



# Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541  
Fremont NE 68026-0541

NOVEMBER 2012

HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING



November 2012-Mares Meeting Room  
1722 East 19 St-Fremont NE  
12 November 2012

**PROGRAM**  
**WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE ANCESTOR**  
**WHO and WHY**  
Each one attending is to have an answer

**BROWSE NITE**  
26 November 7 p.m.

Earl Underwood gave us a great program of his trip to Germany this summer. He told of his great finds on his related families. He took about 700 photos some of the old church records and some of the area in the surrounding countryside. Thank you, Earl. Everyone enjoyed the program.

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#### NEW MEMBER

Julie K Rose G-30  
602 Crestland Ave  
Columbia MO 65203-2218

#### MRS KNAPP A REAL PIONEER

Mrs R H Knapp, of Cedar Bluffs, is a real pioneer of Nebraska. She is the mother of Frank B Knapp, of Fremont. L W Gilchrist, in writing about early days of Nebraska speaks of Mrs Knapp in the Wahoo Wasp, as follows:

"Mrs Knapp and her husband arrived in Omaha in the fall of 1856. In the spring they moved to Florence, in 1858 they went west to Wood River and kept a roadhouse on the Overland trail for five and one-half years. Then they returned to Washington county. In 1868 they came to Saunders county and became permanent settlers. When they were on Wood river they accumulated quite a herd of cattle which they drove back when they returned. When they came to Saunders county they brought their cattle with them. The history of the Knapp family from 1868 down to date is not necessary to write. Mr Knapp was elected county treasurer in 1873 and re-elected in 1875. For several winters Mr and Mrs Knapp spent their winters in Texas. Mr Knapp died February 16, 1913 and was buried in the cemetery south of Cedar Bluffs. Mrs Knapp is past eighty-three years of age and in fairly good health. Her mental faculties for one of her many years are unusually good and she has an excellent memory of the happenings she has met and gone through in the almost sixty years she has been in Nebraska."

Noted in Fremont Herald 11 Aug 1916 7>3

This item was sent to me from Margie Sobotka a member of our society in Washington state.

From The Royce Quarterly

I think that I shall never see  
A thing so involved as a family tree.  
A tree whose myriad boughs are spread  
To include the living and the dead;  
A tree whose roots were imbedded deep  
Before this sap began to creep;  
A tree whose branches will multiply  
Many times before I die.  
Though too complex for a being like me,  
I'm glad I'm part of a family tree.

Submitted by Mrs Mildred Fairchild, Lincoln, NE

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#### ADOPTION

In the County Court, in and for Dodge county, Nebraska.  
In the Matter of the adoption of Mont Wallace, Infant.

All persons are hereby notified that Elf Wallace the father of Mont Wallace, and Samuel S Pollock and Emma Pollock, the adopting party, have this day filed, in the cause of the first named party, his relinquishment, and in the case of the second named party their proposed adoption of the child, Mont Wallace, without limitation, and the matter is set for hearing at the County Judge's office, the 24 day of October, A.D., 1884, at 2 o'clock p.m. after which time and place all parties will appear and object, if any cause for objection they have.

Witness my hand and official seal this 3rd day of September, A.D. 1884.

(SEAL)

JAMES MURRAY, County Judge.

It is most unusual to see an adoption notice appear in the "old" newspapers. Many times it can explain what happened to a child and in this case, who was adopting the child. Most generally the names of new parents are not listed in public record, just the county file copy.



**PIONEER RECALLS WHAT FREMONT WAS  
LIKE FIFTY-THREE YEARS AGO**

Just what the city of Fremont looked like half a century ago. A rather melancholy fact is that the number who can are growing less and less with each passing year, according to the nature of this species we call human.

There is at least one pioneer yet surviving here who can tell us of the present generation exactly what the city of Fremont was like not only half a century ago, but even three years before that, when he first saw it in 1869. This remarkable pioneer Fremont citizen, is the venerable Fred Riggert, who with his aged wife resides at 1507 North Platte avenue.

Mr Riggert is past eighty-six years of age, but still remarkably well preserved and with faculties apparently as keen and alert as ever. Despite his advanced age, he is still active, doing a little gardening each summer and even now walking the distance of practically a mile rom his modest Eastside home to the down-town district and back home again, to attend to the marketing of his humble product and making such purchases as his and his aged wife's simple needs require.

Mr Riggert is a native of Germany. As a young man of thirty years he emigrated to America, settling first near Joliet, Illinois, where he spent three years before he pushed on westward, to Fremont, where he arrived as intimated, in 1869.

This pioneer attests that there was little here to suggest the present modern city when he first landed on the ground. In fact, he says, Fremont, for the most part, was a cluttered and motley group of log houses, barns, corn-cribs and piggens when he first saw it fifty-three years ago. Some of the facts of that early day, which Mr Riggert mentions, The Herald reporter jotted down, and will here pass on to the readers of this paper as matters of local history of more or less interest and importance.

In the first place, this pioneer says, in 1869, log houses, barns and corn-cribs huddled here and there very near to, and even on Main street. The old Tom Turner livery stable occupied the present site of Farmers & Merchants National Bank building on the southwest corner of Main and Sixth streets. The Theron Nye family lived in a residence which stood where the YMCA building stands today, and the S B Colson family occupied a residence.

Residence located a block farther south, on the present site of the City Hall. J. C. Hormel blacksmith shop stood on the present location of the Hoebener meat Market.

J Towner Smith owned the lots occupied today by the Fremont city library, and maintained a hog yard on that corner.

J C Flor, who was one of the large Fremont landowners of that day, and J R Ray owned and operated a lumber yard, which was located on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> & Main streets, east side of the street.

The present Barnard park was then Fremont's "City of the Dead," and was considered far removed from the center of town.

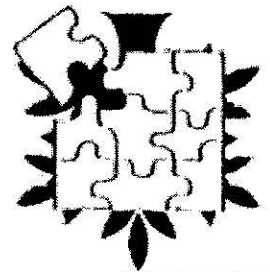
The Fremont brewery, founded by Magenau & Mueller, and then doing a flourishing business, stood where the present Central school building stands. Just east of the brewery was a cattle yard of some extent, and a block farther east was Howard & Bothwell's brick yard.

Mr Riggert's home, at 15<sup>th</sup> & Platte avenue, was quite in the suburbs in those days. In fact, perhaps when strangers asked where the Riggert home was, the early settler informed them "about a mile northeast of the city." The late Charles Manzel, Mr Riggert relates, built the first house between his own premises and the heart of town. It was on the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> & Irving. An expressman, named Dexter, put up the next home in that part of town, between 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> on North Clarkson.

The only brick house in Fremont fifty-three years ago, according to the testimony of this venerable pioneer, was the Smith Bros. Store, on the corner of Broad & 6<sup>th</sup> streets, the present site of the Hammond-Stephens block. Beside this stood Fremont's first bank, erected here in 1866 by E H Rogers & Co.

Within two block west from the present Fremont federal postoffice building, 53 years ago, and even up as late as 1875, farmers harvested wheat-that is, they harvested what the drouths and grasshoppers saw fit to leave them."

Noted in the Fremont Herald 1 September 1922 1:3,4



FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

PERMIT NO 28  
FREMONT NEBRASKA  
US POSTAGE PAID  
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EASTERN NEBRASKA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
P O BOX 541  
FREMONT NE 68026-0541