



Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541
Fremont NE 68026-0541



Dec 2016/ Jan 2017

MEETING: Dec 12, 2016 - 7 P.M.

Mares Meeting room: 1722 w 19th street
DNA and Family Research with Gedmatch
Dr. Earl Underwood and Renee Bunck
NO BROWSE NITE IN DECEMBER
Enjoy the Holiday season

MEETING: Jan 9, 2017 - 7 P.M.

Mares Meeting room: 1722 w 19th street
Joyce H. Winfield, Ph.D. will share the story behind the stories of her new book: "Forever Heroes: A Collection of World War II Stories from Nebraska Veterans."

BROWSE NITE 7 P.M.

Jan 23, 2017

Come and help others, browse in the library, look at microfilmed newspapers and microfiche records, or file "Ticklers".

If you did not join us for the Nov 14 visit to the May Museum, you missed some wonderful stories of immigrant families shared by Jeff Kappeler. The ethnic displays are woven around old fashioned Christmas decorations for a magical step back in time.

Claire found this handy chart in one of our exchange newsletters and asked that I include it here.

ANCESTOR ARRIVALS

Your ancestor may have landed in New York coming from the "Old Country", but perhaps were not processed through Ellis Island. Processing for those arriving at New York occurred in the following places:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1 Aug 1885 – 18 Apr 1890 | Castle Garden |
| 19 Apr 1890 – 31 Dec 1891 | Barge Office |
| 1 Jan 1892 – 13 Jun 1897 | Ellis Island |
| 14 Jun 1897 – 16 Dec 1900 | Barge Office |
| 17 Dec 1900 – 31 Dec 1924 | Ellis Island |

Source: Northwest Iowa Root Diggers, Vol 17, No 4

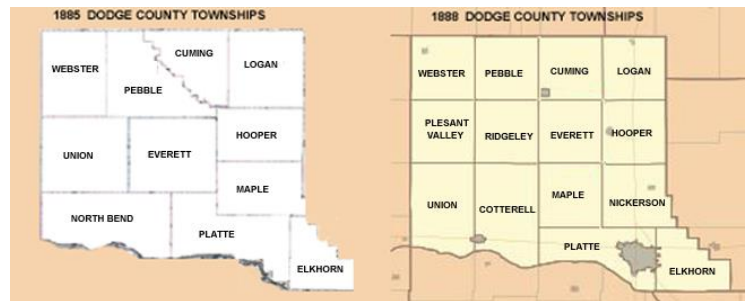
As you research your family in Dodge County, it is important to be aware of boundary changes over time for the county and within the townships. You may find that the family "moved" to a new county or township while living in the same house.

"*Early History of Fremont, Nebraska*" published by the Pathfinder Press states that "The early boundaries of Dodge county in Nebraska were as follows: "Commencing at a point on the Platte River, 20 miles west of Bellevue, thence westerly along the said Platte River, to the mouth of Shell Creek; thence north 25 miles; thence east to the dividing ridge between the Elkhorn and Missouri Rivers and thence southerly to the place of beginning.

... In February, 1867, by Act of Nebraska legislature which had been convened for the purpose, Nebraska formally became a state. Its boundaries then were practically the same as its present boundaries."

"By legislative act of March 2, 1858, the eastern boundary of Dodge County was redefined, and in January, 1860, it was so changed (the Elkhorn River being its limits) that Fontenelle, the county seat, was cut off. By an election, held the next month, the honor was transferred to Fremont. The southern boundary had already been changed to its present limits; the northern and western boundaries were left in peace. In February, 1867, a portion of the territory was cut off by the act of 1860, known as the Logan Precinct was re annexed to the county. In March, 1873, slight changes were made in the boundaries, and in February, 1875, the Legislature prescribed the present limits."

Once the boundaries of Dodge County were settled, the inner precincts or named townships still had some shifting to do. Historic maps show that Dodge County townships were expanded from 11 to 14 and reorganized/renamed between 1885 and 1887. The maps below illustrate the changes.



Everett township, which consists of 64 land sections on the 1885 map and has been reduced to 36 sections by 1887. As shown by the overlapped map sections from 1885 and 1887 below, only 16 of the sections that are a part of Everett township in 1885 are still included in Everett in 1887. Notice that the Everett Post Office was near the center of the 1885 township and is just inside the border in 1887.



Most of the 1885 named townships were reduced in size, moved slightly and each aligned within a single Township and Range comprised of 36 sections by 1887.

Everett in 1887 is completely within Township 19 and Range 7. Some named townships in Dodge County do still have borders that cross numbered Townships and Ranges. North Bend township is gone in 1887 and new townships named Pleasant Valley, Ridgeley, Cotterell, and Nickerson were added. Portions of Everett from 1885 were split between Ridgeley, Cotterell, and Maple.

Since Everett township changed so much in the 1885-1887 timeframe, I thought this would be good to revisit the Everett Store/PO that was mentioned in the June newsletter. From a 1902 plat map, it appears that the Everett PO eventually moved to the south side of Maple creek and into Maple Township. The PO was closed in 1907, but Everett Store remained in business.

In response to the request for more information about the Everett/Centerville Store, we received a letter from ENGS member, Carol Rich who lives in Davis, CA.

Carol went in search of a photo she thought we would appreciate. The photo below shows the store much as it was described in *Bloom on the Land*. This photo will also be on the website where you can zoom in for a closer look.



Carol Davis is the granddaughter of Albert Leamons who was a longtime proprietor of the Everett/Centerville store. Carol says that she thinks her grandparents lived in the little building with the separate chimney on the left. A story Carol wanted to pass on from her grandfather was that Albert added the "s" to the end of Leamons to make it sweeter. Thank you, Carol.

I found Albert listed as a store keeper/ owner in Dodge County in both the 1910 and 1920 census. I also found Albert Leamons listed as the Everett postmaster in 1901. I suspect that the Robert Leamons listed in the June newsletter as postmaster in 1899 was actually a reference to Carol's grandfather, Albert.

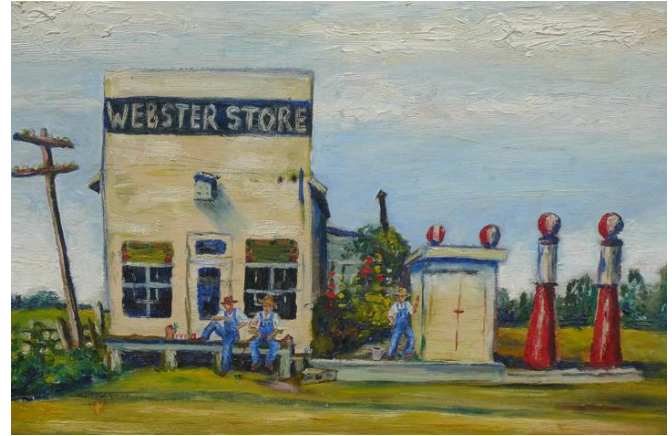
In 1910 Carol's grandparents, Albert and Mary Leamons, were both 38. Albert was born in Illinois while Mary and their two children were born in Nebraska. Their son, Ray was 14 and their daughter Hazel was 1 and 5/12.

Carol is the daughter of Albert and Mary's son, Roy J Leamons and Jessie (Richards) Leamons. Carol's mother died young, and she was raised by an aunt and uncle, Molly (Richards) Rasmussen and Alfred Rasmussen

 From time to time, Jeff Kappeler offers special tidbits from the Museum archives for inclusion on the website or in a newsletter.

When Jeff unveiled a charming painting of the Webster Store, I could not resist featuring another county store that is probably remembered by many who grew up in Dodge County. The original can be seen hanging beside the post office in the May Museum. The artist, Elaine (Ferguson) Phelps, had taped a number of notes to the back. One directed that the painting be given to the "Fremont Historical Society" and included her address in Oklahoma City, OK. Along with the date, Sept 11,

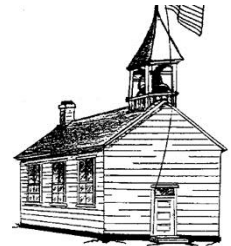
2011. Another note included this typed information: "Webster, Nebraska: This was a once thriving village in the middle-western part of the county which in 1880 had two churches, good general stores and a fine school building".



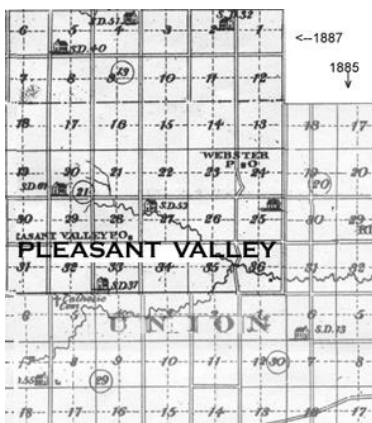
Handwritten notes told more of the story:

"In 1928 there was a community hall, blacksmith shop and 4 homes. One home housed a telephone office and one church was one mile west of Webster (Presbyterian). General store was a hub of activity & run by the Robertson family. Tom Robertson the father & later Earl Robertson ran the store. People came from all parts to shop. Men sat on one end (north) & women rested on the south end where bolts of material and notions were located." Elaine and her brother attended Webster school.

For more information about Webster, check the ENGS library shelves for "Webster School Quasiquicentennial 1871-72 1996-97 A Historical Picture of Life in the Webster Community and surrounding areas."



Of course, I had to pull out my maps and locate Webster PO and Webster School. I was surprised to find that the Webster community was not located in Webster township on either the 1885 or 1887 map. In 1885, Webster PO and School are both in Union township. In 1887, Webster PO and school are found in the new Pleasant Valley township, quite near the new Ridgeley township border. Additional photos and information about Webster school have been added online. Select Schools and Townships then click on Pleasant Valley on the map.



Here, the 1885 Union township map is greyed out and is overlaid with the 1887 Pleasant Valley township map, including the Webster community.

Most of the 1885 Union township became a part of the new Pleasant Valley township. The remainder of the old Union township was split between Ridgeley and Cotterell townships to the east and the new Union township to the south. The changes in the Dodge County township boundaries can make it very confusing to locate family records in this time period.