



Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541
Fremont NE 68026-0541



Nov 2018

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**ENGs Meetings are held at 7 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at the**

**Louis E. May Museum  
1643 N Nye Ave, Fremont, NE**

**The library will be open for research on Wednesday afternoons 1:30-4pm through December and - on meeting nights - one hour prior to the meeting. Access to the library is down the wide concrete stairs on the south side of the Museum.**

**Nov 12:** Jeff Kappeler will share stories about his latest Swiss research trip and discoveries.

Please remember that we will be making decisions about the future of the ENGs monthly newsletters and quarterly Roots and Leaves at the Nov 12 meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, it is very important to let us know that you are interested in continuing the publications.

You can let us know that you believe the publications are important by sending a quick note via US mail (ENGs PO Box 541 Fremont, NE 68026) or via email to (reneebunck@gmail.com). In that note, send a brief story or tell us that you are working on documenting family stories and information for sharing via the ENGs publications. If you or a family member taught at or attended an eastern Nebraskan school, please let us know that you will write down memories, locate any early photos and share them with us. We need to hear from all interested members so that ENGs can continue to make stories of early eastern Nebraska available to researchers and libraries all over the US.

**Dec 10:** Everyone is invited to tell about their Ancestral Family Christmas Traditions

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A special thanks to local members, Betty Svitak, Joyce Winfield, Pety Crowshaw, and Loretta Meistrell who have volunteered to clip and organize obits from the Fremont Tribune, type articles for publications and spend time reading microfilmed newspapers to locate items of local interest plus birth, marriage, and death notices to add to the ENGs tickler files.

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**Additional volunteers are still needed to provide family memories, stories, and articles for future publications and to help with library organization and research requests.**

**The Oct 8 Humanities Nebraska presentation - Nebraska remembers WWII - by Doug Rung** was well attended. Doug shared interesting stories about Nebraska military training facilities, prisoner of war camps, and the dedication of Nebraskans to help win the war. Local women became involved in building war planes and creating munitions along with welcoming traveling soldiers with food and dancing on a regular basis. He displayed maps, books, posters, and a number of WWII items to help everyone see how determined Nebraskans were to do their part.

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Clark Creek - Can you help? We have a new request for information about a family who lived in Dodge County about 1874-1880. According to their marriage license information, Johann/John Kienke and Johanna Hoffman lived in the Clark Creek area as did Johanna's brother Christian Hoffman. Clark Creek runs along the eastern Dodge County border across most of Hooper and Logan townships. Please email reneebunck@gmail.com if you know what area might have been referred to as Clark Creek in 1874. The researcher hopes to be able to locate land records and visit the area.

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From **Andreas' History of the State of Nebraska, 1921**

DOUGLAS County, from its geographical position, holds an important place in the early history of Nebraska. The expedition of Lewis & Clark, described at length in the general history of the State, passed through this county, and encamped on the plateau which now forms the eastern part of Omaha. Following this came the early settlements of Indian traders, which, however, in the earlier days, were neither extended nor frequent. One T. B. Royce is said to have established a trading-post on the present site of Omaha in 1825, but how long he remained here is not known. During the first half of the nineteenth century, white men frequently visited this locality, but made no attempt at permanent occupation of its green hills and fertile valleys, upon which roamed unmolested the red hunter, in pursuit of the antelope and the buffalo.

## **THE MORMON ADVENT.**

The first important immigration of white men into Douglas County, was what is known in history as the "Mormon Advent." These people, who had been settled in large numbers at Nauvoo in Illinois, were expelled from the State in 1844, and gathering together their possessions, started westward to find a locality

where they might be unmolested in their peculiar religious belief. The number of this traveling band is variously estimated, but probably aggregated,--all who came, earlier and later,--nearly 10,000 men, women and children. Their route lay across the State of Iowa, and the road by which they traveled was afterwards known as the "Mormon Trail." Many stopped off on the way, but the greatest portion came through and halted at or near the present site of Council Bluffs--a name first given to what is now Fort Calhoun, because Lewis & Clark there held a council with the Missouri and Pawnee Indians. Here the Mormons first halted after their retirement from Nauvoo, but remained only a brief period when they crossed the Missouri.

This was in the spring of the year, and during the season the Mormons erected houses for temporary protection. The population within a year was quoted at 15,000, and the place was known as "Winter Quarters." Many of the improvements made by the Mormons were visible for years after their final departure to Salt Lake and some still exist, but the most were soon destroyed, and every record of their existence obliterated.

While here the Mormons were necessarily obliged to cut large quantities of lumber for building purposes, and the result is said to have been a comparatively well-built city, when the place and difficulties experienced in framing homes are considered. Residences are said to have lined the streets, interspersed with stores, warehouses and shops, and a busy aspect was apparent in their every day lives. It is credibly asserted that polygamy was not practiced by any of these people then; save by Joseph E. Johnson, a man named Benson and two or three others, whose names can not now be recalled. Yet it is said they were disposed to be equally as vindictive in their enmities, arbitrary in their ruling and domineering in their intercourse as when at Nauvoo; and this spirit has since grown with such rapidity and volume that to-day an apostate will not be suffered to long survive his renunciation of the faith, and a Gentile is forbidden to criticize their theology. During their stay at the "Winter Quarters" death, preceded by the scurvy, invaded their homes and left his mark upon the door-post of nearly every household. Many died during this year and their bodies were laid away on the hillside to the rear of Mitchell's homestead in Florence, with the conscious belief on the part of mourners, that with a few more sun risings they would come to them again. The Mormons, at this time, had a firm belief in the speedy approach of a Millennium...

An elder by the name of Miller took his charge into the defiles of the bluffs directly east of Omaha, which was designated as Miller's Hollow. There a very large number congregated and this place became the headquarters of the Mormons in this part of the country. Nearly all the cultivatable land in the vicinity was "squatted" upon and many small farms were opened. The valley of the Missouri between Miller's Hollow and Traders' Point became nearly a continuous lane, and the surrounding lands were extensively cultivated and fenced. The Tabernacle was located in the extreme southern portion of what is now known as Council Bluffs and was surrounded by extensive settlements giving it the appearance of a country of many years' existence. About 1851 this branch of the sect commenced removing to Salt Lake, and the places remaining unsold to the Gentiles were stripped of most of their improvements and the land again grew up into woods and grass...

#### **RENEWAL OF ATTEMPTS AT SETTLEMENT.**

After the Mormons had departed, Douglas County, and also the entire Territory, remained in a state of quiescence, so to speak. There is no record of white men visiting its domains either as prospectors or for pleasure, from 1847 until say 1852 or 1853. Occasional visitors no doubt ventured into the country, but none remained. This was in a measure due to its distance from bases of supplies, but largely owing to the claim made on behalf of the

Indians for exclusive possession; and the protectorate established by the Government over its "wards" enabled them to successfully repel any invasion of their rights in the premises. This must have been the Golden Age of Indian supremacy; but it was the pride which goeth before a fall...

By some, it is claimed, that the honor of being the first white settler to stake a claim on the plateau now occupied by the city of Omaha is properly due to William D. Brown. This, however, is not sustained by the statement in that connection made by A. D. Jones, who was among the earliest white men to decide upon locating in Nebraska, and making a claim in harmony with such decision.

Mr. Brown had emigrated to the Missouri River early in 1851 and engaged as a ferryman at what was known as Busha Ferry, near Kaneshville. Deeming a change advisable he disposed of his interest in the Busha Ferry, and, following down the east bank of the Missouri to a point opposite the present city of Omaha, he determined to establish a new ferry, notwithstanding there were many difficulties to be overcome before the undertaking could be made successful. These included a sandbar in the middle of the river, a wide slough at the east bank that would obstruct the passage of a boat, and a low bottom at the west bank composed of sand and marsh. In spite of these obstructions to a favorable cross navigation of the Missouri, he determined to make the venture, and June 3, 1853, effected an exploration to the Nebraska shore to enable him to ascertain a route that would avoid the sandbar; where to land and what direction his customers would take to reach high land.

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For more information on Omaha and Douglas County, visit:

<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nedougla/>
<https://gogsmembers.wordpress.com/>

Douglas County books in our library:

1913 Atlas-Douglas Co NE Sarpy & Washington Counties
Douglas Co NE 1886 Voter Registration list
Douglas Co Cemeteries Nebraska(Rural) compiled by Greater Omaha Genealogical Society
Douglas County Marriages 1854 - 1869
Douglas Co NE Ass'n of NE Pioneers
Flower Hill Cemetery Douglas County, NE
Omaha Births 1896-1901
Omaha, South Births 1896 - 1907
Omaha Deaths 1891-1893
Omaha city directory 1854 - 1914
Omaha's Disastrous Tornado of 1913 by Chas B Driscoll
Omaha: The Gate City and Douglas Co NE Vol I
Omaha: The Gate City and Douglas Co NE Vol II
Omaha NE Mortuary Death List 1891-1893
Omaha, NE 1996 The Omaha Experience by Eileen Wirth
Omaha, South Omaha High School yearbook 1925
Bohemian Cemetery-Omaha NE by Margie Sobotka April 2002
Burials of Civil War Veterans Forest Lawn Cemetery in Omaha
E Pluribus Omaha Immigrants All by Otis & Erikson
History of Fort Omaha, NE
History of Omaha & South Omaha by Savage & Bell
Laurell Hill Cemetery Omaha NE 1867-1990 by Margie Sobotka
Marriages & Baptisms Omaha 1851-1899
Ninety Years with the Omaha Chapter (NSDAR) 1896-1986
Prospect Hill Cemetery
The First Century of Progress Elkhorn, NE 1867-1967