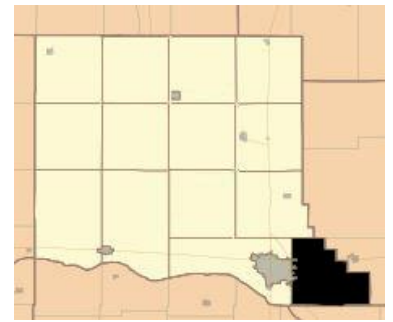




Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541
Fremont NE 68026-0541



March 2017

MEETING: March 13 7 P.M.
Mares Meeting room: 1722 w 19th street

Jeff Kappeler's cousin, J. A. Griffin will talk about his book "Coming to Zion" – an 1840's journey from Wiltshire England to Nebraska

BROWSE NITE: March 27 7 P.M.

Claire has been busy extracting Birth, Marriage, and Death notices from our microfilmed newspapers for the 'tickler files'. Please join us in chatting, filing ticklers, or doing research.

Membership Renewal Time – Your annual dues and generous donations make it possible for ENGS to produce and share our publications and to provide access to resource materials for Eastern Nebraska family researchers. Thank you for being a part of ENGS.

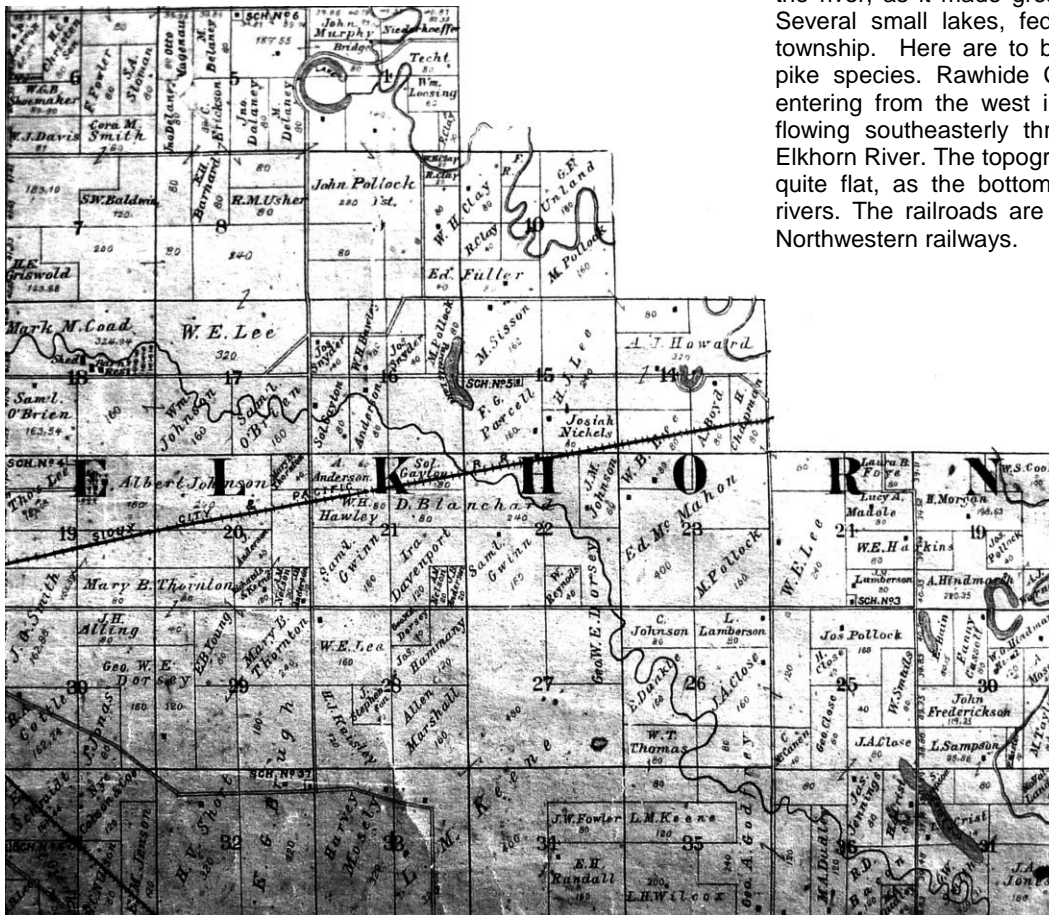
Our February meeting encouraged many members to come and share stories about artifacts they had inherited from their ancestors. We heard tales about family photos, letters, treasured jewelry, and even a rifle.

Program ideas – Your help is needed in planning the programs for the coming year. Are there topics that you would like to hear about? Do you know someone who has interesting information to share with our group? Maybe you have done some research or been involved in a project that you would like to share. All ideas are welcome. If you cannot come to a meeting to share your program ideas and requests, please send an email to reneeunck@gmail.com or write a note and send it to
ENGS PO Box 541 Fremont NE 68026-0541

Elkhorn Township

From "History of Dodge and Washington County" - 1922

This civil township derives its name from the fact that its eastern border is washed by the waters of the Elkhorn River. It is situated in the extreme south eastern part of the county, and comprises parts of ranges 8 and 9 in township 17... Originally, the boundary line between this township and Washington County was the Elkhorn River, but by an act of the Legislature in 1875, it was changed to conform to section lines regardless of the river, as it made great trouble in the assessment of lands. Several small lakes, fed by living springs, are found in this township. Here are to be found fish, especially the wall-eyed pike species. Rawhide Creek courses through this township, entering from the west in section 18, township 17, range 10, flowing southeasterly three miles and then empties into the Elkhorn River. The topography of this portion of Dodge County is quite flat, as the bottom lands divide the Platte and Elkhorn rivers. The railroads are the Union Pacific and the Chicago & Northwestern railways.



Original Settlement The following is an account of many persons who came to this township for the purpose of making a permanent settlement between 1856 down to 1887, when the territory was well taken by actual settlers. Elkhorn Township was first settled by **Thomas Lee** in 1856. He located in the northwest quarter of section 19, and there built him a cabin. At that place he lived about twenty-five years and then moved to Wahoo, where he soon died. **Albert Johnson**, of section 19, township 17, range 9, came to Dodge County in the fall of 1857 and made a settlement and later became prominent in the development of his part of Dodge County. He worked at the carpenter's trade in New York until 1877, and then had made enough to come back and make the desired improvements on his land in this township.

John A. Close, Union soldier of the Civil war from Wisconsin, after that great conflict had ended sold his property in Wisconsin and moved to section 26 of Elkhorn Township, Dodge County, Nebraska. **Elijah G. Brugh**, later of Fremont, came in 1863 to this county and was then but a sixteen-year old lad. He followed freighting across the western plains for four years, at a time when all was wild and dangerous. After having his fill of such a life he settled down on his land which was then all covered with a luxuriant growth of prairie grass. **Joseph Snyder**, of section 16, came to Dodge County in the winter of 1865, establishing the first shoe shop in Fremont. Eight years later he bought his farm, going direct from the shoe shop to the plow field, where he made a successful and worthy farmer.

Section 14 was originally settled in by **Montgomery Pollock**, who came here in 1866. A part of his land he purchased and another portion he got through the United States liberal homestead law. **George Close** came into section 25, in 1867, accompanied by his parents. He remained at home until he was of age, and then bought and also homesteaded land of his own. **Adam Hindmarsh**, of section 19, settled here in 1869, first living fifteen years in section 30, then sold out, moving to section 19. Another settler in section 16 was **William H. Hawley**, who came in 1871. He located at Fremont as a contractor and builder. He commenced his farming operations in 1880.

About 1870-71 a colony of Scandinavians located in the eastern part of Elkhorn Township. This company was made up mostly of homesteaders, and as soon as they proved upon their lands, sold out and relocated in Burt County, near Oakland, on account of better religious privileges. Among this colony was **Jonas Johnson**, who remained ten years, took a homestead and bought other pieces of land. At the same time came **John Johnson**, settling on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 30, township 17, range 10. **Andrew Johnson** homesteaded a part of section 26, sold and bought in section 25, later owned by **George Close**.

William Harkness was another early settler. He came to section 24, township 17, range 9, and homesteaded in 1866. **John N. Foye** homesteaded in 1866, proved up and left the county. **Joseph Lamberson** settled in section 33-17-9 on July 4, 1866, and died in 1880. **F. G. Parcell** located in section 15 at Parcell's Lake. **John Castle** homesteaded in section 30, township 17, range 10, about 1869. He died on his place in 1877.

Mrs. R. A. Cottle, of section 30, township 17, range 9, was among the very earliest pioneers of the township. Her husband operated the old stage station on the military road which passed her house. It was also an old freight ranch and had much interesting history connected with it. **Isaiah Crist**, section 36, came to Dodge County in 1872 and took eighty acres of wild land.

Charley Johnson, of section 11, came to the township in 1874. At first he worked by the month a year or more, then rented land, and was driven from the farm by the ravages of the grasshoppers and went to Fremont and clerked in a store. Later he returned to his farm which finally consisted of a half section. Other settlers were **Samuel C. Wynn**, section 28; **Bertel Frandsen**, section 22; first located in Fremont where he engaged in the dyeing business. Two years later he took up a homestead; also **Gustavius G. Going**, of section 33, came to this county in 1880. He located in Fremont and handled cattle, later engaging in the restaurant business.

An Omaha man named **Fauss** came to this township and undertook to excavate a canal, and utilize the water power of the Elkhorn River for the purpose of operating a mill for grain grinding. But for various reasons this seemingly worthy enterprise failed to materialize.

Here are a few newspaper items from the ENGS 'tickler files' following these early Elkhorn Township settlers.

Fremont Tribune July 5, 1888

Double Marriage – Married in Elkhorn Township on Tuesday, July 3rd by Rev. O. Eggleston, **George Close** and Miss Nettie M. Gwynn, and Arthur Gwynn and Miss Nettie A. Gwynn, all of Elkhorn.

Fremont Tribune Sep 27, 1888

Death of a Former Fremont – H. J., "Comish" and J. C. Lee and W. H. Hamilton went to Wahoo Tuesday to attend the funeral ceremonies of the venerable **Thomas Lee**, who was buried there this afternoon and whose death occurred on Saturday last. The deceased was a former resident of this county, living the greater part of the time a mile east of Fremont on the Military road. He was the first permanent resident of Elkhorn township. He was eighty-five years of age and leaves a wife of about the same age.

Fremont Tribune Apr 12, 1897

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Close, of Elkhorn township, last week completed the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. The unusual event of a golden wedding was not celebrated by them. They will probably do justice to their diamond wedding, which their friends hope they will live to see.

Fremont Tribune Nov 2, 1909

Albert Johnson, a well-known Dodge county farmer and one of the most prominent members of the Congregational church of Fremont, died yesterday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock after an illness of three weeks. **Albert Johnson** was born March 17, 1835 in Coventry, Chenango county, New York. He first came west in the year 1857 and took a homestead east of Fremont, which he owned until the time of his death. After residing on it a short time, he went to Omaha where he worked several years, returning then to his native state. The love of the west was strong within him, however, and in 1877 he returned to Nebraska and Dodge county to make this his home during the remainder of his years. About twelve years ago he retired from active farming life and took up his residence in town, enjoying the fruits of his years of toil. The deceased is survived by four children, his wife having died a year ago last August. The surviving sons and daughter are: Mrs. Magdalena Seely of this city, Harry A., Ralph J., and Robert b. Johnson, all of Broken Bow.

Fremont Tribune Jul 27, 1936

Joseph Snyder, 93, a resident of Fremont and vicinity for 70 years and the only Union army veteran remaining in this city, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. C. S. Olson, 1206 East First street, at 7 o'clock this morning following a lingering illness. Mr. Snyder operated one of Fremont's earliest shoe stores, opening the business following his arrival in this city in 1865, on Broad street between Sixth street and Military ave. Disposing of his shoe business in 1873, he located on a farm four miles east of Fremont. To the 80 acres of raw prairie land he purchased originally, he later added 80 acres to form the quarter section which now comprises the E. J. Fauquet farm.

In spite of drought, invasion by grasshoppers, high water, and numerous other hardships, he persevered for more than 30 years during which he improved the land, erected buildings and planted a grove and an orchard of 100 trees. Upon retiring from the farm about 30 years ago, he and his family reestablished their residence in Fremont.

Mr. Snyder was born in Baden, Germany in 1843, came to America with his parents and served in the Civil war where he was wounded and imprisoned. He married Mary Heindle, a native of Bavaria, in Fremont in 1867. He was one of two surviving members of the McPherson post of the Grand Army of the Republic. He is survived by four daughters and two sons.