



Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541
Fremont NE 68026-0541



Feb 2018

Membership Renewal Time for 2018 – Your \$15 annual dues and generous donations make it possible for ENG S to research, produce, and share our publications and to provide access to resource materials for Eastern Nebraska family researchers. Thank you for being a part of ENG S.

Those with membership numbers ending in -17 will find an envelope enclosed, addressed to ENG S PO Box 541 Fremont NE 68026-0541 to facilitate sending your 2018 dues.

MEETING: Feb 12, 2018 - 7 P.M.

Mares Meeting room: 1722 E 19th street

Topic — Come and share a story about an ancestor or family member with a significant accomplishment.

Feb 26, 2018 -- Browse Nite 7 P.M.

Come and visit or do research in the ENG S library

Here is information about early newspapers in Washington County from the 1921 publication, *History of Dodge and Washington Counties, Nebraska*

WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers of Blair—The Register—Washington Democrat (Defunct)—The Pilot—The Enterprise—The Tribune—The Times—The Courier—Kennard Weekly News—Herman Record—The Calhoun Chronicle—The County's Earliest Newspapers—The De Soto Bugle—De Soto Pilot—The Sun—Enquirer—Register—Nebraska Pioneer—Cuming Star.

Newspapers of Blair

From what seems to be reliable sources it is believed that the first newspaper in Blair was the Register, established in May, 1869, by Hilton & Son. January 1, 1870, L. F. Hilton, junior member of the firm, became editor and proprietor, publishing the paper until the following spring, having an actual circulation of 1,200 paying subscribers in Washington, Burt and Douglas counties. At this time the publication was suspended and the material sold under foreclosure of mortgage.

The next paper established in Blair was the Republican, started in June or July, 1870, as the Blair Times, by a stock company consisting of W. H. B. Stout and other citizens of Blair. Its first editor was J. C. Lillie. Gen. John S. Bowen succeeded Lillie as editor and edited a most excellent paper.

After numerous changes in proprietorship the property passed into the hands of C. B. Sprague in August, 1880, he succeeding Vic Lantry and others. Sprague changed the name from Times to Republican, also changed it to a republican organ. In 1904 it was purchased by Theo. T. Osterman and changed to a democratic paper and called the Democrat; it was merged with the Courier in 1907, and absorbed the Tribune in 1917 and the name "Democrat" dropped. The Tribune was founded by W. R.

Williams in 1907 and has been in the hands of the present owner, Thomas T. Osterman, since 1917.

The Blair Pilot

It is believed generally by the newspaper craft of Washington County that the first newspaper published in this county was the one known as the Register, just prior to the Pilot of today. It appears that what is now known as the Pilot was established at Tekamah, Burt County, in 1871, by J. Y. Lambert, but it was removed by him to Blair in 1874. In 1875 George Sutherland purchased it and L. F. Hilton became its editor. In 1879 Mr. Sutherland sold to B. F. Hilton, and son, L. F. Hilton.

Finally it became the property of the Pilot Printing Company, with L. A. Williams as its editor. The present owner, Don C. Van Deusen, purchased the paper July 1, 1907. This was at one time a progressive republican journal, but at present does not advertise its politics, but is supposedly "independent."

The Washington Democrat—Defunct

This newspaper was established by Blue and Sampson, September 22, 1881, in Blair, but November 28, that year, it was moved to Bell Creek (now Arlington), where after a five-months struggle it ceased to exist. Politically, this was a democratic organ, but in those times democrats were not very numerous in Washington County.

Blair Enterprise

This newspaper was established at Kennard in 1896 by E. L. Tiffany, of Kennard, who sold in 1913 to L. F. Hilton, of Kennard, who moved into Blair in August, 1913. Politically, it is an independent republican journal with a circulation in Washington County, mostly. In form and size it is of the eight-page six-column size. It is published each Thursday (originally on Friday).

The Blair Courier

The Courier was established at Blair the summer of 1889, Vol. 1, No. 18 bears date November 2 of that year. It was established by the Blair Publishing Company with W. H. Eller, associate editor, S. L. Hamilton, secretary and B. C. Maynard, manager. It was a six-column. It was merged in 1907 with the Democrat.

The Kennard Weekly News

This enterprising local newspaper was established at the Village of Kennard, June 14, 1916, and is an independent local journal with no special political trend. The paper was started by its present owner and editor, Otto F. Olsen.

The Herman Record

The Herman Record was established October 14, 1908, and among its publishers and owners have been: F. L. Fassett, Paul E. Hubbell, and present owner, H. L. Swan. The Record is a well edited and neatly printed paper and is duly appreciated by the large list of well satisfied patrons who find all the news of the community each week.

Danish Lutheran Publishing House Papers

The Danish Lutheran Publishing House at Blair publish and print the following publications that go broadcast all over the United States and Canada

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Danish Lutheran Kirkeblad is now 50 years old—published in Blair for 30 years. The Danskeren (a newspaper) was published in Wisconsin until 1899 since which it has been published in Blair, Nebraska. Since 1903 its editor has been Rev. A. M. Andersen.

Our Lutheran Youth—for young people) a semi-monthly is now 15 years old.

Bornebladet is now in its thirty-first year of publication. This is a Danish Sunday school paper.

The Little Lutheran—a Sunday School in English) in its eighth year of publication.

Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Blair, Nebraska, are the only two points in America where church papers are published by the Danish Lutheran Church. Their mailing list is immense—their postage bills are more than \$800 per year, all told.

Washington County's First Newspapers

The first newspaper published in Washington County, Nebraska, was the De Soto Bugle, established in 1856 at the little pioneer Village of De Soto, by Hon. Isaac Parrish, who in a speech over in Harrison County in 1859 declared that there would be railroads over the Rocky Mountains to the far off Pacific Coast within a score of years. The people called him "daffy," but it was only half that length of time before the Union Pacific Railroad was completed.

The next newspaper started in this county was the De Soto Pilot, established in 1857 by Merrick and Maguire; the third paper was the Washington County Sun, established in 1858 by Potter C. Sullivan, and the fourth paper was the De Soto Enquirer, established in 1858 by Z. Jackson. No other attempt at starting a newspaper in this county was made until 1869, when the Register was established at Blair, by B. F. Hilton and son. In 1870 the publication of the Blair Times was undertaken by a company made up of a number of citizens of the county.

The Nebraska Pioneer, a weekly newspaper was started under the management of a Mr. Dimmick, at Cuming City in 1857, and soon was numbered among the dead enterprises of the young "city." The Cuming City Star flashed out and made the second newspaper attempt in Cuming City, the date of its issue being 1858. It was a good weekly paper edited by L. M. Kline. This paper remained as long as there were any hopes for the town's future greatness.

The Calhoun Chronicle

Fort Calhoun's present local newspaper is the Chronicle, established about 1914 and is now conducted by its owner, Frank C. Adams.

For more information about early Washington County, NE. Please visit the Washington County Nebraska Genealogical Society website - <http://www.newashcogs.org/>

Note: ENGS does not have Washington County newspapers.

Washington County Schools

At the present time there are within the county forty-six school districts each provided with a good house for school purposes, varying in cost from \$500 to \$15,000. These houses will compare very favorably in appearance and accommodations with the schoolhouses in many of the older states and are well supplied with maps, charts, globes—in fact, all the necessary apparatus for teaching upon the most approved modern principles. There are annually employed in the county seventy-four teachers, male and female, and the total number of children of school age is 2,323.



LOG SCHOOLHOUSE

The First Courthouse and School Building

W. H. Woods, of Fort Calhoun, states that Bell's History of this county compiled in Centennial year, says : "A day school was opened by Miss Graham in 1856." And Benjamin Miller remembers well going to school to Miss Rhodes in 1865. But the first warrant we find recorded is marked No. 1, August 1, 1866, for \$190 to Miss Jennie Rhodes for school term beginning May 14th and ending August 6th and the same is signed by T. Bradley, clerk pro temp of the board of education. Receipts were found also for nine weeks board due to E. H. Clark for boarding teacher at \$4 a week, and washing bill amounting to \$6.40."

"Bell's History also states that a courthouse of cottonwood boards was built on the present school campus, by subscription, in 1856. E. N. Grennelle claims it was a schoolhouse, but he then lived in De Soto, and the Clarks and others who gave the money, tell us that it was a courthouse, and the late Governor L. Crouse told us that when he was circuit and supreme judge in this district, he held his first term of court in Washington County, in that building. In this building Senator Paddock, who homesteaded and studied law on the old Logan Fontanelle summer camp-ground, was in that building admitted to the bar and A. P. Allen told us that when the committee from the State Bar Association asked Paddock how much his fighting weight was, the color of his hair, etc., they asked him how much money he had and when they adjourned to Allen's store where the railway track is now—west of the depot—Paddock threw a \$20 gold piece, on the counter and said: 'Mr. Allen, these gentlemen look weary ; never mind the change.' "

"After the new building was erected the cottonwood became a tenement house and was accidentally burned down by a pan of hot ashes. The new building was one room frame. Hans Rohwer cut the sills and hewed them with a broad axe—the pine timber was hauled from Des Moines in wagons. Through the kindness of August Schroeder, we last month gave portions of these sills to E. E. Blackman for the Historical Society, both fine and sound, this year, 1919. Hans Schwager bought the building some years ago for a barn on his farm south of town and this year tore it down to make room for a new residence by Mr. Schroeder."