



# Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541  
Fremont NE 68026-0541



April 2018

Mares Meeting room: 1722 E 19<sup>th</sup> street

Meeting : April 9 - Former Nebraska Communities  
by Nancy Eckles, Mike George, and Judi Cook

Browse Nlte: April 23

"DNA surprises" was the March program topic. Unusual matches, matches with people who did not provide any family information and matches with people who provided information but no common ancestors were identified were mentioned. Ancestry DNA circles that appear and disappear were discussed and remain unsolved puzzles.

Continuing with Saunders County:

Saunders County materials located in the ENGS library:

- A Century of Grace – Grace Lutheran Church 1870 – 1970  
Swedeburg, NE
- Biographical sketches of leading citizens – Saunders and Sarpy  
Counties, NE with index (1900)
- Cedar Bluffs, NE - In Days past 1886 – 1986
- Cedar Bluffs, NE – Centennial book - Where the Pioneer Spirit  
Lives On – Mrs. Darwin Peterson
- Centennial History of Prague Presbyterian Church 1879-1979
- Centennial History of Prague, NE ( Not church history?) 1879-1979
- Ceresco – Town History 1868 – 1977 – Index
- Mead Centennial 1877 - 1977
- Morse Bluffs, NE 1887-1897 (Also Index to Names and Photos)
- Sacred Heart Centennial – Cedar Hill (Morse Bluffs) with index
- Saunders County, NE – Early History – Cedar Hill, Pahuk Hill,  
Barrett Cemetery Etc
- Saunders County, NE – 1918 Atlas (Plat) Book
- Saunders County, NE - 1962 Atlas (Oversize)
- Saunders County, NE - Pictorial History 1866 – 1992
- Saunders County, NE – Early Settlers of Green & Wahoo  
Precincts by D JoAnn Schiefelbein
- Saunders County, NE History – 1983 (2<sup>nd</sup> copy missing from shelf)
- Saunders County, NE – 1985 Rural Resident Directory
- Saunders County, NE –St John the Baptist Catholic Church 1901 –  
2001 – Prague NE

- Saunders County Plat Books 1957, 62(oversize),  
67,68,71,75,76,77,78,80,83,85, and 87
- Saunders County Cemeteries before 1977 + some updated in 2002
- Saunders County WWI registration list
- Saunders County, NE – large map (undated)

St Cyril + Methodius Plasi NE – Centennial History of Prague  
Presbyterian Church

Wahoo, NE - Nebraska Centennial Newspaper 1867 – 1967 &  
Wahoo Centennial Newspaper 1870-1970

Weston, NE - Centennial 1876 – 1976 with all name index

Yutan Centennial 1876 - 1976

From Andreas' History of the State of Nebraska  
Published 1882 - Saunders County

## Saunders County population by Township

	1910	1900	1890
<b>Saunders</b>	21179	22,035	21,577
Ashland	1608	1780	1822
Bohemia	488	516	597
Cedar	1424	1342	1195
Center	858	866	910
Chapman	1040	1159	1146
Chester	1018	962	801
Clear Creek	902	859	817
Douglas	537	572	1208
Elk	763	816	888
Greene	670	729	753
Leshara	384		
Marble	766	802	814
Marietta	848	937	921
Mariposa	951	1002	918
Morse Bluffs	504	543	
Newman	587	649	668
Oak Creek	1161	1292	1016
Pohocco	539	877	899
Richland	1076	1156	1111
Rock Creek	617	748	692
Stocking	2874	2884	
Union	790	845	779
Wahoo	821	709	738

(The map in the upper right hand corner shows 1907 counties)

## EDUCATION.

With persons who find it necessary to sever the ties of relationship, acquaintance and the many endearing home scenes which bind them to their childhood's home and migrate to the far West, there is probably no tie stronger than that of the convenience of the common schools. To such we would say,

that though you leave good schools in the East, you will find just as good in the West, taught by teachers of unquestioned ability, education and energy. True and efficient teachers, who are ever willing to take the little stranger by the hand, welcome him to the associations of our warm-hearted Western homes, and teach him self-reliance, whereby he may be enabled to stem the tide of hindrances and pass with honor to his merited standard. In educational interests, Saunders County is in no wise behind her sister counties. Her teachers are possessed of sterling merit, her buildings large, roomy and healthful, and her society and home influences of strict moral rectitude.

In history we go back to 1869, and find that Saunders County formed its first school district at Ashland. During the winter of 1869-70, the county received its first apportionments of the State school fund, amounting to \$762.91--the first being issued December 27, 1869, the second February 24, 1870--and the records show that nine districts were established during this school year. There were 337 children of school age. At the close of 1870, thirty-three districts had been established, and nine teachers were employed. There were 814 children of school age, 210 of whom were attending school. Two frame buildings had been erected, and one log and one sod house, making a total of four, valued at \$584.90, and a total indebtedness for school purposes of \$294.66. Highest wages paid males, \$37.50; females, \$25. Lowest wages paid males, \$25; females, \$15 (per month).

In 1869, A. S. Pancoast was elected County Superintendent, and receives the honor of the historian. Two years later, at the close of 1872, we first find Walter Fleming occupying the official chair. The number of districts has increased to sixty-nine; number of children of school age, 2,068; number attending school, 917, taught by twenty-six male and thirty-six female teachers, whose wages average \$37.41 and \$24 respectively. The county owns twenty-two frame houses, one brick, four sod and one log, which sum up a total valuation of \$21,198.02.

Superintendent C. M. Whitney's term of office includes the years 1873-74, and, in 1875, when Superintendent S. H. Knepper assumed his duties--in which we pass over an interval of two prosperous years--we are able to report ninety-six school districts and 3,390 children of school age in the county; sixty-seven male and sixty female teachers are instructing 2,391 pupils, receiving wages that will average \$34.33 and \$24.93 per month. There are one brick and one sod and seventy-seven frame schoolhouses, valued at \$52,586.21.

The present incumbent, Superintendent J. A. Smith, served his first term in 1877-78, and at the close of this initiatory term, we quote the following statistics from his records: "Number of school districts, 101. Number of children attending school, 3,169; number of school age, 4,523. Highest wages paid teachers--males, \$100; females, \$45; lowest--males, \$23.33; females, \$20 per month. Number of teachers employed--male, 58; female, 78. Frame schoolhouses, 88; brick, 1; sod, 1. Value of school property, \$55,662.95. District indebtedness, \$33,249.21."

Superintendent A. W. Vandman held the office in 1879-80, and, in 1881, Superintendent Smith was again re-elected. Under his careful management the schools are rapidly assuming a state nearly perfect in system and discipline. He reports the schools of Saunders County in a very flourishing condition, which the following statistics will bear out: Number of school districts, 103. Number of children of school age, 5,793. Number attending school, 4,083. Number of male teachers, 56; female, 85. Highest wages paid--males, \$75; females, \$45; lowest--males \$22.50; females, \$20. Number of schoolhouses--frame, 100; brick, 1.

Valuation of school property, \$58,269.75, with a total indebtedness of \$24,608.32. In 1880, the county received from the State fund \$4,984.87 for school purposes; from the revenue of licenses, \$307.50, and from dog tax, \$986.22.

Mr. W. P. Snell was chosen the first School Director, and Mr. C. A. Miller, assisted by Miss Gertie Clark, are the first to teach in the county. S. H. Nichols is the second School Director, and Albert Nichols, with Miss Nancy Tower as assistant, are the next teachers employed.

In May, 1875, a teachers' institute was organized, with twenty-two members present, and another was called in August during the same year. Superintendent C. M. Whitney was elected Chairman; H. N. Rogers, Treasurer; and Miss Hattie Pickett, Secretary. Since that time, the institution has held regular sessions, and is now conceded to be one of the first in the State.

**(If you have more information about this early Teachers institute, please contact [renee bunck@gmail.com](mailto:renee bunck@gmail.com))**

**Early Saunders County schoolhouse from Wikipedia**



**For more information about Saunders County, please visit the NGenWeb Saunders County web site at:**

**<http://www.negenweb.net/NESaunders>**

**or contact**

**Saunders County Historical Society and Museum  
240 N. Walnut Street  
Wahoo, NE 68066**

**402-443-3090**