Early History

(Most of this section, including the records of earlyvoters, was compiled by Mary Badger Halsey.)

NO MORTGAGE ON THE FARM

Mary, let's kill the fatted calf and celebrate the day,
For the last dreadful mortgage on the farm is wiped away.
I have got the papers with me, they are right as right can be—
Let us laugh and sing together, for the dear old farm is free.

Don't all the Yankees celebrate the Fourth Day of July?
Because 'twas then that freedom's sun lit up our nation's sky.
Why shouldn't we, then, celebrate, and the day ne'er forget?
Where is there any freedom like being out of debt?

I've riz up many mornin's an hour before the sun,
And night has overtaken me before the task was done.
When weary with my labor 'twas this thought that nerved my
    arm—
Each day of toil would help to pay the mortgage on the farm.

And, Mary, you have done your part in rowin' to the shore,
By taking eggs and butter to the little village store;
You did not spend the money in dressing up for show,
But sang from morn to evening in your faded calico.

And Bessie, our sweet daughter—God bless her little heart,
The lad that gets her for a wife, must be by nature smart—
She's gone without a piano, her lonely hours to charm,
To have a hand in payin' off the mortgage on the farm.

I'll build a little cottage soon, to make your heart rejoice;
I'll buy a good piano, to go with Bessie's voice.
You shall not make your butter with that up and down
    concern,
For I'll go this very day and buy the finest patent churn.

Lay by your faded calico and go with me to town,
And get yourself and Bessie a new and shining gown;
Low prices for our produce need not give us now alarm;
Spruce up a little, Mary, there's no mortgage on the farm.

While our hearts are now so joyful, let us, Mary, not forget,
To thank the God of Heaven for being out of debt,
For He gave the rain and sunshine, and put strength into my
    arm,
And lengthened out the days to see no mortgage on the farm.

This poem, which appeared in Volume I, Number 1 (May 9, 1872), of the *Nebraska Bulletin*, the first paper published in Fillmore County, epitomized the philosophy of the sturdy men who had chosen to wrest their livelihood from the rich virgin soil of Fillmore County. There was the hardness of granite in their determination to earn an honest living from the soil, and the softness of velvet in their envisioning of comforts and luxuries for their families. The combination of these characteristics carried these pioneers through scourges of grasshoppers that darkened the sky and left no green thing behind; through drouth that seared their crops and their land; and through the plague of vampires who came from the East to prey upon the defenseless settler through usury and exorbitant charges for services and materials—and so enabled them to build the prosperous country that we know today.

The Territory of Nebraska was created by Congress in 1854. Surveying of the land began, and the legislature appointed a committee to determine locations, sizes, and names of the counties. The committee, under the able chairmanship of Mr. A. G. Jones, were determined to be fair and to choose names from the leaders of both the major political parties.

The adoption of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill in 1854 had sounded the death-knell of the Whig party, which, with President Millard Fillmore as its candidate, lost the national elections in 1852. Fillmore ran again in 1856 as the candidate of the American (or "Know-Northing") party, and, on losing once more, retired from politics. But as Vice-President under Taylor he had presided over the Senate with such impartiality during the turmoil caused by the slavery question that his own thoughts on the subject could not be detected; and as President, although many criticized his actions, no one questioned his honesty of purpose. And so, as his name was chosen for our county, we can look with pride to our name as standing for integrity.

Courtesy of Helen L. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. William O. Bussard,
first to file a claim in Fillmore County.

Many people had moved into the new Territory, and the Free Homestead Act of 1862, passed to reward Civil War soldiers, became a further impulse toward settlement. On March 21, 1864, Congress passed an act enabling the residents to form a State government (which finally became a fact on March 1, 1867).

William O. Bussard, a native of Ohio, was the first man to file on a claim in Fillmore County. He filed on the NE ¼ of Sec. 8, T8, R3W of the Sixth Principal Meridian in June, 1866. Mr. Bussard was a man of strong character and high principle. In the years of his retirement he lived in the village of Lushton in York County, only a few miles from the site of his homestead. Being greatly opposed to the use of liquor and the traffic therein, during his last illness he requested his family not to have his body carried in the local undertaker's hearse, where, it was reported, the bootleggers kept their wares. Out of respect to his wishes, Mr. Bussard's remains were carried to his grave in a spring wagon.

Mr. Bussard was accompanied to Nebraska by his cousin, William C. Whitaker, also a native of Ohio, who made the second filing on a claim in Fillmore County, the NW ¼ of the same section (T8, R3W). Thus Bussard and Whitaker were names familiar to the early settlers of the county. The men came onto their claims and made dugouts and shelter for their livestock, thus preparing for a permanent settlement.

In October, 1866, Nimrod J. Dixon, a native of Pennsylvania, filed on the SE ¼ of Sec. 8, T8, R3W, and his fiancee, Miss Lydia Gilmore, filed on the SW ¼ of the same section. Mr. Dixon selected his land without seeing it. When he arrived in Nebraska City, the filing point, the law was soon to change so that one person could homestead only 80 acres instead of the 160 then permitted. There was not time to make the trip to select his land and return to Nebraska City to file on his claim before the law changed. In telling of this afterward, he said he thought it would be a poor quarter that did not have eighty acres of farm land.
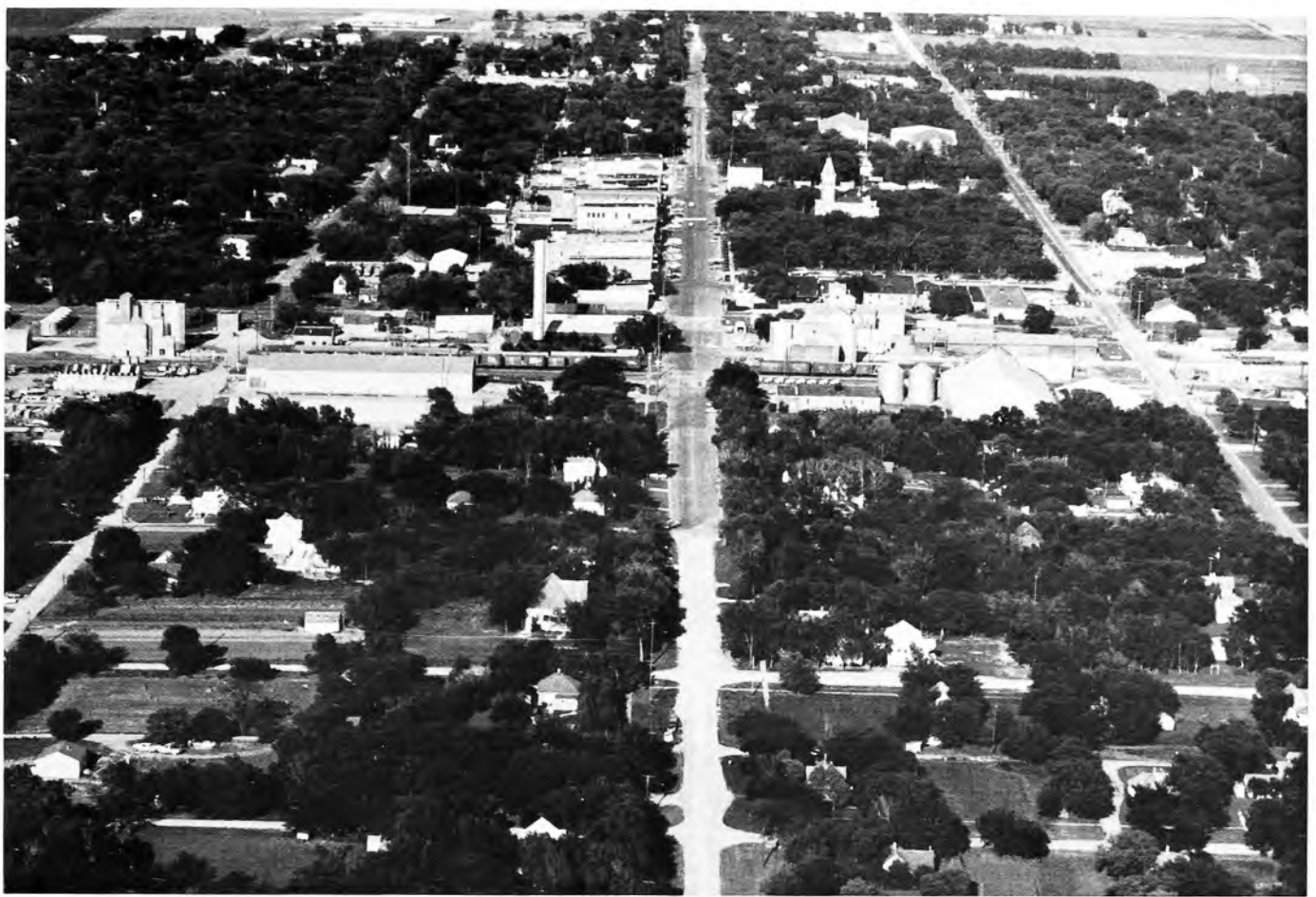
Aerial view of modern Geneva, looking east toward the main business district, the courthouse, and U. S. Highway 81.

When Mr. Dixon filed on his claim, he was with the family of Elias Gilmore, the father of his fiancee, who was bringing his family to the claim he had previously entered in York County. Mr. Dixon spent the winter in the Gilmore home. Their wedding in the same home, on February 28, 1867, was the first in York County. Mr. Dixon had to go to Nebraska City to get the license. That spring they took up residence on their homestead, where they resided for 40 years, thus being the first to make permanent continuous settlement in Fillmore County. Their first child, Arthur, born January 5, 1869, was the first white child born in the county. A neighbor, Mrs. Eliza Whitaker, was the midwife who assisted at the birth.

Mr. Dixon was an enterprising farmer, always interested in community and civic affairs. After 40 years on the farm Mr. and Mrs. Dixon established a home in Fairmont, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Their youngest son, Lloyd, still resides in Fairmont.

Mrs. Dixon used to relate many interesting experiences of the early days. One time when she was alone an Indian came to the dugout and handed her a paper upon which was written the statement that he had lost a pony. She assured him that they had seen nothing of the pony. He saw a new butcher knife lying on the table, picked it up and examined it, and finally drew out his old knife and held it toward her, saying, "Swap, swap." She said, "Yes," and so he went away with her good knife.

Mr. Dixon told of being on a buffalo hunt in 1867 when he saw the first construction train that came into Grand Island to build the Union Pacific Railroad westward. Mrs. Dixon recalled that though they had many hardships, they had enough to eat, were comfortable most of the time, and had good social times and lots of fun.

The same season, J. H. Malick and Jacob Wirts, young natives of Ohio, and James Whitaker, twin brother of

William, filed on claims in Fillmore County, making a total for the county of seven in the year 1866. All of those claim-holders, fearing the severity of the winter, returned East to their families or friends. In the spring of 1867 the Whitakers and William Bussard returned and broke some of the land and then went to Missouri for the winter of 1867-1868. There were no additions to the list of claims or settlers in Fillmore County in the year 1867.

The Whitakers returned in the spring of 1868, bringing with them their mother, Mrs. Eliza Whitaker, then over 70 years old. She filed on a claim adjoining that of her son William.

On October 20, 1868, Henry L. Badger, a native of Connecticut, came from Illinois with his family and built a

Mrs. E. A. Whitaker, the first white woman to take up land in Fillmore County, Mr. Whitaker had died in Illinois, and she came out with her sons.

dugout on the bank of the West Fork of the Blue River on the NW ¼ of Sec. 2, T8, R3W. His son Lewis Henry, then 12 years old, lived the remainder of his life on the homestead, passing from this life in 1940.

Later in 1868, E. L. Martin, a native of New York, filed on the NE ¼ of Sec. 1, T8, R4W, and L. R. Warner, a native of Massachusetts, filed on the W ½ of the NW ¼ of Sec. 10, T8, R3W, but did not settle on their claims until the spring of 1869.

E. L. Martin laid out a town site on his claim and called it Fillmore City, the first town in the county. He was commissioned postmaster on March 18, 1871, and kept at Fillmore City the first post office in the county. Later in the same year Henry L. Badger was commissioned postmaster and kept what was called the West Blue Post Office in his dugout on the NW ¼ of Sec. 2, T8, R3W. It was later kept in the log house Mr. Badger erected on the south 80 of his homestead after the establishment of the Fairmont Post Office.

For the first settlers, Nebraska City was the nearest railroad station. The mail was brought by carrier from one post office to the next, the offices being in the homes of the settlers. The mail was carried in one sack and emptied at each office, where local mail was sorted out and the rest sent on to the next office, where the performance was repeated.

The *Nebraska Bulletin* (Fairmont) for August 17, 1872, reported, "The Tri-weekly mail route between Fairmont and York by way of West Blue and McFadden was put into operation last week." McFadden was a post office kept at the McFadden home in York County, one mile east of the present Highway 81 and four miles north of the Fillmore County line. There the first county settlers received their mail before the establishment of the post offices at Fillmore City and West Blue.

Very few claims were taken in the northern half of the county in 1869. D. H. Dillon and John Ziska both filed on Sec. 2, T7, R1W on Turkey Creek in that year. Mr. Ziska, a native of Bohemia, naturalized in Wisconsin, came in May, 1869, and rented an old dugout in Saline County to live in until he could make his own. After breaking 20 acres of sod and getting it ready for sowing, he went to Lincoln for provisions and to file on his claim. The first night after they moved on, in September, 1869, a great flood spread Turkey Creek a half-mile wide, causing considerable loss of property and cattle.

The following are listed as claim-holders along Walnut Creek, in the southeastern part of the county, in 1869:

Charles Eberstein, native of Michigan; Joseph Rozicka, John Kral, Frank Kabrila, Gottlieb Girmus, and Frank Becwar, all natives of Bohemia; Ellis E. Barnett, native of Iowa; and Thomas E. Barnett, native of Illinois.

Charles Eberstein, the first man to file on a claim in the southern half of the county, passed through Nebraska in 1865 as a soldier. After his release from the army in 1867, he went to Omaha, there to wait until he became of age so that he could file on a homestead. In April, 1869, he filed on Sec. 13, T5, R1W.

Because of an Indian scare, Governor David Butler ordered the raising of a militia, which Mr. Eberstein joined. Several scouting trips turned out to be merely hunting trips, with never a sight of an Indian. After his discharge from the militia, Mr. Eberstein returned to his claim and built a log cabin. He spent the following winter in Plattsmouth, where he worked on the first few miles of the Burlington & Missouri R.R. in Nebraska .

The earliest settlements were in the northern part of the county, not only to have easy access to water and fuel, but also because the B. & M. had been surveyed and staked to follow the Blue River valley and passed through York County just north of the Fillmore County line. The settlers desired to be near the railroad and the towns that would spring up.

Congress had granted the railroad companies one-half of the land for 20 miles on each side of the survey as an inducement to build the road. After the survey was made and the road staked, Congress passed another law giving them the privilege of building anywhere within the land grant. Therefore the B. & M. line was built five miles south of the original survey. This saved the railroad company much expense, as the road in Fillmore County was through level country, whereas the York County line would have called for many cuts and bridges. The company was very proud of building 30 miles of line without a curve. The completion of the railroad through the county in 1871 then brought the large trek of immigrants.

The railroad company had selected the sites of their stations. The site for the town of Fairmont was not on railroad land, and so the company hired four men to take preemption claims on the land wanted for the town site, live on the claims for six months and "prove up" on them or obtain title to them. The men hired to do this were George Enderly, James Seeley, J. A. Crawford, and Obediah Scott. Each filed on an 80 in Sec. 30, T8, R2W, and they built a house in the center of the section in April, 1871. When title was secured,

OPERA HOUSE,
TO-NIGHT.

Appearance of the justly celebrated

BIJOU COMEDY COMPANY.

IN

A programme of unusual strength and merit

THEY WILL APPEAR THIS EVENING

—IN—

"Ma Look at Him."

IKV BODKINS (An overgrown boy) O. KHERNS
JEL US .... FRED E. GORDON
MR JONES .... WILLIS SESSIONS
SALLIE BODKINS .... MISS SALLIE KHERNS
Candy sticks and lemonade by the company

ON STAGE .... ON SCREEN

The most versatile characters ever upon the stage

JOHN F. CLARK.

The Monarchs of Comedy

THE KHERNS

In his latest and greatest Comedy Creations

The Favorite Comedian

FRED E. GORDON,

Will Tell You All He Knows

The exquisitely neat performer

MISS S. KHERNS,

IN SONGS AND DANCES

A repetition of his former greatness

JOHN F. CLARK.

TO CONCLUDE WITH

"MURDER AT THE TOLLGATE"

(BURLESQUE)

REDDY ROBE .... JOHN CLARK
TIMOTHY TIM .... OSCAR KHERNS
AUNTY JACKSON .... WILLIS SESSIONS
UNCLE JACKSON .... FRED E. GORDON
LUCY JACKSON .... SALLIE KHERNS
CHARLIE JOHNSON .... FRED MOORE
Red fire by the company.

Change Of Programme Nightly.

Secure seats at the usual place.

Prices 25 and 35 cents.

Doors open at 7 o'clock. Curtain at 8.

Democrat Print, Geneva, Neb.

An early-day playbill for the Geneva Opera House; the date is not known, although the name of the printing house offers some hint of the period.

Photo from Geneva State Bank
Turkey Creek on March 20, 1912

Photo from Delia Fisher
Looking northwest toward the courthouse and Citizens Bank from an early-day "parking lot."

FILLMORE COUNTY,
AND THE SOUTHERN TIER OF TOWNSHIPS IN
YORK COUNTY, NEB.
SHOWING LANDS OF B. & M. R. R. R. CO.
LANDS SHADED THUS ▨ FOR SALE MAY 1 1878 LANDS SHADED THUS ▨ SOLD.
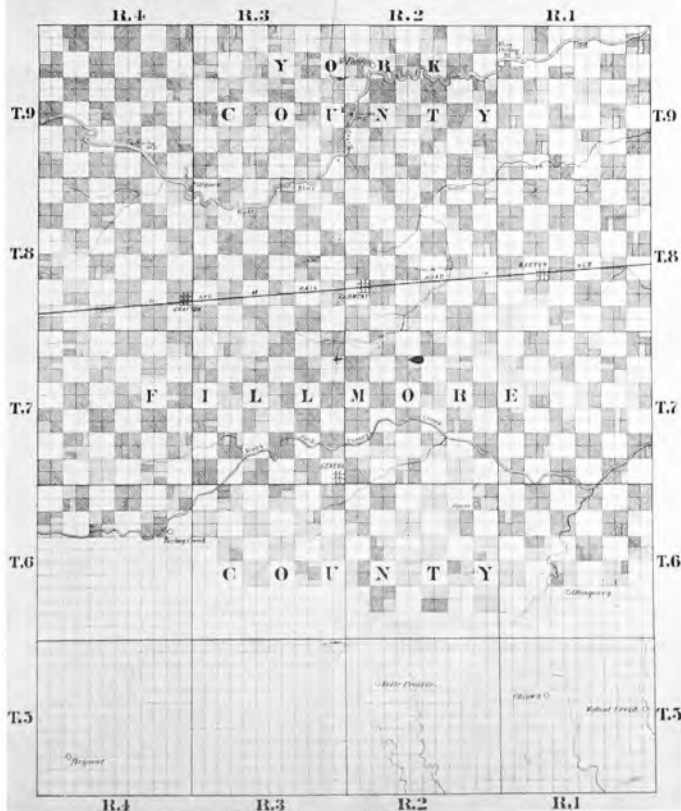
of Fillmore County began in the spring of 1871. On March 15, 1871, Acting Governor W. H. James decreed that April 21, 1871, should be the time for the election of officers to organize the new county. At the same time, he appointed Henry L. Badger as registrar of voters for the county. Mr. Badger took the oath of office on March 20, 1871, before William Ong, justice of the peace, in York County, and proceeded with his duties.

The old register shows that there were 145 eligible voters out of 161 names registered. The following states and foreign countries were represented: New York 22, Ohio 19, Pennsylvania 14, Indiana 14, Illinois 7, Wisconsin 6, Michigan 6, Connecticut 3, Massachusetts 2, Kentucky 4, Iowa 2, Vermont 2, North Carolina 2, New Hampshire 1, West Virginia 1, and Virginia 1; Germany 20, Bohemia 11, Canada 2, Sweden 2, Scotland 4, Ireland 2, England 1, Isle of Man 1, and Switzerland 1.

Most of these voters had been resident in the county 12 months or less, the majority less. The oldest man registering was William Purdy, a native of New York State, then 73 years of age.

The first election was held on April 21, 1871, in the dugout of Colonel Nathaniel McCalla, on the NE ¼ of Sec. 20, T7, R2W. A transcript of the poll book for this election is included at the end of this chapter. At this time 82 votes were cast. William Merrill, who made the ballot box (which is still in the possession of his descendants), was the first man to vote, and Asa Glass the second. E. L. Martin, James Horne, and G. R. Wolfe served as judges of the election, and A. W. Chase and W. Woodard as clerks.

The county officers elected were: Henry L. Badger, county clerk; Wilbur Deuel, treasurer; J. F. Snow, sheriff; T. E. Barnett, coroner; William H. Blain, probate judge; Henry L. Badger, county surveyor. The Board of Commissioners were E. L. Martin, Charles H. Bassett, and Jesse Lee.

On October 10, 1871, the first regular election in the county was held and the following men were elected: William

they deeded the land to the South Platte Land Company, who had it surveyed into town lots in October, 1871, and sold these to the people. In May, 1872, Obediah Scott returned to Fairmont to learn telegraphy.

The railroad companies sent out many brochures and advertised extensively in Eastern papers to attract settlers. The country was portrayed as a veritable Eden, with glowing testimonies from those who were here and preferred it to all of the East. Those who returned to the East disheartened and discouraged were not mentioned. The number of abandoned claims advertised were evidence of the heartbreak of the struggle to many who came with high hopes but for whom the struggle was too great. Nevertheless, thousands were attracted, not only to wrest their living from the soil but to wrest their living from those who tilled the soil. Most of the settlers came with very little money and were harassed by the loan sharks, who charged exorbitant interest rates, 36 per cent being not unusual.

John R. McCashland, a native of Indiana and a Civil War veteran, who filed on the SW ¼ of Sec. 12, T8, R3W in the fall of 1870, said that he had $42 in his pocket. When telling about this in 1921, he said it didn't seem possible that they could have lived as long as they did on that amount. The descendants of Mr. McCashland still own and farm the homestead.

According to news items and advertisement in the pioneer papers, promotion schemes and ideas were as numerous as they are today. Most were legitimate and worth while, but some were designed to flourish at the expense of the weak and those defenseless through adversity. In the *Nebraska Bulletin*[1] for May 22, 1873, appeared a letter demanding that the "organization of a grange be looked into to combat the vampyres who [are] bleeding the farmers."

Fillmore County was at first combined with Saline County for revenue and political purposes. The organization

Photos courtesy of Melvin Olson
William H. Blain, First County Judge *(left)*, J. F. Snow, First County Sheriff *(right)*.

H. Blain, judge; J. C. McFadden, sheriff; A. T. Hager, treasurer; James Shepherd, coroner; J. E. Spear, clerk; H. L. Badger, surveyor; G. W. Gue, superintendent of schools; and H. G. Smith, W. T. Burnett, and T. E. Barnett, commissioners.

The election of these men produced some complications that had to be settled by the courts. It was understood by the old board that two of their body having the largest number of votes at the organic election in April should hold over, one for two and the other for the full term of three years. T. E. Barnett was elected in the place of Jesse Lee, whose term of office, it was admitted, expired on January 1, 1872. Bassett and Martin, claiming the office on the grounds of the election the preceding spring, were candidates for re-election. In Martin's district, H. G. Smith was the only man voted for, but, as Smith declined to qualify, E. L. Martin was allowed to retain the office. In the second district, W. T. Burnett was elected, and he began a suit before the court to depose

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[1]Also known, at various times, as the *Fillmore County Bulletin, Fillmore Bulletin,* and *Fairmont Bulletin.*

Bassett. The *Court Journal* (Volume I, Case number 3) recorded: "By virtue of decision of His Honor O. P. Mason, Judge of the First Judicial District at a special term of district court held in County of Fillmore on the 28th of February, 1872, Mr. Wm. T. Burnett was recognized as Commissioner for the second district of said county."

Before the courthouse was constructed, the meetings of the county commissioners were held at McCalla's until March 16, 1872, when a meeting was held at the residence of David Lee, near the town site on the school section. After this, until May, 1873, commissioners' meetings were held at the office of the county clerk, J. E. Spear, which was located in his residence a short distance northwest of the site of the county seat.

Before the formal organization of the county, Fillmore County was attached to and legally assessed by Saline County. Difficulties arose. The following account of how they were settled is taken from A. T. Andreas's *History of Nebraska* (1882):

"The officers of Saline County had refused to give up the tax lists for Fillmore, and on October 16, 1871, the Commissioners ordered the County Attorney, J. W. Eller, to begin a suit before the District Court for their possession.

"Eller urged the suit, agreeing to pay the costs if defeated, which certainly required considerable assurance, for the young man had just begun the practice of law, and at the time his only possessions were two or three law books, his homestead claim, and 50 cents in cash.

"To attend the meetings of the Commissioners as their attorney, he had to walk about 15 miles, and get trusted for his dinner, but on going to attend the District Court, in Saline County, he borrowed a pony, and managed to scrape enough money to pay his hotel bill, but he secured the tax lists." [1]

At this time the vicinity that is now Franklin township had the largest number of voters because it was the only township that contained no railroad land. It was decided at the time of the election that the county seat should be in the center of the county. There was as yet no settlement there, and the deer, antelope, and elk roamed over the spot long after it had been designated to be the county seat.

The first meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held May 29, 1871, in Nathaniel McCalla's dugout. As suggestions for names were made, Col. McCalla's young daughter, Emma, suggested the name "Geneva," the name of their old home town in Illinois, and this name was chosen.

In June, 1871, Henry L. Badger, the county clerk and surveyor, surveyed, platted, and recorded the town site, and
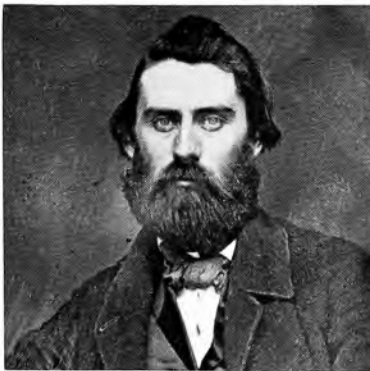

Photo from Mrs. Mary Halsey
Henry L. Badger, County Surveyor.

for that service, according to the clerk's record, was paid $70.

The question of roads came first before the board at the meeting held on July 3, 1871. The first road laid out by the commissioners crossed the county from east to west through the northern tier of townships, near the Burlington main line and today's U.S. Highway 6.

Because of the railroad, Fairmont was the first town to flourish rapidly. Here the first newspaper, *Nebraska Bulletin*,

[1]As no county attorney had been elected, it must be presumed (in the absence of exact records) that Mr. Eller was appointed to the post by the Commissioners.

published its first issue on May 9, 1872. The issue of June 22, 1872, contained this news story about the county seat:

The Sale
Sale of Lots at the County Seat
The County Commissioners
Bid off the Court
House Square
Name Changed From
Henry to Geneva.

"The sale of the school lands of Fillmore County began at this place on the 11th at 10 o'clock. Nearly one section was sold, then it adjourned to Henry, the site of the County Seat. There was no difficulty in finding the place as there was a surveyor in the crowd. Our reporter arrived just in time to witness the sale of TOWN LOTS.

"There were 148 town lots and about seven-eighths were sold that day; some at the appraised value, but most of them far above it. The first offered was the COURT HOUSE SQUARE, the appraised value of which was $135, and it was bid off to the County Commissioners at the appraised value. Then followed the lots in rotation beginning with No. 1. The corner lots were valued at $10 and the others at eight. The terms were one tenth of the principal and the interest on the remainder up to Jan. 1, 1873, cash in hand; and a note @ 10 years bearing 10 per cent interest—the cheapest lot sold for $8 and the most paid that day was $41.50, R. H. Werts purchaser. There is some talk of a railroad through the place and gas works and the Court House would be built before long. At nearly 6 o'clock the sale was adjourned till 10 o'clock at Fairmont. Second day the remainder of the lots were sold, highest at $60. Next 5 and 2 acre lots sold. The best 5 for $110 and the best 2 for $156 to E. A. Spear closing County Seat lot business. The NE ¼ of Sec. 36 joining Fairmont was then offered for sale. Sold to Mr. Grant for appraisal price of $18 per acre."

This sale took place in June, 1872, one year after Geneva had been surveyed; but June, 1873, found Geneva still little more than raw prairie. The first signs of a "town" were a temporary jail and courthouse, built by Jesse Thompson and accepted by the county commissioners on May 5, 1873. Various attempts were made to move the county seat to other places, but all failed. E. L. Martin tried to have it moved to Fairmont. The *Bulletin* reported on October 26, 1872:

"We learn from Maj. Williams that an attempt is being made to establish a town 2 miles west of the County Seat. There is already one building 3 stories, about 48' x 60' store rooms below, offices on second floor and hall on third. It is a fine location on Turkey Creek. The coming term of District Court will be held there."

This place, called Manleyville and located on the S½ of Sec. 27, T7, R3W, was another of the places that hoped to become the county seat.

On July 6, 1872, the *Bulletin* reported on the tax levy:

July 1 (1872) returns of State Auditor presented showing rate of taxation to be:

General Fund	2½ mills	$ 3,164.85
Sinking Fund	1 mill	1,265.878
State Schools	2 mills	2,531.72
University	¼ mill	316.46

Ordered by Board that in addition the following levy be made for County purposes.

General Fund	5½ mills on the dollar value.
Sinking Fund	1 mill on the dollar value.
Road & bridge	3 mills on the dollar value.
Court House	2½ mills on the dollar value.
Poor House	½ mill on the dollar value.
Road Fund	$4 per each ¼ section of land.

On February 6, 1872, J. S. Le Hew, Nathaniel McCalla, and John A. Williams were appointed by the commissioners to appraise the school lands of Fillmore County. They soon found that to survey each section would require much labor and expense, so after consulting the State Auditor it was decided to survey only timber lands and town sites. They reported to the commissioners on April 29, 1872:

"We visited each section and appraised it carefully in 40 A. tracts (after encountering some difficulty in finding some of it owing to the fact the prairie fire had burned up the stakes in the sparsely settled part of the county) save Section 16, Town 8, R4W, which is traversed by School Creek and has a small amount of timber along the banks we subdivided it into 10 A. tracts. The southeast one-fourth of Section 36, T7, R3W, we found had been laid out in part in lots and a town located thereon. We thought it advisable to have balance of said quarter surveyed into Outlots which was done and appraised in subdivisions as shown and numbered on the original plot and plots of the additions which we ordered laid out. We thought it advisable to appraise it that way as the County has failed to purchase said ground, it can now avail itself of benefits of county seat location. People could purchase single lots without being compelled to buy 40 A."

On April 15, 1872, G. W. Gue resigned as county superintendent of schools and J. A. Dempster was appointed in his place.

Letters in the *Bulletin* for July 27, 1872, contained much ado about the county commissioners borrowing money at an allegedly exorbitant rate of interest to purchase the courthouse square and 160 acres of land for a poor farm. On July 30, 1872, the commissioners ordered that at the general election to be held that fall, not more than five mills be levied annually until $50,000 should be realized for the construction of county buildings. The result of this vote was 264 in favor and 243 against.

Notice was given on October 2, 1872, of the first Presidential election (for the county) to be held November 5, 1872. The county was first divided into four districts or precincts, each taking in one-fourth of the county. District No. 1 consisted of the northeast quarter, No. 2 the northwest, No. 3 the southwest, and No. 4 the southeast.

A list of the voters in District No. 2, prepared by Registrar Arthur Murdock, was published in the *Bulletin* on September 21, 1872. (See end of this chapter.) In September, 1872, more voters were registered in District No: 1 than had been registered in the entire county for the organizational election in May, 1871. (For this list, see Appendix D.)

The first mention of bridges came with a legal notice dated July 30, 1872, advertising for bids for the construction of Bridge No. 1, over the West Blue River on Road No. 6 on range line between R3 and R4 and Secs. 1 and 2; Bridge No. 2, over Turkey Creek on the range line road between R2 and R3; and Bridge No. 3, over Walnut Creek in T5, R1 between Secs. 13 and 14. The contracts for the bridges were let to Mr. Webster for the two bridges over Turkey and Walnut Creeks, and to Mr. Baker for the one over the West Blue. The two were to cost about $3,800.

Ben LaShalle and his crew building a bridge across Turkey Creek (about 1890).

There were numerous complaints; many citizens felt that the bridges were built to accommodate the commissioners themselves, because they were all near their homesteads. The people in the northern part of the county were discommoded by the lack of bridges. They had to ford the river; and, although the bed was sandy and solid, the mud along the edges made it difficult to haul a load. The first settler, N. J. Dixon, told how, to overcome that difficulty, he had made bundles of willow poles and placed them along the two banks

and covered them with sand.

Later the settlers made a log bridge along the homestead of H. L. Badger (Sec. 2, T8, R3). This was the first bridge in that area and became a landmark called the "Badger Bridge." In November and December of 1875 the county built a bridge in the same place. In 1909 it was replaced by an iron bridge which is still in use and still known as the Badger Bridge.

After much ado in the newspaper over why it had not been done before, the county commissioners published the proceedings of their meetings for the first time in 1873, a practice which has prevailed down through the years. There being no courthouse, the commissioners had to hold their meetings wherever they could. William H. Blain, the probate judge, obtained permission to hold his court at his residence, the E ½ of the NE ¼ of Sec. 20, T7, R2W.

The traffic in liquor has always been a problem, as indicated in this early record of the board proceedings: "It having been represented to the County Commissioners, that certain parties are selling liquor within the jurisdiction of the county without license, it was decided to delegate the authority to J. W. Eller to confer with offenders and receive the amount of license fee which was fixed at the sum of $25 each for term of six months or $40 per year, and also empower him to accept legal application for license for or by said parties." In 1873, the license fee for selling liquor was fixed at $500 per year.

August 10, 1872, brought news of a murder at the homestead of Orlando Porter on Turkey Creek. The victim was G. A. Day. Constable Bain took Orlando Porter into his custody. The coroner's verdict was that Day came to his death by a ball from an Enfield rifle supposed to be in the hands of Orlando Porter, who was committed for trial and taken to Nebraska City.

At the trial held in Manleyville, Porter pleaded "guilty" and on November 23, 1872, the District Court sentenced him to one year in the penitentiary for the murder of Day. The entire jury petitioned the governor for his reprieve immediately, and the governor pardoned him on December 24, 1872. Thus the jury did their duty according to law and according to justice as they saw it. Almost 50 years later, Captain C. S. Allen, who was one of the jurors at the Porter trial, recalled that the jurors had to carry their beds and provisions with them.

There was other violence in the same vicinity with not so tragic an ending. One time six burly claim-jumpers tried to scare a claim-holder whose name was Reed, while he was driving home. They surrounded him and fired six shots, all of which missed. He drove as fast as he could, and as he neared some houses the men ran away.

At the general election of November, 1872, a favorable vote was given for a tax for the purpose of erecting county buildings. The commissioners published notice that they would receive sealed bids at the office of the county clerk, until the first Monday in December, 1872, at the hour of 10 A.M., for the building of a wooden courthouse and jail.

The path of the board was not "rose strewn," because there were published many letters of criticism. Some writers felt that they were not spending enough on the county buildings to make them substantial and adequate, others that they had voted more than they were spending, and still others that they should wait till the money was in hand before spending it.

The jail was built in February, 1873, and was the only building in the town for some time. The first man to occupy this jail in a lonely spot was from Turkey Creek. Work began on the courthouse early in 1873 and was finished by May of that year. That building was replaced 20 years later by the present edifice. The old courthouse was moved onto a farm south of Geneva, made into or used as a barn and later burned.

The first town in the county was laid out by E. L. Martin on his homestead on Sec. 1, T8, R4W. This he called Fillmore City. He was commissioned postmaster in March, 1871, making Fillmore City the first post office in Fillmore County. J. E. Porter, the pioneer merchant, opened a store

View of Geneva from west end of G Street about 1880. Notice old courthouse on right.

in Fillmore City on February 10, 1871, so stores were coming nearer to the settlers.

During the summer of that year the railroad reached Fairmont and Mr. Porter moved his store to the new town, beginning business October 15, 1871. The store in Fillmore City was continued by the Melvin Brothers, Charles and Cal, who afterward moved to Sutton. At the same time, Mr. Porter kept store on his homestead two miles southwest of Fairmont. A blacksmith shop was a flourishing enterprise in Fillmore City.

A flouring mill was built at Fillmore by C. M. Northrup, known as the Fillmore Mill. It was known for miles around and had many customers. It was all that remained of Fillmore City for many years. At the beginning of World War I, it was abandoned and torn down. That was before the days of heavy transportation by truck, and the mill was handicapped by not being nearer to a railroad.

By 1874, the call of the thriving city of Fairmont caused Mr. Martin to abandon the city of his dreams and move to Fairmont, there to remain the rest of his life, taking a great interest and part in all civic activities.

Fillmore Mills, downstream side.

The Burlington Railroad laid out the towns of Exeter, Fairmont, and Grafton, named in alphabetical order by the railroad officials, presumably after various towns back East.

Fairmont was surveyed in October, 1871, and the sale of town lots began. Buildings began to spring up like mushrooms. J. E. Porter moved his store from Fillmore City and opened it October 15, 1871, thus becoming the first storekeeper in Fairmont as well as the first in Fillmore City and Fillmore County. A post office called Hesperia, kept by M. H. Brown, postmaster, on his farm adjoining the town site on the northeast, was moved to the town and became known as Fairmont. The town grew rapidly and was for many years the most prosperous and leading town of the county.

Fairmont was incorporated May 26, 1873, the petition for incorporation being signed by E. G. Bliss and 22 others. A. S. Shepherd, H. L. Edwards, W. C. Ziegler, J. E. Porter, and B. F. Parliman were the first trustees

The fact that the materials for the construction and maintenance of both Geneva and York, the county seat of York County, had to come through Fairmont, the nearest shipping point to both towns, was responsible for the prosperity and rapid growth of Fairmont.

Although Congress had given the railroad companies one-half of the land in York County, that county did not have a railroad until it was well established and the people voted bonds to help build the road.

A transportation company was organized and several heavy transportation wagons purchased with which to haul to Geneva and York. When the Burlington branch came through Geneva, the transportation company was liquidated. One of the wagons was purchased by L. H. Badger and used on the farm for several years. It can now be seen in the "House of Yesterday" in Hastings, Nebraska, where it has been mildly remodeled to represent the type of covered wagon in which the early settlers came to this country.

Lumber yards and other businesses dealing in materials needed for these growing towns waxed fast in the new city of Fairmont. The following item appeared in the *Bulletin* for January, 1873:

The first business house was completed in October, 1871. Now, 15 months later, it has a fine church building, ministers from Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational denominations, a good school, has two hotels, two lumber yards, three dry goods and grocery stores, two grocery stores selling only groceries, two hardware stores, one drugstore, a printing office, one livery stable, one blacksmith shop, one boot and shoe store, and one butcher shop. A large dry goods building and carpenter shop are under construction.

These stores advertised to accept wheat or grain of any kind either for cash or in exchange for·goods.

The following advertisement, on May 9, 1872, just seven months after J. E. Porter's establishment of the first store, well describes the type of business of the time:

Pioneer Store

Having opened the first store established in Fillmore County, and knowing the wants of the people, I keep constantly on hand a large stock of goods, which I will sell at the very lowest living prices, consisting of—

Dry goods, hats and caps, boots and shoes, garden seeds, all kinds of groceries and provisions, a large assortment of ready-made clothing.

Corn, corn, I keep constantly on hand a large quantity of corn which I will sell at the lowest prices.

I am agent for the celebrated Valley Chief combined mower and self-raking reaper. The well-known Marsh Harvester; Kerry combined mower and reaper; the Moline Corn Planter; Dexter Walking Cultivator; Marsh Sulky Plow and Cultivator; and the Fisk Bro. Wagon.

Jackson Scales

Also for the convenience of the public I have put in a pair of Jackson Scales for weighing hay, corn, etc.

The highest price paid for hides, furs and country produce.

My motto has been and always shall be "Live and Let Live."
J. E. Porter, Fairmont.

In 1875, a bank was established in Fairmont by E. B. Branch & Co. E. B. Branch was a young man from the firm of J. H. Branch & Bro. of Marengo, Iowa. In 1882, Charles S. Miller became the owner of this bank. Mr. Miller was a highly respected banker and remained in Fairmont for several years before becoming affiliated with a bank in Seattle, Washington.

The Fillmore Bank was organized January 1, 1878, by J. O. Chase. It was incorporated on April 1, 1880, with a paid-up capital of $20,000. This bank flourished for a time and then failed. As always when money is lost, there was much bitterness.

Another essential business that mushroomed with the advent of the railroad was the grain business. Stewart Brothers built an elevator in Fairmont and J. W. Price built an elevator of 12,000-bushel capacity. Later there was another elevator, making three in Fairmont. J. W. Price and P. S. Real both had elevators in Grafton. Mr. Real was the pioneer grain man of Grafton. Price also had an elevator in Geneva. There were three elevators in Exeter. Thomas M. Wright, who started to work for J. W. Price in 1882, was for 35 years manager of the elevator. During that time the elevator was owned by George Warren & Co., by Peabody &

Co., and by the Nels Updike Co. It was sold in 1917 to the Farmers' Co-op Association who now own it and have erected a large concrete structure.

The first hotel was built by S. G. Gaylord in 1872.

The Fairmont Steam Flouring Mill was erected in 1878 by Welch & Wiley. It was later owned and operated for many years by Welch.

On June 19, 1872, Mrs. Hagerty gave birth to a girl, said to be the first child born in Fairmont, and named "Bessie Fairmont." The first death was that of a young child of William Chapin in the summer of 1872. The first marriage was that of Clarence C. Chapin and Miss Morgan in the fall of 1872.

The town of Exeter was laid out in November, 1871, on Sec. 20, T8, R1W, on land procured from Dr. H. G. Smith, who had settled there a year earlier and who was prominently connected with the building of the town. His house, on the NE ¼ of Sec. 20, T8, R1W, was the first house built in Exeter. Because of his desire to accommodate the settlers he brought in a stock of goods and opened the first store in December, 1871.

The claim north of Dr. Smith's was taken by J. W. Dolan, who later became a partner in the Smith store. William Dolan settled on the NW ¼ of Sec. 20, T8, R1W, and John Dayton and William N. Babcock took 80 acres each on the SW ¼ of the same section. All these settlements were made about the same time in 1871.

The first actual settler was Warren W. Woodard, who had homesteaded the NE ¼ of Sec. 28, T8, R2W, cornering with Sec. 20, in 1870.

The depot and switch were built in 1872.

J. F. Kettlewell, pioneer meat merchant, in telling of the progress and prosperity of the town in the July 3, 1872, issue of the Fairmont Bulletin, gave this glowing description of the depot:

"Our new and commodious B. & M. Railroad station house, standing between the main and side tracks, is 22 feet wide and 42 feet in length and 12 feet in the clear, having a platform 8 feet wide on the east, south, and west and 7 feet wide on the north; together with a low platform along the main track nearly 200 feet in length; all this with a mansard roof projecting 5 feet, we boast of our station building as without a rival for many miles along the line East or West.

"Mr. Kettlewell also mentions Mr. Root, our shoemaker; Mr. Taylor, merchant, of the Smith & Co. firm; a blacksmith of whom the boys say 'his head is level and he makes plow lathes run the same'; our lumber and machine merchant, J. Dolan, Esq., whose sunny smile beats medicine, who sells everything needed in the line of lumber and farm machinery; a schoolhouse completed at a cost of $2,000, B. F. Stilly builder, and is a monument of credit to the architect. It will be convenient as a place of worship and wherein to hold our Union Sabbath School."

With the advent of the railroad, Exeter became an independent community that could build and sustain itself.

The Congregationalists were organized in March of 1872, the Baptists in May, 1872, and the Methodists about the same time. They all met together until 1878, when pressure from outside caused the denominations to separate. The Union Sabbath School was dissolved in 1879. A Catholic church was erected in 1878 and the Protestant denominations built the next year.

The pioneer newspaper of Exeter (the Exeter Enterprise) was first published September 29, 1877. Its early years were marked by ups and downs. The first publisher was William A. McConnell. On January 12, 1878, the Enterprise was taken over by William J. Waite, who published it for 31 years; it is still being published.

The year 1883 recorded $27,400 worth of improvements added to the town of Exeter and $9,400 in the rural precinct.

The third town laid out by the B. & M. Railroad was Grafton, in the southeast corner of Sec. 25, T8, R4W. The first building was a warehouse erected by C. M. Northrup, pioneer owner of the Fillmore Flouring Mills of Fillmore City. Grafton was the main shipping point for the Fillmore Mill, which distributed its products over a large territory, and for the Seeley Mill located on the Blue River over the county line in York County. Captain P. S. Real is recognized as the

pioneer merchant of Grafton.

In less than two years' time the town had a population of 100 and almost every kind of business and profession was represented.

The Grafton Gazette came into being early in 1881. An early issue carried advertisements for two drugstores and a medical doctor (G. F. Ballard); E. A. Cushing, dry goods; J. G. McFadden, restaurant, W. H. Johnson, physician and surgeon; E. Murasha, boot and shoe making, T. F. Combs, auctioneer and expressman; S. K. Hawkins, livery and feed; P. B. Tolles, attorney at law; bank, J. O. Chase, president, R. C. Price, cashier; H. J. Day, general store; Daniel Easton, blacksmith; R. J. Blackburn, livery and feed; A. Ambler, windmills; W. J. Hickox, feed mill. The feed mill was powered by a large Hazen windmill which Mr. Hickox said had a grinding capacity of 20 bushels an hour.

This same Gazette quoted the price of wheat at 95 cents per bushel and corn 30 to 35 cents, and seven pounds of good coffee for one dollar. It listed services in the Methodist Church by both Congregational and Methodist ministers (J. B. Doolittle and J. P. Stewart), and also Catholic services by Father Jennett.

Societies were the Knights of Honor, Good Templars, and Grand Army of the Republic. The Good Templars maintained a circulating library.

The editor of the Gazette recorded that in his search for news items he climbed to the top of the tall, newly erected Hickox windmill and searched the countryside with a borrowed spyglass and found several newly erected houses.

The Fillmore County map published by the B. & M. Railroad on May 1, 1878, shows the towns in the southern half of the county as follows: Alpine SW 1-6-2; Glengary NE 28-6-1; Turkey Creek SW 11-6-4; Bryant W 29-5-4; Belle Prairie SW 8-5-2; Ohiowa NE 17-5-1; Walnut Creek, SE 13-5-1.

On a petition filed by A. D. Babcock and 60 others, Ohiowa was incorporated in March, 1887. As most of the residents were natives of Ohio and Iowa, they combined the two names and called the town Ohiowa. It became a railroad town and a permanent settlement.
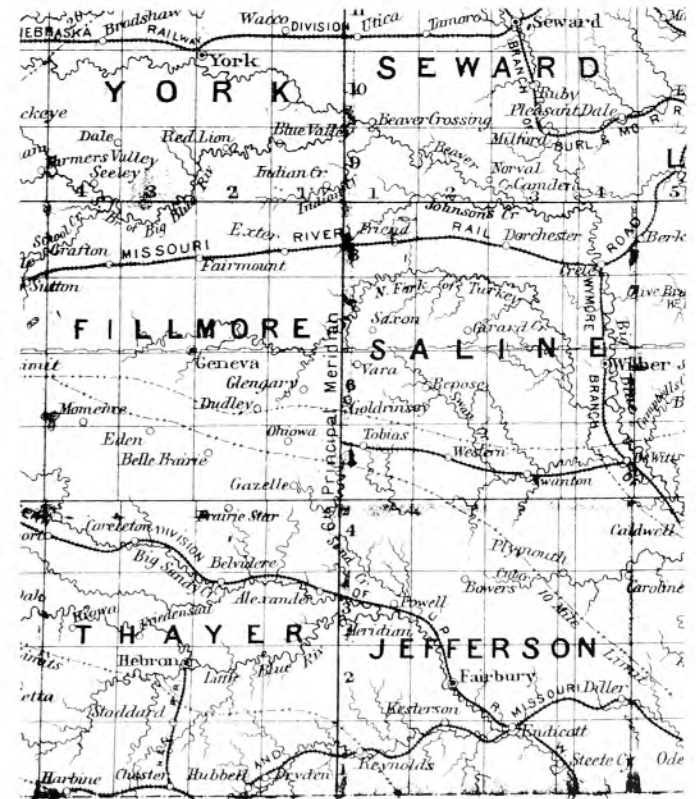
Official State Atlas of Nebraska (1885)

Fillmore County in 1885. Notice P. O. names that never became town names: Glengary, Dudley, Gazelle, Momence, Eden, and Belle Prairie.

Strang was incorporated the same year and named for the Strang windmill, which was much advertised in the pioneer papers.

Milligan, another railroad town, named by and for a railroad official, was the center of a Bohemian settlement in the southeastern part of the county.

Shickley, in the southwestern part of the county, was the center of a German settlement. The four towns above mentioned came into existence after the pioneer days and are still in existence. Since the adoption of irrigation from wells, Shickley has become a growing and prosperous town.

The following railroad towns shown on a map published in 1900 are nonexistent today: Martland, Lyman, Sawyer, Burress, and Empire. Dudley, an inland town about five or six miles northeast of Ohiowa, is also gone.

Sawyer and Burress were located southeast of Fairmont in Madison township. Sawyer was founded by one of the early settlers, Simeon Sawyer, on the Northwestern R.R. One-half mile away was the town of Burress, laid out by

The Sawyer Store (early 1900's)—Robert Wirz standing in front.

J. D. Burress on the K. C. & O. R.R. Sawyer faded away, but there is still an elevator and grain business at Burress.

Lyman, on the Burlington branch line that runs from Lushton through Sutton and Clay Center, is now called Bixby and has only a grain business and elevator. A grain elevator is still in operation in Martland.

Photo from Mrs. Harold Rocole
Store in Burress about 1900—Mitch Clark by post, John Shade, Henry Burress, Mr. Dutcher, and Charles Hull (standing by horse). The two boys sitting on the porch are unknown.

The *Fillmore County Bulletin* dated February 22, 1873, tells of the life in and around Empire on Turkey Creek. There were evangelistic meetings and Saturday-night "social sings" attended by everyone. Debating society, on Tuesday of each week, was also attended by everyone. One question argued was "Resolved, That intemperance causes more misery than

war." Also spelling schools took up a spare evening occasionally. These were all typical of the recreations enjoyed by the pioneers. In Empire there were 30 pupils on the roll of the school, which was one of the "Dugouts of the Great American Desert."

In the "rosy morn" of the life of Fillmore County the people flocked in with high hopes for great happiness and prosperity. Every town had doctors, lawyers, merchants, and artisans in every field applicable to the country.

Along with the main business, which was agriculture, the industry most needed was mills for the making of flour.

In September, 1872, P. S. Real, R. C. McComb, and Mr. Wolverton were planning to erect a mill on Sec. 7, T8, R3W on the West Blue River. They asked for public subscription to the amount of $2,000, with interest at 10 per cent and the labor to be donated by the subscribers. By October, work on the dam was started. McComb and Wolverton were succeeded by Skerrett, but for some reason the Real-Skerrett Mill failed to materialize.

During the same summer, C. M. Northrup purchased a site for a mill on Sec. 1, T8, R4W on the West Blue River and went to New York to buy the necessary machinery and have it shipped here. This mill, completed in 1873, was known as the Fillmore Flouring Mills and did a thriving business for many years. Mr. Northrup built a warehouse by the railroad four miles south of the mill to handle the flour, which was shipped to many points; that site became the town of Grafton. The nearest mill to the first settlers was located at Camden on the Blue River in Seward County.

Building material was in great demand and by 1872 two enterprising young Fairmont men, Le Hew and Likes, had a kiln for making bricks on School Creek near the residence of Mr. J. A. Wirts on Sec. 1, T8, R3. The clay there seemed superior to other clay for brickmaking.

Henry L. Heckman, residing four miles west of Fairmont on Sec. 28, T8, R3W, in the spring of 1872 started a nursery business which he called the "Lookout Nursery." He planted 10 bushels of black walnuts, several bushels of peach pits, and a large variety of fruit trees, grapes, etc.

As the Lookout Nursery did not become a permanent business, credit goes to Youngers & Brown, who established the well-known Youngers Nursery, now known as the Geneva Nurseries. On his arrival in the county, Peter Youngers planted fruit trees on his homestead, and this expanded into the nursery that served a large territory. Mr. Youngers was ably assisted by Mr. Brown, who became the proprietor after the death of Mr. Youngers. He was assisted by his son Guy Brown, Sr.; when his health failed, the management was taken over by Guy Brown, Jr. In the latter part of 1959 the nursery was sold to one of the faithful employees.

During the year 1872, coal was found in Fillmore County by some men attempting to drill a well. Excitement ran high. Professor Samuel Aughly of the University of Nebraska was brought to Fairmont to give a lecture on geology. He watched

Photo from Guy Brown Jr.
Nursery crew at packing house (taken in 1890's).

the drilling of a well and thought there might be a paying vein of coal.

On February 8, 1873, a company was organized to drill for coal. On February 22, they started drilling on the A. J. Beals farm on Turkey Creek. At the end of a month they had to give up drilling because at 176 feet the water came in. They planned to drill 400 feet. By then the legal notice for the incorporation of the coal-mining company had been published. The name was to be the Fillmore County Coal and Mining Company, under the laws of the State of Nebraska as to mineral rights, etc., for 99 years from that date. The place of business was to be confined to Fillmore County, and the authorized capital stock was $1,000. The officers of the company were to be a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and a board of five directors. The document was signed by William H. Blain, president; C. H. Bane, secretary; and H. F. King, G. L. Pike, M. D. Williams, G. L. Hart, and A. J. Beals, board of directors. The county records contain the articles of incorporation, but they were not completed, and nothing further seems to have come from this exciting venture.

Many builders and contractors came to help develop the new county, and buildings sprang up like mushrooms. In August, 1873, J. H. Haughawout, a contractor from Pennsylvania, arrived in Fairmont on a Monday evening, bought a lot from H. G. Bliss, built a house on Tuesday, and moved into it that same evening.

There were many other capable builders. W. C. Massey built the Fairmont schoolhouse, an edifice of which the citizens were very proud, in the summer of 1873. S. F. Stilley was the contractor for the $2,000 school building in Exeter.

On the farm of Joseph Frazier there was claimed to be a soil that made a plaster superior to anything then known. It was thought this would become a thriving business, as plaster was in great demand, but it did not seem to be developed to any great extent.

Notice was given for the citizens of the northwest townships of Fillmore County and southwest townships of York County to meet at Fillmore City on Saturday June 7, 1873, to take action on the proposition to establish an academy or graded school and confer with the Rev. W. Cochran on the subject. As we fail to find any further record, this must have been a dream that failed to materialize.

The Smith "Adjustable Index Factory" in Exeter, owned and operated for many years by C. C. Smith (son of Dr. H. G. Smith, the pioneer founder of Exeter), held a unique position in the world. The tags or indices, for use in offices, were Mr. Smith's own invention. While working in an office, he made them for his own use to save time and make his work easier. They were soon in demand by businessmen who saw them and desired them for their own offices. Mr. Smith started to make them commercially and soon had a world-

wide business, as they were the only items of their kind.

Another business founded here which became worldwide was the Fairmont Creamery Company. (See under "Fairmont.") Thus Fillmore County has fathered two businesses that have reached out to cover the world. (It is in-

teresting to note that another world-wide business had its origin in a sister city, not very far away, and one with which our pioneers had many contacts: the Beatrice Creamery Company, which also grew into a giant food-supplying corporation.)

Another claim to fame, of a sort, is that Rural Free Delivery Route No. 1, out of Fairmont, the first in Fillmore County, just missed being the first R.F.D. route in the state of Nebraska (it was the second). I. N. Beery, a resident of West Blue township, visited relatives in Iowa who had rural free delivery. This inspired Mr. Beery to come home and set the wheels in motion to get this service here. The result of his efforts was R.F.D. Route 1, started in June, 1901, with Frank Robinson, son of Postmaster Clark Robinson, carrying the mail. (For further details, see "Fairmont.")

Soon after the railroad came through the county mail routes reached out from Fairmont to the other towns. There was one route north to York and another southwest through Turkey Creek and Carleton, and into Kansas. July 6, 1872, saw a regular stage line from Fairmont to York.

The determined purpose of the early settlers caused them to build the new county on those firm foundations that had made the United States of America an example to all the world: churches, schools, and a sound civil government. Those were paramount in the hearts of the pioneers.

There are many sincere claims to the first Sunday School and the first religious services being held in this or that settler's cabin or dugout. We will give the credit to the Rev. Caldwell, a United Brethren circuit rider who came on horseback up the Blue River Valley from his home in Swanton in Saline County and held religious services in the dugouts of the Bussards, Whitakers, and Dixons in 1869.

There are many records of religious services as soon as there were enough people in a neighborhood to gather together for religious meetings.

On May 7, 1871, the Rev. Erastis Spear, a Baptist minister from Orlando, Indiana, held preaching services in the dugout of Col. Nathaniel McCalla. The following Sunday a Sunday School was organized with James Shepherd as superintendent. The Rev. Mr. Spear continued his preaching at various places. This was the beginning of the organization which was perfected January 21, 1872, at the home of James Loghry and was later known as the First Presbyterian Church of Fairmont (so recorded on July 6, 1872, in the office of the county clerk).

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Fairmont was organized in the fall of 1871 and the first sermon was preached in the new railroad depot by the Rev. G. W. Gue.
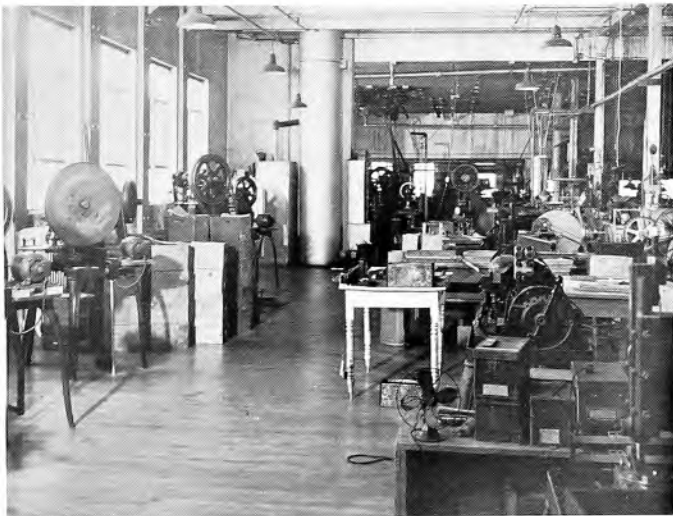

Photo from John Bacon

Interior of Smith's Tag Factory.

The church building was built in the summer and fall of 1872. It was to have been dedicated December 1, 1872, by the Rev. J. G. Evans, of Hedding College, Illinois, but for some reason that date was canceled and the ceremony postponed. The Methodists shared their building with the Presbyterians and Congregationalists until those denominations were able to build their own.

The Congregationalists organized in autumn of 1872 with Charles Hibbard as pastor and services were held in the upper room of a new store building. which was being used at the time for school purposes. The Presbyterian Church was built in 1873 and the Congregational Church in 1881. The Catholic Church was built in 1882, but it was not first in the county, as the Exeter Catholic Church had been erected in 1878.

The Congregationalists were organized in Exeter in 1872, the Baptists in May of that year, and the Methodists about the same time, but they met together as one organization until 1878, when pressure from outside caused them to separate. The Congregationalists built in 1878 and the other two in 1879.

On May 19, 1872, Elder J. N. Webb, General Agent of the American Baptist Home Missionary Society, assisted the Rev. J. E. Ingham in organizing the regular Baptist Church of Exeter, with 10 members. Then, on May 23, the Rev. Mr. Ingham organized the Regular Central Baptist Church of Fillmore County, with 15 members present, at the home of Mr. Morgan, three miles south of Fairmont. Rev. Spear, who was preaching around the center of the county, was asked to labor with the Rev. Mr. Ingham.

An item in the August 31, 1872, issue of the Fairmont *Bulletin says;* "The Picnic of Pleasant Ridge Sabbath School at Walnut Creek proved a great success. Pleasant Ridge Sabbath School and Bethlehem Sabbath School joined in the procession and activities."

A county Sunday School convention for all of the Sunday Schools of the county was held in Fairmont, September 24 and 25, 1872. Many Sunday School picnics were held in Snow's Grove on Walnut Creek in the southeastern part of the county and along the Blue River in the northern part of the county.

Jonathan Horton, a descendant of Joseph Horton, who had been born in England in 1578, settled in 1870 on Sec. 2, T8, R2W. He gave one acre of land for a school lot on which was built a sod schoolhouse that served for many years as both school and church. As a result of services held there by the Rev. D. B. Warner of Ohio, a "Church of God" was organized, with 25 members, and with Mr. Horton and Jacob Witter as elders and Samuel Bair and George Helms as deacons. This church existed for many years, thanks to the untiring devotion and efforts of Mr. Horton. When a frame school building replaced the soddy, it too was used for many years as a place of worship by United Brethren, Methodists, Baptists, and Congregationalists. The appearance of the automobile marked the end of the great era of country churches.

It was the custom in the early days to bury the dead on their own land or in a plot of burial ground donated by some homesteader for his family and neighbors.

The northern part of the county contains two such cemeteries. The plot for the first was given by Napoleon B. ("Poly") Roe on his farm on the S ½ of the NW ¼ of Sec. 6, T8, R2W. Libby Roe, daughter of Thomas Roe, aged 12 years and 3 months, died September 19, 1872, and was buried here. Some of the earliest burials were in this cemetery, but later some of the bodies were moved to Fairmont, which was considered a more permanent burial ground. Some of the graves were marked, but as the original owners are long since gone and the land has been used for pasture, by now almost all traces of it have been lost.

The Horton Cemetery, donated by Jonathan Horton, was on his farm on the NE corner of the SE ¼ of Sec. 2, T8, R2W, about 7½ miles NE of Fairmont. The earliest grave recorded here was of Sarah Horton, who died on August 20, 1872. The names of many of the pioneers of that vicinity are

recorded in that cemetery, which is still used for burial of the families and relatives of the people buried there in early days. The citizens of Fairmont selected the site for the Fairmont Cemetery in February, 1873.

With the rush of settlers into the county came the organization of school districts. Many of the first schoolhouses were built of sod and poorly furnished and equipped. The 1872 report of the County Superintendent described the schoolhouses as poorly equipped but said that the teachers were making good progress regardless of these handicaps.

As it took some time after the organization of the school districts to raise necessary funds and erect buildings, school was sometimes taught in the homes of ladies capable of teaching. This happened in District 4, in West Blue township, located in the southeast corner of the SW ¼ of Sec. 2, T8, R3W. County Superintendent George W. Gue organized the district on January 6, 1872, but no action was taken regarding building until March 24, 1873. Meanwhile, Mrs. Laura Phillips taught in her home on the NW ½ of Sec. 12, T8, R3W. She was said to have taught the first school and was paid by the parents of the pupils before the organization of the district.

The first schoolhouse in District 1 was a log house on the south side of the river on land now owned by Louis Budler. N. J. Dixon was the treasurer, a position he held for 25 years. As there were no banks, he had to go to Geneva every month to get the money to pay the teacher.

The citizens of Fairmont voted bonds for the erection of a schoolhouse for District 19 on September 21, 1872. School opened in November, in a room over a store building, with Miss Elva Lewis as teacher. A large and substantial two-story building was completed in 1873 at a cost of $2,000. This main building, with later additions, was the first of the town high schools.

The first marriage license granted in Fillmore County was issued June 27, 1871, to William Whitaker and Sabra Brumsey. They were married June 28, 1871, by County
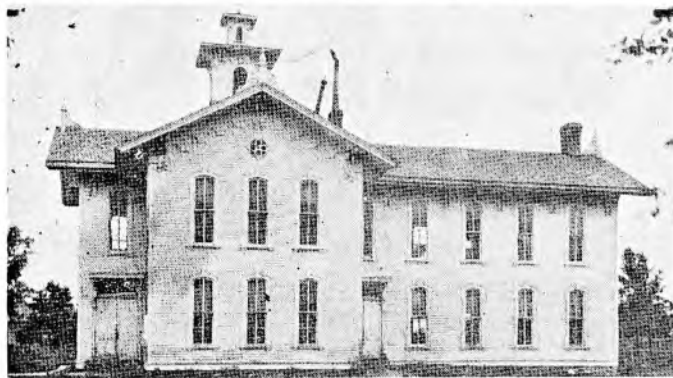
Fairmont's first Public School—1873.

Judge William H. Blain. The ceremony took place on the NW ¼ of Sec. 4, T8, R3W. The names of Mrs. H. L. Badger and John H. Whitaker appeared as witnesses. Judge Blain came from his home on Turkey Creek and spent the night in the home of the county clerk, H. L. Badger, who lived one and one-half miles from the scene of the wedding.

The first white child born in the county was Arthur Dixon, son of Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Dixon, the pioneers. He was born on their homestead January 9, 1869. Grandmother Whitaker, the pioneer lady in Fillmore County, was the midwife.

Emma Whitaker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Whitaker, was the first white girl born in the county. She was a great attraction to the Indian women when they camped near, who loved to be permitted to hold the white "papoose." Emma was married to John K. Hall. They were the parents of two children, Grace (now deceased) and Earl, who for many years farmed west of Exeter.

When people settle a community, organizations quickly follow. Churches and Sunday Schools came first.
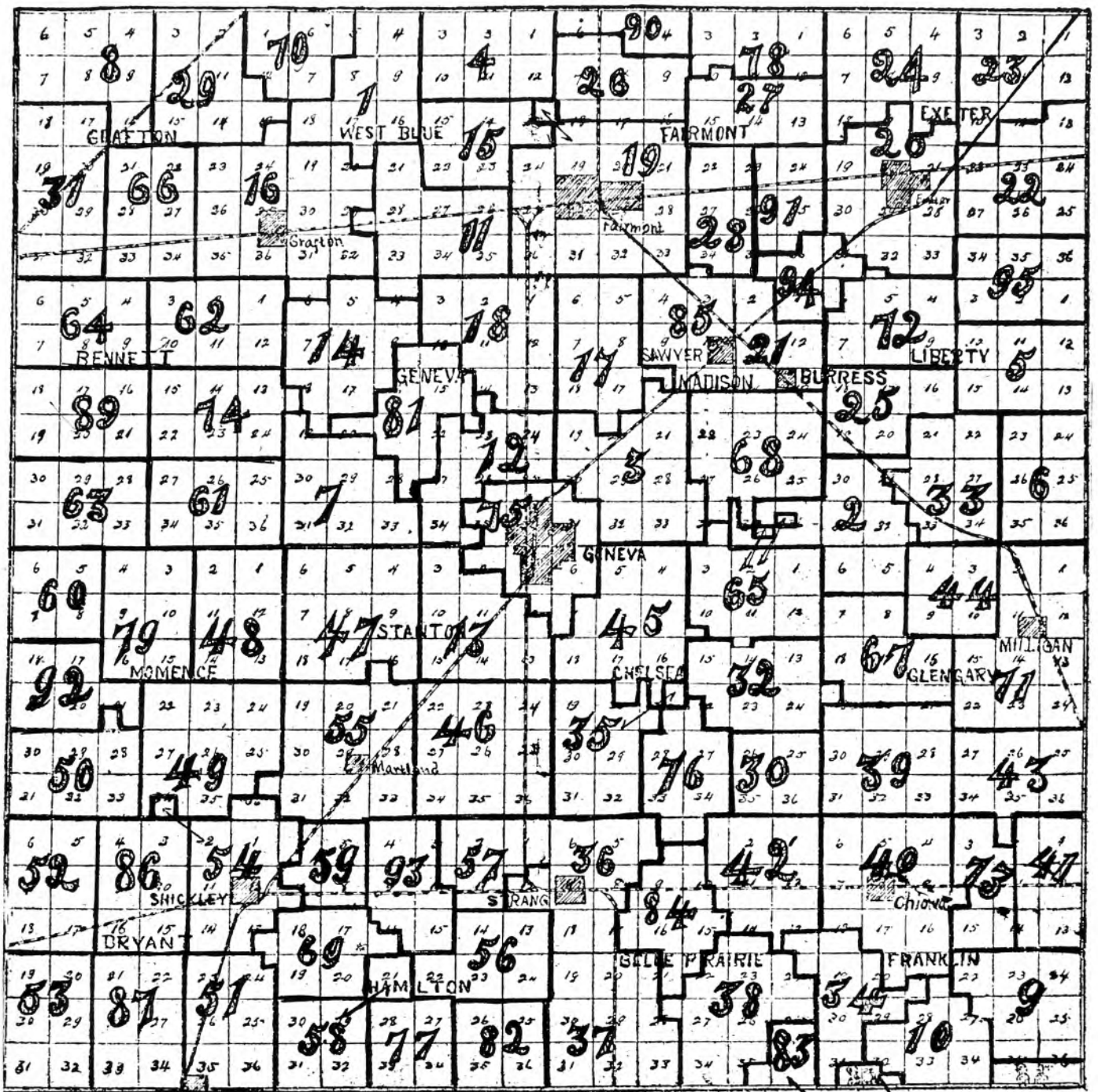
Location of school districts about 1900.

Photo from McKeith's "Pioneer Stories"
Mrs. J. K. Hall, husband, and family. Mrs. Hall (Emma Whitaker) was the first white girl born in Fillmore County.

Seven months after the first building was erected in Fairmont, the directory of the first newspaper contains notices first of church and Sunday School, and then the Independent Order of Good Templars and a Fairmont Debating Society. Fairmont also boasted the first Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges in the county. Lodge No. 48, A. F. & A. M., was chartered June 26, 1874, with John Vodra as Master. Lodge No. 42, I. O. O. F., was chartered August 17, 1875. Mt. Moriah chapter No. 38, O. E. S., was chartered in June, 1891.

Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic and its auxiliary, the Women's Relief Corps, were in every town, as most of the homesteaders were veterans of the Civil War. The soldiers and sailors were called together to form an organization for fellowship and religious purposes in Bennett township.

The Knights of Honor was one of the organizations men-
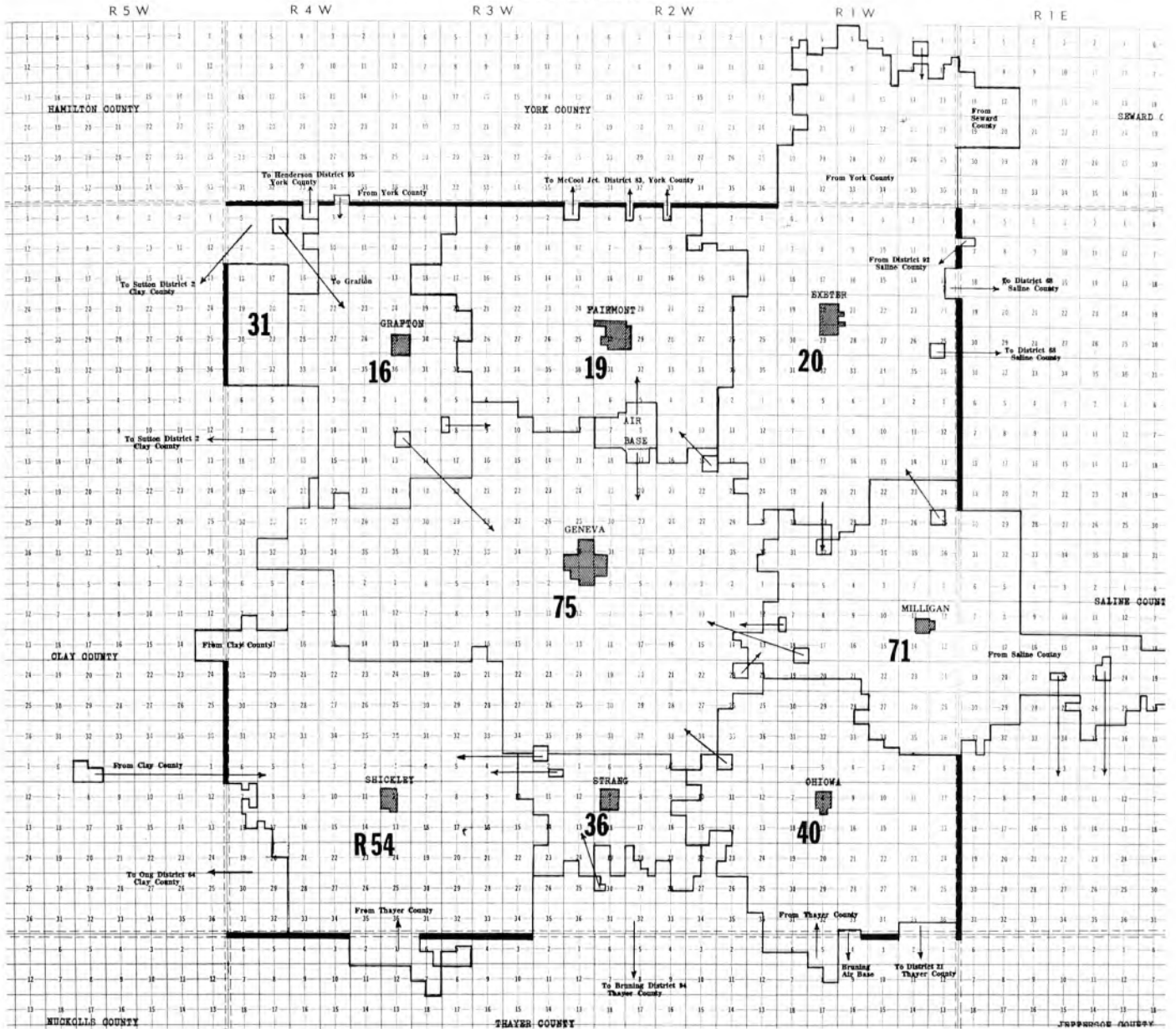
School districts following consolidation.

Courtesy office of County Supt. of Schools

tioned in the early newspaper. The Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen of America, with their auxiliaries, the Degree of Honor and the Royal Neighbors, were lodges that were popular because they paid death benefits. These benefits provided inexpensive protection for the family man who had indebtedness on his farm or business.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union was active in all the towns.

These organizations and many others, together with singing schools, literary societies, debating societies, and spelling bees made up the social activities enjoyed by everyone.

Also many and popular were the dances held in people's homes, and it seemed there were many "fiddlers" ready for these occasions.

Most of the people had a keen interest in politics. Near election time feeling ran high. There were debates and torchlight parades, and men would walk miles to exercise their right of franchise. Political news in the papers left little space for local news. Letters concerning every candidate—local, state, and national—were numerous and often bitter. Fillmore County was overwhelmingly Republican because it was settled largely by soldiers who had served on the side of the North. One of the first political organizations was a "Tanners and Cobblers" Club, organized in July, 1872, to support General Grant for the Presidency. The officers were: J. E. Cramer, president; N. McCalla, first vice-president; H. L. Badger, second vice-president, George Fifield, secretary; Andrew Church, treasurer; Fifield was absent so was replaced by L. E. Le Hew; executive committee, J. W. Eller, F. H. Gerard, and J. L. Le Hew.

The tilling of the soil was paramount in the minds of the homesteaders. Methods best suited to this climate were discussed and written about in every gathering and every paper and magazine. Everyone planted trees to make the country resemble their homes in the East. There was rivalry between individuals and different parts of the county as to who could plant the most. In June, 1872, H. McLaughlin challenged anyone to beat his record of over 2,000 trees, not counting cuttings and seedlings. That season Thomas Roe, north of Fairmont, set out 1,500 trees and 20,000 hedge plants. All over the county ornamental trees and shrubs and fruit trees and hedges of osage and mulberries were set out on the lines. H. L. Badger set a row of cottonwood cuttings around his half section, which grew in 50 years large enough to make lumber,

The fruit trees and many others had a fine start, only to be killed out by the grasshopper plague in 1874.

The year 1868 was a poor "growing year" and the crops planted were scarce. In 1869, however, everything grew and yielded well. The first crop of wheat that N. J. Dixon, the first settler, raised was in 1869. It yielded well and was cradled by H. L. Badger. Mr. Dixon hauled his first crop of barley to Nebraska City and brought back lumber for a floor in the log-house.

Fillmore was called the banner county in the state by several of the newspapers. One of the merchant grain dealers (the merchant who sold groceries, dry goods, and other needed supplies would buy grain) in the 1872 season offered a $10 prize for the best 10 ears of corn raised in the county. In November, the prize was paid to L. A. Lewis, who lived on Sec. 26, T7, R3W. The weight of his ten ears was 9 pounds and 10 ounces.

Many of the farmers raised stock and found that line very profitable. Texas cattle were driven through the county to feed on Sand Hills grass and to be shipped on the railroad to the eastern markets. The settlers told of seeing the strays around for many years. It was claimed that a herd of 5,000 passed just west of Fairmont.

During the winter of 1871-1872, a meeting was held for the purpose of organizing an agricultural society. A committee on constitution and by-laws was appointed to meet and report to a meeting to be held in March. On the appointed day a severe storm kept those living at a distance from coming to the meeting. One of the absentees had the prospective by-laws and constitution in his possession. Three of the committee being present, it was moved to adopt a constitution as much as possible like the one decided upon. The motion was opposed but carried. The constitution and by-laws were drawn up and adopted, officers were elected, and the next

Courtesy of Nebraska Signal
Fillmore County Fair Grounds at Geneva, about 1909.

meeting was set for the second Saturday in May. There being some disapproval, President Judge Blain was urged to call a special meeting to reconsider the action taken. This he refused to do, as he thought matters could be straightened out at the appointed meeting time. As all of the people were not satisfied, a meeting was called and a committee of seven was appointed to meet with the officers-elect to try to adjust matters to the satisfaction of all parties. This they were able to do, and the constitution and by-laws of the newly formed Agricultural Society were published in the May 16, 1872, issue of the Nebraska Bulletin. The officers were to be president, vice-president, secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, and a board of 16 managers, one from each township.

One of the most interesting provisions of the constitution was Article 9: "Every member of the Society shall enter at every Annual Fair of the Society some article or animal for exhibition; if vegetable it shall be accompanied with a concise statement of the character and condition of the soil at planting, when planted, length of time required to mature, mode of culture, quality of seed and yield of same for the benefit of the Society." Thus the object of the organization was to help the farmers learn how and what was best in the new country.

The constitution also forbade intoxicating liquors, lotteries, and games of chance on the fair grounds. Permission was given for shows and exhibitions free from immoral tendencies upon payment of a reasonable fee.

On June 6, 1872, a meeting of importance was called for the first Saturday in August. James Shepherd advertised that

he could be contacted at his home, the SE ¼ of Sec. 14, T7, R3W, and would be in Fairmont on the second and fourth Saturdays in June. The meeting held on August 1, 1872, was so poorly attended that it was thought best to adjourn and meet at the J. F. Loghry place on the fourth Saturday in August.

Notice was given to the Township Managers to report to a meeting in October on township activities. The township managers were: J. A. Williams (T5, R1W), R. D. Sturdevant (T5, R2W), Mr. Ward (T5, R3W), C. H. Bemendiffer (T5, R1W), C. H. Basset (T6, R1W), H. F. King (T6, R2W), W. T. Burnett (T6, R3W), Mr. Beam (T7, R1W), Seth Woodard (T7, R2W), J. Loghry (T7, R3W), Prof. J. B. Lewis (T7, R4W), Job Hathaway (T8, R1W), J. E. Cramer (T8, R2W), A. W. Chase (T8, R3W), and J. S. Le Hew (T8, R4W).

Regardless of various obstacles, the society persisted and in 1875 the Fillmore County Agricultural Society held its first fair at Fairmont.

About 1877 there was agitation to have the fair at the county seat; at the same time a series of meetings were held in Alexandria, in regard to a district fair. The result of these meetings was the organization of the District Agricultural and Mechanical Fair Association, comprising Jefferson, Thayer, Fillmore, and Saline counties, the fair to be held in Fairmont. This fair continued for several years. Horse racing was one of the chief attractions.

The District Fair continued for several years after the Fillmore County Agricultural Society had established the Fillmore County Fair in Geneva. The county fair became a successful enterprise that is still an annual attraction for the people of Fillmore and surrounding counties. The association owns its own well-improved grounds, located just north of the city of Geneva.

The first homes of the Fillmore County settlers were dugouts and sod houses. These were substantial structures, cool in summer and warm in winter, but were dark and lacked ventilation. The roofs were made of poles covered with grass and then sod. There was no way to keep them from leaking during a hard rain, and sometimes the entire roof would fall in. Some were built stoutly enough to hold a team and wagon. They would last for seven or eight years, and by that time material could be procured for a frame house.

Many hardships beset the pioneers. In April, 1873, came a blizzard that lasted for three days. It was known as the Great Easter Storm because it started on Easter Sunday. A fine snow was whipped across country by winds as high as to make it blinding and pack it solidly in draws and ravines, leaving the level ground bare. It was so solidly packed that men and stock could walk on top of it across rivers and draws.

The summer of 1874 brought the great plague of grasshoppers in August. They came in such clouds as to obscure the sun and devoured every green thing, as well as clothing if it was in their path. Fruit trees that had a nice start were

Courtesy of Nebraska Historical Society
A typical dug-out (about 1875).

Photo courtesy of Nebraska Signal
Fairmont during the Easter Storm, April, 1873.

out mention of the old Big Cottonwood Tree that so many, many years stood as a "Monarch of Nebraska's plain and wood." Landmark it was for man both red and white and sheltered them many a stormy night. This tree, reputed to be the largest tree in the state, grew on the land homesteaded in 1868 by Henry L. Badger, the first county clerk and surveyor, then owned by Lewis H. Badger, son of Henry L. and now owned by Mary Badger Halsey and farmed by her son Lewis Badger Halsey. The tree stood on the south side of the West Blue River just east of the bridge known as the Badger Bridge, on the NW ¼ of Sec. 2, T8, R3W. The tree measured 26 feet in circumference at the base and 19 feet in circumference six feet above the ground, and grew to a height of almost 50 feet before it branched. It would undoubtedly be standing today had not some hunters, on a cold day, built a fire against it that burned through to the heart of the tree and killed it.

trimmed of their leaves. They leafed out again, but these leaves did not have time to mature before freezing weather and so the trees died.

Christmas of 1874 was one long to be remembered as a bleak time because of the dreary prospects, hard times, no crops, and much destitution. The county passed through hard times in both the middle seventies and the middle nineties brought by drouth and depression.

Prairie fires were an ever-present hazard. It was necessary for the settlers to plow around their buildings to stop the fire. As late as 1880, a huge prairie fire fanned by a high north wind swept through the fair grounds and threatened the city of Geneva. The threat was so great that people began moving their belongings and worked desperately to save the town and only the abating of the wind saved the city.

January 12, 1888, was the date of another terrible blizzard that caused loss of lives and livestock. Many children were trapped in schoolhouses and some who tried to reach home perished. The teachers who managed to avoid disaster were considered heroes and heroines.

Before Fillmore County was organized the Indians who had claimed Nebraska as their home had been confined to the reservations and were allowed to go out on hunting trips only on good behavior. If they departed from this rule by Uncle Sam they would be reported and sent back to the reservation. They appreciated the privilege of being allowed to hunt, so the settlers had no fear of serious trouble with them. The old Pawnee Trail crossed Fillmore County from north to south near the east line of the third row of townships from the east. This was the path taken by the Indians on their treks to and from the reservation. The scars made by this trail were plainly visible well into the twentieth century.

In the pioneer days the county abounded in wild game. There were buffalo, deer, elk, antelope, and numbers of the smaller fur-bearing animals such as mink, otter, beaver, and a little fox called a swift, which the settlers trapped for their fur.

Buffalo did not come into the county after the summer of 1868. The presence of people in their old haunts along the river caused them to seek other pastures, even though no farther away than Nuckolls County. In the summer of 1868, Grandmother Eliza Whitaker scared the buffalo away from her dugout with her apron. This was their last appearance in this county.

Until after 1871 the settlers were able to supply themselves with meat from buffalo, deer, wild turkeys, and prairie chickens. Along the river there was an abundance of wild plums, grapes, chokecherries, elderberries, etc. Also along the river the settlers found the stark skulls of humans, presumably of persons captured by the Indians along the Oregon Trail.

No history of Fillmore County would be complete with-

Early Elections

Following is a copy of the Poll Book for the first election.

[*Editor's note:* The variant spellings of several names in these lists are those of the original lists.]

"Poll Book of an election held in Fillmore County in the State of Nebraska on the 21st day of April, 1871, for the organization of said County and election of Officers therefor, at which time E. L. Martin, James Horne, and G. R. Wolfe were judges and Warren Woodard and A. W. Chase were clerks of said election."

The following named persons voting:

1. Merrill, William		42. Bussard, William
2. Glass, Asa S.		43. Whitaker, William
3. Kauffman, John B.		44. Dixon, Nimrod J.
4. Ziska, John		45. Beals, A. J.
5. Steinacher, John		46. Spayde, William
6. Clarke, Thomas W.		47. Brower, C. D.
7. Kavrila, Frank		48. Matthews, Wilson
8. Wolfe, Benjamin F.		49. Roe, Thomas
9. Bernacak, John		50. Boyer, Andy
10. Kassil, Joseph		51. Boyer, J. F.
11. Kotus, John		52. Matthews, Benjamin
12. Kotus, Frank		53. Winborg, N. P.
13. Deuel, Wilbur		54. Clarke, Arthur C.
14. Lewis, L. A.		55. Walder, Martin
15. Spear, Myron L.		56. Lyndon, John (Sworn)
16. Wheeler, John B.		57. Shirley, Francis (Sworn)
17. Kral, John		58. Shirley, John F. (Sworn)
18. McCashland, John R.		59. Adams, Austin
19. Jez, Joseph		60. Clapp, Silas
20. Whiting, John C.		61. Babcock, E. L.
21. Whitaker, James B.		62. Trauger, L. T. (Sworn)
22. Stewart, L. G.		63. Dietrick, S. (Sworn)
23. McKinney, William		64. Clemons, R. L.
24. Wilson, N.		65. Stone, Ed. J.
25. Thompson, Joseph S.		66. Martin, Elisha L.
26. Porter, Orlando		67. Badger, Henry L.
27. Keller, Alfred		68. Horne, James
28. Barber, William L.		69. Wolfe, G. R.
29. Bacon, Silas		70. Elt, Fred
30. Case, William		71. Kreg, Henry
31. Bassett, C. H.		72. McCauley, N.
32. Lowry, George W.		73. Fullgrab, Adolph
33. Bugiska, Joseph		74. Woodward, Warren
34. McLaughlin, Hugh		75. Bechtel, John
35. Sluker, Ferdinand (Sworn)		76. Lippincott, John F. (Sworn)
36. Barber, John K.		77. Bechtel, Cyrus
37. Snow, J. F.		78. Lippincott, Jerimiah F.
38. Patsek, Charles		79. Cooper, John A.
39. Blain, William H.		80. Talmadge, Henry (Sworn)
40. Zelingle, John (Sworn)		81. Thompson, Jesse L.
41. West, S.		82. De La Mater, William A.

Certified to by us this 21st day of April A.D. 1871.

Judges	**Clerks**
E. L. Martin	W. Woodard
James Horne	A. W. Chase
G. R. Wolfe	

The following is a list of the voters registered in District No. 2 by Arthur Murdock. The list was published in the *Bulletin* (September 21, 1872) together with the notice which followed it:

Adams, John B.
Ash, John
Allen, Chas. S.
Angell, De Los
Adams, Calvin J.
Archibald, Alex
Alddrige, Richard
Ackland, J.
Angell, Orwin
Angell, Daniel
Ackland. Thomas

Badger, Henry L.
Bussard, William O.
Boyer, Solomon
Boyer, J. F.
Barrows, Geo.
Bell, William
Besack, Daniel W.
Brown, Julius
Burdick, William
Bosserman, William
Boyer, Andrew
Butterbaugh, Samuel
Barr, James H.
Bussard, G.
Burnett, J.
Belknap, O.
Benedict, W. C.
Beal, L. S.
Beal, J.
Bosworth. D. H.

Case, S. J.
Chase, S.
Case, Hobart
Clark, Erskine
Clute, A. J.
Craw, A. J.
Carson, Robert
Carson, W. J.
Clark, Arthur C.
Chase, Stephen
Coburn, Samuel
Chase, Aaron W.
Culver, Jasper
Chambers, John
Church, Andrew G.
Cooley, R. S.
Cromwell. D. L.

Dingman, John L.
DeQuasie, James O.
Dorrance, James H.
Dobson. Richard
Donnelly, J.
Dixon, N. J.
Dunegan, James H.
Dunning, Chas.
Donahey, Geo. W.
Dunegan, Benjamin

Eastwood, J.
Eastwood, T.
Ellison, Daniel
Evans, Lemuel

Fisher, A. D.
Ferrier, J.
Fralie, D.
Fairbanks, Wallace
Frazier, Joseph
Fisher. J. M.
Gell, William

Granger, G. R.
Grimes, Robert
Gue, William F.
Gue, Geo. W.
Gutchess, J. J.
Garrignes, S.

Howell, W. N.
Hamilton, G. W.
Honey, J.
Henderson, T. J.
Honey, G.
Hogbery, Alex
Hagenbaugh, Thornton

Heckman, Henry L.
Henderson, Thomas
Henny, C. L.
Howell, John
Heiner, H. B.
Hart, H. R.
Hall, Jonathan
Heller, J. M.

Jones, Phineas B.
Jackson, Andrew
Jordon, Wesley
Jenkins, John L.

Koepers, D.
Kingsley, Henry E.
Kauffman, John B.
Knee, B. F.

Long, A. J.
Lucore, A. B.
Littlefield, E. A.
Lytle, Owen
Linder, John
Lytle, Joseph
Lewis, L. A.
Long, Lemuel L.
Le Hew, Joseph S.
Likes, Robert B.
Loghry, J. D.
Lewis, J. B.
Lewis, Edgar G.

Mattern, W. S.
Mathews. Benjamin
Moffitt, B. D.
Milner, Ebenezer
Monohon, John L.
Miles, Charles C.
McCashland, B. C.
Marthies, J. W.
Messcroa, —
Mathews. Wilson
Martin, Elisha L.
Maleck, J. H.
McCashland, John R.
McFadden, John G.
McFadden, Joheph
Melvin, James
Martin, H. L.
Murdock, Arthur
Newhouse, Chas.

Orcott, A. H.

Palmer, Anson
Pace, E. A.
Parish. J.
Pangle, Mordican

Palmer, G. M.
Porter, James E.
Price, Joseph
Phillips, M. B. V.

Real, W. H.
Rudisil, G.
Robbins, F. M.
Root, Isaac E.
Roe, Thomas
Riddle, James S.

Spade, Daniel D.
Shaw, Owen
Sailer, Joseph
Scruby, George
Shepperd J. H.
Sheldecker, Frederick
Stevens, X. C.
Smith, William
Stanard, Norton M.
Spear, C. B.
Spear, Miron
Spade, W. W.
Spear, Robert B.
Spear, William P.
Spear, J. E.
Spear, E. R.
Shoff, John
Shepherd, A. S.
Syas, J. D.
Scrilby, Chas.
Spade, Isaac

Taylor, Benj.
Tucker, Albert
Torver, D. C.
Turner, A. B.
Thompson, Jesse B.
Taylor, Peter
Tatro, Joseph
Tiffany, D.

Vanslyke, M. T.
Vanslyke, L. P.

Watkins, G. P.
Warner, E. L.
Wycoff, T. B.
Wright, C. C.
Williams, Major D.
Williams. Theodore
Wilde, Charles
Wilde, William
Wilde, John
Webb, Edward
Webb, Frank
Wright, Owen
Wright Cyrus
Woolfe, G. R.
Woolfe, Benj.
Whitaker, William C.
Whitaker, James B.
Whitaker, John
Wirts, Jacob A.
Wirts, William
Winburg, N. P.
Warner, L. R.
Ward, Chester
Winterstein, George P.
Witter, George E.
Witter, James B.

Young, John M.

"I hereby certify that the above list of qualified voters has been registered in the book of said precinct No. 2, Fillmore County, Nebraska.—Arthur Murdock, Registrar."

"Notice is hereby given that I will sit at the residence of C. C. Miles, Sec. 6, Town 7, Range 3, West, Monday, September 30, 1872, for the purpose of making additions, to correct omissions, to strike off any name that is not entitled to the elective franchise, or errors in said list.—Arthur Murdock, Registrar."

The names published in September, 1872, were registered by J. E. Cramer with the following: "Notice is hereby given that I will sit for the purpose of correcting the list of voters in Precinct No. 1, Fillmore County, Nebraska as follows: at my office in Fairmont on Monday, September 30, 1872; and at Exeter on Friday, Oct. 4, 1872.—J. E. Cramer, Registrar."

Armstrong, W. M.
Allen, T. W.
Appleby, Frank H.
Angel, B. H.
Andrews, F. E.

Beals, A. J.
Blaine, W. H.
Barber, John K.
Brower, Chas. O.
Babcock, W. N.
Barnes, W. D.
Babcock, N. S.
Borland, John T.
Black, D. M.
Black, A. M.
Bruner, B. H.
Bailey, Milton
Burge, R. A.
Brittenham, Noah
Bailey, Benj. W.
Bailey, L. S.
Butterbaugh, Levi
Bean, Elias
Butler, Jonathan
Bair, Samuel

Clark, T. W.
Cramer, J. E.
Cooper, J. A.
Carlis, James
Chapin, C. C.
Crum, John
Crookham, M. E.
Coffin, J. R.
Crist, J. W.
Chapman, O. P., Sr.
Chamberlain, T. C.
Chamberlain, C. J.
Corp, Alfred
Clark, F. C.
Clark, Chas.
Carskaden, Wm.

Deuel, W. M.
Dykes, Henry
Dye, William
Davis, T. H.
Donovan, Timothy
Dolan, J. W.
Dayton, John N.
Dailey, Samuel
Deems, Harrison
Dolan. William
Dye, R. S.
Drummond. J. P.

Elt, Frederick
Eller, J. W.
Emigh, Chris
Ervin, Bennett

Fulgrabe, Adolph
Farmer, Thos. D.
Freeman, D. H.

Glass, Asa
Green, Lyman
Gleason. A. R.

Gaylord, W. R.
Groves, John C.
Gooden, T. G.

Horne, James
Hager, A. T.
Hager, Orson
Hathaway, Job
Hill, James M.
Harris, J. S.
Hiskey, J. M.
Halsey, J.
Hedy, William
Henry, W. C.
Helms, George
Hevron, H.
Hetherrington, B. F.
Hammond, Henry
Horton, Jonathan
Horton, Ezekiel
Hoover, David

Jez, Joseph
Joiner, Robert E.
Johnson, Albert

Kabrila, Frank
Kral, John
Keller, A. S.
Krieg, Henry
Kelley, David
Kessler, John
Kingery, Samuel
Krist, Jacob
Kelley, Rice

Logan, Willard
Lindon, John
Lawrence, R. L.

McCalla, N.
Merritt, Wm.
McKenna, Wm.
Murphy, Patrick
Marshall, Holmes
Morse, Amos O.
Morse, Eugene F.
Morse, Silas J.
Miner, W. H.
McCarey, Alex
Mercer, Edward
McCalla, W. H.
Mullis, H. H.
Miner, A. A.
Marquette, Phillip
Mead, L. D.
Morgan, Thos.

Noble, G. D.

Porter, Orlando
Purdy, William
Paggett, Reuben
Pruett, N, M.
Parks, Alex
Phillips, Charles
Powell, N. J.
Pinney, R. H.
Parliman, B. E.
Powell, Thomas

Paine, W. D.
Ptrek, Karl

Ruzityka, Joseph
Rice, Palmer
Rice, Alonzo
Roe, Thomas
Riggs, J. W.
Robertson, James
Richardson, Thomas
Ryan, Patrick
Ryan, Lawrence

Stewart, L. G.
Stuart, V. A.
Stuart, W. L.
Smith, H. G.
Shirley, J. F.
Shirley, F. M.
Songster, A. A.
Sterrett, John
Shively, John
Simpson, W. H.
Sibbett, B. F.
Stonerook, A. B.
Sturtevant, H. A.
Sturtevant, Fred
Stilley, B. F.
Sweeley, Mike
Sheldon, Henry
Stultz, —
Stultz, John J.
Stultz, Harmon
Singleton, Stephen
Sluka, Ferdinand

Tallmadge, H. F.
Thompson, J. S.
Thompson, C. B.
Tanner, John
Treaster, James
Thompson, N. M.

Ulrich, Anton

Voightlander, —

Wirts, R. H.
Watson, Joseph
Williams, R. G.
Williams, D. S.
Witter, Jacob
Wakeman, G. P.
Williams, J. W.
Winters, Theodore

Woodward, Seth
Woodward, Warren
Wright, Harvey
Winand, G. W.
Wilcox. E. G.
West, S.
Wilson, N.

Young, E. D.
Young, H. C.
Youstler, J. K.
Youngers, Mathew
Youngers, Peter

J. F. Snow, Registrar for District No. 4, had published the following:

"Registration Notice

"Notice is hereby given that the registrar of voters of Precinct #4, Fillmore County will sit at the Ohiowa Post Office on the 30th day of September; at Mr. Bothwell's T6 R1 W on the first day of October; at H. F. King's T6 R2 W on the second day of October; at Vosburg's T5 R2 W on the third day of October 1872.—J. F. Snow, Registrar."