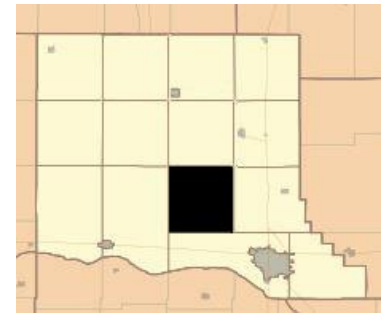




Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541
Fremont NE 68026-0541



November 2016

MEETING: Nov 14, 2016 - 7 P.M.
May Museum 1643 N Nye Ave – Fremont NE
Jeff Kappeler - Tour of the latest exhibit:

“Transplanted: The Early Ethnic Settlers of Dodge County.”

BROWSE NITE 7 P.M.
Nov 28, 2016

Come and help others, do research, or file “Ticklers”

The October 10 Humanities Nebraska Presentation, *Voices from the New Land: Danish Immigration to Nebraska* by John and Dawn Nielsen, immersed us in fascinating stories of people who left their home land in search of a better life. Their stories and impressions of their new homes and lives were told in the immigrants' own words through letters written to family and friends and illustrated by images from newspapers of the era.

Note: View the 1887 Maple township map on the Dodge County website listed above for a clearer view of landowner names.



From History of the Elkhorn Valley – Published 1892

MAPLE TOWNSHIP.

Congressional township 18, range 7, east, is what comprises present Maple township. It is six miles square and is bounded on the north by Everett township; on the east by Nickerson township, on the south by Platte township, and on the west by Cotterell township. Its population is divided as to nationality; according to the Federal census returns of 1890, it had 778 people. This is one of the inland sub-divisions of Dodge County, and has no villages or railroads within her borders. Originally Maple, as now constituted, formed a part of Everett and Nickerson townships or precincts; but in 1886, when "Township Organization" came into effect, the present limits were fixed.

SETTLEMENT. It seems quite clearly fixed that to Seneca Hager, of Section 20, belongs the honor of having been the first to locate in Maple township. He came to the county in the autumn 1856, in company with his parents.

Rev. Jacob Adriance, of Section 20, came to Dodge County in 1858, first locating at Fremont as a Methodist minister. He continued in that work for many years.

George Knoell living on Section 26, came to Dodge County in the spring of 1859 with his father. George was only a sixteen-year old lad at that time.

In 1865 Charles A Bang, now of Section 11, came to Dodge County. He worked two or three years in the saw-mill, and then returned to Denmark on a visit, but returned and worked in the mill at North Bend until 1869, when he bought and began to improve eighty acres of land, to which he added, until now he has three hundred and twenty acres.

In 1866 came Ole Hanson, who lives on Section 26. He worked at Fremont about three years, and in 1869 homesteaded the land upon which he now lives.

Rasmus Hansen, a farmer of Section 35, came to Dodge County in the fall of 1867 and engaged at saw-mill work near Fremont.

James C Nelson whose farm home is located on Section 22, came to Dodge County in the spring of 1867, at first locating at Fremont. He was a young single man at that time, and worked out by the month for others for two years, and then claimed eighty acres of wild land where he made himself a home.

Another representative settler of 1867, was Lewis A. Warner of Section 3, who came to the county in the autumn of that year.

J. E. Dorsey settled on Maple Creek on Section 1, in 1867. He is now residing at North Bend.

L. M. Keene came from Maine in company with Chester Morse in 1867, and located on Section 12. Chester Morse located on Section 4, but many years later removed to North Bend, and finally in company with others platted the village of Morse Bluff, south of the Platte River from North Bend.

Another settler of about the same date, perhaps a little earlier, was old Mr. Monroe who lived on Section 3 until the time of his death, several years ago.

Thomas and W. E. Wilson came from Ohio and located on the north line of the township.

In 1869 came Melcher Endley, locating on Section 10, a part of which he homesteaded.

James Hiscox was a homesteader of 1869 on Section 10.

James L. Davis came in 1869, and took an eighty-acre homestead upon which he lived until 1887 and then moved to Fremont, where he died a year later.

Seth Harkness came to Section 13 in 1870. He purchased railroad land and was a resident of the township until 1880, when he sold and moved to Hamilton County, Nebraska.

G. W. B. Pettibone became a resident of Section 2 in 1870. He bought out a homesteader and lived in the township until 1876, when he moved to Fremont and embarked in business.

Another settler of the "seventies" was John L. Ritter, who located on section 4. Subsequently he engaged in the grain trade at Hooper; also at North Bend, and finally became a member of the Town Site Company of Morse & Ritter, platting Morse Bluff.

C. E. Forbes, of Section 14, came in prior to 1870.

W. C. Aiken located on Section 10 about 1870. He removed to Michigan in 1875. Nine years later he bought a part of his present farm.

William Springer dates his settlement in Maple township from the spring of 1870, having stopped a short period at Fontanelle. He located where he still lives, on Section 10, where he now has one hundred and sixty acres under cultivation.

Casper Eidam, a farmer of Section 16, came to Dodge County in the spring of 1870 and located in Platte township, where he rented land three years and then bought where he now lives.

David Brown, of Section 4, came to the county in the spring of 1870, first locating on Maple Creek, where he rented land for four years. He then bought eighty acres of his present farm, paying one thousand dollars for the same.

Another gentleman of the 1870 list was William C. Wallingford, of Section 34. He rented land near Fremont for five seasons, after which he bought on Section 7 of Platte township, where he farmed ten years and then purchased a quarter section where he now resides.

Peter Johnson also came in 1870 to Dodge County, and followed railroading for two years. He then went to breaking prairie, and after one season at that he bought eighty acres of land, and has lived thereon ever since. It is a part of Section 15.

(Note: More details on these early settlers and later arrivals are included in "History of the Elkhorn Valley" in the ENG S library.)

POST-OFFICES. The post-offices of Maple Creek township are Maple Creek, established prior to 1870, on the mail route from Fremont to West Point. It is now kept on Section 3. Jamestown post-office is located on Section 20, and Bang's on Section 15. Father Monroe was the pioneer post-master, and kept Maple Creek office at his farm house on Section 4.

SCHOOLS. The first term of school was taught by L. M. Keene, on Section 10, in a dug-out, in 1869. It was in what is known as District No. 23. At the present time there are four school houses within the township, and the standard is fully as high, in educational matters, as any of the townships of Dodge County. The first school house was built in 1871 in the center of Section 14 and cost \$345.

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In a recent note, ENG S member, Marilyn Burtz Estrada, shared memories and photos of school #78, built in Section 34 of Maple Twp in 1900. Marilyn knew the school as Hay Valley. Both photos can be seen on the Dodge County website.

Marilyn's note: "I attended the school from 1946-50, my sister Leeann from 1946-54 and my sister Karen from 1948-56. We were told that our Grandmother Julia Hansen Burtz had attended the school as a child and we thought it reasonable as we were living in the house our Great-grandfather had built. Grandma had been born in that house in 1878 and lived there until she married in 1903.

A few facts about the school as we lived it. You entered into a hallway that ran the width of the school. There were two small storage rooms for school supplies on the west end. In the hallway were hooks for our coats, a bench for our lunch pails and we also placed our boots under the bench. Two doors led into the only room. The floors were wood and the ceiling was pressed tin. Between the doors were blackboards with roll-down maps above them. In the back of the room was a large coal burning stove and in the winter we moved the recitation benches around it to warm our toes and the smell of our mittens drying on the top of the stove gave off a wet wool smell that permeated the room. Our desks were the old rigid bench types of old schools and we older students were allowed to have ink in our ink-well bottles. No, we did not use quill pens but our prized fountain pens. There was the teacher's desk, a piano, and a bookcase. We had a wall phone in the school. The kind you had to crank to get the operator.

Outside there was a coal house behind the school and older boys were responsible to bring in the coal.



There were two outhouses—girls' and boys'. By the front of the school was a hand pump which furnished our water for drinking and washing. Each morning if weather permitted, we raised the flag on a pole next to the pump and said the Pledge of Allegiance."

After the school was closed, it was moved to a farm to be a storage building. Where was the farm? I will give rural directions. Continue all the way south from Bluff Lutheran Church on the hill to Highway 30. Turn toward Fremont. After a mile, but probably not more than two miles on the north side of the highway was the school. I seem to remember that there were no longer any windows in the building so it basically was a white rectangular building."

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In December, look for an update on the Everett store with memories and a photo supplied by ENG S member, Carol Rich, granddaughter of store owner Albert Leamons.