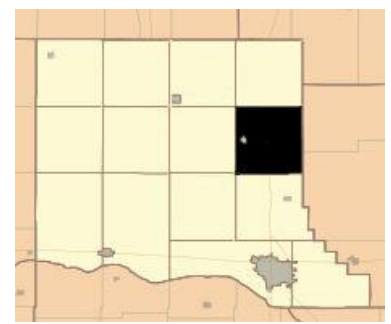




Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541
Fremont NE 68026-0541



May 2017

MEETING: May 8 7 P.M.
Mares Meeting room: 1722 E 19th street

**Election of Officers
and
Discussion of plans for the June 2
May Museum/ Dodge County Historical Society
Ethnic Origins fund raiser**

BROWSE NITE: May 22 7 P.M.

Hooper Township – excerpts from the 1921 publication *History of Dodge and Washington Counties, Nebraska*

On the east line of Dodge County and the second from the northern line is Hooper civil township, which contains all of congressional township 19, range 8, east - 23,040 acres of land. The township is bounded on the north by Logan Township, on the east by Washington County, on the south by Nickerson Township, and on the west by Everett Township. The German element obtains almost wholly here and has from the first settlement.



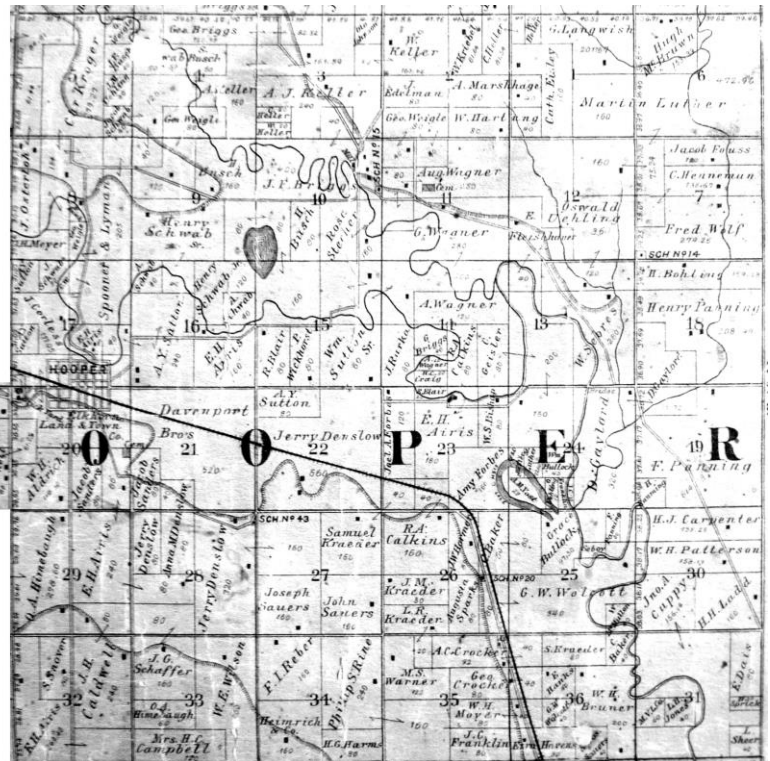
Organization, Railroads, Etc.

Hooper was organized into a separate precinct (as then called) very early in the 70s. Its precinct and later its township government has been managed fully up to the standard of other Dodge County sub-divisions. The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad (Northwestern System) passes through this township with stations and villages named Hooper and Winslow.

First Settlement

The first man to locate in this township was Hiram H. Ladd, who came to section 30, in 1856. He it was who built the first house in the now famous Elkhorn Valley, north of Fontanelle. The next pioneers were Jerry Denslow, Jr., accompanied by his mother, a widow at the time, to Dodge County in 1856. The son was only eleven years of age. The mother pre-empted a quarter section of land at Fontanelle. John Osterloh came to section 8 in 1858. As soon as the homestead law came into effect in the '60s, he took him a homestead. The same year, 1858, W. C. Hecker came to the township. He was a single man and took eighty acres of land upon which he subsequently made excellent improvements. Another settler in 1858 was Christ Henneman.

Charles Baker located in Hooper Township in the 70s. He came to Dodge County with his parents in 1860, locating near Nickerson. In 1861 came George Wagner to section 11. Jacob Schwab, section 4, came in the spring of 1861 with his parents, who settled in section 9, where the father homesteaded a quarter section of land. Albert Wagner came in 1861 to section 11, also Adam Schwab and Henry Schwab, Jr. In 1863 George Weigle settled on Logan Creek. He remained on his farm until 1890, then moved to the Village of Hooper. At the same time came Edward Fleischhauer and claimed land rights on Logan Creek. Henry Busch located in section 9. He came with



his father to Fontanelle in 1862. Two years later Henry moved to Hooper Township. The year 1864, first year in which homesteads were to be taken, saw a very heavy immigration in this part of Dodge County. Oswald Uehling took his homestead that year : others settled there, including Henry Penning, Jr., James F. Briggs, August J. Heller, Martin Lutherns, Christ Easier, John Phelps, W. H. Patterson, G. W. Wolcott, Chris Kroger, R. A. Calkins, William Hartung and A. Y. Sutton.

Later Settlers

While the names of all the persons who invaded this township cannot be here named, it is certain that in addition to those already mentioned came Jacob Lurk. Nicholas Parkert, in 1868; Winfield S. Bishop, 1870; J. H. Caldwell, John M. Kreader and Samuel Kreader. in 1871; Thomas Bullock, 1872; Charles Bayer, who later moved to Hooper Village and engaged in the pottery business; also W. H. Aldrich and Carl Geiser, settlers in 1873. Jacob C. Schaffer effected his settlement in the township in 1876; Charles Diehl, of section 23, came in 1885, and later moved to Nickerson Township ; John Haje, section 26, moved to the township in 1890.

Great has been the transformation of the scenes of Hooper Township since the days of the Civil war period, when all was wild and undeveloped. The land is all taken up and finely improved by a thrifty class of Germans and other European peoples. The villages are enterprising, and though not large, are just such places as farmers desire in their communities.

The churches, schools and all that is dear to the average father and mother are here found in all of their latter-day excellence. Village of Hooper This enterprising, thrifty-going incorporation in Hooper Township is in the eastern part of Dodge County and is within Congressional township 19, range 8, and is in sections 17 and 20. It was named for a prominent railroad official of an early date. The winding Elkhorn River courses its way along the eastern boundary of the village, making the scenery really beautiful. The main portion of the place is nestled at the foot of a high bluff. It was platted by that great "railroad king," Hon. John I. Blair, of New Jersey, who had so much to do with building the Northwestern, Illinois Central Railroad, and was the president of Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad Company.

Business Beginnings

Aside from the railroad depot and buildings, the first house in Hooper was one built by Myers & Sherman in 1871, and in it was kept a general merchandise stock for a half dozen years. In reality, the earliest house on what became the village plat of Hooper, was that built for a residence by O. A. Heimbaugh. This gentleman built the first grain warehouse and started a lumber yard. The first schoolhouse was hauled in from a district west of the village platting.

James Caldwell was the pioneer blacksmith. The first merchandise sold at Hooper was by George W. Pew. Asa Briggs was the first station-master and a most capable man he was and did much toward aiding the first business interests of Hooper. Hotel No. 1 at Hooper was built in 1870 by August Koppelcom, and later was styled the Tillman House. The first exclusive hardware store was kept by Charles Easley, in 1871. He continued until 1881 and sold to Jack Dorsey, who in turn sold to A. F. Bott & Co., and finally they sold to Peague & Uehling. In 1892 the business was handled by the firm of Uehling & Monnich. The first to handle drugs was G. S. Peyton, 1873-4. He remained in trade until 1889. The first furniture dealer was Charles Buchholz, in 1875.

Original Flour Mill of Hooper

The Hooper Roller Mills were first built on Logan Creek by A. C. Briggs, but owing to the unsteady current of water, the expense of keeping up the mill-dam, etc., it was sold to Oswald Uehling, who moved the plant to Hooper in 1888, converting it into a roller process mill. It had six rolls, giving a daily capacity of seventy-five barrels. It was run by an eighty-horsepower steam engine. In 1889 a large grain elevator was constructed alongside the mill and the two were covered with galvanized iron sheeting. It produced large quantities of excellent family flour that found ready sale all the year round in Dodge and adjoining counties. This mill cost (in cheap times) \$20,000. The milling interests of Hooper are now (1920) in the hands of the Hooper Milling & Grain Company.

Update on St. Paul's Lutheran Church, north of Hooper.

From the March 24, 2017 *Fremont Tribune*, a fundraising committee has launched the "St. Paul Lutheran Church: Raising the Steeple" project and sent letters to members and confirmands requesting donations. Anyone wishing to donate toward the project may send checks to:

St. Paul's Steeple Fund, in care of Scribner Bank,
P.O. Box K, Scribner, NE 68057.

According to the Tribune, those with questions about donating may call 402-720-5322.

Details about the storm and a history of St. Paul's Lutheran were included in the ENGS - Spring 2017 - Roots and Leaves.

Reaching back into the ENGS tickler files, these items of interest about people and happenings in the Hooper area were found.

Fremont Daily Tribune 17 Oct 1887

J.C. Hedges left for Thatcher Wednesday, where he expects to meet his drove of 7,000 sheep which he will ship via F.E.&M.V. railroad to Hooper and drive to his feed yards on Maple Creek.

J.F. Briggs, wife and mother, left for Mills county, Iowa, yesterday morning and, with the exception of Mr. Briggs who expects to return Monday will remain some time visiting relatives and friends around their old Iowa home.

Notwithstanding the rainy evening, about forty couples assembled at Looschen's Hall last Saturday night and "tripped the light fantastic" until the wee small hours of the morning. A pleasant time is reported.

Dave Fitch came up from Oberlin, Kan. last Saturday and will remain about a month in this vicinity. He reports the Hooper colony, who have settled in Decatur county as doing well.

Fremont Weekly Tribune 11 Apr 1901

April 10 – The Germans in the Oldenburg settlement north of Hooper held their annual Easter ball at the Logan Creek farmers' club hall on Monday evening. The day was observed as a holiday and the crowd at the hall in the evening was one of the largest ever seen at an occasion of this kind.

Fremont Tribune 16 Jun 1903

Married – Gerhardt Monnich of Hooper and Miss Gesine Freese of this place, were married at the bride's family home south of town at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Rev C. O. Trump officiating. Only a few immediate relatives and friends were present, including a brother, Herman Freese, of Pender. The groom is a well-to-do resident of Hooper, and the bride is an estimable young lady, a sister of Henry Freese, of this place. Elgin Review.

Hooper Sentinel 3 Jun 1915

John Osterloh Dead – One by one the old settlers of this community make the silent trip to the city of the dead. This week it becomes our sad duty to chronicle the passing away into the sleep that knows no awakening of John Osterloh.

Mr. Osterloh was born at Streeke, Oldenburg, Germany, and he would have been seventy-nine years of age had he lived until August 7th of this year. When a young man he came to this country, first landing at St. Louis, MO., from which place he made the trip to Omaha by boat, from where he walked to Hooper to make his home with his sister, the late Mrs. Gerhard Monnich. At the outbreak of the Civil war in 1861, he enlisted in Co. A, Nebraska volunteers and served throughout the great struggle in frontier duty.

He was a member of Upton Post, No. 133, G.A.R. At the close of the war he took out the homestead on which he has resided ever since, selling it a few years ago to H. Schmietinknop and now rented by D. Hoes, but still continuing to make it his home. In Mr. Osterloh's death this was the last of that family, three brothers and four sisters having preceeded him years ago. Mr. Osterloh was never married. The close surviving relatives hereabouts are his nephews, Fred, George and John G. Osterloh, Herman and Bernard Monnich, and nieces, Mesdames Dora Heller, Maggie Von Seggern and Henry Peters.

The funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at one o'clock, from the house and will be conducted by the rev. A. Ollendorf, of the St. Pauls Lutheran church. Interment will be in the church cemetery.