

HISTORY OF DISTRICT 52 of PLEASANT VALLEY of rural DODGE COUNTY, NEBRASKA

A way out on the western prairie, Monday, April 4, 1870; a little band of settlers had gathered together to compare ideas along an educational line. The result of this meeting was the organization of **School District # 31**, comprising the southwest sixteen square miles of Pleasant Valley Township and sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Union Township with Moses Stubbert-- director, John Ross-- moderator, and John Climents-- treasurer.

The school building was a little sod house located about eighty rods west from where Mr. Mundy now lives. A three-month school was held here during the winter of 1870 - 1871, with Miss Angie Miller as teacher.

The following year, lumber was hauled from Fremont and a frame school house was erected on the southwest corner of section 33, where John Thompson now lives. Ed Mason, a one-armed homesteader taught the first school here. This school house is still in use in **District # 79**, the John Arp's school.

A meeting was held early in January 1873, at John Ross', where it was decided to organize a new district, as the old one was too large to accommodate all the children. Accordingly, **District # 31** was divided and the north end was numbered **# 52**, with Joseph Cross-- director, Frank Plantz-- moderator, and John Ross-- treasurer.

The first money drawn from the county was \$24.05, drawn January 15, 1873. A 10 X 12 frame building was put up on the northeast corner of section 29, about where Henry Dunker's house now stands. School was held there three months during the year of 1873, with Miss Elda Holbrook as teacher. She had four scholars; Mattie Ross, John Plantz, Georgia Crane, and William Mines.

A neighbor of the school disliking its presence, it was moved north across the road on Henry Rose's corner by being carried on the shoulders of a number of men; where it was located for another year, with a three month's school taught by Miss Angie Miller.

The failure to agree on the location of a new school house at this period of the district's history caused another division of the district. The six east sections were held as **District # 52**, the four western ones choosing to go astray, with Mr. Cross moving across the creek and siding with the western faction. The office of director was declared vacant. Mr. Charles Feichtinger was appointed his successor and the school house was located just east from Mr. Emanuel's store, on the northwest corner of section # 27.

Moses Stubbert and Frank Plantz built the new schoolhouse, which was used continually for school purposes until the present 28 X 36 building was erected by Mr. Mitchell in 1891. Mr. Emanuel still uses the old school building for his store. The township used the old schoolhouse for a polling place for a number of years.

The first teacher in the new schoolhouse of 1875 was Miss Nelia E. Meade, who taught three months during the winter of 1875 – 1876. Her scholars were Mattie Ross, John Matthew Emanuel, John Plantz, and Mary Emanuel. Following is the list of teachers since that time:

1876 – 1877	Miss Angie Miller	\$25.00
1877 – 1878	Miss Angie Miller	\$25.00

* (A peculiar incident is noticed in the district's records regarding the pay of the teacher at this time. In December 1877, the board paid Miss Angie Miller for teaching school. In February, the orders were written "Mrs. Angie Ross", her having married Mr. George Ross during the holidays.)

Winter term	1878 – 1879	Miss L. E. Flor	\$30.00
Summer term	1879	Mr. H.O. Thomas	\$30.00
Winter term	1879 – 1880	Miss Jesse Flor	\$28 1/3
Summer term	1880	Miss Ellen Congor	\$25.00
Winter term	1880 – 1881	Miss Lillie E. Andriance	\$25.00
Summer term	1881	Miss Mary Pettigrew	\$25.00
Winter term	1881 – 1882	Miss Jennie Graham	\$20.00
Summer term	1882	Miss Jennie Graham	\$28.00
Winter term	1882 – 1883	Miss Lillie Watrous	\$33 1/3
Summer term	1883	Miss Blanche Rogers	\$30.00
Winter term	1884	Miss Fannie Brown	\$35.00
Spring term	1884	Miss Fannie Brown	\$35.00
Fall term	1884	Miss Katie Eldrege	\$35.00
Winter term	1884 – 1885	Mr. Earnest Kern	\$40.00
Spring term	1885	Miss Jennie Graham	\$35.00
Fall term	1885	Miss Jennie Graham	\$35.00
Winter term	1886	Miss Fannie Brown	\$40.00
Fall term	1886	Miss Mattie Ross	\$33 1/3
Winter term	1886 – 1887	Miss Hattie Miller	\$35.00
***** Miss Miller taught two weeks and resigned. Mr. Kern succeeded her.			
Winter term	1887	Mr. Earnest Kern	\$42.50
Spring term	1887	Miss Cora Long	\$30.00
Fall term	1887	Miss Gertrude Lester	\$30.00
Winter term	1887 – 1888	Miss Hannah Boe	\$35.00
Spring term	1888	Miss Gertrude Lester	\$33 1/3
Fall term	1888	Miss Gertrude Lester	\$33 1/3
Winter term	1888 – 1889	Mr. E. J. Stewart	\$38.00
Spring term	1889	Miss Katie Murray	\$30.00
Fall term	1889	Miss Katie Murray	\$30.00
Winter term	1889 – 1890	Miss Mattie Ross	\$33 1/3
Spring term	1890	Miss Mattie Ross	\$30.00
Fall term	1890	Miss Mattie Ross	\$30.00
Winter term	1891	Miss Florence Reed	\$35.00
Spring term	1891	Miss Florence Reed	\$30.00

*****No fall term of school, owing to the school house not being done.

Winter term	1892	Miss Sadie Persing	\$35.00
Spring term	1892	Miss Sadie Persing	\$33 1/3
Fall term	1892	Miss Sadie Persing	\$33 1/3
Winter term	1892 – 1893	Miss Nellie Hanks	\$35.00
Spring term	1893	Miss Pearl Kemkton	\$33 1/3
Fall term	1893	Miss Pearl Kemkton	\$35.00
Winter term	1893 – 1894	Miss Sadie Persing	\$40.00
Spring term	1894	Miss Sadie Persing	\$35.00
Fall term	1894	Miss Mary Colman	\$30.00
Winter term	1894 – 1895	Mr. A. C. Mason	\$35.00
Spring term	1895	Mr. A. C. Mason	\$35.00
***** No school was held in the fall.			
Winter term	1895 – 1896	Mr. Warren Brown	\$40.00
Spring term	1896	Mr. Warren Brown	\$35.00
***** No school was held in the fall.			
Winter term	1896 – 1897	Miss Mary Harvey	\$33 1/3
Spring term	1897	Miss Mary Harvey	\$30.00
Fall term	1897	Miss Mary Harvey	\$30.00
Fall & Winter term	1897 – 1898	Miss Mary Harvey	\$33 1/3 & \$30.00
***** Pay was \$33 1/3 for the first three months and \$30.00 for the last three months.			
Fall term	1898	Miss Alpha Stewart	\$30.00
Winter term	1898	Miss Alpha Stewart	\$33 1/3
Spring term	1898	Miss Alpha Stewart	\$30.00
Fall term	1899	Miss Ellen Brown	\$30.00
Winter term	1899	Miss Ellen Brown	\$32.50
Spring term	1899	Miss Ellen Brown	\$32.50
Fall, Winter, & Spring term	1900	Mr. L. V. Stump	\$35.00
Fall, Winter, & Spring term	1901	Mr. L. V. Stump	\$45.00
Fall & Winter term	1902	Mr. L. V. Stump	\$55.00
Spring term	1903	Mr. John Guttery	\$45.00
Fall term	1903	Miss Grace Palen	\$45.00
Spring & Winter term	1903 – 1904	Mr. Frank Myers	\$50.00
Fall, Winter, & Spring term	1904 – 1905	Mr. Frank Myers	\$55.00

The first school board in # 52 was held until 1875. When the district was divided, Mr. Charles Feichtinger took Mr. Cross' place as director and Mr. Stoltenberg took Mr. Plantz' place as moderator. Mr. Feichtinger held the office of director for two years when Mr. John Emanuel took the office for three years. Mr. Emanuel was succeeded as director by Mr. John Ross who held the office from 1880 – 1897, save for two years 1889 – 1891 when the office was held by Mr. John Porter. Mr. Ross was succeeded by Mr. Wormwood who held the office for two years when the place was taken by Mr. Bearss who held the office until 1902 when Mr. Spath, the present incumbent, took his place.

Mr. Stoltenberg held the office of moderator until 1881 when Mr. Peter Emanuel served one term in that office. Mr. Fred Tedy Sr. held the office from 1884 – 1902 when Mr. William Ross, the present incumbent, took his place.

Mr. John Ross held the office of treasurer from 1875 – 1878 when he was succeeded by Mr. Joseph Cross who held the position until 1886. Mr. H. P. Stoltenberg has been treasurer continuously since 1886.

We thus see that in thirty-five years, **District # 52** has had nine men in the director's chair, six men in the moderator's chair, and four men in the treasurer's chair.

Mr. H. P. Stoltenberg holds the honor of the longest service for his district, having served twenty-five years. Mr. John Ross is a close second, with twenty years of service. Mr. Tedy is third with eighteen years of service. In its thirty-five years of growth, **District # 52** has had but fifteen different men on its school board. This includes the old **District # 31** organization also.

We have tried to find the present locations and occupations of as many of Pleasant Valley's school teachers as possible. We have succeeded in locating the following ones:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Current Location</u>
Mr. Frank Myers	farmer	Pleasant Valley
Miss Grace Palen	taught in South Dakota last year	at home in Niobrara
Mr. John Guttery	teacher	Nickerson
Mr. L. V. Stump	book man	Fremont
Miss Ellen Brown	teacher last year at Gretna	at home at Mapleville
Miss Alpha Stewart	now Mrs. Jackson	Fairfan, South Dakota
Miss Mary Harvey	now Mrs. Clark Robinson	Scribner
Mr. Warren Brown	teaching Indian school of N. W.	
Mr. Albert Mason		
Miss Mary Colman		
Miss Sadie Persing	now Mrs. Nelson	Tacoma, Washington
Miss Perl Kemkton	died of typhoid fever	Fremont
Miss Nellie Hanks	now Mrs. Daily	Colon
Miss Florence Reed	married a man in Ohio who later died, but she still lives there	
Miss Mattie Ross	now Mrs. Stultelberg	Idaho
Miss Katie Murray	taught at Arlington last year	at home in Fremont
Mr. E. J. Stewart		
Miss Gertrude Lester	married Mr. Mumpford and later died in Rockyford, Colorado	
Miss Hannah Boe	now Mrs. Dan Stephens	Fremont
Miss Cora Long	now Mrs. Wison Kreaither of the M. E. church of North Bend (whereabouts currently unknown)	
Mr. Earnest Kern	real estate man	North Bend
Miss Katie Miller	married a man	Hooper
Miss Fannie Brown	now Mrs. Patrick (wife of the Patricks of Ranch fame)	Omaha
Miss Jennie Graham	now Mrs. Barbour	Omaha
Miss Katie Eldrege	now Mrs. Robert Sloss	North Bend
Miss Blanche Rogers	teaching	Lincoln
Miss Lillie Watrous	married druggist Hunt of North Bend	whereabouts now unknown
Miss Mary Pettigrew	married Mr. Townsend and lived on the Razor Ferguson place, where she later died	

Miss Lillie Adriance now Mrs. Golf
Miss Ellen Congor
Miss Jessie Flor
Mr. H. O. Thomas
Miss L. E. Flor
Miss Eida Holbrook
Miss Nelia Meade
Mr. Ed Mason
Miss Angie Miller now Mrs. George Ross Sheridan County

We cannot too highly commend the men who have had the interests of our school at heart; some of them for half an ordinary lifetime. Also, we cannot speak too highly of the men who while members of the Pleasant Valley school board in years past and present, left the records that have made this little reminiscence possible. We especially to thank Mr. John Ross for his kindness in helping us.

NOTE:

This article was among items found on Frances Black's estate sale, held June 8, 2008. Frances' family farmed in the Glencoe area, south of Dodge. The original article, author(s) unknown, was written in one long manuscript, devoid of paragraphs or punctuation marks. While these have been added, the words and spelling were left largely unchanged, even though the writing may create some confusion. The original document was hand-written on lined tablet paper held together with two ribbons on top of the front page. Due to the poor condition of the papers, names may have errantly been misspelled.

The article was not dated, but appears to have been written in / or about 1905. This would be about the date of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the "new school building". District # 52 closed its doors in 1958, with patrons merging either with District # 27 (Webster) or District # 46 (Dodge) schools.

