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1887

## History of Dodge County

L. J. Abbott

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Louisville, at the mouth of Mill or Thompson's creek, in Louisville precinct, was laid out in 1856, and one log cabin built, and thus slept until 1870, when, under control of Capt. J. T. A. Hoover and brother, and the B. & M. R. R. Co., it was re-surveyed and commenced life anew. It now has a population of some two hundred, four trading houses, a hotel, station house on the B. & M. R. R., a grain warehouse, lumber yard, and three smith shops, J. T. A. Hoover, postmaster.

South Bend, in South Bend precinct, also of early date, slept till the railroad revived it. It has now a grain warehouse and trading house, and a population of twenty-five or thirty.

Eight Mile Grove, a close settlement on the corners of the four precincts of Plattsmouth, Rock Bluffs, Eight Mile Grove, and Mt. Pleasant, has a population of about one hundred, two churches, a school house and a post office, C. H. King, postmaster.

Glendale, a traveling post office in Eight Mile Grove precinct, after four removals, expired in 1875.

Greenwood on the B. & M. R. R., in Salt Creek precinct, has a population of about fifty, three trading houses, two churches, a grain warehouse, a hotel, two smith shops, school house, and post office, H. H. Alden, postmaster.

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## HISTORY OF DODGE COUNTY.

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BY DR. L. J. ABBOTT.

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We meet to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of our national birthday. To-day, we as a nation exhibit to the world a solution of the problem that not only in numbers, in wealth, in the advancement of commercial and agricultural prosperity, in our ability to protect ourselves from both foreign and domestic enemies, but also in age, in permanency, a government "of the people, for the people, and by the people" can endure. The history of the world for the past two thousand years has been marked with the successive rise and fall of republics. Greece and Rome, Venice and Genoa have, for short periods, assumed republican forms of government, but it is reserved for the United States of America to mark the epoch in modern history of a

republic enduring a century. To those fathers of the republic, to those grand men who, one hundred years ago this day, affixed their signatures to the immortal declaration which has just been read in your hearing, and who, in support of that declaration, "pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor," do we owe this national prosperity, this perpetuity of free institutions. On this centennial day over forty millions of free people arise and call them blessed; their names have become household words, their memories are embalmed in the hearts of liberty-loving people, not only of our own, but of all lands. They laid the foundations of civil government for a free people broad and deep. They seemed to be endowed with almost prophetic wisdom, and of all the state papers of ancient or modern times, the Declaration of Independence of 1776, the Ordinance of 1787, and the Federal Constitution of 1789, all emanating from almost the same sources and receiving the assent and approval of the same statesmen and legislators, stand, after one hundred years of trial, as enduring monuments of political wisdom unsurpassed, unequaled, incomparable.

Until this morning our own Nebraska was the 37th and latest born of all the states. To-day another state, Colorado, is added to the Federal Union; both Nebraska and Colorado being portions of the territory purchased from France by President Jefferson, by treaty signed in the city of Paris, April, 1803—Robert R. Livingstone and James Monroe, commissioners on the part of the United States, and Barbe Marbois, commissioner on the part of Napoleon, first consul of France. This treaty, which comprised the largest purchase of territory ever acquired by any nation by strictly peaceable means, and the most important of all our national acquisitions, is the first landmark in our state history.

The passage by congress of the organic act, known as the Kansas and Nebraska bill, which provided for a territorial organization, approved by President Pierce, May 30, 1854, is the next great event of political interest to citizens of Nebraska.

Immediately after the passage of the Kansas and Nebraska bill the territory of Nebraska was organized with Francis W. Burt, of South Carolina, as governor, and T. B. Cuming, of Iowa, as secretary.

In accordance with the provisions of the organic act, T. B. Cuming, acting governor of Nebraska territory (Governor Francis Burt hav-

ing died on the morning of the 18th of October, 1854), did on Saturday, the 21st day of October, 1854, issue a proclamation for an enumeration of the inhabitants of this territory, which enumeration was to commence on the 24th of the same month.

On the 21st day of November, 1854, Acting Governor Cuming issued a proclamation for the first general election ever held in Nebraska, and for the purpose of this election he divided the territory into counties and gave names and boundaries to the same. To the county in which we live he gave the name of Dodge, in honor of Senator Augustus Cæsar Dodge, of Iowa, who had been an active friend and supporter of the Kansas and Nebraska bill.

The first boundaries of Dodge county were as follows: Commencing at a point on the Platte river twenty miles west of Bellevue, thence westerly along the Platte river to the mouth of Shell creek, thence north twenty-five miles, thence east to the dividing ridge between the Elkhorn and Missouri rivers, and thence southerly to the place of beginning.

The territorial legislature, at its first session, in an act approved March 6, 1855, again redescribed the boundaries of Dodge county and in this act fixed the county seat at Fontenelle.

At the fifth session of the legislature, March 2, 1858, after the government survey, the eastern boundary was again redefined.

On the 22d of December, 1859, the territorial legislature changed the southern boundary of the county, fixing it where it still remains, upon the south bank of the Platte river.

At the seventh session, January, 1860, the eastern boundary was again changed and placed upon the Elkhorn river. This boundary left the county seat, Fontenelle, in Washington county, and Dodge county without a capital. In February, 1867, a portion of the territory lost by the act of 1860, known as Logan Creek, was re-annexed to Dodge. In March of the legislative session of 1873, some changes were made in the county boundaries, and in February, 1875, the legislature described the limits of the county as they exist to-day, containing about 345,600 acres.

Fremont, the capital of Dodge county, is located in 41 degrees 26 minutes north latitude, and 96 degrees 29 minutes west longitude; the main portion of the county lies north and west of this point.

The southern boundary of the county is the Platte river, the largest

stream in the state, named by Lewis and Clarke in 1804, on account of its width and shallowness; its general direction is from west to east; it falls at about six feet to the mile.

The Elkhorn river a tributary of the Platte is the second stream of importance in the county. It received its name many years ago, probably from Lewis and Clarke, at least from some of the early voyageurs. It runs through the entire county from north-west to south-east, a distance of thirty miles.

Rawhide creek received its name from the fact that during the California travel of 1849 a white man is said to have been flayed alive by the Pawnee Indians on its banks. It is a small, sluggish stream, of low banks, and runs from west to east through the entire county and empties into the Elkhorn river near the south-east corner of the county.

Maple creek rises in the southern portion of Stanton county and has a general direction from west to east through Dodge county and empties into the Elkhorn river at a point nearly opposite the old town of Fontenelle; it derived its name from the large maple grove originally growing near its mouth.

Pebble creek has the same general direction as the Maple. It rises in Cuming county and discharges its waters into the Elkhorn river near the flourishing village of Scribner. It was named Pebble from the unusual number of pebbles found in its waters at the ford, where the volunteer soldiers crossed it in the Pawnee war of 1859.

Cuming creek rises in Cuming county and flows in a southerly direction a distance of about five miles in Dodge county and adds its waters to the Elkhorn a little above the mouth of Pebble creek. This stream was named in 1855 in honor of T. B. Cuming, first secretary and acting governor of Nebraska.

Logan creek, the third stream in point of size in the county, rises in Cedar county and flows in a southerly direction and its waters are discharged into the Elkhorn about five miles above the mouth of Maple creek. It was named by Col. Wm. Kline, in 1854, in honor of Logan Fontenelle, a friendly Omaha chief.

Clark creek, the smallest of all the streams in Dodge county, rises in Burt county and flows in a southerly direction and joins the Elkhorn nearly two miles below the mouth of Logan. It was also named by Col. Kline, in honor of Dr. M. H. Clark, the first member of the territorial council from Dodge county.

Dodge county is beautifully diversified with valley and upland; about one-third of it being valley or bottom-land and the remaining two-thirds uplands. Fully eighty per cent of the entire area is suitable for cultivation, and the remaining twenty per cent is valuable for pasturage and timber culture.

The landscape is charming in its quiet beauty. The drainage is excellent, and the soil (highland and lowland) is rich, productive, and susceptible of easy tillage. In its general features, number of its never-failing streams and springs, and richness of its soil, Dodge county is equaled by few and surpassed by none in the state of Nebraska.

The first election held in Dodge county was on the 12th day of December, 1854, at Fontenelle, at which election Dr. M. H. Clark was chosen first member of the territorial council, and Judge J. W. Richardson and Col. E. R. Doyle were elected members of the house of representatives. Each of them was unanimously elected, having received all the votes cast to the number of eight.

The first territorial legislature convened at Omaha on the 16th of January, 1855, and whilst Messrs. Clark, Richardson, and Doyle were attending the legislature the town of Fontenelle and county of Dodge were deserted by their inhabitants; Col. Wm. Kline, then and now a highly respected citizen of Fontenelle, and a half-breed Indian named Joe, were the only constituents left to the honorable members of Dodge.

Col. Kline can truly be said to have had, at one time in his life, the largest representation according to population of any gentleman in Nebraska, if not in the United States.

During this first session Dr. Clark, on the 16th of February, 1855, made a most exhaustive report to the territorial legislature upon the subject of a Pacific railroad and the Platte valley route. Viewed in the light of twenty years it seems almost prophetic, and indicates largely what must have been the character of the man. From that report we extract the following:

"It leads to all those great mountain passes which are the gateways to Utah, California, Oregon, and Washington. It is the best route and the adopted road to all these states and territories, and it is believed by your committee, some of whom have been through these routes and for years intimate with those who traverse the mountains, that it is the Platte valley *alone* that affords all these western divisions any natural, easy, and common way which will commingle their travel with that of the eastern states."

In concluding this report he said:

"In view of the comparative cost, to the wonderful changes that will result, your committee cannot believe the period remote when this work will be accomplished, and with liberal encouragement to capital, which your committee are disposed to grant, it is their belief that before fifteen years have transpired, the route to India will be opened and the way across this continent will be the common way of the world."

The first territorial legislature ordered an enumeration of the inhabitants to be taken, commencing on the 11th of September, 1855, and upon the basis of those census returns the governor ordered a new apportionment. Under this apportionment Dodge was entitled to but one member of the lower house.

On the first Tuesday of November, 1855, Thomas Gibson was elected that member.

At the third election for members Silas E. Seeley secured forty-four votes and Thomas Gibson forty-one votes. Gibson contested Seeley's seat on the ground that Seeley had not resided long enough in the legislative district. The legislature vacated the seat held by Seeley on his certificate, but did not declare for Gibson, thus leaving Dodge unrepresented in the lower house the winter of 1857, and furnishing a precedent to the last republican state convention in the matter of the contestants from Douglas county.

Since the year 1858 the following gentlemen were the members of the territorial house of representatives from Dodge County:

J. M. Taggart, of Fontenelle, for the years 1857 and 1858; H. W. DePuy, Maple Creek, for the years 1858 and 1859; E. H. Rogers, of Fremont, for the years 1859 and 1860; M. S. Cotterell, North Bend, for the years 1860 and 1861; E. H. Barnard, Fremont, for the years 1861 and 1862; I. E. Heaton, Fremont, January, 1864; W. H. Ely, North Bend, January, 1865; J. G. Smith, Fremont, January, 1866; J. E. Dorsey, Maple Creek, January, 1867.

E. H. Rogers, of Fremont, was a member and president of the territorial council for the year 1867, and the last presiding officer of that body.

In February, 1867, the state legislature passed the enabling act required by congress, and in March following, Nebraska took her place among the states of the Union.

E. H. Rogers was the first state senator from this district and was the first president of that body.

After the state organization H. P. Beebe, of Fremont, was the first member of the house of representatives, 1867 and 1868.

E. H. Barnard, Fremont, 1869 and 1870; A. C. Briggs, Logan Creek, 1871 and 1872; Milton May, Everett, 1873 and 1874; John Seeley, Pebble Creek, 1875 and 1876.

Immediately after the passage of the act approved January 12, 1860, which divided the county of Dodge, another act to reorganize the county was passed and approved January 13, 1860, which provided for an election to be held on the first Monday of February, 1860. At this election Fremont was selected for the county seat; E. H. Barnard, probate judge; William S. Wilson, sheriff; H. C. Campbell, treasurer; J. F. Reynolds, county clerk; and George Turner, county commissioner, who with George Turton and Thomas Fitzsimmons constituted the first commissioners' court, after the re-organization of the county. The county at this time was divided into the three precincts of Fremont, North Bend, and Maple Creek.

#### FREMONT.

Having followed the history of the county up to the date of Fremont becoming the county seat, let us glance for a moment at her early history.

The site of the present city of Fremont was claimed by E. H. Barnard and John A. Kountz in the name of Barnard, Kountz & Co., August 23, 1856. They set their first claim stake on the swell of ground near the corner of D and First streets, then passing west on the California road about two miles they reached the cabin of Seth P. Marvin in time for dinner. This cabin was the first sign of civilized life thus far west of the Elkhorn river, and was the most easterly outpost of the McNeal and Beebe settlement, at that time three months old. Mr. Marvin's family consisted of a wife and two children, Glen and May; they had arrived at their new home about three weeks previous, from Marshalltown, Iowa. Mr. Marvin received and entertained the strangers hospitably; he was a good talker and had unbounded faith in the future of the great Platte valley as a whole, and in that precise locality in particular. It was largely if not chiefly due to his efforts that the town company was organized a few days later.

After making their claim Messrs. Barnard and Kountz went further up the valley and returned two days afterward to the house of Mr.



Marvin, where they learned that during their absence a party of four had made a claim which somewhat conflicted with theirs. At first these gentlemen thought they would give the matter no attention, but Mr. Marvin urged them to remain with him until the next day and meet the adverse claimants and arrange the matter satisfactorily to all. The advice was accepted and acted upon and that night the parties all met at the house of Marvin for the first time.

The party of four consisted of George M. Pinney, James G. Smith, Robert Kittle, and Robert Moreland, the latter a hack driver from Iowa City, and the others three passengers whom he had picked up at Des Moines.

Mr. Marvin proposed that the conflicting claimants throw up their respective claims and then proceed to form a new town company, taking him in as a member. The proposition was finally agreed to, and on the next morning, August 26, 1856, the new company was organized under the name of Pinney, Barnard & Co., who immediately proceeded to lay off a plot of ground one mile square for a town site. On the 3d of September the company adopted the name Fremont for their town, in honor of Gen. John C. Fremont, the great Western explorer, and then candidate of the republican party for president of the United States. The town company consisted of Seth P. Marvin, of Michigan; James G. Smith and John A. Kountz, of Pennsylvania; Robert Kittle and E. H. Barnard, of New York; and Robert Moreland, of Ireland; who elected the following officers:

James G. Smith, president; Robert Kittle, vice president; John A. Kountz, secretary; George M. Pinney, treasurer; E. H. Barnard, surveyor.

In the evening of August 26, 1856, the Platte Valley Claim Club was organized with Seth P. Marvin for president; J. W. Peck, vice president; E. H. Barnard, secretary; and George M. Pinney, recorder of claims. The Claim Club was an association of claimants upon the public lands; organized under the laws of the territory, for mutual protection in the holding of claims, and was vested with limited legislative powers. At that time the Platte valley west of range 9 had not been surveyed, so that the club law was the only law by which claims could be regulated, and the Claim Club was one of the necessary institutions of the times. Its committees sat in judgment on all matters of dispute arising out of conflicting claims, and had power to call upon

the band of regulators to enforce their decrees. All the members of the town company, except Mr. Pinney, either remained or soon returned, and by their united efforts, contributed to form the nucleus of the future city. Nor was this any easy task; houses had to be built; the soil cultivated; roads opened; bridges constructed; in fact every thing had to be done to foster the growth of their town in the midst of a wilderness fully three hundred miles away from the nearest railroad station. They had also to contend against rival settlements and opposition town site enterprises. Fortunately they comprehended the situation and worked to win.

The first step towards the making of a town was the resolution by the town company to donate house logs from their timber land and two town lots to any party that would erect a house of hewn logs, 16 x 20 feet, one and one-half stories high, with sawed lumber floors and shingle roof.

The second step in the progress of Fremont, and, at this early date, its most important advance, was the passage of a resolution by the Claim Club allowing claimants to surrounding lands adjacent to the town site to build their houses upon the village lots and not upon their "claims," without the danger of their being jumped. This resolution encountered bitter opposition from the McNeal and Beebe settlement, who looked upon Fremont as a rival. At the time of the passage of this resolution both sides met in full force, and upon putting the question *viva voce*, the resolution was lost, two or three boys of about eighteen voting "no." The friends of the resolution demanded a call of the roll of members and the resolution passed by a majority of one. By this action of the club the one hundred dollars necessary to be spent upon a land claim could be expended in the "city;" house logs could be obtained gratis of the town company, and two city lots donated near the center of the future great town. The interests of the town company and the new settler were made one, and every Fremonter became at once a missionary, whose chief duty it was to inform every immigrant of the superior advantages of the new city, always including social privileges and mutual protection against Indians.

The first shanty erected in our now beautiful city was upon the lot now owned and occupied by the Congregational Church, completed and used for the first time by its owners, Barnard and Kountz, on the

10th of September, 1856 ; Robert Kittle, James G. Smith, and William E. Lee, their boarders, and Leander Gerard, now banker at Columbus, cook. Until this rude cabin was built, Marvin's had been headquarters, although some had camped upon the town site. That cabin, insignificant as it was, broke the solitude of the wilderness. It was a station upon the Great American Desert, a hotel, boarding house, and wonder to the Pawnees, whose village, 1,500 strong, was upon the high bank of the Platte three miles south. The Pawnees justly claimed ownership in the country, for although the general government had made a treaty with the Omahas for this land and paid them for it, the Pawnees, who were joint owners with the Omahas, had received nothing. In October, 1856, the Pawnees notified the white settlers that they must leave within three days, or they would kill them and destroy their property. A council of the settlers was called, and a messenger, James G. Smith, dispatched to the governor for assistance.

Gov. Izard gave him a box of muskets, some ammunition, and reinforced the settlers with an army of eight men, which, added to the inhabitants of Fremont and surrounding country, made a total grand army of about twenty-five, who, by marching and counter-marching, by bonfires and torch light processions, and the burning of hay stacks, produced the impression upon the Pawnees that it was a vast army, and had the effect of overawing them, so that at the end of three days they sent a flag of truce and a messenger, saying that the chiefs had reconsidered the matter and concluded to let them go unmolested for the present.

During the winter of '56 and '57 the settlers were much annoyed by the Indians, who demanded pay for the timber that had been cut upon their lands, and made all sorts of threats to compel payment. The settlers pursued a pacific policy, promising that the Great Father at Washington would make it all right with them, and fortunately for their reputation for veracity the general government made a treaty early in 1857, whereby an annuity was settled upon them, and a reservation west of Fremont granted to them. To the credit of both Pawnee and Fremonters be it said that after the troubles of that fall and winter no citizen of this place was ever harmed by them, and when, in the summer of 1859, the Pawnees started on the war path against the whites of the Elkhorn valley, they made no hostile demon-

stration until several miles beyond Fremont, although the war party passed through the town on their way out.

The cabin of Messrs. Barnard and Kountz continued to be used as a boarding house and hotel, not less than fifteen sleeping in it at one time, until the memorable snow-storm, which begun at 11 o'clock A.M., Monday, December 1, 1856, and was the commencement of the longest continued cold weather and deepest snows ever known in the history of our state. Driven by the snow to better quarters, on Tuesday, December 2, they commenced moving. The "cook, with the grub," was carried by the wind into a hole, which he supposed to be a well, near by, but which proved to be the entrance to Judge Smith's dug-out, directly in line with the wind.

It is a mooted question as to who built the first permanent house in Fremont, that honor lying between Robert Kittle and William G. Bowman—a majority of the old settlers favoring the former. There was but a few days interval between the completion of each.

The Rev. Isaac E. Heaton's was the first family in the place, and he was the first clergyman. The first blacksmith was John C. Hornel, who was induced to remain by the offer of a town share (nine lots) and material for a shop. James G. Smith was the first merchant; John C. Flor the first regular hotel keeper, and S. B. Colson the first shoemaker. E. H. Rogers and William Cartney made the first brick, and E. H. Rogers was the first chairman of the town board that acquired the government title. The first male child born in Fremont was Fred Kittle, and the first female child Alice Flor, both still living. The first marriage took place August 25, 1858, between Luther Wilson and Eliza Turner. The first death occurred October 30, 1857, in the person of Nathan Heaton, father of Rev. I. E. Heaton.

The failure of the banks and the financial panic which followed, in 1857 and 1858, retarded the growth of all Western communities. Fremont suffered from this cause equally with other towns.

The discovery of gold on Cherry creek in 1858, and the immense emigration to Pike's Peak which followed, brought the first real commercial and agricultural prosperity Fremont ever received, and although the town did not increase fast in population, the channels of trade thus opened brought material wealth and lifted the founders of the town into positions of comparative pecuniary independence. It

was, however, reserved for the Union Pacific railroad, which reached Fremont January 24, 1866, to give it a substantial basis, and place it upon the great highway of present and prospective prosperity ; a prosperity which has continued as the years pass on, until now it is the second town in population, wealth, and beauty along that road of over one thousand miles.

Lightning, in the shape of the Western Union Telegraph Company, struck it in 1860, and five or six passengers looked at it daily for years out of the great overland coach ; but it is steam alone that makes modern towns ; without it they are nothing. Under its inspiring influences real estate began to rise, immigration started anew from all parts of the East, and the town of a few log houses was, as it were, built up in a night to a size and population astonishing when compared with the growth of Eastern towns.

On the 12th day of February, 1869, the Sioux City & Pacific railroad made junction with the Union Pacific at Fremont, and on December 31, 1869, the first ten miles of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley railroad were completed.

On the 24th day of July, 1868, Fremont's first paper, the *Fremont Tribune*, was issued by J. Newt. Hays, and on the 2d day of August, 1871, the *Weekly Herald* was established by Wm. T. Shaffer.

The total amount expended in buildings during the past eight years is about one million dollars. Our wholesale trade is more than any other town in the state north of the Platte, except Omaha. Her receipts and shipments of grain for 1875 exceeded six hundred thousand bushels, and that, too, in a year immediately following the plague of locusts. This year the amount will probably reach one million bushels.

Her banking resources are ample. Three well-organized fire companies are ready and able to furnish protection from the devouring element. Lodges of Masons, Odd Fellows, and of the Grand Army of the Republic are among her charitable institutions, and the Turners and other societies supply the essential organizations for social enjoyment. Seven churches and nine organized religious societies give opportunities to all to worship God in the manner and in the place where they may think best.

Her manufactories, although only in their infancy, exceed those of most other towns of her size. Flour, carriages, wagons, or grain

harvesters of our own manufacture, equal to the best, are furnished by our own citizens. Good public buildings, spacious school rooms, tasteful private residences, well-built and well-shaded walks, and this delightful public park afford to our citizens all that could be expected or desired in an inland country town.

#### OLD SETTLERS AND OTHER ITEMS.

Arthur Bloomer, now of Platte, formerly of Maple precinct, is the oldest settler, of continuous residence, in the present county of Dodge. There are others such as Mr. John Batie and John Cramer, of Maple, and Samuel Whittier, of Fremont, who came to Fontenelle previous to Mr. Bloomer coming into Dodge, but none who have lived so many years continuously in this county as he. John and Arthur Bloomer made their claims near the mouth of Maple creek early in April, 1856, and broke, in the first of May following, twenty-five acres of prairie.

The first settlers in Dodge, in the Platte valley, were Mrs. Wealthy Beebe and her minor children, and her son-in-law, Abram McNeal, and family, who located two miles west of Fremont, May 25, 1856.

The first children born in the present county were twin daughters to Mr. and Mrs. A. McNeal, on August 8, 1876; both are still living and reside in Oregon. The first settlement made west of Beebe's was by George Emerson, who also laid out a town, in 1857. The first settlement made at North Bend was on July 4, 1856, just twenty years ago, by a colony of ten adults and ten children—George Young and wife, Robert Miller and wife, John Miller and wife, Miss Eliza Miller, now Mrs. W. H. Ely, William and Alexander Miller, and George McNaughton.

The first election held in the present county, for county officers, was at North Bend, February, 1860.

The first steam mill in the county was at North Bend, brought from Cleveland, O., by M. S. Cotterell, John M. Smith, James Humphries, and Alexander Morrison in July, 1857.

Seth Young, son of George Young, was the first birth at that place, November 30, 1856; his mother died a few days after his birth, and was the first death at the Bend.

Out of a total population not exceeding four hundred, Dodge county furnished, during the Rebellion and for frontier protection, twenty-five volunteers, as large a per cent of troops to adult male population as any county in the United States.

Not over one hundred and sixty acres of land was broken in this county previous to and during the summer of 1856, and about one hundred persons, adults and children, resided in Dodge the unparalleled cold and severe winter of that year.

Harvey J. Robinson has been the original proprietor and builder of all the water power flouring mills ever erected in the county; one on Maple creek the summer of 1859, one on Logan creek in 1859, one on Logan creek in 1863, and one on Pebble in 1867 and 1868.

A literary society organized at Glencoe, November, 1872, has the largest membership of any in the county and is in a most flourishing condition.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The first sermon preached in the county was by Rev. I. E. Heaton, of the Congregational denomination, November 2, 1856. Text, Psalms cxi. 10: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." The next Sabbath, November 9, public worship was commenced in Fremont in the house of Robert Kittle. From that time public worship was regularly sustained in Fremont.

The second minister was Rev. Mr. Cooley, of the Campbellite Baptist denomination, who arrived and located near Timberville in February, 1857. The Congregational church in Fremont was organized, with Rev. I. E. Heaton as pastor and seven members, August 2, 1857. Mr. Heaton remained their pastor for twelve years. This church now numbers sixty-four members. In September, 1858, Rev. J. Adriance organized Methodist Episcopal churches in Fremont and North Bend, the former with fifteen members and the latter with five.

The first church building in the county was fitted up by the Congregationalists, in Fremont, in 1861; they dedicated a second and larger one, August 2, 1868, and extended it in the spring of 1874. Until within a few days it contained the only bell in Fremont, weighing 1,118 pounds, which has been used for church, school, and public meetings, for fire alarms, and for all purposes of a general public nature. St. James Protestant Episcopal church, of Fremont, was organized August 27, 1866, the late Rev. O. C. Dake presiding, with seven members. The church building was erected the summer of 1867, and consecrated September 15, 1867, by Bishop Clarkson;

present number of communicants, forty; adult baptisms, twenty; infants, eighty-three; marriages, twenty-five; burials, forty-eight. The M. E. church building in Fremont was erected the summer of 1869, and dedicated in December of the same year.

Rev. Father Ryan, of Columbus, held Roman Catholic services in Fremont prior to the coming of Father John Lonergan, in 1868, who at that time organized their church with twenty families, or about one hundred persons. Their church building was erected and dedicated in 1869. Within Dodge county the present number of Roman Catholics is about fifteen hundred; the number of Catholic marriages in Fremont has been seventy-one; adult baptisms, twenty; infant baptisms, about two hundred<sup>1</sup>. Father Lonergan still continues their priest.

The Baptist church in Fremont was organized by the late Rev. John McDonald, December 19, 1869, with nine members; their present membership is forty-six. Their church building was dedicated December 31, 1871.

The Evangelical German church in Fremont was organized by Rev. Mr. Yost, and their church building erected and dedicated in 1872.

The Presbyterian church in Fremont was organized by Rev. A. S. Foster, November 23, 1873, with ten members, and their church building was dedicated January 3, 1875; their present membership is thirty. Rev. Foster still continues their pastor.

The United Presbyterians organized two churches in the county early in its history; one at Fremont and the other at North Bend, and erected a church building in the latter place. At this date regular services are not maintained at either place.

The Universalists have had occasional services by different ministers for years past.

They have recently organized the Free Congregational church, with Rev. W. E. Copeland as their pastor and fifty-seven members.

The whole number of church buildings in the county at this time is fourteen: seven in Fremont, three in Logan, two in Webster, two at North Bend.

Religious organizations have been formed in all the precincts in the county, and religious services are held in school houses every Sabbath throughout its entire length and breadth.



The first funeral services held in the county were over the body of Mr. Stedman Hager, who lost his life in a fearful snow-storm Dec. 2, 1856, and was the first death in the county. His remains were not found until April following. Rev. Mr. Cooley conducted the services.

The first marriage in this county was in Fremont, Luther Wilson to Miss Eliza Turner, August 25, 1858. The first marriage at North Bend was John W. Waterman to Miss Elizabeth R. Graham, July 28, 1859.

Thirteen hundred scholars attend twenty-eight Sabbath schools, an average of forty-six to each school; one-half the number enrolled in the county between the ages of five and twenty-one. The Sabbath school libraries contain about 1,580 volumes and distribute annually 9,000 papers. The expenses of these schools for the past year have been \$590, or forty-five cents per scholar.

A private school taught by Miss Charity Colson in Fremont, the summer of 1858, was the first ever taught in the county. The first public school was taught in Fremont the summer of 1859, by Miss McNeal, of Elkhorn City; the same summer Miss Mary E. Heaton taught the first public school at North Bend. In 1861 there were the following school districts: Fremont, Timberville, North Bend, and Maple Creek, with one hundred and eight children between the ages of five and twenty-one, of which seventy were enrolled as attending school. One school building at North Bend valued at \$120; resources for schools that year, \$367.65; expenditures, \$330.

1868: school districts, sixteen; children, 559.

1875: school districts, thirty-one; children, 1,100; 415, or, less than two-fifths of the whole, attended school. Total resources for the year, \$9,426; paid teachers, \$2,855.

For the year ending April 3, 1876, the number of school districts was sixty-two and two fractional districts; number enrolled between the ages of five and twenty-one, 2,625; number attending school, 1,910. Certified teachers in the county: ladies, fifty-one; gentlemen, thirty-one; average wages paid gentlemen, \$43.50 per month; ladies, \$35.81 per month.

There are sixty frame school houses and one brick, costing, with the furniture, \$50,000. Total receipts for public schools, \$28,225.84; total expenditures, \$27,700.74; average cost of tuition of each scholar at school for the past year, \$7.93.

The total valuation of all the property in Dodge county, real and personal, was, in 1855, \$14,455.00; 1856, \$20,794.50; 1867, \$1,292,-306.00; 1875, \$2,281,105.58; 1876, \$2,390,681.25.

Dodge county paid into the territorial treasury in 1861....	\$	132.06
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ 1864...		283.64
“ “ “ “ state “ “ 1873...		9,805.00
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ 1875...		12,791.99
Number of cattle in Dodge county in 1866 was 1,380, 1876, 7,640		
“ “ horses “ “ “ “ “ “ 344; “ 4,228		

The first post office established in the county was in the summer of '57, with James G. Smith postmaster. Present number of post offices, twenty; seven of them receiving daily mail.

Two agricultural societies exist and have held fairs since 1872. The Centerville fair was organized first, and its priority of organization has entitled it to the state fund for such purposes.

The number of pounds of grain shipped from North Bend in 1870 was 572,000; in 1875, 5,389,000.

The grain trade of Hooper for 1875 was 225,000 bushels.

The grain trade of Scribner for 1875 was 165,000 bushels.

The population of Dodge county in 1860 was 309; in 1870, 4,212, of which 2,556 were born in the United States and 1,656 were foreign born. The population in April, 1876, was 8,332.

There are in this county at this date sixty-one and thirty-seven-one-hundredths miles of railroads and the same of telegraph lines.

There are 1,503 farmers, cultivating 112,700 acres of land, an average of seventy-five acres each.

Briefly and in a very imperfect manner I have traced portions of the history of our state, county, and city for the past twenty years. All around me are those who lived in the state when there were less than ten thousand persons in it, and in this county when its enumeration did not reach one hundred persons. My aged friend who sits upon this platform preached the first sermon ever delivered in this county; another here present drove the first stake in the survey of this beautiful city. The hands that erected the first buildings in our county and city, and that planted this beautiful grove, whose delightful shade so well protects you all, are yet among us, still strong and active.

“Homes for the homeless and lands for the landless,” was the motto

inscribed upon their household altars a score of years ago. Others of you came with the new life, energy, and development that accompanied the building of the Union Pacific railroad. The Sioux City & Pacific and Elkhorn Valley roads, and the influences which came with those great arteries of trade and commerce, induced others of you at a later date to make this your abiding spot. All of you have been participators and actors in this building up and unfolding of a new state and county. Yet much as you have done, rapid as has been your progress, a commencement in development, in population, in the adornment of homes, in material wealth, is but just begun.

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## HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY.

BY HON. PERRY SELDEN.

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The county of Washington, in a historical point of view, assumes more importance than that of any other county in the state of Nebraska, and dates back to the administration of Mr. Jefferson, and the famous expedition of Lewis and Clarke, in A.D. 1804. Although there is an honest doubt existing as to the exact locality, yet it is generally accepted as a fact that the original "Council Bluffs" of Lewis and Clarke was at what is now known as Fort Calhoun.

Certain it is, that in the year 1824, during Mr. Monroe's administration, a military post was established there and named in honor of John C. Calhoun, who was at that time secretary of war.

Thirty years later, Fort Calhoun was re-occupied by actual settlers at an earlier period than any other portion of the county, and as early as the earliest in the state, then the unorganized territory of Nebraska.

On the 30th day of May, 1854, the "Organic Act" was passed by congress, opening for settlement the territories of Kansas and Nebraska, and providing a temporary government for each. In anticipation of this event, many had crossed the river from the border counties of Iowa and Missouri, and taken land claims, and an occasional actual settler had ventured to locate permanently in Nebraska.

In April, 1854, Anselm Arnold located upon, and permanently occupied, a land claim at Fort Calhoun, being joined soon after