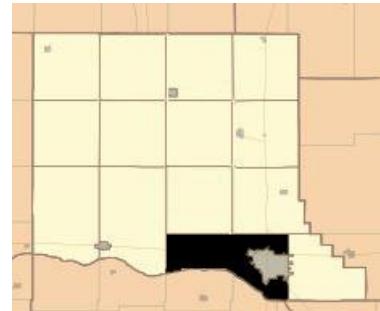




# Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541  
Fremont NE 68026-0541



February 2017

**MEETING: Feb 13 7 P.M.**

Mares Meeting room: 1722 w 19<sup>th</sup> street

**Bring an item that belonged to one of your ancestors  
and tell us why the item is important to you.**

**BROWSE NITE: Feb 27 7 P.M.**

~ Time to renew your ENGS Membership for 2017 ~  
At our January meeting, Joyce H. Winfield, Ph.D. entertained us with interesting tidbits about locating and interviewing the subjects of her new book "*Forever Heroes: A Collection of World War II Stories from Nebraska Veterans.*"

**Platte Township has been selected for the focus of our February newsletter.** As always, the website listed at the top of the newsletter offers a better view of the map. Click on Schools and Townships and then click on Platte.

**Organization** – “From the organization of Dodge County down to 1875, this part of the county was included in Fremont Precinct, but during that year the Board of County Commissioners created Platte Precinct. Its present bounds were defined and taken on by the adoption of the township organization plan in 1886.”

**Indian Scare** – “When this county was first settled, in the early '50s, the Indians were quite numerous and somewhat troublesome. They did not attempt to kill the whites, but bothered them otherwise. It was related by John C. Flor, who settled in Platte Township in the autumn of 1856. that at one time the Indians were thought to have some grievance against their pale-faced brothers and demanded the scalp of his wife, but were finally frightened away by the whites who were present. They stubbornly demanded to look upon the pale-faced woman and agreed to smoke the pipe of peace, after which she shook hands with all and they departed.”



From the 1922 edition of  
*History of Dodge and Washington Counties*

## PLATTE TOWNSHIP

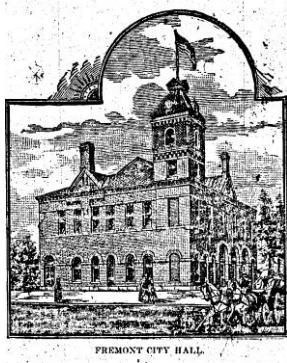
“Platte Township is south of Nickerson and Maple townships and north of the Platte River. It comprises fractional one-half of Congressional township 17, ranges 7 and 8, east. The seat of justice of Dodge County, City of Fremont, is situated in the southeastern part of Platte Township, but is now a civil precinct by itself. The Union Pacific Railroad passes through Platte Township, following the general course of the Platte River.

**Population** - The Federal census of 1890 gave the population of this township as 741 ; in 1900 it was 1,358, and in the next ten-year period it decreased to 1,134.”

**Settlement** – “The first settlers in what is now known as Platte Township were also the original settlers in Dodge County, as now constituted. This distinction belongs to the McNeal and Beebe families, who emigrated from Wisconsin in 1856. May 25th of that year Mrs. Beebe

(mother of the later known Hon. Henry P. Beebe) and her sons, C. C., John, Martin and Charles, together with her son-in-law, Abraham McNeal, and his family, landed in this county and located two miles west of Fremont.

A former county historical record gives the following concerning the first settlement: John C. Flor, residing in section 14, located here in the summer of 1856. In those early days the sod house, the log house and shanty had to suffice. Henry P. Beebe above named, came in September, 1856, to his land in section 4, range 8. He remained and became one of the leading men in Dodge County. He was the first county treasurer, the first to represent the county in the Legislature after its admission into the Union. He was also one of the county judges.



Eli Hager came to the county in the fall of 1856 and for many years resided in section 18 of Platte Township. He came to the country when only seventeen years of age with his parents. That never-to-be-forgotten winter of 1856-57, when the snow was the deepest and average temperature the lowest all over the United States of any season recorded by white men, caught this pioneer man with a blinding storm December 1, 1856. His remains were not found until spring when it was observed that the wolves had eaten most of the flesh from his bones. This left Eli Hager the head of the family and only through a great struggle was he able to succeed in keeping the family together. Another settler in 1856 was Seth T. Marvin, who located a mile and one-half west of where Fremont now stands. Later he moved into town and was indeed one of the incorporators of the town site. Subsequently he was accidentally drowned in the river near here.

Three miles to the west of Fremont settled Charles Waldo and George Peck. They were "squatters" and only remained two years. In 1857 John D. Dodge came to where Ames, Nebraska, was later located. He originally owned the land later owned by the Standard Cattle Company. The same time George Dane located north of Fremont. He served as a Union soldier in time of the Civil war. His was among the strangest cases on record. He was shot in the lower part of his heart by a rebel bullet, and carried the same the remainder of his years."

"The pioneer school was the term taught in District No. 2, in a log cabin at Timberville. While taught in a private house, it was a public school. The teacher was Miss Lottie Heaton, who later became Mrs. L. H. Rogers. This school was taught in 1860.

Ames Station - This small railway station on the line of the Union Pacific Road was named for Oaks Ames, the great Union Pacific Railroad builder. There was a time when

Ames was of much more commercial importance than it has been of later years. It is situated near the site of old Timberville, which faded away with the building of the railroad and in fact never did have much business aside from the postoffice kept by John Dodge. The chief business at Ames came from the offices and yards of the great Standard Cattle Company, located at that point. Its population is now about 100. Years ago this was the point where shippers unloaded, fed and watered stock before entering the Omaha markets. But with faster shipping facilities, this feature of stock-shipping was eliminated, hence this work was all done away with at Ames."

Note: The *History of Dodge and Washington Counties* continues listing early settlers and details of early events in what became Platte Township. A copy of the book can be found in the ENGS Library.

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#### Tickler items from the Fremont Herald - March 31, 1887

W. H. Mead is home from his visit to the Pacific coast and we are glad to learn is looking well and hearty.

Henry Kuehne has for sale a very nice gentle heifer, good stock, 3 years old for \$35.

Waller Bullock yesterday secured the contract for papering and painting the Ruwe Hotel.

C. H. Herre has been thoroughly renovating his merchant tailor shop and has his goods all back again in good shape.

E. H. Barnard has sold the quarter block corner of Clarkson and Ninth streets to the Hammond brothers.

Fremont Creamery Butter 28 cts. Per pound until further notice at Dairy Depot Main St, two doors north of City Hotel.

John A. Logan memorial services will be held at G. A. R. hall, Monday evening. A general invitation is extended.

The people on Main street were greatly annoyed yesterday from the overflow of water into the gutters, which are full of ice, snow and ashes, turning the water under the walks and into the cellars.

The vacancy in the board of Elkhorn township has been filled by the appointment of Chas. E. Crist as town clerk, who will give attention to the duties of the office and make a satisfactory official.

Besides the Mexican war veterans whom we mentioned recently, there were also residing in Dodge county A. M. Jackson and M. Ruff of the North Bend neighborhood, who served their country in that campaign.