

VILLAGE BOARD CHAIRMEN AND MAYORS

Year	Chairman of Board	Clerks	Year	Mayors	Clerks
1879	M. M. Neeves	W. Fifield	1911	W. H. Sisler	J. D. Hamilton
1880	J. M. Fisher	John Mills	1912	W. H. Sisler	J. D. Hamilton
1881	E. Gabriel	Geo. Neeves	1913	O. C. Bedford	J. D. Hamilton
1882	Geo. W. Smith	C. H. Bane	1914	O. C. Bedford	J. D. Hamilton
1883	B. F. Shickley	C. H. Bane	1915	L. F. Johnson	J. D. Hamilton
1884	D. H. Conant	J. E. Spear	1916	John T. Limback	J. D. Hamilton
	F. H. Briggs	J. E. Spear	1917	Wm. Aldrup	J. D. Hamilton
1885	J. B. Lewis	J. E. Spear	1918	Wm. Aldrup	Charles Underwood
	M. V. King	J. E. Spear	1919	Wm. Aldrup	Charles Underwood
1886	B. B. Mozee	J. D. Hamilton	1920	William Aldrup	Charles Underwood
1887	J. M. Fillebrown	J. D. Hamilton	1921	B. B. Ogg	I. T. Fellows
1888	W. V. Fifield	J. D. Hamilton	1922	B. B. Ogg	I. T. Fellows
	<i>Mayors</i>		1924	D. Bertram	Bert Lynn
1889	H. L. Smith	J. D. Hamilton	1926	D. Bertram	Bert Lynn
1890	Geo. W. Smith	J. D. Hamilton	1928	D. Bertram	Bert Lynn
1891	W. H. Cooksey	J. D. Hamilton	1930	D. Bertram	Bert Lynn
1892	John D. Carson	J. D. Hamilton	1932	Joseph Bixby	Bert Lynn
1893	J. G. Burress	J. D. Hamilton	1934	Joseph Bixby	Bert Lynn
1894	J. G. Burress	J. D. Hamilton	1936	Joseph Bixby	Bert Lynn
1895	Dr. H. L. Smith	J. D. Hamilton	1938	Joseph Bixby	Bert Lynn
1896	Dr. H. L. Smith	J. D. Hamilton	1940	Joseph Bixby	Bert Lynn
1897	Dr. H. L. Smith	J. D. Hamilton	1942	Joseph Bixby	Bert Lynn
1898	E. Sandrock	J. D. Hamilton	1944	Joseph Bixby	Bert Lynn
1899	E. Sandrock	J. D. Hamilton	1946	John Q. Adams	Bert Lynn
1900	H. P. Wilson	J. D. Hamilton	1948	John Q. Adams	Bert Lynn
1901	H. P. Wilson	J. D. Hamilton	1950	A. A. Russell	Bert Lynn
1902	H. P. Wilson	J. D. Hamilton	1951	Woodrow Kinder	(fill vacancy)
1903	A. H. Stevens	J. J. Burke	1952	Woodrow Kinder	Irene Merrill
1904	A. H. Stevens	J. J. Burke	1954	Woodrow Kinder	Irene Merrill
1905	A. H. Stevens	J. J. Burke	1956	Woodrow Kinder ¹	Irene Merrill ¹
1906	A. H. Stevens	H. P. Wilson	1958	James Barbur	Irene Merrill
1907	B. Koehler	H. P. Wilson	1960-1967	Francis McPeck	Irene Merrill
1908	B. Koehler	H. P. Wilson			
1909	Geo. W. Smith	A. D. Curtiss			
1910	Frank Bates	A. D. Curtiss			

SOME GENEVA FIRSTS

- 1871 County Judge—William H. Blain
- 1872 Undertaker—J. B. Noble & Co.
- 1873 James H. Bigelow erected the first store building. The first building on the town site was the county jail.
- 1874 A. G. Camp & Sons—S. B., J. H., and C. D.—opened the first general-merchandise store in Geneva, in the G. E. Bigelow building.
- 1875 Mark M. Neeves published Geneva's first newspaper, the *Fillmore County Review*.
- 1879 June 18—the first Sunday service in the new Methodist Church was held. Rev. Chapin preached in the morning and Rev. Powell of Fairmont preached in the evening. The first liquor license was granted to Amos Herr.
- 1880 March 26—the first appointed board of election. Judges of election were A. G. Camp, R. M. Putnam, M. D. Williams. Clerks of the election were G. E. Bigelow and M. L. Spear. Fees were \$2 per person. June 24—the citizens voted a tax of 7 mills on the dollar on all taxable property in the town of Geneva for general purposes.
- 1881 The first sidewalks were built. It was decided to start on Church and Center Sts. They were to be built of good lumber not less than 1" in thickness and laid crosswise and nailed to and supported by timbers at least 2" x 4" placed not more than 2' apart. The walk should not be less than 6' wide and 4' wide depending on the location of the business district. Every owner of lots shall be privileged to build the sidewalks at their own expense and not be assessed. The walks were to be completed before September 1.
- 1883 The first tin shop in Geneva was owned by M. W. Platt. He later moved to the country where he attended to all orders for eave-sputings.
- 1887 Wintersteen & Ward purchased the first hearse brought to Geneva.

¹ Since 1956, the City Clerk and the City Treasurer have been appointed



Photo from Mrs. Irene Merrill
Geneva City Council, 1957-1958. Standing, left to right: Earl Jacox, Chester Hayden, Kenneth Heisey, Robert Kiester. Seated: Woodrow Kinder, Mrs. Irene Merrill, Ray Bull, John Friesen.

- 1890 Geneva had its first fire since the completion of the water system—C. A. Smith's barn. April 10—three handsome street lamps arrived in the town—a gift from the retiring mayor. One was to be placed at the Union Block corner, one at the Citizens Bank corner, and the third at Spear's livery stable corner. J. D. Hamilton was the first water commissioner at a salary of \$50 a year.
- 1896 Geneva had its first curfew.
- 1898 In January the first water meters were placed at the courthouse, the Citizens Bank Building, and the Geneva National Bank building.
- 1904 A city garbage wagon, a new venture in Geneva, began its rounds. Refuse of all sorts was hauled to the dump grounds.
- 1905 January 13—Geneva streets were illuminated for the first time by electricity, G. F. Skinkle's plant being in successful operation.



Photo from Delia Fisher
First flight in Fillmore County (1914). Joe Pendhain was pilot of the "Baby Day"—built by Wright Bros. at Dayton, Ohio, for Max Lilly, who was killed in a 150-foot drop at Galesburg, Illinois, in the fall of 1910. Girls' Training School in background.

- 1919 The first commercial plane to visit Geneva landed in Henry Muhlenburg's pasture. A few people took rides in the air at \$15 apiece. (This farm is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Anderson, Stanton township.)
- 1922 The first filling station in Geneva was erected by the late C. J. Warner on the northwest corner of the square. (This is now Eddie's Service.)

Photo from Mrs. C. J. Warner
The first filling station in Geneva, built by C. J. Warner in 1922. Notice the "stop button" in center foreground.



SOME PASSING GLIMPSES

The following miscellaneous items, mostly relating to Geneva, have been condensed from contemporary newspaper accounts.

- 1872 *December*—About 600 Pawnee Indians camped for a few days on the Blue. They have left for the hunting grounds and to fight the Sioux. One of them bought a clean white shirt of a merchant here (Fairmont).
December—A "United States" windmill has arrived for P. J. Real and when erected all are invited to see it perform. He is the authorized agent west of Crete for Halladay's mill.
- 1873 *Preaching at Pangles'* schoolhouse on Turkey Creek on May 4, 1873, at 3:30 P.M., D. B. Lake, pastor.
- 1877 *March*—The Omaha Indians returning from their buffalo hunt camped on Turkey Creek Saturday, and some of the boys from Geneva persuaded the gents of the plains to array themselves in their best blankets and appear in the Court House in the evening, for the purpose of giving citizens a treat in the shape of a war dance. Evening arrived and so did the noble red men. The people paid 25 cents to see them go through their wild orgies. Messrs. Renshaw and Warner were Masters of Ceremonies. The music was a bass drum and an Injun to pound it. They danced! They danced the war dance, the scalp dance, the squaw dance—and they danced several other dances, but we cannot remember the names nor do justice to the subject, so will merely say that the Indians had a war dance.
- 1878 *July*—Mr. C. G. Worden, the well-known notion man with G. L. Florence & Co. of Atchison, Kansas, was in town Sunday and Monday with his traveling store (an immense wagon) of the best of goods in the line of notions. As proof our merchants always buy largely of Worden, and but very few orders for notions goods are sent away. He makes his runs here once every six weeks, consequently our merchants look to him for supplies and get them of best quality.
September—C. A. Smith, son of Dr. Smith of Geneva, left Monday for Lincoln to attend high school.
- 1879 *June*—Courthouse yard has been plowed and countless number of weeds have been destroyed.
- 1879 *June*—Messrs. Putnam have put up mosquito bars in the windows of the Putnam House.
August—Geneva talking up new water works. The hawly [Holly] system is now in use.
- 1880 Voted a tax on 7 mills on the dollar on all taxable property in the town of Geneva for general purposes.
- 1882 *January*—The weather was so warm Turkey Creek didn't freeze and no ice had been harvested.
June—The *Signal* suggested that either the county or the city build a crossing across the street to the courthouse.
June—The county safe, weight 7,000 pounds, was being brought from Fairmont to Geneva on wagons. Two miles south of town it slipped off the wagons. It took several days to get it loaded again and brought to Geneva.
June—Valuation of City of Geneva—Personal - \$25,682; Real Estate - \$15,270; Total - \$40,952.
- 1883 *May*—The park around the courthouse is now a most beautiful spot and in a few years the shade afforded by the trees will make it a popular resort, provided the business of the town does not grow up around the square so as to cause a perpetual dust in the park.
 County Superintendent J. B. Lewis made the following report: There were 80 schoolhouses in the county, one brick, 77 frame, and two sod. Total cost of schools for year, \$43,500. Number of children of school age: 4,061; number attending, 2,827. Male teachers employed, 39; female, 95.
 The Kellogg House at Geneva has a new windmill.
 Peter Youngers is making a specialty of the nursery business and will soon have one of the best nurseries in the state.
 T. J. Flemming has new livery stable completed and ready for business.
- 1884 The public well in the courthouse square proved a great benefit to the people.
- 1884 Since the completion of so much breaking of new lands in the county, there has been less damage from prairie fires, as they are now easily held in subjection by the large tracts of cultivated lands.
- 1885 *April*—At a meeting of the township assessors of Fillmore County the following basis of assessment was agreed upon: Land, \$3.25 per acre; first-class work horses and mules, \$25; work cattle, \$30 per yoke; common cows, \$10 and \$20; hogs, \$1 per hundred; sheep, 50 cents to \$1 per head.
 The superintendent of the state census announced the population of Fillmore County as 13,452. The number of farms was 2,134.
September—Hog cholera was continuing to devastate the herds of the county.
October—John Jensen purchased brick from Geneva brickyard to use in the new building to be erected next to the livery stable.

- 1886 The total valuation of all property in Fillmore County in 1886 was \$2,510,854.
 John Jensen and A. V. Dworak let a contract for a brick business block in Geneva with an opera house on the second floor.
 A. C. Tucker of Geneva sold a half interest in his famous horse, Belle K, for \$1,500.
April—The steel cage for the county jail arrived.
May—A good many farmers were hauling their corn to market. The price was 13 cents per bushel.
December—an enthusiastic railroad meeting was held at Geneva to talk over the prospect of getting the Union Pacific to build through this county.
- 1887 The frame of the new flour mill at Geneva was nearly up. The *Signal* was urging farmers to plant some broom corn as there was considerable demand for that crop.
 Farmers were complaining that chinch bugs were damaging their wheat and barley.
February—A band of Omaha Indians camped on the Blue River five miles from Fairmont and spent considerable time in town begging for food.
- 1888 Mr. Harbaugh of Geneva left for Washington to secure a patent on a windmill. He had a model that he exhibited on the street.
- 1889 It was an everyday occurrence for farmers to be on the streets selling apples of their own raising.



Photo from Delia Fisher
 The Fillmore House - early hotel.

- 1890 *January*—Waterworks are all finished—two hose teams are drilling for business.
February—Brick for the new Citizens Bank building is being piled in the street and work will commence as soon as the old frame can be got out of the way.
February—Free meat delivery will soon be established and will be a winning card for the enterprising projectors.
March—Revival meetings at the Methodist Church have attracted a good deal of attention during the past week and inquirers have become numerous.
April—A heathen Chinese visited Geneva last week and concluded it would be a profitable place to start a wash house.
April—W. H. Jameson has about perfected arrangements for the erection of a brick hotel on his residence property at the NE corner of the courthouse block. Ground was broken for the new Jameson Hotel last Thursday A.M. and work on the building will be pushed as rapidly as possible. It will be 38' x 109', two stories and a basement, and will cost about \$18,000.
 George Smith's new residence in east Geneva is rapidly nearing completion and he will occupy it early in the spring. The building will cost about \$7,000 and is the handsomest in the county.
August—On motion, a water trough was ordered put in the square near the courthouse.
August—Starting September 1, the stores in Geneva will close every evening except Saturdays at 8 P.M.
September—Work has begun on the foundation for the new Episcopal Chapel on the corner opposite and south of the residence of F. H. Briggs.

Courtesy Nebraska Signal
 Episcopal Church, 10th and J Sts., erected in 1890 and dismantled in 1946 (after being purchased by a Lutheran congregation in Hastings).



September—Postmaster Stewart has gone to a great deal of expense in refitting and remodeling the post office and putting it in shape to correspond with its new quarters. It's doubtful if there is another office in the state in a city of this size that presents so metropolitan an appearance.

Arlington Walworth's farm (80 acres) a few miles NW of Geneva was sold for \$1,860.

September—The new Masonic Temple is receiving its finishing touches and is the equal in every respect of any in the state. It will be formally dedicated on or about October 8th. On the same date the cornerstone of the new Episcopal Church will be laid with appropriate ceremonies by the Masons.

October—J. M. Noyes has purchased the ground occupied by the Fillmore House and will commence the erection of a \$15,000 hotel as soon as the plans, which are now in the hands of an architect, are completed.

1892 **January**—Miss Jennie Brown bought the Shumway livery barn in Geneva. (It was on the corner where the Safeway Store now stands.)



Photo from Delia Fisher
Main Street looking west, before 1900. Note Shumway livery barn (at extreme right).

February—A law-and-order mass meeting was held at the Methodist Church in Geneva. J. B. Lewis acted as chairman.

February—S. Bair of near Fairmont marketed 106 hogs that averaged 328 pounds. The price was 4 cents per pound.

1893 The best-wearing hose for boys and girls are the bicycle hose. Every pair guaranteed fast black. For sale only by Sorrick & Son.

A Regular Hack Line between Geneva and Fairmont leaving Hotel Jameson every morning at 6:30 and returning after the Flyers pass Fairmont. Persons arriving for either direction will find Hack Line ready to leave for Geneva. Remember our place of business. New Livery Barn, north of Platt House, west side of square. S. S. Moler & Son.

August—We heard someone remark a few days ago that a young lady in our city kneads bread with her gloves on. That's nothing; we knead bread with our shirt on, with our pants, drawers, and socks on. In fact, we shall soon knead bread without any pants on, if our subscribers do not walk in and pay up.

Plowing by steam successfully tested.

1894 **June**—An occasional prairie schooner was seen wending its way eastward across Fillmore County, the occupants having been forced to give up western homes on account of drought.

June—According to assessors' returns, the value of farm lands in the county was \$1,414,519; city and village real estate, \$255,512; personal property, \$453,690; railway and telegraph property, \$696,625; a total of \$2,819,986, or an actual valuation of more than \$16,000,000.

July—A soap peddler bought a dollar's worth of soap at Stiles's grocery at Fairmont. He cut the soap up and sold it at 25 cents per piece, taking in \$38.75 and having some soap left to sell Geneva people.

1895 The time set for sprinkling lawns was from 6 to 9 P.M. and 6 to 7 A.M. The water commissioner was ordered to cut off the water supply of anyone found violating the order.

October—Corn husking commenced in earnest. The yield was around 12 bushels per acre.

1896 **February**—A couple of horse buyers were in town yesterday. They picked up a few animals but their prices were pretty low.

February—John Currie, the sculptor of the heroic statue of Abraham Lincoln, which when completed will be erected upon a suitable pedestal on the west front of the state house at Lincoln, was in Geneva this week.

March—Charles Lau, the laundry man, leaves tonight for Denver, having turned the business here over to his cousin.

March—It is understood Col. B. Crabb of York will open the Jameson Hotel and begin serving meals March 15th.

Summer—Company G, in charge of Major T. L. Williams and Captain O. A. Beals, left for the annual encampment. Dick Low Lee, Geneva's Chinese laundry man, went along as cook.

1897 **June**—Fred Camp installed a large fan in his Geneva barber shop. It was operated by a water motor.

Captain C. M. Barnett's buggy horse fell into a cesspool back of the Barnett residence. The animal was taken out with a derrick.

July—On the 25th the chinch bugs, which had done great damage to the grain crop, left in great droves for the south. The air was white with them all day.

September—An acetylene gas plant was installed to furnish light in Mohrman & Ahrends' store in Geneva.

October—There had been a butter famine in Geneva for three weeks. Hot weather had dried up the pastures and the price of cream discouraged the feeding of cows.

A number of Fillmore County people visited an Indian herb doctor at Alexandria. He was doing a big business.

A shaker doctor and his troupe were giving free shows at Geneva, and also disposing of much medicine.

1898 **March**—It was ordered that all slot machines be suspended and all gambling, lotteries, and raffles be prohibited in the City of Geneva.

The city paid Julia Larimer \$300 medical bills and court costs for a broken arm caused by a fall. She sued the city for negligence in repairing a loose board in the walk and not having warning signs thereabouts.

1899 **February**—The growing of winter wheat in this section was the principal subject of discussion at the farmers' institute at Geneva. Spring wheat was the usual crop.

February—Frank Wight purchased the east half of the Geneva opera house building, occupied by Palmer & Wheeler's millinery and Miss Alice Burge's dressmaking establishment.



Photo from Delia Fisher
Looking east from the schoolhouse in the 1890's.

1900 The Jameson Hotel of Geneva was advertising 15-cent dinners and 10-cent lunches.

Geneva had four gasoline street lights along the main business street. They were lighted for the first time and seemed to be satisfactory.

February—Work was begun tearing down the livery barn at the corner of Court and Main Sts. in Geneva (now 10th and G Sts.). Miss Jennie Brown, owner of the property, intended to erect a new brick block on the site to replace a livery stable.

1901 F. A. Williams bought the Geneva bakery from W. B. Stephens & Co.

July—The city council voted to tear out several wooden sidewalks in the business section and replace them with brick.

July—A contract was let to Miller & More for \$55 to remove the old county jail.

1904 A city garbage wagon, a new institution at Geneva, began its rounds. Refuse of all sorts was hauled to the dump grounds. The five acres was purchased from A. Koehler & Co.

1904 The Geneva Commission House, J. Golden, manager, rented the old iron foundry near the mill to handle its poultry business.

Moved and carried that street commissioners be authorized to secure men and scavenger wagons and have old cans and refuse cleaned from streets and alleys. The marshal is instructed to notify all persons who have dumped ashes in streets to remove same at once.

January—W. I. Carson sold 150 acres lying at the SE corner of Geneva to Peter Youngers for \$85 per acre, the highest price ever paid here up to that time for a large tract of land.

June—It was moved that Geneva State Bank be allowed to construct a crossing over Center St., of old lumber belonging to city, from post office to Hyde News Stand. Motion carried.



Photos from Delia Fisher

Birdseye views taken from Courthouse tower (about 1897). *Upper left, looking north:* (right) Masonic Hall and Citizens Bank; (left) Fraternity Temple, Congregational Church one block north, beyond Masonic Hall. *Upper right, looking northeast:* 1. Opera House, 2. Fillmore House, 3. Jennie Brown's livery stable, 4. Jayne House, 5. Old Citizens Bank, 6. Baptist Church, 7. Jameson Hotel, 8. Bicycle track. *Bottom left, looking west:* note bicycle track in foreground. *Bottom right:* Looking south.

June—The petition of C. H. Barnett *et al.* for the removal of the B. & M. stockyards as a nuisance was read. On motion same was referred to the Board of Health.

June—City marshal was instructed to prevent the washing of ice on the sidewalk of Court St.

1905 The secretary of state's office at Lincoln had registered 547 automobiles at \$1 each under the state law.

It was voted that city lay necessary pipes, make the proper connections, and furnish the water for the public fountains proposed to be established by the Geneva Commercial Club.

February—Youngers & Co. of the Geneva nursery this week received a shipment of a carload of nursery stock, in all about 500,000 trees, from France, on which they paid nearly \$1,000 tariff and freight, the tariff alone amounting to \$576.

April—An Equine Hospital: Last summer Dr. I. W. McEachran found in his veterinary practice quite a number of cases where he was called to treat animals that owners could not give time and attention needed. Dr. leased the Ford barn west of the tracks and opened a hospital. He employed Harry Ford, who resides near by, to look after the barn and animal patients without traveling miles into the country to see them.

November—The mayor instructed to cause the triangles of the courthouse walk or watering troughs to be filled with cement.

December—The Geneva bloodhounds were called to Carleton to use in trying to trace a thief who stole some money.

1906 The city of Geneva put hitching racks along the south side of the courthouse square. Twenty-four posts and 400 feet of chain were used.

1907 Dr. J. W. Puckett and family made a trip from Geneva to Omaha by automobile. It was the longest trip a Fillmore County citizen had undertaken by auto. The party left

Geneva at 7 A.M. and arrived in Omaha at midnight. There were no bridges across the Platte at Ashland or Louisville so they went to Plattsmouth and crossed the river by ferry.

The Geneva school board decided to introduce manual training into the Geneva school. Eight carpenter benches were provided for the use of the seventh and eighth grade boys.



Photo from Mrs. Porter Sloan

One of the first ice-cream parlors and candy kitchens in Geneva (1906), in the west side of newly built Geneva State Bank building. Peter J. Stiefer (at right) was the owner-operator.

A clock costing about \$1,000 was put in the courthouse tower. The county board paid half the expense and Geneva business men paid the other half. W. P. McCall installed the clock. The slabs of Colorado sandstone for a new walk in front of the courthouse arrived. The cost of the walk was \$300. (The sandstone walk lasted until 1937 when a new cement walk was built.)

April—A mass meeting of Geneva citizens was held at the courthouse to plan for the junior normal school.

1909 T. F. Combs counted 208 teams tied to hitchracks in Geneva Saturday afternoon.

It was a season when very large hats were in vogue for ladies and a movement was on foot in many churches to ask ladies to remove their hats during service. Otherwise most of the congregation were invisible.

1912 Work was commenced mounting in the courthouse park the two cannons that had been secured for the G. A. R. by Congressman Sloan.

The Geneva State Junior Normal opened with an enrollment of 166.

The horse disease that was sweeping the state had caused the death of about 200 animals in this county.

1913 W. F. Smith's new steam laundry was ready for operation.



Photo from Grady Corbitt

Harry Porter's livery stable, at the SW corner of 8th and F Sts. in 1914. This building is now used by Ralph Gipson as a private garage and shop. (Harry Porter standing at right.)

1915 It was moved that the street commissioner have the old scales on Main Street removed.

1917 The county board was having 285 trees planted in the courthouse park. Most of the trees in the park had died during the drouth.

March—The final report of Judge W. R. Fulton, county chairman, showed that \$31,031 had been contributed by Fillmore County citizens to various war causes.

Geneva grocers were limiting their sales of sugar to 50 cents' worth to each family. Sugar was a very scarce article. The county food administration price-fixing committee held a meeting to fix prices on food articles. The price of sugar was fixed at 9½ cents a pound, flour at \$2.85 per sack, and potatoes at 3 cents per pound.

A barrel was placed in the Geneva post office for receiving contributions of tobacco and candy for soldiers in France. The Red Cross was establishing comfort stations for soldiers at junctions and railheads to care for boys traveling to training camps.

1919 *February*—The majority for the sewer bonds at a special election in Geneva was 304. Nearly as many women as men went to the polls. When the result was known bells were



Photo from Fletch Hanlin

Geneva's muddy Main Street—taken in the west block, looking south-west, in early 1900's.

rung and the fire siren blew and a big bonfire was built in front of the courthouse. The next morning after the sewer bond election petitions were taken out to create a paving district in the business part of the town. Practically everybody signed up. Every time someone signed the petition the fire whistle blew and signatures came thick and fast.

1920 J. J. Lightbody tore down part of the old Lamb feed barn at the NW corner of the square in Geneva to make room for a new garage building 48' x 120'.

The brick paving project in the business section of Geneva was completed.

1921 Seventy-five demonstrations in gopher eradication were given in the county in one day, with 725 persons in attendance.

1923 The law making necessary the posting of an application for a marriage license 10 days before the license could be granted went into effect.

1924 Fillmore County was being visited by crowds of hoboes following the harvest across the country. Twenty-four got off one railroad car in Geneva at one time.

July—The city council was considering the construction of cement sidewalks.

1925 *February*—It was voted that the mayor appoint a committee to investigate the matter of graveling the streets.

1926 Construction began on the new Geneva post office building north of the Geneva Bank. Occupied in July.

1927 The road from the fair grounds entrance to the Geneva Cemetery was gravelled. The gravel project on the Meridian Highway between Geneva and Fairmont was finished. Four speed limit signs were placed on streets leading into the city.

October—Council voted to have free mail delivery for the city and that the city blocks be numbered.

1928 *March*—Repealed Ordinance No. 11 and drew Ordinance No. 98, naming and numbering streets and avenues as they now exist.

A postal inspector was laying out city mail delivery routes in Geneva.

1931 D. C. Mowry of Geneva announced the reopening of his museum. It had been closed while he installed a painted screen at the entrance.

1932 *January*—A state relief organization was formed to gather supplies of food and clothing for citizens of several western counties who were about starved out.

1933 *March*—The top price for hogs was \$3.10. Wheat was 33 cents, corn was 14 cents, and oats were 8 cents.

1934 *April*—Forty cases of canned beef stew were received by the county relief committee for use in Fillmore County.

June—The Fillmore County Relief committee was issuing many orders for feed for livestock. The drouth continued unabated.

July—The government bought 214 cattle, four carloads, at Geneva. Cattle buying was a drouth relief measure and more were brought in for sale than could be taken.

July—Legal liquor returned to Geneva after 20 years when Hinkle's package store opened.

August—Fillmore County farmers had sold the government 1,111 head of cattle that they could not feed on account of drouth conditions.

1935 Fillmore County farmers received 2,400 wheat checks from the government, amounting to \$131,000.

1937 *February*—The county extension column gave suggestions to farmers for conditioning their horses for spring farm work. It's different now.

The Iowa-Nebraska Co. started a rural electrification project by constructing a 6½ mile power line NW of Geneva. Electric service was installed for eight homes in that area.



Photo from Mrs. Darrel Hughes

Hailstones, May 15, 1941—largest hail ever seen in Fillmore County.

- 1938 Fillmore County's most disastrous sleet storm since 1926 struck, doing thousands of dollars' worth of damage. Many telephone and power line poles were down and trees were badly damaged.
- 1939 The Ewalt Amusement Co. commenced the erection of a two-story brick building back of the Ewalt residence to replace the former shop there and to house the show equipment.
- 1941 *April*—The city made application to the Works Projects Administration for aid to improve streets, water and sewer lines, and sidewalks.



Courtesy Nebraska Signal

Fairmont Army Air Field Chapel (left) and main gate (right), 1944.

- 1942 It was announced that all car owners would be required to display \$5 Federal Use Stamps on their automobiles.
- 1943 *January*—The new Victory tax, 5% on all income in excess of \$12 per week or \$624 per year, went into effect. *January*—Government officials announced that strict rationing of fruits, vegetables, and juices would go into effect in February. *March*—Many carpenters arrived in Geneva for construction work on the Bruning, Harvard, and Fairmont air base. *Summer*—A contract between the U. S. A. and the city of Geneva to build a Federal Public Housing Utility was made.
- 1944 *May*—Uhlig's Bakery in Geneva closed indefinitely due to shortage of sugar. *June*—Howard Nichols of Geneva, chairman of the local War Price and Rationing Board, announced that there were 10,000 unfilled applications for tires in the Omaha district. *July*—The Geneva Fire Department and the American Legion announced they would sponsor a Fourth of July celebration, which would include dedication of the new county service board in the courthouse park. *December*—The mayor and city clerk were empowered to execute a release covering space in the City Hall which was leased to the Government on September 1, 1942, and used by U. S. Engineers.



Photo from Mrs. Ernest Heinrichs

Pleasant Day School for retarded children in Geneva, taught by Mrs. Ernest Heinrichs. Mrs. Heinrichs (shown in schoolroom) started the school in her home in 1958 with five pupils. Later she moved the school to a Sunday School room in the Congregational Church. In 1962 it was moved to one of the housing units in Geneva. Children age 5 to 25 are eligible. Reading, phonics, language, arithmetic, spelling, science, geography, and health are taught. Children are taught crafts, many of which are sold. They also learn tap dancing and baton.

- 1945 Fillmore County went over the top in the Sixth War Loan drive, the county subscribing \$657,835. *September*—Markets: Yellow corn, \$1.01; wheat, \$1.50; eggs, \$30; hogs, \$11.46 to \$14.10. *October*—The Second Air Force announced that the Fairmont Army Air Field would close temporarily as far as military personnel were concerned.
- 1946 The Nebraska barber board established minimum prices for the state, haircuts being 65 cents and shaves 35 cents.
- 1947 A nation-wide strike of telephone operators affected the Geneva office, where only one operator was on duty to handle emergency calls. The Fairmont Army Air Field was returned to civilian status by the War Assets Administration, and was turned over to the state department of aeronautics.
- 1950 *November*—The city took over the housing project from the government.
- 1952 *June*. A new fire truck was recently delivered to the Geneva Rural Fire Protection District. The truck is painted white, the color used by rural fire-protection districts.
- 1954 *June*—The new motel, called the Goldenrod Motel, opened. A 1,000-watt beacon light was put into operation at Fairmont State Air Field. The light, mounted on the water tower at the former Army Air Base, is the same one used during the war, as it was left intact when much equipment at the base was dismantled.
- 1955 *June*—A jungle gym purchased by the Junior Woman's Club was set up at the city park.

BANKS

Citizens Bank

The Citizens Bank was established in 1885 by J. Jensen, J. M. Fillebrown, and D. Griffith, with a capital stock of \$10,000. Later, the capital stock was increased, and H. L. Smith and E. K. Cobb were added to the list of stockholders and officers. In 1900, stock of the institution passed into the hands of J. O. Walker, C. W. Shickley, E. K. Cobb, V. C. Shickley, J. W. Walker, E. M. Berkley, and H. L. Smith. These persons were the owners and officers of the bank in 1907.



Photo from Mrs. Pete Kelch

Old Citizens Bank building as it stood at original location (NE corner of 9th and G). Notice Post Office location.

As a result of some of the economic troubles of the 1920's, this bank was closed on July 12, 1927, by the State Banking Commission.

In 1890, the bank erected a new brick building at a cost of about \$30,000. This building burned down in 1910.

When the new brick building was constructed in 1890, the old wooden structure was moved two blocks east to the NW corner of 11th and G Sts. and converted into an apartment house. It was known to Genevans in later years as the "Beehive." It was moved north near the alley when the brick building was erected on the corner. It has since been dismantled, and its site is now occupied by a parking lot for the Jack & Jill Food Market.

Geneva State Bank

The Geneva State Bank started operations at its present location 69 years ago on March 27, 1899. Little information relating to banks before this date is available, though it is known that the Citizens Bank, which operated from 1885