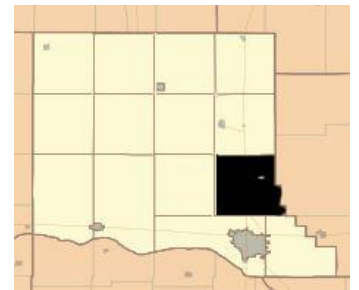




Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541
Fremont NE 68026-0541



September 2017

Mares Meeting room: 1722 E 19th street

MEETING: Sept 11 7 PM

Topic: Annual "Show and Tell". Come and tell about your latest research efforts and finds.

BROWSE NITE: Sept 25 7 PM
Come and enjoy the ENG S Library

Thanks to LeMay for the interesting summary of Tools for a Modern Genealogist from the 40th annual NSGS conference.

New Members:

G-64 Jeff Peterson - Fremont
G-65 Deanna Wolf - North Bend

Scheduled Programs:

Oct 9 - Humanities: First Homestead/Homestead Act
Nov 13 - Stories of Ancestors who served in any war

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

Present Development—The Two Railroads. Nickerson Township is government township 18, range 8, and a part of range 9—that part west of the Elkhorn River. Originally this was all a part of Maple Township, but after various changes the present bounds were made in 1886. Geographically, this township is bounded on its north by Hooper Township, on the east by Washington County, on the south by Platte and Elkhorn townships, on the west by Maple Township. What is known as the Black Hills line of Northwestern Railway runs through the township from north to south, with a station point at the Village of Nickerson, situated in section 11. The Sioux City branch of the "Burlington" system also touches this point.

Pioneer Settlement --The first person to take land in this township was an attorney-at-law named Henry Depew, who bought a quarter section in "thirteen," in 1857. He finally let the land go back for the taxes and it was bid in by Michael Herman, who subsequently sold a part of it to the railroad company, and they platted the Village of Nickerson on it. Depew went to Germany as consul to Baden and later was made an Indian agent on the Pawnee Reservation, Nebraska.

July 2, 1859, came Michael Herman, and he stated that when he arrived the only actual settlers in the township were Thomas Fitzsimons, Morris Wogan, O. A. Heimbaugh, Henry C. Campbell, Arthur Bloomer, J. H. Peters and a Mr. Bingham. In 1861 August Milligan and E. Abbott settled in the township.

Other settlers were as follows: John K. Cramer came to Dodge County in 1855, before the organization and was numbered among the first Fontanelle colony. After remaining there twelve years, he moved to section 14 of Nickerson Township where he was still residing in the '90s.

James H. Peters, of section 8, was a pioneer of 1855, and located at Fontanelle, but later moved to this township. Christopher Knoell, of section 32, came to Dodge County in 1859 with his parents, and in 1862 they moved to a new place in Nickerson Township. The experiences this family had with the Indians at an early day were really of an interesting character.

Michael Herman came to the Elkhorn Valley in 1857 and finally purchased land in section 12 of this township. Subsequently he retired in the nearby village.



Rasmus Johnson, section 23. came to Dodge County in the fall of 1867, at first settling in section 20, homesteading twenty acres. Later he sold and purchased land in section 23. Another settler of 1867 was William H. Sweet, Jr., who finally settled in section 4, and secured a half section of land prior to 1892. He was a native of New York State. In 1876 came Romanzo M. Havens, who first located at Fontanelle in 1868 and lived there until 1876, when he moved to Nickerson and bought a hotel property which he still owned in the early '90s. Francis M. Healey, section 28, came to Douglas County in 1870 and at first worked by the month for others. He then farmed in Wisconsin till 1874, then returned to Nebraska and bought land on the Maple Creek, living there until he moved to section 28 in 1880.

Other settlers included Andrew P. Shepard. section 27, who was a resident of Dodge County from 1871 and in 1893 owned 680 acres of excellent land in this county. Philip Gentzler, section 20, came to Dodge County in 1868, first stopping at Fremont, but four years later moved to Nickerson Township. Gerhart Harms located in section 3. He came to the county in 1870. He settled on Logan Creek, purchasing a place in Nickerson Township three years after his coming. Another settler of Nickerson in 1870 was John Thede. He located in section 28, lived there five years then moved to a new place in section 16.

Reuben Falconer purchased 240 acres of land in this township in 1872 and built in section 17. Jerry S. Diehl, section 23, came to Dodge County in the spring of 1877. He worked on a farm for others three years, then bought a quarter section of land to which later he added considerable. Nels Christiansen, section 21, located in Fremont, and eight years later, or 1882, removed to his farm in Nickerson Township. Charles Diers, section 32, came to this township in 1874.

Jorgan Larson, later of section 16, came to this county in 1879 and bought eighty acres of land. All was wild prairie then, but in a few years he had developed his land into a very attractive and valuable place. Isaac H. Brown, section 5, came in 1881. He bought cheap land and within a few years was surrounded by a comfortable home. Lewis Larson, section 9, first located after coming in 1883 on the old Doctor Sexton land, which he leased six years then bought in Nickerson Township and made himself a good home. Christopher Johnson, of section 21, came to Nickerson in 1887 and bought his land there. Henry E. Heimbaugh came in 1889, worked by the month a year or two and then engaged in business in the Village of Nickerson.

First Events in the Township -- Henry Depew was the township's first settler or land-owner. The first child born in the township was a son to Mr. and Mrs. Morris Wogan, early in the '60s. The first death was that of Mr. Higgle about 1858. He was buried on the hill west from the present Village of Nickerson, but later the remains were removed to the City of Omaha. The first residence was a log building on the old Depew place. The first frame building was built by Jacob Easier soon after the close of the Civil war. The first school in Nickerson Township was taught a mile west of the present Village of Nickerson.

What happened to some of the early settlers? Selections from the ENGS tickler files tell the story. Thank you, Claire!

Fremont Tribune - Nov 12, 1895

Mrs. Herman, wife of Mike Herman of Nickerson died this morning at 4 o'clock at the Fremont hospital, aged about 70 years. Mrs. Herman was taken to the hospital two or three weeks ago, where she underwent a surgical operation, but which was too long neglected to save her life. She was the wife of a pioneer and came to Nebraska with him thirty-eight years ago. They have lived all this time on their farm near Nickerson. She endured all the vicissitudes incident to a pioneer and during her long life here she performed many charitable and other good deeds, the memory of which will long survive her.

Fremont Weekly Herald - Oct 23, 1896

Michael Herman and Virginia Beattie Join Hands for Better or Worse. Rev N. Chesnut of the Presbyterian church joined in matrimony yesterday afternoon. Mr. Michael Herman of Nickerson and Virginia E. Beattie, who at the advanced ages of 69 and 51 years, will commence their new life and housekeeping at the former's place in Nickerson. Mr. Herman has lived in the neighborhood since 1857, and there is scarcely a citizen of the county who does not know him. He has been treasurer of the school district ever since the school was inaugurated and is the owner of something like 500 acres in this county, most of it being near Nickerson. He has several children who are grown and married and grandchildren who soon will be.

It is whispered that not one of his neighbors were made acquainted with his matrimonial intentions and that not only his friends but relatives will be surprised to learn of the venture. Mr. and Mrs. Herman have the best wishes of their numberless friends who can be but pleased to know that they start in life with most of this world's comforts.

Fremont Tri-Weekly Tribune Feb, 9 1905

At their late home in Nickerson township eight miles northwest of this city **John Thede and his wife Anna** are both lying dead. The latter died Tuesday morning at 4 o'clock and the former followed her Wednesday afternoon at about the same hour. Thus these two aged persons, the husband 77 years and the wife 74, after living together for a period of nearly half a century passed into the unknown close together and there will be a double burial service. It will be held on Friday, leaving the house at 10 o'clock interment to be made in Fremont at Ridge cemetery.

The deceased were old settlers in Dodge county. They came to America from Germany in 1869. After living one year in Iowa they came to Nebraska, settling in this county where they have resided ever since. They lived retired lives, were the kindest of parents and highly respected citizens. They leave four children, Jacob, a resident of Oklahoma; John, of Knox county; Hans, the youngest son who has lived on the farm with them, and Anna, the wife of Frank Diers of Nickerson.



Summertime, during the early 1900s, was exciting for men and boys! Huge steam powered tractors pulling strange looking contraptions made the job of threshing "easy". A photo in the Nickerson Centennial Edition, 1971, includes a local crew that included Chris and Peter Knudsen, Pete Peterson, Ross Wickersham, Peter Raasch, and George Peters. This photo, with a row of little boys lined up on the top of an early-model threshing machine, is identified as "Dady Whites Threshing Crew," and was submitted by Max McNickle of Farnam.