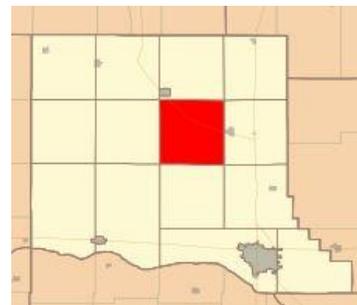




Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541
Fremont NE 68026-0541



<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ne/county/dodge/>

June 2016

13 June 2016
Mares Meeting Room
1722 E 19 Fremont NE
7 P.M.

Please come and help with
Preparations for the July 16 Workshop

BROWSE NITE 7 P.M.
27 June 2016

2016 ENGS Officers

President : Earl Underwood
Vice President: Jeff Kappeler
Secretary: Lemay Anderson
Treasurer: Claire Mares/Renee Bunck

Board Members:

Lila Launer – 1 year term
Betty Svitak – 2 year term
Verne Bray – 3 Year term

ENGS member Jim Spath indicated an interest in seeing the Everett/Centerville store highlighted in the Newsletter. Thank you, Jim, for focusing our attention on Centerville.

Jim sent a copy of a story from Orleatha Kellogg's *Bloom on the Land* as a teaser. Elmer Thomsen, author of the story, talks about the original Everett Store on the north side of Maple Creek burning down and being replaced by a new store named the Centerville Store on the south side of the creek. He describes the store as "a long, wide one story building. At the entrance there was a small porch with its roof supported by posts. Inside there were shelves on the north wall and shelves on the south wall and things standing around in barrels. When people wanted to buy something Mr. Lemons would go and take the covers off the barrels and they could get out what they wanted." The Lemons family lived in the back of the store and there was a chicken house and a dance hall that was used for community meetings, boxing matches, and plays. We will leave it to the reader to pick up Orleatha's book and read more of the tales of the Centerville/Everett store.

The Everett PO on this 1884 Everett TWP map is likely one of the locations of the store.



The red area on the Dodge County outline above shows the location of the 1884 Everett township map section. Check the [Dodge County web site](#) for recent photos of the area including the Bethel Cemetery and remains of SD 22.

According to the 1922 *History of Dodge and Washington Counties*, the town of Centerville (Section 32, TWP 19, Range 7) was the location of the first Dodge County fair in 1872. The fair/exhibit was organized by a joint stock company known as the Dodge County Agricultural Society. The first officers were J. P. Eaton, president; J.B. Robinson, treasurer; W.C. Aikin, secretary. The fair continued at Centerville until 1879 when the location was changed to Fremont.

1884 - Centerville in the news:

www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/timeline/dodge_county_seat_removal.htm

Dodge County Seat Removal

"There is no necessity for any bad blood over the county seat controversy," said the *Fremont Weekly Herald* on August 21, 1884, in referring to a "re-location scheme" that proposed to remove the county seat from Fremont to a more central location within Dodge County. The plan was to establish the county seat of government in "a tract of land in Section 31, Town 19, Range 7, in Everett precinct," at a location called Centerville, which it was hoped, would grow into a prosperous city. According to the *Herald*, the move was prompted partly by a recent storm that had damaged the roof of the courthouse in Fremont. Dodge County commissioners responded to a petition asking for removal by submitting the question to the voters in an election held on September 9, 1884.

Of course, Fremont newspapers opposed removal of the county seat from Fremont. The *Fremont Weekly Tribune* on August 27 published reasons for the voters to reject the removal proposal: "First: The jail is now in Fremont. To build a new one will cost from \$15,000 to \$20,000, which would have to be built in case of removal of the county seat. Second: To remove it to Centerville would operate to the injury of Scribner, Hooper, North Bend and Fremont, in cutting off trade which now goes to these places should Centerville, as a county seat, develop into a large town." In addition, it was maintained that Dodge County could not support more than one large town such as Fremont, which was entitled to special consideration because its residents paid one quarter of the taxes in the county.

The *Herald* said: "These are some of the disadvantages and positive injustice from the making of a city [such as Centerville in Dodge County] by law. Suppose they should vote away the capital of the U.S. from Washington and locate it on an island in the Platte river, that would be about the geographical center of the United States as near as we can figure it. Would there be any justice or reason in it?"

Apparently the voters of Dodge County agreed with the *Herald*. They voted on September 9, 1884, to retain the county seat at Fremont by some 1,800 votes out of 3,000.



The Dodge County Courthouse in Fremont, dedicated October 4, 1890, replaced an older brick structure in use in 1884 during the county seat removal controversy. From *USGenWeb Archives*

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*Fremont Tribune* April 20, 1887

### Centerville

Small grain needs rain.

Farmers are busy plowing for corn.

Everett tax payers will test the legality of the 1886 assessment in the district court; if defeated they will appeal to the supreme court.

Miss Maggie White has been engaged to teach the spring term of school in District No. 22.

Henry Most, one of the staunch young men of this vicinity has taken a homestead in Keith county and is now arranging to move west and grow up with the country.

Mr. Snover living in the Robt. Bennie farm is very sick with typhoid fever

Miss Etta Park has been visiting friends in Fremont the past week.

Miss Carrie Bower who has been in poor health for the past few years was taken to Lincoln last week for treatment.

Ezra Phillips, assessor for Maple township is among us. He makes every one of us hold up our right hand and swear that we have listed all our earthly possessions. After having done this we are perfectly willing for Mr. Hyatt to publish the list.

G. M. Williams and family of Dodge came down last week and were calling on their many friends and former customers.

Frank Buhning of the firm of Williams & Buhning of Dodge is visiting his sister, Mrs. Barnard.

At the town meeting held at the Bang school house the following tax was levied: Two mills for bridge fund, one and one-half mills for road fund and one mill for the general fund. The road supervisors were instructed to use all reasonable means to have willow hedges removed from the north side of public highways.

DAVEY

*Fremont Daily Tribune* July 28, 1887

### Centerville

The rains of the past two weeks assures a beautiful corn crop.

I.P. Gage and family leave to-morrow for a weeks visit among friends in Burt county.

Miss Rosa Beebe has been engaged to teach fall term of school in dist. No. 22.

J.G. Dykeman has a new windmill. John had about exhausted all his wind on a B flat cornet but with the assistance of an Enterprise wheel he hopes to have both wind and water.

The social event of the season was a dance given last Saturday night at the home of the Hon J. G. Gamble. We are informed that old Sol was lighting the eastern horizon Sabbath morning before the parties in attendance disbanded. We will not stop here to speak of the impropriety of Saturday night, or more particularly Sunday morning dances, but suffice is to say that the tendency to Sabbath desecration seems to be on the increase in this western country. And further, that men who are elected by the people to make laws, are, or should be expected to encourage a compliance with the laws now on our statutes relative to the observance of the Sabbath day.

DAVEY  
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Dodge County Nebraska Post Offices 1849-1970
 From GSA micro film *By W. A. Woodward*

Postmaster Appointments and Locations

Everett PO

Stewart D. Pickard	18 May	1875
Daniel Carmichael	19 May	1881
Joseph H. Skinner	28 June	1882
George M. Williams	24 March	1884
Clarence Wilson	3 December	1887
Frank J. Smith	16 May	1890
Henry Block	16 April	1892
Ernst Hartmann	28 August	1894
Robert Leamons	17 June	1899
Nail H. Hooper	12 May	1906

Discontinued mail to Hooper
 Effective 2 January 1907

Form signed by Geo. M. Williams
 January 28, 1886.

Location SE ¼, 32-19N-7E.

Post office 8 mile north of Platte river and ½ mile north of Maple creek.

On route 34220.

Maple Creek 4 mile south east.

Jamestown 5 mile southerly.