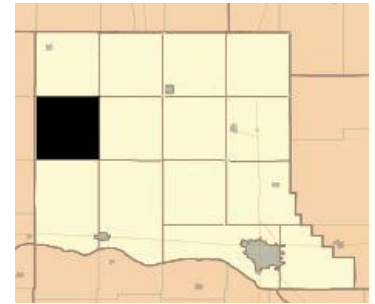




# Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541  
Fremont NE 68026-0541



August 2017

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

MEETING: Aug 14 7 PM

Topic: LeMay Anderson will share tips from  
presentations at the 2017 NE State Genealogy Meeting

BROWSE NITE: Aug 28 7 PM  
Come and enjoy the ENGS Library

Pleasant Valley Township - From the 1921 publication  
*History of Dodge and Washington Counties, Nebraska*

Pleasant Valley Township is situated on the west line of Dodge County, second from the north line, and hence comprises Congressional township 19, range 5, east. It is bounded on the north by Webster Township, on the east by Ridgeley Township, on the south by Union and on the west by Colfax County. This is another of the civil subdivisions of Dodge County in which there are no towns or villages, neither a railroad.

## Scheduled Programs:

Sept 11 – Annual Research “Show and Tell”

Oct 9 – Humanities: First Homestead/Homestead Act

Nov 13 – Stories of Ancestors who served in any war

Up to 1886 this township was included in Webster precinct, but at the time this precinct system of the county was changed to township government, it was changed to conform to its present territory and its domain has since been known as "Pleasant Valley Township."

## 1887 Pleasant Valley Township Landowner map

**Pioneer Settlement** A single man named James Ferguson is supposed to have been the first person to permanently locate within this township. He claimed land in section 24 in the autumn

of 1868. In the early spring of 1869 came John Ross, locating in section 22. He homesteaded a quarter section and became a permanent figure in Dodge County. He had served in the army and navy of the United States from 1861 to 1865.

John L. Brown came here in June, 1869, and pre-empted a quarter section of land in section 10. He also took a homestead of eighty acres in the same section. John Emanuel, of section 28, this township, was postmaster and storekeeper at Pleasant Valley, was numbered among the pioneers of this township. He came in during 1869, taking a homestead.

Among those who came to this township from other parts of Dodge County may be recalled: Eben Ives, who first located in section 32, Ridgeley Township, but later moved over to section 36, Pleasant Valley. Also James Robertson, who came with his family and located in section 14 in March of that year, but later moved to section 26. Joseph Cross came to Fremont in the early autumn of 1870. In the spring of 1871 he rented in Union Township. In 1872 he homesteaded in section 28, where he died in August, 1891. Henry Rose came to the county in 1870 and made his settlement in Pleasant Valley Township in 1871. John Andrews took



his homestead of a quarter section in section 8, in the fall of 1870. He had been a soldier in the Civil war and therefore entitled to a quarter of a section in his homestead.

Besides those already named as being settlers in Pleasant Valley Township in 1870, were also these : James Harvie, whose parents settled in section 14; Henry Sturbaum, section 2; John Arps, section 32; in 1871 came Hans P. Stoltenberg, located a homestead which had been claimed by another, in section 28, but he paid the former claimant \$100 and thus secured what soon came to be a valuable place. In 1873 Peter Emanuel located in this township, purchasing railroad land. Edwin Hook also located in section 6 that year.

Frederick Zadehoff, of section 31, came to Dodge County in 1874 and bought 200 acres of land. Hon. Charles Feichtinger, section 22, came to Dodge County in 1868. He was a native of Germany where he mastered the jewelry trade. He came direct from the fatherland to Dodge County, Nebraska. Jacob Longacre came in the spring of 1873. John Haase, section 29, dated his settlement from the spring of 1880. Frederick Haase settled in section 19, in 1883.

In 1869 when John Ross came to this township he found residing here: William, John and James Ferguson, who belonged to a Scotch colony on the eastern line of the township. They all came in 1869 ; John Johnson, who took a homestead, came that year, and later moved to North Bend. William Ross came in 1870 and took his homestead, remained until 1884, when he sold and went back to New York State. He sold to John Hair. John Ross came in 1877, purchased railroad land in section 27, remained in the township until 1889, then moved to Box Butte County. Hon. John R. Cantlin, section 26, came in as a homesteader in 1870.

Quite a goodly number of Germans located in the northeast part of the township in 1870; these included the family of Martin Heckenroder, in section 12. Charles Warnsdorf claimed a part of section 22. J. W. Porter bought him out in 1881, and he returned to Germany. He was an odd, character, but highly educated. He had been wealthy before coming to this country, but had spent most of his fortune before settling here. He took a homestead and lived a single man, doing his own cooking. Other early settlers were Thomas M. Stubbett and Hugh Robertson.

It may be stated that many of the first settlers in this part of Dodge County were young single men, who took land, made rude houses from sod and other cheap material, and then sent for their intended wives, their marriage taking place after they had arrived from some of the older settled places in the East, and in many cases from across the great Atlantic Ocean. It took stout hearts and strong bodies to thus leave home and firesides where they had been reared and attempt to make a home in a wild, prairie land like Nebraska was at that date. These women made the best wives and mothers and have certainly accomplished their share of developing this township and county. The first marriage in this township was that of James Ferguson. This marriage was dated sometime in 1869.

**Schools and Churches** The first school was held in a sod shanty. Reverend Wilson, of North Bend, held the first religious Prior to 1890 there were two cemeteries laid out in this township — one in section 28, and one in section — "Pleasant Valley" and "Glencoe." It is likely that the first death in the township was that of the mother of John L. Brown. The first birth recorded was that of Bessie Ferguson, May 22, 1869, the daughter of John and Jane Ferguson.

**PostOffice** Pleasant Valley postoffice was established in 1871, with Matthew Stubbett first postmaster, section 34. Other postmasters were: Messrs. Huffland, Hans P. Stoltenberg, section 28, who was followed by John Emanuel. The postmaster then conducted a general store.

## Early settler items found in the ENGS "tickler" files

### Fremont Weekly Tribune Nov 20, 1879

NOTICE Land Office at Norfolk Neb., Oct 30, 1879  
Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed final notice of his intention to make final proof in the support of his claim, and secure final entry thereof at the expiration of thirty days from the date of this notice:

John Arps of Pleasant Valley, Dodge Co., Nebraska for W ½ S W ¼ section 32 19 range 5 East and names the following as his witnesses, viz: John C. Marquardt of Mapleville, Neb., and Peter Wickhorst of Mapleville, Neb. P. Schwenk No. 17 5 t

### Fremont Semi-Weekly Tribune Oct 27, 1890

Charles Feichtinger, alliance nominee for the legislature, also placed on the republican legislative ticket in the place of John Ross, who declined to accept the nomination, is one of Dodge county's best farmer citizens, and a man who commands the respect and possesses the confidence of all with whom he is acquainted.

Mr. Feichtinger was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1846, Emigrated to America in the winter of 1869, filed a homestead claim in the following spring and has been a resident of the county ever since. Mr. F. possessed no capital to start on but through good management and industry he is now the owner of 240 well tilled acres, is out of debt and has a few dollars beside. Has held several positions of trust at the hands of his friends, having served two years as justice of the peace in his township, Pleasant Valley, and is at present president of the German Farmer's club of Pleasant Valley. He is also a worthy member of the Patrons of Husbandry.

Mr. Feichtinger received his education wholly in the public schools of Germany, having never attended a school where the English language was taught, but took pains at an early date after his arrival in this country to master the English language, in which he has succeeded admirably, as is evident by the excellent business letters he writes... In closing, it may be said that all affairs, in the next legislature may be safely entrusted to Mr. Feichtinger's keeping.

### Fremont Tribune May 24, 1906

Adventures of Eben Ives – Stirring Experiences of Old Settler of Dodge County who died last week. After having been confined to his bed for only a short time, Eben Ives passed away at 10:40 p.m. last Wednesday, aged 78 years 6 months. During the many years of his activity in life he was an influential and highly respected man.

Eben Ives was born in Newton Falls, Trumble county, Ohio, Nov 18, 1827. His boyhood he spent on a farm with his parents. When he reached the age of 16 years he went to Burlington, Ia., where he resided for 6 years. At this time he took the gold fever as did many others in his locality, and started west across the plains in company with a train of "forty niners" headed for California. Many were the hardships and narrow escapes from death through which he passed during the three long years that he spent in the gold fields but he was fortunate financially and in 1852 went to the coast and took a ship for New York by way of Panama and returned to his parents in Ohio. A few years later he again went to Iowa and invested in livestock and land upon which he resided for nearly ten years.

On May 8, 1862 he was married to Miss Caroline Arnold of Burlington, Ia. They fitted up a "prairie schooner" and started across the plains and spent 6 years in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. In 1868 he boarded a boat at Fort Benton, Mont., and sailed down the Missouri river to Omaha, Neb. In the following year he settled on a homestead in Dodge county and afterward purchased 400 acres of other land, which he lived on and farmed until seven years ago when he lost his eye site. He spent the remainder of his life in North Bend.

He is survived by a wife and seven children. They are: Mrs. Kate Word, Mrs. Anna Hastings, Mrs. Nellie Reece, Mrs. Belle Cruickshank, Mrs. Daisy Devine, Edgar A. Ives, Eben A. Ives.