

Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541
Fremont NE 68026-0541

JUNE 2015



8 June 2015 7 p.m.
MARES meeting room
1722 East 19 St

PROGRAM

Dr Earl Underwood will tell of the meeting in Iowa with persons interested in completing their family lines. The persons present were from all over and went home with a wealth of information. This will be an interesting program.

BROWSE NITE ON JUNE 22

We had a very good evening with lots of ideas for the coming year. The basics for the year have not been finalized as of the meetings.

HAPPENINGS AT OUR MEETING

New election of officers for the coming year were made for the year 2015-6, and are now listed as follows:

- President: Dr Earl Underwood
- Vice President: Jeff Kappeler
- Secretary: Lemay Anderson
- Treasure: Claire Mares
- Board Member for 3 yrs: Betty Svitak

The books for Eastern States that were loaned by Dr Underwood will remain for another few months then returned to Dr Underwood. He encourages those who are seeking family lines that were in the east to take a chance of finding something. Several of our members found some very interesting information in the books and took them home for further research.

Dr Underwood explained that he will attend a meeting held in Iowa regarding charts and the learning of Genealogy, which will be on charts, new finds and watching for errors in new items.

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The following article was found in the Centennial Book of Hooper, Nebraska 1876 - 1975

SOME REASONS BEHIND THE GERMAN MIGRATION TO DODGE COUNTY

According to newspaper accounts of the time, Germany was a severe place to farm in the 1870's and 80's hence a great number of farmers immigrated to promising farming

regions in Nebraska, and particularly our area in Dodge County during these years.

Statistics published by a London correspondent stated that in Bavaria 3,739 farms, representing 30,059 acres of land were publicly sold in 1880. Of these, 953 farms or 5,394 hectares were not farmed on account of difficulties connected with the forthcoming public sales. Under the pressure of foreign competition, bad crops, and hard times, a great number of small properties had been sold. The grievance to small owners was an oppressive land tax. Ten millions of dollars accrued to the Prussian budget from this tax. These taxes did not seem to keep the communal debts from rising however. Expenditures for a single village of 800 inhabitants rose from \$450 in 1840 to \$4,000 in 1880, at the expense of the land-holders. Land became increasingly mortgaged, with the smallest owners the most heavily mortgaged. Much of the agitation was against Jewish people (as in Pomerania during this period) who had assumed mortgages....Part of their taxes went to the support of huge standing armies. It was small wonder that many of these people, and in the case of Hooper immigrants, entire villages left Germany for the promise of less government and taxes on free or cheap land in America.

Unknown Writer.

HOW HOOPER WAS NAMED

Most reference material on the subject suggests that Hooper was named after an official of the railroad by the same name, who many say was the depot agent at Wisner, Nebraska, at that time. O. A. Himebaugh, it is said petitioned the railroad to establish a station for his produce after establishing his elevator in Hooper.

Hooper through the years has enjoyed many nicknames also. As early as 1876 the Fremont Herald ran a story about an ordinance recently passed in Hooper during October which banned hogs from streets, yards and houses.

According to the Herald Hooper could no longer be referred to as "Dodge County Herd Yard" by those passing through town on trains.

Hooper in later years was tagged "Heart of the Elkhorn Valley". Signs placed at the outskirts of town were so often taken down, but many Hooper businesses still use this on their stationery.

Following are additional articles in the Hooper Centennial which we share with our membership.

Unfortunate Circumstances Connected to Founding of Hooper Cemetery

An anonymous letter written to the Fremont Herald in February 1882 tells of some hardships suffered by those who bought lots in the Hooper Cemetery.

It seems a man whose name was not mentioned, came to the Hooper area in around 1872 with modest means, but by taking advantage of the necessities of others he amassed sufficient capital to enable him to hold mortgage on the poor man's farm. After this, according to the letter, he drove this farmer from his land became the possessor of real estate connected on which Hooper Cemetery was located. A number of lots in the Cemetery had been purchased, paid for and deeded to parties in town and improved by these folks. These people, having their lots change hands from the previous owner to the next as a matter of course supposed they would remain in peaceful possession. On referring to their deeds, however, they found that their legal status was defective, whereupon the great, noble hearted citizen saw this opportunity and demanded payment for the entire cemetery grounds at one hundred dollars per acre, refusing to make their title good until such payment should be made.

This was obviously not a very popular move for this unknown man to make and the letter stated that Hooper's gain at his moving would be another communities loss. The letter was signed: 'One Who Knows'.

In April 1894 115 evergreen and shade trees were planted in Hooper Cemetery.

A call was made through the paper in February 1897 by the Hooper Cemetery Assn, T. W. Lyman Secretary., to make a record of burials in Hooper Cemetery. All persons having friends buried there were asked to send the Secretary of the assn. The name and age of the deceased and date of burial and the disease of which they died, the number of the lot on which they were buried, where and when deceased was born and came to this section.

May 22, 1913

\$612 was collected for the cemetery sidewalk fund, which insures the building of a cement sidewalk to the cemetery.

(This item was found in the Hooper Centennial on page 10, and on Page 6 we find another interesting article by Gertrude Alperstedt).

The Land Bought For the Town of Hooper

On July 23, 1871, United States President Grant by J. Parrish sold to the United Pacific Railroad Company the land on which Hooper now stands. This land was the South half of Section 17, Township 19, Range 8, being part of the land granted to said Company by acts of Congress on July 1, 1862, and July 2, 1864.

Then the United Pacific Railroad Company by Oliver Ames, President pro-tem and John J Cisco,

Treasurer, sold the land to Cyrus H McCormick and John Duff who were trustees, for \$10,000 per mile.

This was approved on July 1, 1862. On June 27, 1872 it was sold to John I. Blair for \$9,634.99, the legal description being the South half and southeast one-fourth of Section 17, Township 19, Range 8. (after many land changes it finally was conveyed to Hooper)

Hooper became an incorporated village, subject to the government and control of a Board of Trustees, in October 1876. The first Board was A.D. Harwood-Chairman, William Pellens, E. H. Airis, Peter Dessen, John Beebe, Trustees; George B Parsons, Clerk.

November 26, 1886

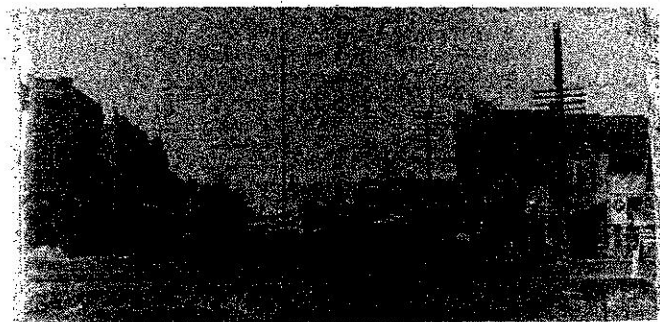
The Board of Supervisors revised the township boundaries to comply with a new law which says that townships shall be laid out in limits of six miles square as near as practicable, and have constructed another town making fourteen in all. By the new division, Scribner is placed in Cuming instead of Pebble. Nickerson, which was theretofore in Maple was in a new township called Nickerson. The boundaries of Hooper were as follows: All of section No 21, township No 10 in range 7. Also all the territory in township No. 19, in range No 8 and all that part of township No 19 in range No 9 belonging to Dodge County.

Hooper Made Bigger - 1919

The Village Board annexed land again into the community in December 1919 making Hooper larger. The new line included the residences and properties that had practically been a part of Hooper, but had been just over the village line.

The line began at the A.I. Laarson property in the southeast part of town and ran west over to the hill, to the south of P.E. Peppmiller's residence and then north and west to the township line which included the brickyard district and ran past the ice house including the stock show grounds and homes in that neighborhood and the John Classen home in the northeast part of town and city proper.

Attached to the article was the photo shown below and named Hooper's Main Street from about 1905-1920.



Hooper's Main Street from about 1905-1920.