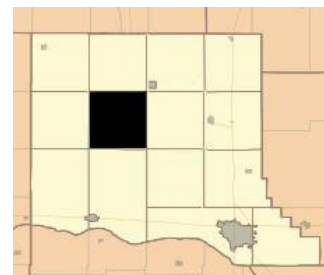




# Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society Newsletter

P O BOX 541  
Fremont NE 68026-0541



October 2016

**MEETING: Oct 10, 2016 - 7 P.M.**  
First Lutheran Church  
3200 E Military Ave

**Ridgeley Township, Dodge County, Nebraska**

**Humanities Nebraska Presentation**  
By John and Dawn Nielsen  
**Voices from the New Land:**  
Danish Immigration to Nebraska

**History of Dodge and Washington Counties, Nebraska**  
Volume 1, The American Historical Society, Chicago, 1921

**BROWSE NITE 7 P.M.**  
Oct 24, 2016

**Organization** - What is now known as Ridgeley Township was formed as a separate township when the county was placed under township organization in 1886. The first election after it was a "precinct" in government, was held, in section 28, at Mat Robert's house. The township affairs have been well managed and are today fully up to the Dodge County township standard.

Come and help others, do research, or file "Ticklers"

**Schools and Churches** - The pioneer school was kept in 1871 and some of the scholars were over twenty-one, but many things illegal then went for lawful. The earliest church in this township was the Evangelical Lutheran, formed in 1874.

Welcome to our new ENGS members:

Loretta Meistrell G-56 Fremont NE  
Nancy Meyer G-57 Omaha NE



Please visit [NEGenWeb - Dodge County](#). Look for the link: **Schools & Townships** - to view the **Dodge County 1887 map**. Townships are now clickable and each one displays landowner names plus school photos and other goodies. Additional info or photos for any township is welcome.

**Post Offices** - The first post offices of this township were Ridgeley and Webster. The former was established in 1868 with A. Holbrook as postmaster. In 1882 it was removed to the home of Patrick Owen, remained a few years and then rotated back to Mr. Holbrook, his wife being made postmistress. It was discontinued and after a time re-established. It was about 1885 that it was located in section 26, when H. L. Shomsher was postmaster. He also conducted a country store at this point. Mail was received tri-weekly on a mail route from Fremont to Webster.

**First Settlers** - In an account of this part of Dodge County found in the volume entitled "History of the Elkhorn Valley," published about 1891, there is found the following account of the early settlement in this township. It seems to have been corrected and approved by competent committeemen, hence as such events are unchangeable, we will assume the statements made therein to be correct at this time:

To have been the first settler to invade and make his permanent abiding place in so splendid and highly fertile domain as the Township of Ridgeley is composed was indeed an honor to be appreciated by any man. To such honor, the record says, is attached the name of Frank M. Tillman, who located by right of pre-emption in the northeast quarter of section 26, in June, 1868, fifty-two years ago. He and several others brought their families from the Lake Superior country. Mr. Tillman proved up and continued to cultivate his land until 1880 when he moved to the Village of Hooper and purchased a hotel property, conducted it for a time, after which his son, Frank, took over the property and became landlord.

Vangilder Banghart, section 28, homesteaded eighty acres in 1868. With others, this pioneer homesteader saw great hardships for a decade or more when prosperity smiled upon his efforts. Henry Banghart arrived the year last named as did Isaac Banghart, claiming land in section 28. At one time he sold lumber and bought grain in the Village of Scribner. Peter Therens and John Mohr came to the township to affect their settlement the same year.



1887 Map

About 1869 the following made settlement in the township: James M. Cruickshank, section 31; John Eckroat, section 21; Daniel Jones, John Yosten and a few others came. In 1871 came Thomas H. Heywood to section 10.

Old Mr. Berriman homesteaded in section 30; he died many years ago. Others settlers in this goodly township were: Nicholas Reise, section 24; Henry Sievers, section 18, in 1869 and in 1890 was counted one of the richest men in the township; A. L. Holbrook, section 28, came in 1869 and sold out in 1882 and moved to Kansas. August English settled here in the '70s in section 7, and died in 1887. William Herman located in section 6 in 1870. D. Stagerman came at about the same date; also Mr. Schuler of section 8. Dr. Thomas Street and Matthew Themis were pioneers.

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## From the ENGS "Tickler" files

### Fremont Tri-Weekly Tribune - Dec 1, 1892

The new Catholic church at Ridgeley is to be dedicated on the 8th day of December, when it is expected there will be a large gathering of people to witness the ceremonies. Rev. Hork is the pastor.

### Fremont World Herald – Sept 8, 1893

The dedication of the new German Lutheran church at Ridgeley will take place on Sunday next with appropriate exercises.

### Fremont World Herald – Apr 24, 1896

Last Monday was the last day for Ridgeley P O as on that day the office was discontinued by order of the Dept. for failure of the post-master giving a new bond, It seems Herman was the same as Geo. Eaton, not in favor of too many bonds and is talking now of selling out.

### Fremont Tribune – Dec 11, 1896

H. L. Shomshor returned today from Ridgeley where he went to assist Louis Steil open up the postoffice at that place, which has been closed for some months, Mr. Shomshor was postmaster there for more than ten years, but some time ago he was resigned on account of his health and removed to Fremont. The office was opened Monday and Mr. Steil has it in good running order again, He is popular -and will please the patrons, If he does as well as Mr. Shomshor did he ought to be satisfied, and the public certainly will be.

### Fremont Semi- Weekly Herald – Jul 16, 1897 Ridgeley Items.

The weather is very pleasant now days.

The dance which took place in John Peterson's barn last Saturday night was well attended.

We understand these will be a game here next Sunday between the Scribner and Fremont nines. all are cordially invited to attend.

Harvesting barley is commencing to be the chief occupation now days. Wm. Baechler was seen selling Sad Irons last week. Most farmers have finished cultivating corn. Claus Westphalen is hauling off his oats. Claus knows when the market is right.

It is rumored there will be two candidates for the office of sheriff from this vicinity.

An ice cream festival took place at the home of John Tym last Tuesday evening.

Quite a number of people from this vicinity were in Snyder to attend the German Lutheran picnic Sunday.

### Fremont Semi-Weekly Herald – 17 Sept, 1897 Ridgeley

The weather is still warm and sultry.

The ball game which took place at Ridgeley between the Ridgeley Grays and the Hooper team was won by the latter. The score stood 16 to 4. During the game Fred Steil and Henry Shomshor collided while trying to gather in a fly ball, The result was a broken and badly skinned nose for Fred while Henry escaped with a skinned cheek. Afterwards Fred Steil and Gust Westphalen were each struck on the elbow by a ball from the Hooper pitcher.

Henry Haun is going to school in Scribner this winter.

Frank Tillman of Hooper was seen in this neighborhood delivering pop this week.

Louis Steil was a Fremont visitor Monday.

### Fremont Semi-Weekly Herald – Jan 7, 1898 Ridgeley Items

The weather is turning cool and windy.

Mrs. E. Thernes and son August returned from a trip to Kansas last. week. John Risa was a Dodge visitor Tuesday. Chas Faulk of Scribner was in this vicinity last week. Gene Dietz of Scribner was in this neighborhood Tuesday.

Henry Thedens is hauling com this week. Mrs. E. Thernes has a new wind mill on her farm. Waldo Wintersteen was canvassing in this vicinity the fore part of the week.

School in Dist, No. 66 will close this week With Florence Edwards as teacher.

Pete Foy and Wm Baechler formed a partnership and will start cleaning feathers with a new feather-cleaning machine. Three cheers for the new firm.

Mrs. Peter Westphalen returned from a visit to her parents in Boone county last week.

Nothing in the matrimonial field! What's the matter with R. Wearne, John Westphalen, Chas Gamrath and H. Witthimichs?

The P. M. of Ridgeley must be a tough case. Candidates cannot find out what he really is - a democrat or a republican, or if he is going to wear the rose in his buttonhole when he goes to the polls next Tuesday.

### Fremont Semi-Weekly Herald – Jan 28, 1898 Ridgeley Items

The last snow was not quite sufficient for good sleighing.

A little son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Westphalen last week. Mother and child doing well.

The sale at G. Siefert's went quite lively. All goods sold at a good price.

Peter Ellerman left for Holstein, Germany, last week. .

Frank Euse purchased a horse from Nick Miller last week, Wonder if he won't start housekeeping next.

When Miss Kohne, the school teacher, arrived at the school house Monday morning she discovered that the school house had been entered since Friday night by a tramp who had evidently found a comfortable lodging there.