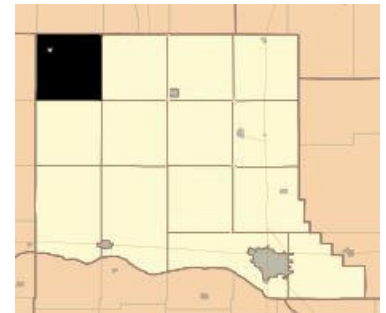




Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541
Fremont NE 68026-0541



April 2017

MEETING: April 10 7 P.M.

Mares Meeting room: 1722 E 19th street

Ancestors Trade or Profession

Please come and share stories/ tools from your ancestors

BROWSE NITE: April 24 7 P.M.

Don't forget to check the tickler files to see if any new information about your ancestors has been added.

Membership Renewal Time – To continue receiving the monthly Newsletter and Quarterly Roots and Leaves, ENGS Annual dues is needed by May 1.

If we have received your 2017 dues, your membership number on the envelope for this newsletter ends with +17. If you also sent dues for 2018, +18 will appear. If no number appears after your membership number, we are still hoping to receive your renewal and to hear that you want to continue to be a part of ENGS.

Ideas for programs and publication topics are always welcome. If you would like to make a suggestion or volunteer to give a program or work on a publication, come and share your ideas at a meeting, send a note to ENGS PO Box 541 Fremont NE 68026, or send email to reneebunck@gmail.com.

Webster Township from the 1921 publication of History of DODGE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, NE

In the extreme northwestern corner of Dodge County is Webster Township, comprising Congressional township 20, range 5, east, containing 23,040 acres of land. It is bounded on the north by Cuming County, on the east by Pebble Township, on the south by Pleasant Valley Township and on the west by Colfax County. The Albion branch of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad traverses its territory, with a station in the northwest corner of the township known as the Village of Dodge.

The township was organized as a district precinct by the County Board of Commissioners in 1870, but its present boundary lines were not fixed until 1886, when its territory was cut down to conform to the township plan of surveys—six miles square.

Early Settlement

As bounded now, the first settlement in Webster Township was effected by a few Bohemians, Poles and Germans, in the northern part of the township.

D. C. Westfall came from Illinois in 1871 and took a homestead in section 34 and lived there until 1889, then moved to the "Dodge Farm" in Pleasant Valley Township. Henry Hensel came in at the same date.

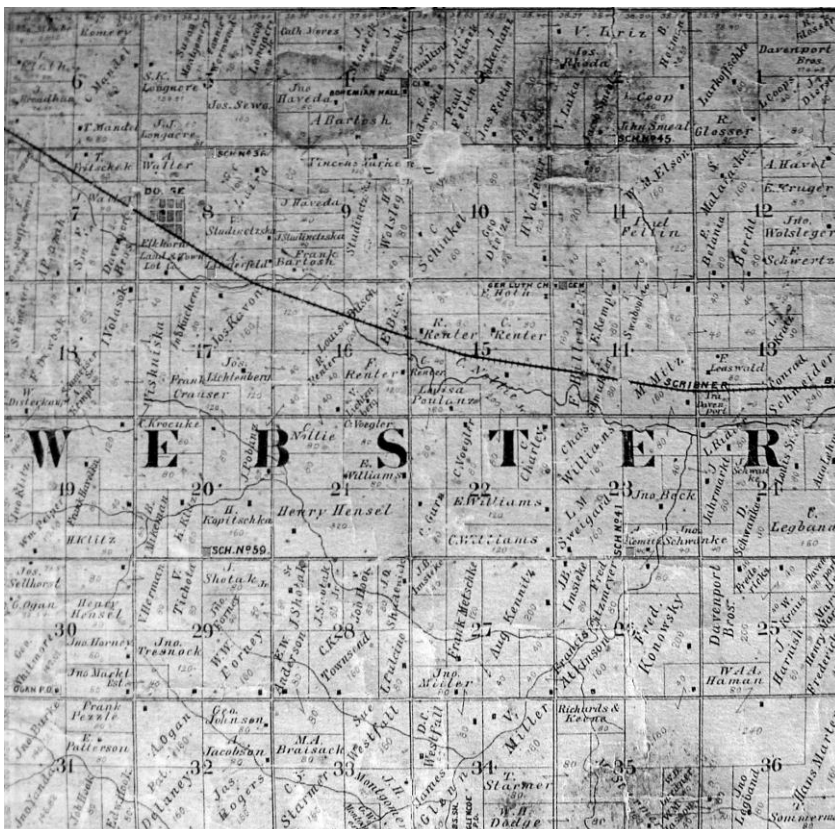
J. B. Imsieke located in 1869. Another pioneer of that date was V. Wensel in section 34. Henry Kopitschka, section 20, settled in 1869 and about the same time came John Schodenick, V. Herman, Patrick Delaney, John Schwanke, M. Militz, H. Vakenir, Ernest Busch, James Glenn and others. Anton Bartosh was among the very earliest pioneers to make a home within the township.

Joseph Brodhun came in 1870, and located in section 6. Later he was associated with the Farmers State Bank at Dodge. Andrew R. Hasson first located in Pleasant Valley where he homesteaded, but later moved to this township and was postmaster at the Village of Dodge.

Charles G. Williams, of section 22, came to this county in 1879 and purchased eighty acres of wild prairie land where he made a comfortable home. James B. Vickery in section 31, came to the township in 1881, and the following season came his neighbors, John Forney and James M. Atkinson.

The first term of school was taught in a sod house belonging to Andrew Derick, in section 26.

The first church in the township was the Lutheran Church in section 14.



History of DODGE AND WASHINGTON continued.....

Glencoe postoffice was the first established in Webster Township, the date being 1871 and the location section 34. It was named for the early settler, James Glenn, who was its postmaster for twenty-one years, and conducted a general store for a like period.

Ogan postoffice was established in 1887 in section 30. This office was discontinued in 1891 ; its postmaster was George Whitmore.

The Village of Dodge is situated in section 8, township 20, range 5, east, and was platted August 10, 1886. This is an enterprising little station point of the Albion branch of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad. The place is surrounded by a handsome, fertile farming district, the original population of which were German and Bohemian.

In 1900 the place had a population of 338, in 1905 it was 554, and in 1910 it was placed at 661. As early as 1892 it was an excellent trading point, had a fine roller flouring mill, and handled much grain, live stock and lumber.

A postoffice was established at Dodge more than a mile to the east, in 1872, with Antone Bartosch as postmaster. When the railroad was completed the office was re-established at the new village platting. The first to hold the postoffice—Antone Bartosch—held the office until 1889, when he was succeeded by R. Hasson. The office was made a money order office in April, 1892. The present postmaster, O. A. Stemkraus, was appointed January 1, 1920. There are three rural routes ranging from twenty-six to twenty-nine miles each. This is now a third-class postoffice.

First and Early Business Interests

The first business house to open its doors in the Village of Dodge was that of Hilligan & Hrabak, the same being a fair-sized general store. In 1891 this firm built a fine two-story block and continued their business in that.

The first hotel was the Commercial House, built in September, 1886, by W. Krull.

The earliest drug store was that of Dr. Edward Persons. G. M. Armbruster opened the first hardware of Dodge and George Woytcke was the first blacksmith.

A livery barn was opened for business by A. F. Steufer.

The Crowell Lumber and Grain Company was first to operate in Dodge.

The Congregational denomination was the first to build a church edifice in the village.

In 1887 a large frame hall was erected by Charles Gohr, known as Bohemian Hall.

Grand Army of the Republic was organized here as Post 326, April 12, 1892, by seventeen ex-Civil war soldiers as charter members. They kept the camp-fires burning as long as they had a quorum.

For more information about the History of Webster township in Dodge County, check the ENGS library shelves.

Information from a few newspaper "tickler file" cards about some of those early settlers in Webster township:

Fremont Tribune – 19 Jan 1882

Glencoe - Mr. Chas Williams and Miss Lucretia Forney were married Tuesday Jan 10th at the Congregational parsonage at Scribner, by the Rev. M. B. Harrison. Mr. Williams is one of the rising young men of Glencoe and his bride is a prize well worth winning. May success and happiness attend them all the way through life.

Fremont Tribune – 23 May 1887 – Speaking of the Boom, **Charley Williams** has a boomlet at his house that is the pride of his heart. It is a boy, and he wouldn't ask for anything better. The little fellow arrived in time for church Sunday morning but staid at home and read the bible to his father and mother.

Fremont Tribune – 8 Apr 1896

Glencoe – Henry Kopiskee, an old settler passed away last Saturday night. He came to Nebraska in 1870 and has always been reckoned a successful farmer. Deceased was a war veteran having served in a cavalry regiment from his old home in Illinois. The funeral will occur Wednesday at 2 p.m. from the residence with preaching at the Glencoe church and burial in the cemetery under the auspices of the G. A. R. of which he was a member.

Dodge Criterion – 31 Jul 1896

Married at West Point on Tuesday, by County Judge Sullivan, Mr. Chas Gohr of this place, to Miss Emma Yunek of Snyder.

Dodge Criterion – 6 Dec 1898 – Born to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Gohr, Jr, last Saturday evening, a boy.

Dodge Criterion – 21 Dec 1900 – Born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Gohr Jr, a son, on Tuesday of this week.

Dodge Criterion - 12 May 1905

Joseph Brodhun was born in Weisenborn, Germany, Jan 6, 1846 and died on May 4, 1905 at 59 years, 8 months and 28 days of age. He came to America in 1870 at the age of 24 and settled on a homestead near Dodge, where he remained 16 years. In 1866 he became a resident of Dodge and lived there until his death. In 1871 he was united in marriage to Wilhelmina Fischer of West Point.

Five children were born to them, three of whom preceeded the father to the grave, leaving the two, W. C. and Mary to morn with their mother the loss of father and husband. There are two sisters living in Germany.

Fremont Tribune – 27 Jan 1910

Glencoe, Jan 25 – Mrs D. C. Westfall was laid to rest yesterday in the Glencoe cemetery. Rev. Harrision of Scribner preached the funeral sermon. The Odd Fellows of dodge had charge of the arrangements. The deceased with her husband and family came with the second party of emigrants from Illinois in February 1872, and took a homestead one half mile north of Glencoe church.

The family lived thru all the pioneer joys and sorrows and sold out just before the rise in real estate. At one time the Westfalls were prominent in church work and leaders in the country Sunday school conventions. D. C. Westfall was also a force in Democratic politics for many years. Besides her husband four children survive her: Mrs McKinley of York, Mack of North Platte, Samuel of York and Dr. Davis Westfall of Polk, NE.