaged a detective who located Cashman in New York City. He was returned to Greeley county and attempted to make restitution by turning over to the county, a section of land, the title of which was claimed by certain relatives. As a result of their claim, long and bitterly contested litigation ensued. Greeley county in the end won the case, and was given title to a section of land in Leo Valley in settlement.

Cashman's friends claimed all through the litigation that he did not profit from the shortage himself, but that he had aided many hard pressed and destitute farmers during the hard times of the early nineties.

Bondsmen in the case were: Joseph Noe, John P. Noonan, J. H. Sullivan, A. W. Barker, Charles Lindwall, John Schlaf, James Morris, John Kennedy, M. F. Noonan, W. J. Madden, Patrick Donnelly, Bernard Murphy, David O'Connor, Peter Donnelly, Henry Ferguson, R. McKnight, H. Donaghue, John A. Ballweg, Frank Pfeifer, William Maginn, J. C. Sullivan, Austin O'Malley, Michael Collins, P. J. Philbin, William Ahern, Thomas Castles, James Ward, T. C. Cronin, Richard Walsh, A. D. Cameron, Patrick Murphy, Thomas Rhatigan, John Kline, John McMahon, Patrick Higgins, Thomas Curtin, James Ogden, Edward Fogarty, Andrew McDonald, John Machin, John McEneaney, Peter Killeen, P. H. Cadigan, Patrick Murphy, E. W. Jeffres and Patrick Mulcahy.

The information was obtained from court records, in the office of the Clerk of the District Court, briefs, files and depositions in the files of the late J. R. Swain, and from many conversations with the late T. P. Lanigan and J. R. Swain both of whom were attorneys in the case.

EARLY DAY INCIDENTS

A previous defalcation in the office of the county treasurer occurred in 1880 during the incumbency of John Sheldon, who alleged when a shortage was discovered that \$2,104.44 was stolen from his office between June 12 and June 14, 1880.* As a result of the charges and resulting controversy, Michael Sullivan, H. A. Hill and J. B. Paddock county commissioners at the time, declared the office vacant and appointed Gavin Craig to fill the vacancy. The treasurer refused to turn over the office and the matter went into court, a petition being filed in 1882 to recover \$3,501.75. T. C. Phaelan was appointed trustee to collect and liquidate the property that was turned over to the county. He was finally discharged in September, 1900, by Charles H. Munn, judge of the district court.

Mr. George W. McAnulty who was in Scotia when the episode happened, declares that Mr. Sheldon was exonerated of personal dishonesty, that the defalcation was committed by an employe in his office.

Frequently in the early days officers were called upon to demonstrate the quality of their courage. In such an instance, Deputy Sheriff James P. Paxton was killed in the line of duty on April 2, 1891 in a most tragic manner.

One M. S. Good, who had lived for three years in eastern Greeley county, had sold mortgaged property belonging to the Citizen's State Bank in 1889 and had departed for parts unknown. He was finally traced to Conway, Arkansas, and after a requisition was secured from Governor Boyd, Sheriff Paxton went there to apprehend him. In company with a deputy sheriff and two assistants, he drove to Pinnacle Springs where Good had sent word that he would not be taken alive. The officers surrounded his place in the night thinking that they might take him by surprise, unarmed.

As daylight broke, a turkey gobbler in the woods began calling and Good arose. Taking his gun he started forth on an early morning hunt. Meeting the officers unexpectedly, he made no resistance until Paxton called, "You are my man." Quickly Good raised his gun, shot the sheriff full in the face, killing him instantly. The deputies from a distance emptied their guns, wounding Good seriously. He made his way to a neighbors and sent word that he would offer no further resistance.

Paxton's body was returned to Greeley county, where he was buried in the cemetery at O'Connor. His wife and four small children survived him.

Taken from the Greeley Leader, April 1891.

ROSTER OF SOLDIERS OF THE CIVIL WAR IN GREELEY COUNTY, 1887.

GREELEY—Patrick H. Barry, Charles Sutton, Perry Rowe, M. C. Pope, John Long, John Devine, P. Coggins, John S. McFadden, William J. Ferris, Fred Meyer, Anton Hepp, Richard Bond, F. O. Barney, B. F. Griffith, Simeon Parsons, M. W. Decker, E. P. Connors, K. J. Fleck and C. H. Smith.

SCOTIA—S. C. Scott, G. P. Southerland, D. Benson, Jeremiah Pridemore, D. W. Locker, William Fuller, D. M. Van Sant, Moses Honeycutt, William H. Burgess, Martin Sautter, James P. Cooper, S. Willcox, Amos Sumner, R. A. Standish, Charles Watson, Joseph Drawbridge, James Lewis, John Briddle, H. S. Sprecker, O. J. Wright, James VanSkike, L. H. Mallery, D. W. Greenfield, J. W. Bilyeau, William Vance, J. Storey, R. R. Krebs and J. J. Bean.

PARNELL—Freeman Cary, George W. Babcock, Nicholas Neal and Ebenezer E. Howe.

HORACE—John Vanosdall, A. W. Simpkins, George E. Dennis, J. J. Wetzel, B. A. DeLong, W. H. Swan, A. M. Stewart, J. L. Reed and Ed Stewart.

WOLBACH—Jeremiah Lambert, F. M. Cutler and J. H. Thomas.

BRAYTON—J. J. Lepper, John Holden, James Carr and James McDonald.

O'CONNOR—Daniel Ford, Michael Collins, Patrick Brown, Jeremiah Murphy and John D. Mawe.

ENDFIELD—G. F. Vandever, I. C. Trump, James H. Watts and Thomas Collins.

SPALDING—George Ewing, John W. Dean, Daniel J. O'Hara, Dennis Sullivan, Silas May, John L. Meyer, Timothy Cronin Michael Murphy, Michael Roach and Miles Schoolcraft.

Bibliography

* * * *

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* * * *

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* * * *

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* * * *

Scrapbooks—Miss Ida Foster. Mrs. James R. Swain. Mr. John P. Barry.

* * * *

Newspapers—The Greeley Center Independent 1886-1877. In the office of the Greeley Citizen. The Greeley Leader 1888-1889, 1890 and 1891. In the office of the Greeley Citizen. The Greeley Citizen 1895-1896. At the office of the Greeley Citizen. The Greeley Herald, July 20, 1894. Given to the author by Mrs. H. S. Waldrip, Scotia, Nebraska. The Greeley Herald for September, October and November, 1895 in the possession of Mrs. James R. Swain, Greeley. The Scotia Register 1896-1897 and 1898. The files are not complete. At the office of The Scotia Register. The Leader Independent. 1896, Historical Society, Lincoln Nebraska. The Leader Independent September 25, 1913; November 14, 1918; June 35, 1914; December 3, 1914.

In the possession of the author. There are no files preserved of the Leader Independent. The Spalding Enterprise; 1901, 1902 and 1903. The files of the Enterprise are not entirely complete. The office of the Enterprise. The Spalding Grit. April 9, 1898. At the office of the Spalding Enterprise. The Spalding Index. Copy in possession of Mrs. Henry Carlin, Spalding. The Wolbach Messenger, 1937 and 1938.

Notes

CHAPTER I

- 1 Interview with Mr. George W. McAnulty, October 1937, Scotia. See Appendix.
- 2 Interview with Mrs. Mary Rood-Davis, North Loup, August 1938. See Appendix.
- 3 Information taken from a letter written by the late John Kellogg, from his home in Pasadena, California to the Scotia Register, published in January 1938.
- 4 Records of the U. S. Post Office Department, Washington, D. C.
- 5 Andreas History, p 168.
- 6 Commissioners Record Vol 1.
- 7, 8, 9, 10. Ibid.
- 11 Greeley Leader, April 1889.
- 12, 13, 14, 15 Commissioners Record, Vol. 1.
- 16 Greeley Leader.
- 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 Commissioners Record.
- 22 Interview with Mr. George Milne, Greeley, Nebraska.

CHAPTER II

- 1 Interview with Mr. George W. McAnulty, Scotia.
- 2 Records of the U. S. Post Office Department.
- 3 Interview with Mrs. Mae Cantwell, Greeley, daughter of Mr. Hawkins.
- 4 Commissioners Record Vol 1.
- 5 Greeley Independent, 1886.
- 6 Miscellaneous Record, 1884, County Clerk's office.
- 7 Story told by Mrs. G. S. Bowen, wife of Dr. Bowen, August, 1938.
- 8 All of the foregoing brief items were taken from news stories in the files of the Greeley Independent, 1886-7-8; and the files of the Scotia Graphic of 1887 in the possession of Mr. G. W. McAnulty, Scotia, the former editor.
- 9 Scotia Register, September 8, 1927. History of the Methodist Church written by Mrs. Lillie Moore-McAnulty.
- 10 Letter from Mrs. J. H. Sautter, Scotia, Nebraska. Interview with Mrs. Will Sommers, Scotia.
- 11 Original petition. Miscellaneous files, office county clerk.
- 12 Greeley Herald, 1893.
- 13 Information supplied by Mr. S. T. Grohosky, Scotia, Nebraska.
- 14 Interviews with Mrs. J. L. Brannen and Mrs. T. J. Finn, Greeley, Nebraska.
- 15 Ibid. Confirmed by stories of other early settlers.
- 16 Interview with Mr. G. W. McAnulty, October, 1938.
- 17 Interview with Judge J. L. Scott, Greeley, Nebraska.
- 18 Story told by Mr. McAnulty.
- 19 Story told by several old residents. Mr. S. E. Smith who now lives at Shelton, Nebraska and is the father of R. M. Smith of Greeley.
- 20 Letter from Mrs. Hattie Milne, Grand Island, Nebraska. September 1938.
- 21 Interviews with Mrs. Nan Miner, daughter of "Jakie" Sautter. Mrs. Sophia Sautter, Fish Creek and Mrs. George Sautter, Scotia.
- 22 Mrs. Sophia Sautter.

- 23 The stories concerning the Wegner family and the Rodgen families were related by Mrs. George Sautter, Scotia, Nebraska. January, 1939.
- 24 Interview with Mr. John Schoemaker, Scotia, Nebraska.
- 25 Information given by Mr. A. L. Hepp, Greeley Nebraska, son of Anton Hepp.
- 26 Information supplied by Rev. A. Langenberg, pastor Evangelical Church, Scotia, Nebraska. August 1938.
- 27 Mrs. J. H. Sautter and various older residents in Fish Creek, supplied the information concerning the German Methodist Church.

January 23, 1939, Frank Philips, millionaire oil-man from Bartelsville, Oklahoma, arrived in Scotia to view his birth place, the farm owned by C. W. Vorhees, Section 24, Township 17, Range 12. Mr. Philips, who claims to be the first white child born in Greeley county, was born on November 28, 1873 and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis F. Philips. After the grasshopper scourge in 1874, the family left to locate in Iowa. He visited Governor R. L. Cochran at Lincoln the following day, to whom he made a generous gift of \$50,000.00 to be used to advance Boy Scout work in Nebraska.

CHAPTER III

- 1 Interview with George McCarthy, Greeley, August, 1938.
- 2 Mrs. Mary McCarthy, who was the eldest daughter of James Dolan has many times told the writer the story of the arrival of the first settlers in the Boston Valley colony.
- 3 Interview with Mrs. W. H. Bolin, August, 1938, daughter of Mr. Taylor.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Story told by Mrs. McCarthy and confirmed by others.
- 6 Interview with Miss Anna Cannon, October, 1938.
- 7 Letter from Mr. Michael Murphy, who concludes his letter with this tribute "I would suggest that we place a bronze tablet on the front of our court house, with the names of those heroic men and women who made it possible for us to enjoy the good things of Greeley county." September, 1938.
- 8 Told by Mrs. Mary Moran, one of the pupils who was carried home through the storm by her father. October, 1938.
- 9 Interview with Mrs. Anna Kerrigan-Foley, daughter of P. A. Kerrigan, November 1938. Mrs. Peter J. Kerrigan, September, 1938.
- 10 Interview with Mrs. Mary Goonan-Kiplinger, September 1938.
- 11 Interview with Mr. Michael J. Moore in July 1938 before his last illness.
- 12 Story told by Miss Anna Cannon about her cousin John Bohan.
- 13 Related by Mrs. Florence Curnyn-Doyle, July 1938.
- 14 Told by Mr. P. J. Rooney in August 1938.

CHAPTER IV

- 1 The late Thomas P. Lanigan, Attorney, at Greeley, on several occasions told the writer the story of the location of the Irish Catholic Colony at O'Connor.
- 2 Information supplied from the office of Lanigan & Lanigan, Attorneys, Greeley.
- 3 Deed Records, Vol. 1.
- 4 U. S. Post Office Records, Washington, D. C.
- 5 Gathered from the stories related by many early settlers.
- 6 The stories concerning Father Hayes were related by former parishioners. The second church at O'Connor was burned May 14, 1904, the present church was built and dedicated in 1905.

- 7 Mr. John Barry, Greeley, recalls the occasion of the first high mass.
- 8 Interview, September 1938, with Mr. James H. Maginn, Greeley.
- 9 Miss Ida Foster, granddaughter, and Mrs. Sarah White, daughter, in the summer of 1938, told of the experiences of John G. Foster and members of his family.
- 10 Recollections of Mrs. James Keating, O'Connor in September, 1938.
- 11 Story told by Mrs. Anna Tierney, Greeley, the same month.
- 12 In September, 1938, Miss Anna O'Malley of Greeley, recalled some of the episodes in the life of her family in the early years.
- 13 Dats supplied by Mrs. Frank Costello, O'Connor.
- 14 & 15 Information from Mr. Joseph Fogarty at O'Connor in the winter of 1939.
- 16 Interview in December, 1938, with Mr. John Gibbons.
- 17 Dates taken from Greeley county atlas.
- 18 Mr. Wilfred Murphy, Greeley, related the incidents about his father.
- 19 Mrs. Charles Walsh related the story of the arrival of her uncles.
- 20 Interview in 1938 with Mrs. J. H. Brannen.
- 21 Dates given by Frank Costello, O'Connor.
- 22 Information given by Mrs. Frank Harrahill.
- 23 Story told by Mrs. Thomas McFadden, January, 1939.
- 24 Mr. J. J. Dewhurst, Greeley, related the story of Dr. Lilly's horse farm to the writer in October, 1938. Mr. Dewhurst, who is a lover of fine horses, knew the name and pedigree of all of the horses on the Lily farm. He later owned and always drove, splendid horses. Mr. Dewhurst who came to Nebraska in 1883 from England was one of the earliest breeders of good cattle and horses in the county.
- 25 Program taken from the Greeley Leader, March, 1890.
- 26 Taken from early school records.

CHAPTER V

- 1 Mrs. Denzil Tarr and Mrs. Albert Anderson of Greeley, related the stories concerning their father, Charles T. Weekes and their uncle, William B. Weekes.
- 2 The information concerning these first settlers was supplied by Mr. George McCarthy of Greeley and Mrs. W. E. Daily of Scotia.
- 3 Mrs. Ellen Starrett, Greeley and Mrs. Patrick Nealon, Wolbach, who were early neighbors of the Thayer family related to the writer some of the incidents concerning these early settlers.
- 4 Interview with Mrs. Patrick Nealon, September, 1938.
- 5 Interview with Mr. James McClung, Greeley, in July, 1938. Mr. McClung related an experience which he and a companion had in the very early eighties. Driving in a high wheeled gig, from Crete to Red Cloud, where they hoped to get work on the railroad, night came upon them as they were crossing the prairie. Wrapping up in their blankets, they lay down on th ground to sleep. A few hours later, Mr. McClung was awakened by a low moo-o-ing. Sitting up, he beheld a huge buffalo who had an investigative air about him. Awakening his companion, they cautiously surveyed the situation, only to behold a large herd moving toward them from a distance. Their safety depended upon quick action, so crawling on their hands and knees, they began to bark like dogs and to make a commotion, frightening the herd, which fled in a panic.
- 6 Commissioners Journal, Vol. 1.

- 7 Mrs. Dave Keef, Wolbach, daughter of Mr. Wight, kindly loaned the writer several of her father's early diaries. See Appendix.
- 8 This story was taken by permission from the "Pioneer Stories" of the Wolbach Messenger, which was written by Joseph Berney, a son of the pioneer, Mr. Berney.
- 9 Interview with Mrs. Edward Phaelan at Spalding, October, 1938.
- 10 The information concerning Mr. Gould was supplied by Mr. William McBride in an interview at Brayton in September, 1938. Mr. McBride was an employe of Mr. Gould and later an associate in the cattle business for more than forty years.
- 11 Mrs. James Steenson secured the information concerning Mr. McIntyre from his sons, at Wolbach.
- 12 The story of the townsite was told to the writer by Mr. P. J. Rooney, Greeley, an early resident at O'Connor and with whom young Mr. Monahan stayed for a few months after coming to Nebraska.
- 13 Mr. George Birt, north of Wolbach, came to Wolbach about the time of the arrival of the railroad. Mr. Nels Peterson also, is an old resident who recalls Wolbach before there were any buildings.
- 14 U. S. Postal records, Washington, D. C.
- 15 Interview with Mrs. Marcoe, September, 1938, Wolbach.
- 16 History of Wolbach, Wolbach Messenger, September 30, 1937.
- 17 The information concerning the Methodist church was supplied by Reverend G. M. Bing, of Wolbach, November, 1938. Mrs. Nettie Correll in an interview in July, 1938, gave the author the history of the founding of the Church and Sunday school.
- 18 Mrs. Tillie Sorensen supplied the information relating to Trinity Evangelical church, September, 1938.
- 19 Story told by Mrs. Nettie Correll.
- 20 History of Wolbach, published in Wolbach Messenger, September 30, 1937.
- 21 Mrs. L. A. Winchell, Greeley, in November, 1938, was given this information.
- 22 Interview July, 1938, with Mr. Hansen.
- 23 Information given to Mrs. L. A. Winchell, November, 1938.
- 24 Interview in September, 1938, with Mr. and Mrs. Herman Rother, Wolbach.
- 25 Story told by Mr. Ed Johnson, September, 1938.
- 26 Mr. Alfred Larson, in an interview September, 1938, related some of the experiences of his parents when they first arrived in Nebraska.
- 27 Letter from Mrs. Townsend, September, 1938.
- 28 Prices taken from the Greeley Independent in 1887: Eggs 8 cents, Corn 25c, Hogs \$4.00, Butter 15c, Potatoes 65, Barley 35c, Wheat 45c. In 1889 Corn was 12c, Wheat 40c, Oats 12c.
- 29 Interview September, 1938, with Mr. Dollarhide in Wolbach.
- 30 Interview with Mrs. George Birt, daughter of Mr. Steenson, August, 1938.
- 31 In a visit with Mrs. Wibbels in the summer of 1938, she related many interesting experiences of their early life on the farm where she came as a bride and on which they still live.
- 32 U. S. Postal records.
- 33 The story of the Methodist church in this vicinity was told by Mrs. Ellen Starrett and Mr. James McClung, two of its early members.
- 34 Greeley Independent.

- 35 U. S. Postal Records.
- 36 Physicians Records, County Clerk's office.
- 37 Original petition in files at court house.
- 38 Information supplied by Mrs. Jessie Fox, Wolbach, daughter of Mr. Lowe.
- 39 Old residents make many references to this post office.

CHAPTER VI

- 1 A letter from Mrs. Rachel Kinnier, Primrose, August, 1938 details some of the experiences of the Kinnier families and other early settlers.
- 2 Mr. Jack Sullivan and Mrs. Edward Crennan, in interviews in Spalding in August and December, 1938, related the stories concerning their father and the Sullivan family.
- 3 Ibid. This place was known as the Carraher place, and was the scene of the first mass held in the county. Mrs. Crennan recalls that early mail carriers between Madison and Scotia, made the trip across the country horse back. There were no land marks of any kind, and for a guide through the hills, they built little mounds of sod on the tops of hills which could be seen against the sky miles away.
- 4 This and the following stories were recounted by Mrs. Kinnier.
- 5 Commissioners Record.
- 6 U. S. Post Office Records, Washington, D. C.
- 7 Incident told by Mr. Thomas Naughtin, Spalding, December, 1938.
- 8 Interview with Mrs. Mary Connell, Spalding.
- 9 Story of the school was related by Mrs. Crennan.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 Interview with Dr. M. M. Sullivan, Spalding, January, 1939. Dr. Sullivan began the practice of his profession in 1905 and is now the president of the Spalding City Bank, organized by his father, the late John H. Sullivan in 1903. Of the eleven banks in Greeley county, it was the only one to survive the period of bank failures in the 1920's and the depression of the 1930's.
- 12 Mr. Michael Gilroy told the incidents concerning the Gilroy families and Louis Johnson, in an interview in December, 1938.
- 13 Episodes told to the writer by Mrs. Connell at various times in the past.
- 14 The information concerning the Irish Catholic colony at Spalding is gleaned from stories told by many old residents. From a "History of St. Michael's Church," published by Father Devos in the Spalding Enterprise, April 9, 1901. Mr. Timothy Foley of Greeley, told the story of selecting the site of the mill and Mr. L. J. Vandenburg, present owner, related the incident of the digging of the mill race.
- 15 Letter from the Sister Superior, Sisters of Mercy, Omaha, August 23, 1938.
- 16 Spalding Enterprise, October, 1938.
- 17 Spalding Enterprise, April 9, 1901.
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 Mrs. Joseph Ballweg, Spalding, in a visit October, 1938, recalled the names of her countrymen who came to Greeley county.
- 20 Mrs. T. S. Kinnier related the history of the Presbyterian church.
- 21 Accounts of old residents and Spalding Enterprise January, 1904.
- 22 Interview with Miss Jessie Murphy, Spalding, January, 1939.
- 23 Interview with Mr. C. Weber, Spalding, October, 1938.
- 24 Original petition, office of county clerk.

- 25 Interview with Mr. Thomas Naughtin, January, 1939.
- 26 Mrs. John Dunning gave the information concerning her family.
- 27 Spalding Enterprise.
- 28 Story told by Mrs. Michael Gilroy, daughter of Dennis Sullivan.
- 29 Notes and personals taken from the Greeley Independent and Leader for the years 1887 and 1888.
- 30 Commissioners Record.
- 31 Post Office Records. Washington, D. C.
- 32 Interview with Mr. William Walsh, Spalding, November, 1938.
- 33 Mr. Daniel D. McCarthy, in an interview at his home in Cedar precinct, in October, 1938, related many incidents of early political history in the county, in which he had a part, when he acted as supervisor and during a period, when it took courage to "take sides."
- 34 Interview with Mrs. Sarah Kavanaugh.

CHAPTER IX

- 1 Recollections of early residents, among them members of the Harris family, relatives of Mr. Fox, Mr. Charles A. Harris, Mrs. Nell Marlowe and Mr. Leo Harris. The Northwest Quarter of Section 12, was homesteaded by George E. Sutherland; the Northeast Quarter, by Michael J. Taylor; the Southwest Quarter by John O'Connor and the Southeast Quarter by Thomas W. Burke. Deed Record, Vol. 1.
- 2 Old statements of the Greeley State Bank, which after weathering many difficulties, and the hardtimes of the nineties, when it was the only bank in the county, was closed in 1927, by edict of the State Banking Department, under the regime of Charles W. Bryan, governor of Nebraska.
- 3 Postal Records Greeley and Washington, D. C.
- 4 Program taken from Greeley Independent, December 1886.
- 5 Miscellaneous Records, office of county clerk. Reports in Greeley Independent, January 1886.
- 6 Greeley Independent, July, 1887.
- 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Ibid.
- 12 Miscellaneous Records, Vol. 1.
- 13 Greeley Independent, 1887.
- 14 Recollection of old residents; information from church records given by Reverend J. T. Sawyer.
- 15 Recollection of Mrs. J. R. Swain.
- 16 Accounts of early communicants. Miscellaneous records office of county clerk. Members of the early choir as recalled by Mrs. J. J. Doyle. Members of the Board of Directors, when the church was incorporated in 1889 were, D. J. Farrell, Patrick Hynes, Patrick Tracy, Frank Green, John B. Gaffney, T. A. Kelley, Thomas M. Brown and Dr. L. J. Sloan. The first church was destroyed by fire November 29, 1903. Reverend Patrick Flanagan succeeded Father McLaughlin in October, 1903. The present church was built in 1904 and dedicated May 24, 1905.
- 17 Account taken from the Greeley Leader in 1889. Mr. E. J. Martin, who for many years was engineer at the mill, recalls early incidents connected with the mill.
- 18 Interview with Mr. Timothy Foley, February, 1938.
- 19 School Records, which are incomplete as to names and dates.

- 20 The corner stone of the present court house was laid on July 10, 1913.
- 21 Newspaper accounts. Recollection of early residents.
- 22 Interview with Mrs. Hilda Anderson, daughter of Mr. Lund.
- 23 Interview with Mr. Johnson, August 1938.
- 24 Story told by Mrs. L. A. Winchell, niece of Mr. Carlson.
- 25 Information concerning the Swedish church was given the writer by Reverend D. N. Anderson, pastor, from the church records. Interviews with Mrs. Edna Lammers, Greeley.
- 26 Sources of the information for the railroad "rumors" were the early issues of the Greeley Leader and Independent and the proceedings of the county commissioners.
- 27 Story told by Mrs. Mina Madison, Greeley.
- 28 Memory of Mrs. J. R. Swain, who attended the masquerade.
- 29 Election Records, Vol. 1. office of county clerk.
- 30 Greeley Independent. Recollection of early residents.
- 31 Jacksonville is frequently mentioned by early settlers. Mr. George McCarthy, Mrs. Mary McCarthy and Mrs. W. E. Daily of Scotia, are among the few living residents who remember trading at the store and getting their mail there.

BRAYTON AND ADJOINING PRECINCTS.

- 1 Mr. P. J. Rooney supplied most of the information concerning the advent of the railroad and the business enterprises in Brayton. See Appendix.
- 2 Information given by Mr. James McClung, Greeley, 1938.
- 3 Mrs. Thomas Ryan told of her arrival in Brayton, in a visit in September 1938.
- 4 Information given by Mrs. Will Welsh in August, 1938. Mr. Welsh succeeded to the post office and some member of the Welsh family has been in charge of the office ever since.
- 5 U. S. Postal Records.
- 6 Interview with Mr. Willoughby in September, 1938.
- 7 Interview with Mrs. W. E. Daily, at her home in Scotia, September, 1938.
- 8 Interview with Will Standish, while on a visit to Greeley, in September, 1938.
- 9 Information given by Mr. George Vanosdall, Greeley.
- 10 Interview with Miss Eliza Judge, Belfast, September, 1938.
- 11 Visit with Mr. J. F. Donovan, summer, 1937
- 12 Information supplied by Mr. Lester Bengel, summer 1938.
- 13 Information from newspaper story, Greeley Independent, 1886.
- 14 Mrs. Mina Madison, of Greeley in November, 1938, gave the incidents about the Madison family. Mrs. Madison was the daughter of Herman Iberg, who came to Greeley county in the late nineties in a covered wagon and settled on a homestead in Parnell precinct.
- 15 U. S. Postal Records. Other dates supplied by old residents.
- 16 Mr. Johnson related these early events to the writer in November, 1938.
- 17 Interview with Mr. McCune in September, 1938, who believes the "sand hill" section of Greeley county is a surer crop country than most of the hard land in the county. He says there has not been a complete failure of crops in forty years in the sand hills.
- 18 Mrs. J. S. Everett of Scotia, told the writer the incidents concerning her family.
- 19 U. S. Postal Records.

FREEMAN VALLEY

- 1 Mrs. M. McBeth, Spalding, related the events concerning her family in November, 1938.
- 2 The early experiences of Mr. Horton were related by his wife, Mrs. Mary Horton, in the fall of 1938.
- 3 Interview with Mr. Edward Hahn.
- 4 Interview with Mrs. J. J. Doyle, who gave the dates of her parents arrival in Greeley county.
- 5 Mrs. Charles Walsh told of the arrival of her father and uncles.
- 6 Interview with Mrs. G. O. Landon, November, 1938.
- 7 Information given by Mr. John Barry.
- 8 Mrs. Doyle has told the story of the rain and leaky roof many times in her later life, and could laugh at some of the experiences and hardships she and her family went through.

SCHOOLS

- 1 All of the information referring to schools was secured from the school records in the office of the county superintendent. The program given at the institute was taken from the Greeley Independent for August 26, 1887.

The stories of prairie fires and blizzards were taken from old newspaper files, and were related by various old residents.

The history concerning the Boston-Erina colony was given to the writer by Mr. John P. Barry in various interviews in 1938.

INTERVIEWS

Between October 1937 and January 15, 1939, the writer had interviews with the following:

Mr. George W. McAnulty, Mrs. W. E. Daily, Mrs. J. S. Everett, Mrs. Fred Stanner, Mrs. H. S. Waldrip, Mrs. Mary Horton, Mrs. Will Sommer, Mrs. George Sautter, Mr. John Schoemaker and Mr. M. G. Williams, editor of the Scotia Register of Scotia, Nebraska.

Mrs. Elizabeth Welsh, Mrs. R. S. Moody and Mr. J. D. Willoughby of Horace, Nebraska.

Mr. D. D. McCarthy, Mrs. Mary Connell, Mrs. J. S. Kinnier, Mr. J. C. Sullivan, Mrs. Joseph Ballweg, Mrs. Edward Phaelan, Mr. Michael Gilroy, Mrs. Michael Gilroy, Mr. Edward Gilroy, Mrs. M. McBeth, Mrs. Mary Lanigan, Mrs. Henry Carlin, Mrs. Nicholas Fox, Mr. Chris Weber, Mr. Richard Walsh, Dr. M. M. Sullivan, Mrs. John Dunning, Mrs. Edward Crennan, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Naughtin, Miss Jessie Murphy, Mr. G. V. Tyler, editor of the Spalding Enterprise, and Mrs. G. V. Tyler of Spalding.

Mrs. Nettie Correll, Mrs. John Wibbels, Mr. E. H. Davis, Mr. Eric Hansen, Mr. C. M. Dollarhide, Mr. Ernest Rother, Mrs. Ernest Rother, Mrs. Polly Marcoe, Mr. Alfred Larson, Mr. Peter Madsen, Mr. Ole Nordlund, editor of the Wolbach Messenger, Mrs. John Nestor and Mr. M. H. Teilmann of Wolbach, Nebraska.

Mr. Joseph Fogarty, Mrs. Sarah Kavanaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Michael T. Kavanaugh, Mrs. James Keating, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Costello and Mrs. Walter McSharry of O'Connor, Nebraska.

Mr. John Gibbons, Mr. William McBride and Mr. and Mrs. George Birt of Brayton, Nebraska.

Mr. P. J. Rooney, Mr. George McCarthy, Mr. J. J. Dewhurst, Mr. J. M. Lanigan, Mr. Timothy Foley, Mr. Charles A. Harris, Mr. George Milne, Mr. J. H. Maginn, Mrs. J. H. Maginn, Mr. James McClung, Mr. John P. Barry, Mr. T. J. Howard, Mr. Wilfred Murphy, Judge J. L. Scott, Dr. J. L. Brannen, Mr. J. H. Brannen, Mrs. J. H. Brannen, Mr. M. J. Moore, Mr. Bevin Monchieff, Mr. Philip Kerrigan, Mr. A. L. Hepp, Mr. C. A. McIntyre, Mr. T. J. Muphy, Mr. Michael McCarthy, Reverend J. T. Sawyer, Mr. Thomas Gannon, Mr. John Bohan, Mrs. Mary Doyle, Mrs. Ellen Starrett, Mrs. Mary McCarthy, Mrs. W. H. Bolin, Mrs. Lydia Murray, Miss Mary Gannon, Miss Anna Cannon, Mrs. John Kavanaugh, Miss Ida Foster, Mrs. Mae Cantwell, Mrs. Alice Colby, Mrs. Lloyd Lammers, Mrs. Edward Hahn, Mrs. Thomas Ryan, Mrs. D. D. Tarr, Mrs. Tena Farris, Mr. Dick Knox, Mr. E. J. Martin, Mrs. Thomas J. Murphy, Mr. Leo Harris, Mrs. Nell Marlowe, Mr. Louis Johnson, Mrs. Louis Johnson, Mrs. G. O. Landon, Mrs. Gus Anderson, Mrs. L. A. Winchell, Mrs. Mina Madison, Mr. George Vanosdall, Mrs. Harry Pratt, Mr. Lester Bengel, Mrs. Mary Kiplinger, Mrs. Mary Moran, Mrs. F. B. Anderson, Mr. Edward Hahn, Mr. James McDonald, Mrs. P. J. Kerrigan, Mrs. Anna Tierney, Mr. Frank Harrabill, Mr. Ross Johnson, Mr. Nels Peterson, Mrs. Asa Watt Mrs. J. L. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. G. S. Bowen, Mrs. Sophia Sautter, Mrs. J. Leo Moore, Mrs. J. L. Brannen, Mrs. T. J. Finn, Mrs. Nan Miner, Mrs. Anna Foley, Mr. Lawrence Leary, Miss Sarah McManus, Mr. James McManus, Mrs. Thomas

McFadden, Mrs. P. J. Rooney, Mrs. Clifford Thompson and Miss Helen Fitzpatrick of Greeley, Nebraska.

Mr. Thomas W. Lanigan, Washington, D. C. Mrs. Sarah White, Los Angeles, California. Mrs. Mansell Davis, North Loup, Nebraska. Mrs. Ella Van Skike, Marquette, Nebraska.

COUNTY OFFICERS.

In October, 1873, the general election of county officers was held with the following results: David Moore, Commissioner; A. Gillespie, Jr., Clerk, S. C. Scott, Treasurer; J. A. Buchan, Sheriff; L. P. Phillips, Judge; E. G. Davis, Surveyor, J. G. Kellogg, Supt. of Schools and C. H. Wellman, Coroner.

At the annual fall election 1875, Mansell Davis and N. Worden were elected Commissioners; A. Gillespie, Clerk; O. M. Harris, Judge; John Sheldon, Treasurer; John Viary, Sheriff; E. G. Davis, Surveyor; Mansell Davis, Superintendent of Schools and Charles Wellman, coroner.

David Moore was elected commissioner in 1876.

At the general election on the 12th of November 1877, H. A. Hall was elected commissioner. W. M. Shaw, judge; S. W. Bilyeau, clerk; John Sheldon, treasurer. M. Davis, superintendent of schools; W. M. Shaw, surveyor; C. H. Wellman, coroner.

Daniel Sullivan was elected commissioner, November 5, 1878.

In November 1879, J. B. Paddock was elected commissioner; S. W. Bilyeau, clerk; John Sheldon, treasurer; A. M. Thayer, sheriff; J. J. Bean, judge; J. S. Crow, surveyor; S. E. Horton, superintendent and Michael Nestor, coroner.

November 2, 1880, Lewis Herbert, was elected commissioner and James Lewis, surveyor.

The election of 1881 resulted as follows; T. C. Phelan, clerk; T. P. Lanigan, treasurer; J. J. Bean, judge; A. M. Thayer, sheriff; S. E. Horton, superintendent; Ira Bishop, surveyor; W. H. Oles, coroner and F. M. Tully, commissioner.

In 1882, W. M. Shaw, surveyor and H. N. Milne, commissioner.

In 1883, Lewis Herbert, clerk; T. P. Lanigan, treasurer; James Lewis, judge; A. B. Lewis, superintendent; Ira Bishop, surveyor; G. W. Norton was elected sheriff; John O'Connor, commissioner and J. B. Montgomery, coroner.

In 1884, John Price, coroner; Fred M. Tulley, commissioner.

In 1885, T. D. Connell, clerk; William B. Weeks, treasurer; N. H. Parks, judge; Thomas Cantwell, sheriff; T. J. Stoetzel, superintendent; J. P. Noonan, surveyor. M. B. Rafter, coroner and M. Cahill, commissioner.

In 1886, H. S. Sprecher was elected as the first county attorney; Henry La-French; was elected commissioner that year.

In 1887, John Kavanaugh, clerk; W. B. Weeks, treasurer; N. H. Parks, judge; John A. Foster, sheriff; T. J. Stoetzel, superintendent; Ira Bishop, surveyor; A. C. Woodward, coroner; C. F. Meehan, commissioner.

In 1888, M. B. Gearon, attorney and P. W. Steelsmith, commissioner.

In 1889, John Kavanaugh, clerk; H. N. Parks, judge; J. J. Phelan, sheriff; Walter Rowe, superintendent; D. R. Toomey, surveyor; O. Groham, coroner; M. Hallebarger, commissioner.

In 1890, B. F. Griffith, attorney.

In 1891, John Kavanaugh, clerk; E. F. Cashman, treasurer, Luke Finn, sheriff (served as sheriff until 1897); W. H. Oles, judge; B. P. Crunican, superintendent; L. J. Doane, coroner and J. D. West, surveyor.

In 1892, James R. Swain was elected County Attorney.

In 1893, J. A. Peterson, clerk; H. A. Martin, treasurer; W. H. Oles, judge; T. J. Stoetzel, superintendent; G. S. Bowen, coroner; L. Brazille, surveyor; C. Weber, Mart Nealon and J. G. Kellogg, commissioners.

In 1894, Harvey L. Gano, attorney; W. J. Doyle, coroner, C. Weber and J.

P. Sampson, commissioners.

In 1895, J. A. Peterson, clerk; H. A. Martin, treasurer; Patrick O'Neill, judge; T. J. Stoetzel, superintendent; W. J. Doyle, coroner; A. B. Story, commissioner (served until 1901.)

In 1896, J. R. Swain, attorney (served as county attorney until succeeded by T. J. Howard in 1910.)

In 1897, James Fox, clerk; E. M. Humphrey, treasurer; M. McBeth, sheriff; James B. Barry, judge; G. S. Bowen, coroner; J. D. West, surveyor; J. H. Sullivan, commissioner; A. J. O'Malley, superintendent of schools.

In 1898, A. B. Story, was re-elected county commission from the 1st district.

In 1899, all officers elected in 1897 were re-elected. J. L. White succeeded J. P. Sampson as commissioner from the 2nd district.

In 1900, M. J. Keenan was elected commissioner from the 3rd district.

Taken from the Election Records, office of county clerk.

PUPILS IN COUNTY SCHOOLS.

According to the Census book in the office of the county superintendent, pupils in District Number 1 in 1874 were: George Alderman, Nannie Buchan, Thomas, Joseph, Jane, Sarah, Celah and Mary Hillman, Sarah Hayden, Sarah and Florence Gillespie, Harry Bailey and Nettie Philips.

In District Number 2 in 1874 were: Christopher, Catherine, Elizabeth and Christine Grosse, Minnie and Katie Benson, Maudie Shephard, Mollie, Belle, Susie, Dessie and Carrie Scott and Lillian Moore.

In District Number 3—Rosa, Eva and Nina Furrow, William and Nettie Elliot, Hawley, Milton and Tom Jaynes, Winnie and Carrie Babcock.

District Number 4 in 1878—Cara Evarts, Mary Cox, Robert, James and Isabella Patterson, Charles Philips, John, Thomas, Mary, Maggie and Anna Sullivan, Eugene Sullivan, John Dennis, Mary and Ellen Sullivan, Peter and May Schlaff, Erwin, Ruth, Helen and Mary Shaw, William and Clara Tully, Thomas, James and Isabelle Vert.

In District Number 4 in 1880, there were: Eugene Sullivan, John and Mary McGath, Jane, Bell, Tommy and John Patterson, James Montgomery, Benjamin Roberts, Maggie and Hanna Snell, James Vert, Anna McCarthy, Dennis Snell, Sarah, Joseph and Rebecca Hughes, John McAlister, Helen and Erwin Shaw, Mary and Millie Cox, Bernice Tully, Kate Meehan, Alexander, Mary E., Katie and John McArthur, John Crennen, Isabella and Rebecca Crennen.

District Number 5 in 1880—Harry Gillespie, Cora Green, John, Willie and Russel Hinecky, McClellon, Fredrick and Minnie McIntyre, Martha Sinclair, Minnie, Charley, Amy and Mary Cook and James Tatlow.

Number 6 in 1880—Jennie Nabell, Charles and Mamie Craig, Charles and George Drawbridge, Christina, Mary and Anna Grose, Robert, Susie, George and Henry Colvin, William Moore, Milan, Edwin, Willie and Maud Standish, Mary and Willie Bean, Ed and Jesse Leary, Mary and Jennie Kneeland, Eta May, Mary Bell, William, Sarah and Charles Seaver, Ida Sheldon, John Beck, William and Margaret Curry, Effie, Christina and Mary Bright and James and William Jukes.

In 1878 in District Number 7 there were 22 pupils among seven families. By 1880 there were 65 pupils and 24 families. Listed were: John, Anna and James Cannon, Nellie Smith, Michael, Joseph, John and Patrick Murphy, Patrick, Mary Ann, James, Roger and John Fitzpatrick, John, James, Marcus, Domic and Thomas O'Connor, Lydia, Kate, Dominic and Rose Gaffney, Mary, Sarah and Lydia Taylor, Thomas John, Maggie, Nellie and Joseph Conway, Rosa, Anna, Nellie, Maggie and Joseph Dolan, Joseph, John, Mary, Raymond and James McFadden, May and Maggie Green, Michael and Bridget Mulcahy, Blanche Powers, Mary Burke, Rose Long, Ellen, Thomas and Frank Foster, Nicholas, Richard, Thomas and Patrick Murphy.

In District Number 8 in 1880 were: Jennie Hamilton, Al and Clarence Jeffries, E. H. and Park Stubblefield, Will, Arnie, John, Eta and Albert Miller, R., Willie and Perry Johnson, G. C., J. E. and Ivy Barker and Nellie Johnson.

Five families were listed in District Number 9—H. A. Hill, A. N. Harris, J. Harris, M. Nestor and A. M. Thayer.

In District Number 9 in 1880 were: Katie, Mary, James, Rose, John and Nicholas Maginn, Julia Heston, A. and F. Harris, Bridget Costello, Ida Gleason, John Whipple, Eve, Ed, John, Jacharia, Lincoln, Ada and Mason Harris, Carrie Hill, Mary Hill, C. and W. Wilcott, C., Ellen, Lawrence, Myrtie and E. M. Nestor, Ernest Thayer, Maudie, Delia T. and E. Holsonsworth, John, Michael, Katie, Martin, Patrick and

Julia Lavelle and Melvin, Clara, Jennie and Maggie Rowe.

District Number 10—Clara Bell, Mary Evarts, Bridget, Mary, Michael and Anthony Gilroy, Amos and Henry Leonard, Joseph Neis, Sarah Gardner, Peter and Mary Schlaf, Ellen and Henry Sullivan and William, Clara and Bernice Tully.

District Number 11 in 1879—Avina, Willie and Gertrude Davis, Elmer Perry, Mary, Anna and Maggie McManus, Stella and Louis Paddock, and Georgina, William, Charlotte and Mary Rutherford.

District Number 12, 1879—Myrtie Griffith, Frank, James and Arthur McMillian, Henrietta, Martin and David Meyer and Mary Sautter.

In District Number 14 in 1880 were: James, Patrick, John and Frank Barry, Mary, Margaret, Andrew and Tom Philips, Henry Leonard, Michael and Mary Gilroy, Bridget, Mary, Michael and Anthony Gilroy and Peter and James Murphy.







