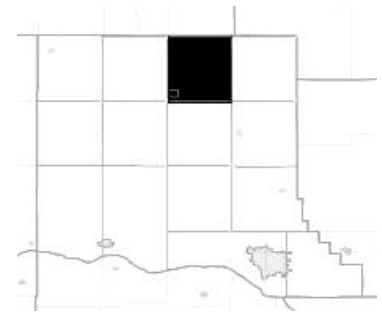




Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541
Fremont NE 68026-0541



June 2017

Mares Meeting room: 1722 E 19th street

MEETING: June 12 7 PM

Topic: Errors in family records

Please bring 2 or 3 examples of errors that you have encountered and tell us how you decided that an error had been made.

BROWSE NITE: June 26 7 PM

Claire has located additional birth, marriage, and death announcements in pre 1920 Dodge County newspapers. We could use help filing these in our "tickler files".

2017 ENGS Officers

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

Board Members:

Charlotte Young – 3 year term
Verne Bray – 2 year term
Betty Svitak – 1 year term

CUMING TOWNSHIP

From the 1921 publication *History of Dodge and Washington Counties, Nebraska*

In the northern tier of civil townships of Dodge County is Cuming, which constitutes all of Congressional Township 20, range 7, east, hence is six miles square. It is south of the Cuming County line ; west from Logan, north from Everett and east from Pebble Township.

This subdivision of Dodge County is highly developed by a thrifty set of people, many of whom are foreign born. Many of the early homesteaders laid well the foundations for the present prosperity. They came to a wild, prairie land where nothing had been done to make the scene attractive, save that which Nature bestowed in the way of wild grass and sweet-scented flowers. It took many years of hard toil upon the part of this band of sturdy pioneers to bring about the scenes and intrinsic value found in the domain today.

The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railway crosses the southwest corner of the township, Scribner being the enterprising station point. Cuming Creek and the Elkhorn River course through the township, affording an excellent drainage and water system. The only town or village within its borders is the Village of Scribner.

First Settlement

There were no such things as a government homestead until 1864, hence the earliest to locate within Cuming Township could not avail themselves of such free lands, but had to purchase at government price. The first man to brave the dangers and hardships of frontier life here was B. B. Moore, who with his family came in 1856, locating near Dead Timber. Among the next to settle was James B. Robinson, who claimed land at first in section 21. Subsequently, he became the proprietor of Pebble Creek Roller Mills. Still later he was connected with the Scribner State Bank. His settlement dated from 1859. His brother, William Robinson, came the same year, and remained until 1869, when he moved to Pebble Township and there made an excellent farm home, which today is worth hundreds of dollars per acre. Thomas Parks and his son, S. B. Parks, came in from Galena, Illinois, prior to the Civil war. Thomas remained two years, moved away, but in 1870 returned again. S. B. Parks entered lands amounting to over 1,000 acres, with College scrip which he possessed.

Before the year 1870, these elected a settlement in this township: E. C. Burns (who later served as postmaster at Scribner) came in 1869, locating in the west half of the northeast quarter of section 28, where he farmed until 1888, then moved to Scribner to educate his children. W. L. Golder also came in 1869, settling in section 16, but later availed himself of the



homestead act, as applied to returned Civil war soldiers. His claim was in section 30. After a number of years there he retired at Scribner. James Booth, section 20, came in 1868, as did George Romberg, both entering land in section 22. J. G. Meyer settled in section 26 in 1869; he was from Germany and came to the country without means and by utilizing the chances given to foreigners, he became wealthy in a few years. Section 10 was settled and developed largely by Germans who immigrated here in 1869. This colony included such stalwart pioneers as Fred Lucking, A. Von Seggran and A. Gross, all locating on good lands in sections 10 and 3.

J. C. Seeley, who had lived near Fontanelle since 1856, at the close of the Civil war, settled in section 9 of this township. Sometime during the '60s William Meyer located in section 30. His father and family came at the same time and all took homesteads. In 1868 Christian F. Miller settled on the northwest of section 34.

About this time other immigrants came to this township: Christian Matwick, section 32; Cleister Kow, also section 32; Louis Swartz, section 18; Wesley A. Conley, section 18; Edward Conley, George Conley, A. H. Briggs, John C. Briggs, William Matson, A. Wilkinson, Newton Pitzer, Hal Christy, Lawrence Skibowsky, John Drengus, Joseph Beck, G. W. French, Henry Munke, Otto Pribno, William E. Gammage, D. Maynard, of section 6, made his settlement in April, 1872, when he became a homesteader.

Frank Brezina homesteaded land in this township in 1876. Later he conducted a hotel at both Scribner and Fremont. Thomas Hall, deceased many years ago, was among the homesteaders of 1870 and died on his farm in 1887. Herman Suhr, who later engaged in the farm implement business at the Village of Scribner, became a permanent resident of Cuming Township in the autumn of 1871—year of the Chicago fire.

John Romberg and Christ M. Sasse located in the township in 1868. Among the settlers recalled as having arrived in 1869, was Gerhard H. Heyne, who located in section 25, but later went to section 24. A German settler named Gerhard Rastede took land in section 27 of this township about that date, too.

First and Early Events

Galena postoffice was established at the house of J. B. Robinson late in the '60s. S. B. Parks was commissioned postmaster and held the office many years and was succeeded by Mrs. Mary S. Dentler, who conducted it until it was discontinued when the railroad was completed through the country. The first settler was B. B. Moore and family in 1856. The first child born was J. H. Robinson in 1868. The first death in the township was J. B. Robinson in 1864. The earliest marriage was that of S. B. Parks and Mary E. Robinson in 1864. The first religious services were conducted by the Methodist people in 1870-71. The pioneer school was taught by Mrs. Mary E. Parks, wife of S. B. Parks, at her own house in the summer of 1871. A schoolhouse was erected in 1873 in the northeast quarter of section 28.

The Village of Scribner

This incorporated place is centrally located in Dodge County, is an important station-point on the former Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley system of twenty-four miles northwest of Fremont. It is also a junction point of the main line and the Albion branch of this railroad; is situated in section 30, township 20, range 7, east. Pebble was platted in September, 1870, in section 36, of the same Congressional township with the view of securing the coveted railroad, but its proprietors were unsuccessful in their attempt. Scribner was platted in December, 1870, by John I. Blair, president of the Railroad Company. The first building on the town site was raised in the autumn of 1873 by John Rochford. It was a frame building 22 by 40 feet and was at first used as a residence, but later as a barber shop.

Of the pioneer hotel of Scribner, let it be stated that it was known as the Clifton House: was built in the summer of 1874 by George Horton. He soon sold to Mrs. Culver, who a year later sold to August English. Early in the '90s it was closed, another better planned hotel having been erected. The first store in Scribner was the general merchandise stock carried by Gustaf C. Kerkow, later a worthy county clerk of Dodge County. The harness business was first represented in Scribner by L. H. Neff, about one year after the town was started. He continued until 1885 when he sold to F. A. Schulz.

A few "Tickler" file items about those early residents:

17 July 1880 – Fremont Weekly Tribune

Mr. James Booth, of Scribner, returned Wednesday from his visit to England. He enjoyed his trip very much and the voyages were particularly pleasant with the exception of one instance, and that was the collision of the Stonington and the Narragansett. While they were running down the Long Island sound in a dense fog, the collision occurred with a terrible effect. The Stonington immediately threw over her freight and rose with the break above water. As soon as the Narragansett took fire the passengers jumped into the water. He says that there were on board about 400 and only 175 were saved.

(Note: On 15 July 1880, the Fremont Weekly Herald also reported Mr. Booth's story and stated that there were 366 passengers with only 35 lives lost.)

More information: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Narragansett

11 Oct 1894 – Fremont Tri-Weekly Tribune

Edward C. Burns, of Scribner, who has been nominated on the republican ticket for the legislature, was a native of New York, having been born in Ontario county, November 3rd, 1838. When quite young, Mr. Burns went with his father's family to Kalamazoo, Mich., where he lived until he was ten years old, when the family again moved to Coldwater, where the father dies in 1850. The widow with her small children then moved to Fremont, Ind., where Mr. Burns learned the blacksmith's trade. The article details Edward's military service and multiple captures during the Civil war. In the spring of '69 Mr. Burns came to Nebraska and located in Cuming township on section 28. He lived there with his family, carrying on farming until 1888 when he moved to Scribner to give his children educational advantages. He served four years as postmaster at Scribner and six years as a member of the board of commissioners of Dodge county – from 1875 to 1881. He is a member of the Masonic order and the G.A.R. He is regarded as a man of firm convictions, of discriminating intelligence, courage and ability and he would be a member of the legislature who would command respect and influence in that body. His eminent qualifications for the position for which he has been nominated entitles him to the cordial support of all who desire to see our representation at Lincoln lifted out of the exceeding mediocrity which has characterized it of late years.

19 Sept 1903 – Fremont Tribune

A. H. Briggs, nominee for judge, was born in Michigan in 1847. In 1856, he moved with his parents to Mills county, IA. Thirteen years later the family came to Nebraska on June 14, 1869. Mr. Briggs, then slightly past his majority, took a homestead in Cuming township, near Scribner, where he resided for a long number of years. He graduated from law school at Michigan univ at Ann Arbor. He herded sheep for eight years after completing law school to earn money through the inevitable "starvation period" of a young lawyer's career. He was admitted to the bar in 1887. He opened his first law office in Scribner and practiced there for a number of years before moving to Fremont. Two years ago he was elected to the position of county judge over a popular and strong candidate. He has now entered upon his canvass for a second term.