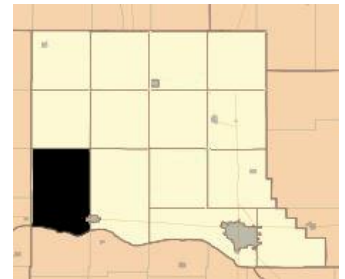




# Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541  
Fremont NE 68026-0541



July 2017

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

**MEETING: July 10 7 PM**

**Topic:** The Welsh in Nebraska  
Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project DVD

**BROWSE NITE: July 24 7 PM**

Claire continues to add to the Tickler file. We appreciate the efforts of several members to help file the latest finds.

The June 12 discussion on "Errors in family records" brought out descriptions of all kinds of errors made in recording family records – some accidental, some to cover a secret, and some caused by eagerness to complete a family record without carefully checking the details. Hopefully everyone is being careful to avoid or correct the errors that they encounter.

Alex Meyer called our attention to an error in our June Newsletter – actually an error in the 1921 publication *History of Dodge and Washington Counties, Nebraska* where reference was made to 1864 as the initial year for the Homestead Act. 1863 is the correct year for the first of the US Homestead Acts.

If you are interested in learning more about the Homestead Act, watch for more information about the Humanities presentation, "Daniel Freeman: Americas First Homestead" by Darrell W. Draper that will be scheduled in Fremont for our October 9<sup>th</sup> ENGS meeting.

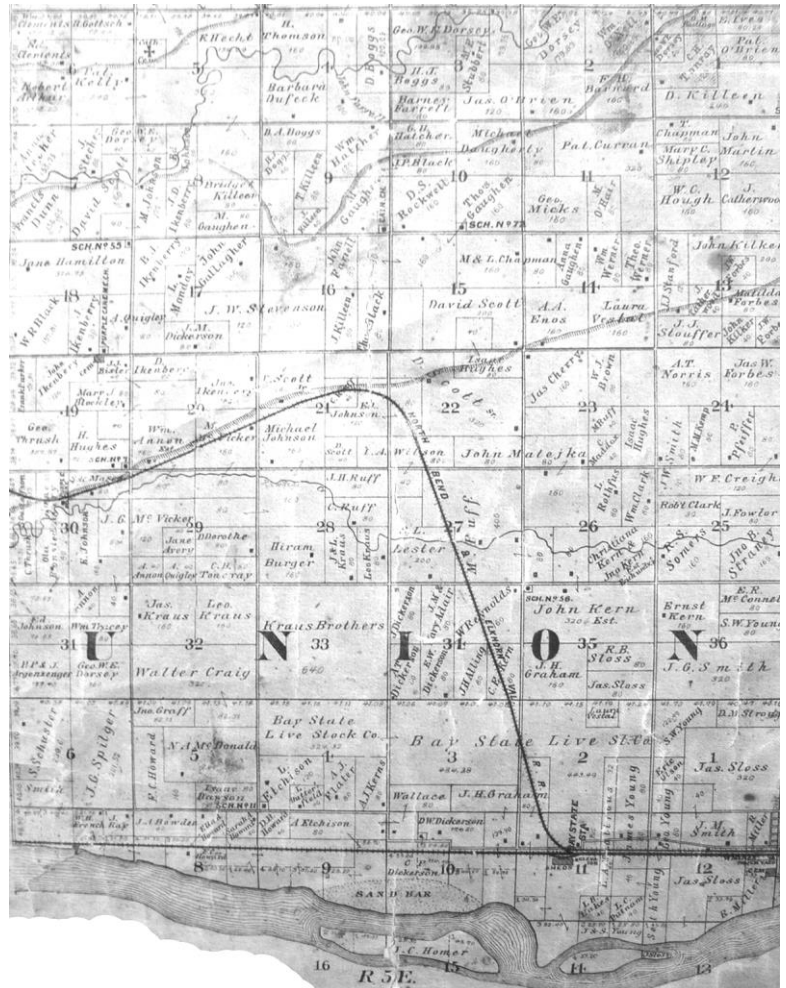
## UNION TOWNSHIP

From the 1921 publication *History of Dodge and Washington Counties, Nebraska*

Union Township has the distinction of being the first place where Dodge County's pioneer settlement was made—Union and Cotterell townships had the first, or 1856-57 colonies of immigrants within their borders. July 4, 1856, was "commencement day" for the county, for it was on that date that the newcomers camped and got their breakfast where now stands the thriving City of North Bend. This colony consisted of Robert Miller and family, and his brother, John, with his family; George Young and family; George McNaughton and family; William and Alexander Miller, single men and brothers of Robert and John Miller, also the sister Elizabeth, who became Mrs. Ely, of Fremont.

Robert Miller located in what is now Union Township, in section 12. William Miller settled later in Sarpy County, Nebraska, and Alexander in Utah. McNaughton becoming disheartened after a few days returned to his old home in the East. George Young remained and became one of the county's well-known citizens. He chose a part of section 12 for his home. His son, James R., when old enough took land in section 11. J. Mason Smith, a

## 1887 Union Township landowners



farmer of section 12, came to the county June, 1857, with Mathew S. Cotterell, Alexander Morrison and James Humphrey, who brought with them a steam sawmill.

In 1859 Michael Johnson pre-empted a part of section 8, Union Township, and there constructed a dugout in the side of the hill, and there he managed to live two years or more. He moved to his place in section 21 in the spring of 1877. His brother, Edward Johnson, located in the county in the spring of 1859, first locating on Maple Creek. About 1866 he homesteaded eighty acres in Union Township where he was living in the '90s. Part of section 18, this township, was settled by the parents of John M. Dickerson in the autumn of 1860. As soon as the homestead law went into force David Dickerson, the father, took his homestead.

Charles Thrush came to the county in March, 1861, and became a permanent settler in Union Township. David Scott, section 23, located in Dodge County in the autumn of 1863. Josiah Dickerson took a homestead in 1865, the same being in

section 34. James and William McVicker arrived in the spring of 1867, locating in sections 30 and 20 respectively. In the fall of 1866 Hiram Burger effected his settlement, rented until the summer of 1867, then homesteaded in section 28. Andrew Quigley came to Dodge County in 1869, rented land and finally settled permanently in section 18, Union Township.

Mathias Ruff and John Kern arrived in the spring of 1869. Ruff took a homestead in section 26. William R. Black, section 18, came to Dodge County in July, 1874; Thomas Gaughen, section 15, came in 1875, and Daniel A. Boggs, March, 1877. Later settlements were made by Martin Gaughen, section 9; William L. Hatcher, 1880; Joseph Krause, section 28, in the fall of 1881; George J. Campbell, manager of the Bay State Stock Farm, arrived in the county in 1882; C. M. Black, section 16, spring of 1884. Dennis Killeen came here in the spring of 1877; was a native of Ireland and arrived in America in 1868. His son became county clerk of Dodge County.

Another settler who should not be left from the record was James Sloss and family, who located in Union Township in October, 1858, locating in section 12. Eighteen hundred fifty-nine saw the following immigrants locate in the township: David Dickerson and family, of New Jersey, and John B. Waterman, of New York. Waterman remained until 1864 then removed to California. It should be here stated that during the eventful years of 1869-70, the greater portion of the land within this township was taken up by actual settlers, who flocked from all parts of the globe.

#### **Union Township pioneers from the ENGS Tickler files**

##### ***Fremont Tribune Jan 8, 1887***

Mr. George Young and Alex Thom leave, on Monday next, for Scotland. Mr. Young goes on a visit and Mr. Thom to bring back an invoice for thoroughbred Clydes for Mr. Mallon. It has been thirty-seven years since George Young left the green hills of his native country, and he expects everything will be somewhat strange to him.

Robinson, of the Bay State Stock Farm, took seven cars of cattle to South Omaha on Monday that averaged 1,391 pounds. This speaks volumes for Robinson's management.

##### ***Fremont Weekly Herald Jan 29, 1891***

One by one the oldest inhabitants of Dodge County are passing away. Those who have borne the hardships of early settlers, and seen the country changed from a wild, uncivilized state, have reached the age where they cannot expect to be with us many years longer. Last evening the spirit of David W. Dickerson passed to its eternal home. He was born in Morris county, New Jersey, Dec 12, 1810 and married to Ann Miller on June 18, 1830.

From New Jersey, he went to Pennsylvania, thence to Maryland and back to Pennsylvania again, then to Illinois. Immigration still leading toward the Pacific coast, he came to Nebraska in 1860, locating in Dodge county within four miles of North Bend, where he secured a good farm and lived on the homestead until about fifteen years ago, when he removed to Fremont.

Mr. Dickerson was the father of eight children, five of whom are still living - Wm. R. now located in Colorado, E. W., J. M., Chas. P. of North Bend, and Mrs. John D. Dodge. Miss Fannie Allison, a granddaughter, has lived with the deceased nearly all her life.

##### ***North Bend Eagle Aug 8, 1901***

Mrs Elizabeth Ely, wife of William H Ely of Fremont and a sister of John and Robt Millar of North Bend died suddenly Monday evening at her home. Mrs Ely was born Oct 12, 1833 at Lauchie, Shropshire in Scotland. Her maiden name was Elizabeth Millar. She came to America in 1853 and located in this state three years later. She married William H. Ely on May 7, 1878 and came to Dodge County soon afterward.

##### ***North Bend Eagle Oct 31, 1901***

Josiah Dickerson, a pioneer resident of this vicinity died last Monday evening. Funeral services will be held this afternoon from the residence of Andrew Dickerson and the remains interred in the Purple Cane cemetery. Josiah was born in the state of New Jersey, 68 years ago. Thirty-five years ago he came to this country and settled on a homestead six miles northwest of this city where he resided until his death. He leaves a wife and five children, as well as several other relatives and numerous friends to mourn his death.

##### ***North Bend Eagle Dec 19, 1901***

George Young, one of Nebraska's pioneers died at his home one mile west of this city. He may well be numbered among the pioneer band of eastern Nebraska, because he effected settlement in Dodge county, on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1856, and took a claim of 160 acres where he has since resided. During the years of 1864-67, he served as County Commissioner. Since his arrival, Forty-five Fourth of July celebrations have come and gone, the Civil and Spanish-American wars have been enacted and peace restored. Nebraska has passed from an Indian Reservation to a Territory and enjoyed the privileges of statehood for many years.

George was born in Linlithgow Shire, Scotland in March of 1823, the son of James and Georgianna (Orick) Young and married Miss Anna Millar - daughter of William and Alexander (Chochrine) Millar - in Scotland on Nov 11, 1845. In the month of June, 1850, he sailed for America, arriving in Lake county, Illinois in late July. He worked on a farm there and one in Clark county before being seized with western fever and starting for Nebraska with an ox team in company with John Millar and family, Robert Millar and family, William, Alexander, and Miss Eliza Millar.

Three children, Eliza, Jas, and Georgianna were born to George and Anna before arriving in Nebraska and a son, Seth, the first white male child born in Dodge county, arrived on Nov 30, 1856. The winter of 1856-57 was one never to be forgotten by western pioneers and afforded an experience of cold and discomfort almost past endurance. The grim messenger of death made his appearance at the humble Young cabin on December 20, 1856, and claimed Mrs Young, leaving four little children, the youngest only twenty-one days old.

On November 19, 1879, Mr. Young was married to Miss Anna C. Kelley of Platte county, who is left to mourn the death of George. Of his children, Eliza is Mrs N H Gale of Omaha, Jas died this year, Georgiana is the wife of T F Keeton. Seth married Miss Anna Watson and lives on the old homestead. The remains will be interred in Woodland cemetery.

**Note: Millar/Miller names are typed in this newsletter as they were printed in the original publication and newspaper articles.**