



# Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541  
Fremont NE 68026-0541



March 2016

14 MARCH 2016

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

## PROGRAM

Brainstorming session to begin plans for a  
Genealogy Workshop. We need ideas from everyone!

BROWSE NITE 7 P.M.  
28 March 2016

Since the May Museum's 2016 theme will highlight the ethnic origins of Dodge County, we thought excerpts from two newspaper articles touching on early settlers in Dodge County might be appropriate for this newsletter.

The articles appeared in the Fremont Herald on Feb 2 and Feb 9, 1923, referencing a much earlier publication.

Details: <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ne/county/dodge/>  
Click on: A Brief History - Dodge County - 1876

In the columns of the aged copy of the Fremont Weekly Herald, luckily found by the local carpenter, M A Mark, between the floors of a house once owned and occupied by the late pioneer, H P Beebe, whose name appears written upon the margin, there appears a "Centennial Address," purporting to have been delivered by the late H G Wolcott, at Centerville, Dodge county, July 4, 1876.

## Formation of Dodge County

On the 21st day of November 1854, Hon T B Cuming, acting Governor of Nebraska Territory, issued his proclamation for a general election, for which purpose he divided the territory into counties and gave names to the same.

This county was named in honor of A C Dodge, U S Senator from Iowa, and its boundary lines were of generous extent, beginning at a point on the Platte river over 20 miles west of Bellevue, thence west along the Platte river to the mouth of Shell creek, thence north twenty-five miles, thence east to the dividing ridge between the Elkhorn and Missouri rivers, and thence southerly to the place of beginning.

The election was held at Fontanelle on the 12th day of December, 1854, eight votes being cast, and resulted in the choice of Dr M H Clark, as member of the territorial council, and Judge J W Richardson and Col E R Boyle, as representative.

## Honor to Early Pioneers

It is our special duty today to remember and honor the worthy settlers who did the pioneer work in this county, and begun to fashion it as one fair stone in the national temple. The story is not a tale of a century, but only of a score of years, for within that time the work has been done.

Near the mouth of Maple creek we discover the first settlement made in this county. Here in April 1856, John and Arthur Bloomer, Thomas Fitzsimmons and Maurice Wogan, crossing from Fontanelle, had taken their claims, and early in May the Bloomers had broken twenty-five acres of prairie and planted it to sod corn.

Two miles west, lies the settlement of Mrs Wealthy Beebe, with her sons, John, Martin, and Charles, and her son-in-law, Abram McNeal, and family, who came here May 25, 1856, and had now a shanty, a corral for stock and some breaking, and had begun to build a log house.

Looking up the valley to the spot where North Bend now stands, we sees a party of emigrants, twenty in number, unyoking their cattle from the wagons, gathering wood and bringing water to prepare a breakfast. They had, that very morning, twenty years ago today, arrived at the locality of their future homes. This party, originally from Scotland, had left Lake county Illinois, with the intention of settling in Kansas, but at Des Moines Iowa, learning more fully the state of the border troubles in Kansas, changed their purpose and determined to come to Nebraska.

North Bend Pioneers - There were ten adults, namely: George Young and wife, John Miller and wife, George McNaughton, William Miller, Alex Miller and Eliza Miller - now the respected wife of Mr W H Ely. There were ten children belonging to the party. Prior to this time there were a few settlers up the valley of the Platte, but only one of them was within the present limit of this county, Mr George Emerson had taken a claim some three weeks before, about five miles west of North Bend, and built a shanty and broken some eight or ten acres.

## Laying Out of Fremont

On the 12th day of August, 1856, a party of seven men stuck stakes for the town of Fremont. These men were James G Smith, E H Barnard, Robert Kittle, Seth P Marvin, John A Kountze, Robert Moreland, and George W Pinney. William E Lee, William B Lee, Leander Gerrard, Charles A Smith, Towner Smith, William and James G Bowman, and others, soon joined the settlement, and in October, 1856, Rev I E Heaton came with his family, settling in Fremont. On Sunday, November 2, 1856, in the house of Seth P Marvin,

Rev Heaton preached the first sermon in the county, and on the following Sunday he begun regular church services in the log house of Robert Kittle, near the west end of Military avenue. Martin, Henry and Chauncey Beebe and Eli Hager and their families settled west of Fremont in the fall of 1856, and some others came into the county.

The spring of 1857 brought quite an influx of settlers, who located at various points in the valley. Among them, in May, came Harland P Wolcott, who was joined in August by O W Wolcott. Their claims were northwest of Fremont, at the foot of the bluff, adjoining the Elm Grove, claim of Frank Fox and brothers, which soon after passed to the hands of Mr John Batie (who came over from Fontanelle) and is now known as the Knoell place.

Messrs E H and L H Rogers, R W Hazen, Theron Nye, J J Hawthorne and others whose names do not occur to the speaker, were also among the early settlers in 1857-8.

The 1860 Census for Dodge County tells more of the story of the origins of the early settlers. 300 People were reported. 92 were under twenty years of age and 208 over twenty. There were 175 males and 125 females. 223 were born the United States and 77 were foreign born.

1860 Dodge County Birthplaces:

United States	233		
Canada	1	Wales	3
England	17	Scotland	11
Germany	14	Sweden	1
Ireland	28	Switzerland	2

The smallest ethnic groups in the 1860 Census:

Name	Age		Profession	Born in
Nest, William	31	m	Trader	Canada
Seaburg, Sophia	23	f		Sweden
Marts, Peter	28	m	Farmer	Switzerland
Witchie, John W.	31	m	Farmer	Switzerland
Jones, Ann	32	f		Wales
Jones, Davis S.	41	m	Teamster	Wales
Roach, Walter	41	m	Farmer	Wales

The ENGS "tickler files" provided a bit more information about the lives of a few of the early residents who were mentioned in Wolcott's "Centennial Address" or included in the 1860 census.

Robert and Jane Miller – both born in Scotland, were enumerated in 1860 with 4 children ages 1-9.

Dated July 21, 1900, their Golden Wedding Anniversary article states that they were married at Lake Zurich, Lake County, IL on July 20, 1850 and arrived in NE in 1858. They settled about 1/2 mile west of North Bend. Twelve children were born to this family with nine still alive and living nearby.

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Maurice and Ann Wogan - both born in Ireland, were enumerated in 1860 with 2 daughters and 3 sons, ages 1-8.

A May 29, 1903 obituary in the Fremont Herald announced the May 16 death of the Wogan's daughter, Ellen in Ottumwa, IA. According to the article, she was born in Fremont in 1858 and had been engaged in teaching and religious work for the Sisters of Holy Humility of Mary for 30 years. It goes on to say that as Mother Superior Mary Angeline, her judgement and executive ability in the management of the business affairs of the convent were of the highest order. Her mother, Mrs Maurice Wogan, sisters Etta Wogan, Theresa Agnes Wogan, and Mrs James Deignan, plus her Aunt Maurice Hickey were at her bedside.

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John C. Hormel - age 25 - Blacksmith - born in Hesse Germany was enumerated in the 1860 census – no family.

A Fremont Herald article dated Dec 13, 1883 provided details of John's death in Hot Springs, AR. John had traveled to Hot Springs to visit a health resort on Nov 30 and died after being there a little over a week. His remains were to be returned to Fremont for burial.

The article continues to say "The deceased was one of the oldest residents of Fremont, and was some years ago quite wealthy, owning a large amount of valuable city and farming property, and his family is still, we believe, in comfortable circumstances. At the time of the building of the Sioux City and Pacific road, Mr. Hormel sold the company a large tract of land lying just east of the city for some \$30,000, we believe. He was formerly a blacksmith here, but of late years has done nothing. It has been evident for some years that he has been failing, and especially for the past few weeks he was looking very bad. The news of his death will probably not generally be received with much surprise."

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Complete Census Details are online at:

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

Click on: 1860 Census