



Gateway Family Historian

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Vol. 9, NO. 2 2009

Welcome to the twenty-sixth issue of *Gateway Family Historian*. This issue's focus is a state to which Missouri furnished numerous immigrants—Nebraska.

Note--With this issue, *Gateway Family Historian* officially becomes a bi-annual publication (two issues per year). Therefore, this is the last issue of 2009.

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OUR TOWN— Events at the St. Louis Public Library

The St. Louis Public Library Events Calendar (<http://www.slpl.org/events/calendar.asp>) can provide you with an up-to-the-minute listing of what's happening at SLPL!

Metered parking around SLPL is free on Saturdays, and the Scottrade Center MetroLink stop is only four blocks away. Other free parking is available on weekdays to SLPL users—call or e-mail us for details. Registration for our programs is recommended but not required. Contact tpearson@slpl.org to be placed on our e-mail programs notification list. Just put NOTIFY in the subject line—that's all you need to do! You'll then be notified one-two weeks prior to each of our upcoming genealogy/military history programs.

We Could Use Your Help...

The St. Louis Public Library loves being able to help so many genealogists. We are sometimes asked if there is anything you can do to help us. If you would like to help support the Library, you might consider donating a copy of your printed family history book to us. We will gladly add it to our permanent collection. You might also consider making a Tribute donation through the St. Louis Public Library Foundation. A Tribute allows you to donate tax-deductible funds for the purchase of books or materials that will be added to the genealogy collection. You can honor a family you are researching (or an individual of your choice) with a bookplate that is added to each Tribute item. This program benefits the Library and your fellow genealogists. If you would like to consider making a Tribute gift, go to the Foundation's website at <http://www.slplfoundation.org>. Thanks to all our readers for your support of the Library!



New Arrivals



Here are some directories for cities and towns in Missouri and Illinois that were recently added to the History and Genealogy Department's microfilm collection.

1. Illinois

Alton, 1889-1935
Belleville, 1860-1959
Cairo, 1904-1923
Decatur, 1889-1959
East St. Louis, 1905-1930
Edwardsville, 1925-1934
Farm Directories, 1915-1919
Galena, 1900 and 1914
Illinois, State of (covering misc. smaller towns), 1902-1933 and 1903-1928
Peoria, 1861-1960
Quincy, 1884-1927
Springfield, 1855-1935
Tri-Cities, (Granite City, Madison/Nameoki, and Venice), 1929-1940

2. Missouri

Cape Girardeau, 1912-1960
Carthage, 1937-1960
Columbia, 1940-1960
Hannibal, 1903-1959
Independence, 1911-1960
Jefferson City, 1904-1967
Joplin, 1909-1960
Joplin/Carthage, 1902-1907
Missouri, State of, 1905-1951
Moberly, 1905-1953
St. Joseph, 1887-1960
Sedalia, 1903-1960
Springfield, 1890-1959

Directories for Chicago, 1839-1928, Kansas City, Mo., 1859-1989, and St. Louis, 1821-1980, are also available in the History and Genealogy Department, as well as those for many other eastern, southern, and midwestern cities.

...And Some Venerated Ancestors

1. **A Biographical and Genealogical History of Southeastern Nebraska.** 2 Vols. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1904.

This book contains biographies of persons prominent in the history and development of southeastern Nebraska. These include early settlers, farmers, businessmen, politicians, and other influential persons. Information provided often includes birthplace, other family members, military service, occupation, church affiliation, and membership in fraternal and other types of organizations. Most entries are at least one page long, but some are several pages in length. Because the entries are not in alphabetical order, an index by name at the beginning of Volume 1 is provided. An interesting feature of the set is that in addition to photos of the male subjects, photos of their wives are provided as well.

2. Carr, Daniel M. **Progressive Men of Nebraska: A Book of Portraits: Dodge County Edition.** Fremont, Neb.: Progress Publishing Company, 1902.

The first part of the book is a short history of Dodge County and its county seat, Fremont. The rest (nearly two thirds of the book) is devoted to "portraits"—i.e., photos of Dodge County's prominent citizens. A brief paragraph identifying the person and stating his claim to fame is placed under each photo. A name index is included because the "portraits" are not in alphabetical order.

3. Cole, Gilbert L. **In the Early Days Along the Overland Trail in Nebraska**

Territory, In 1852. Kansas City, Mo.: Franklin Hudson Publishing Co., 1905.

Cole's firsthand account of his wagon train journey from Monroe, Michigan, through the Nebraska Territory, and on to the gold fields of California. Cole brings to life the hardships and dangers faced on the Overland Trail as well as the beauty of the unspoiled prairie.

4. Cox, Evelyn. **1854 Nebraska Territory Census, 1855 Nebraska Territory Census, 1856 Nebraska Territory Census, and 1860 Nebraska Territory Census.** Ellensburg, Wash.: Author: 1973.

This set of four volumes lists census records for the settled portions of Nebraska Territory during each of the years noted. The years 1854, 1855, and 1856 give the name of the head of household and his or her birthplace and occupation. The rest of the household members are listed by male or female and in age categories of 16 and under, 16 to 21 years of age, and 21 years of age and older. The 1860 census lists the names of everyone in the household, their age, sex, occupation, and birthplace. A surname index is provided in each volume.

5. **Early Pioneers of Nebraska, With Allied Lines as Taken From Family Recognition [sic] Records.** Vol. 1. Compiled by the Nebraska State Genealogical Society. Lincoln, Neb.: The Society, [198?].

Begun as a project in 1981 by

continued on next page

Venerated Ancestors

continued from page 2

the Nebraska State Genealogical Society, this work provides information on early Nebraska families in three different categories. These include First Families (those families settling in Nebraska by 1867); Pioneer Families (those families settling in the state between 1868 and 1879); and Century Families (those families settled in the state by 1880 or 100 years before date of application). Entries vary. Most provide name of the head of the founding family; date the family settled and where they settled in Nebraska; birth, marriage, death and burial information for the head, his wife, and their children; allied lines; and sometimes parents of the head of the family and his wife. The project is continued on the Society's web page at <http://www.nesgs.org>.

6. Everts and Kirk, Philadelphia. ***The Official State Atlas of Nebraska: Compiled From Government Surveys, Country Records, and Personal Investigations.*** Philadelphia: Everts & Kirk, 1885.

This atlas contains well-done maps of early Nebraska. (Note: This atlas is very large and very fragile, so we will not be able to make copies from it.)

7. Hayes, Arthur B. ***History of the City of Lincoln, Nebraska, With Brief Historical Sketches of the State and of Lancaster County.*** Lincoln, Neb.: State Journal Company, 1889.

This history of Nebraska's state capital covers the city and its surrounding area from early exploration by the Spaniards to nearly the end of the 19th century. Information is included on the movers and shakers of the city

involved in politics, the formation of the state capital, business and industry, railroads, banking, newspapers, and more. The book also includes drawings and photos of some of the buildings and homes located in Lincoln.

Information on early schools, churches, and other institutions is provided. An early plat map shows the layout of the town in 1868. A list of members of the Irish National League and the Old Settlers' Association is given for each organization.

8. National Society United States Daughters of 1812. Nebraska Society. ***Heroes of 1812.*** Omaha, Neb.: Nebraska Society of the United States Daughters of 1812, 1930.

In this publication, the Nebraska Daughters of 1812 documented the service of their ancestors who participated in the War of 1812. Information is provided on the fathers of these ancestors who participated in the Revolutionary War as well. Many of the entries are quite lengthy and give detailed information about the soldier and his descendants. Features a list of Daughters of 1812 who joined on the line of a particular soldier, and the National Society number for each member.

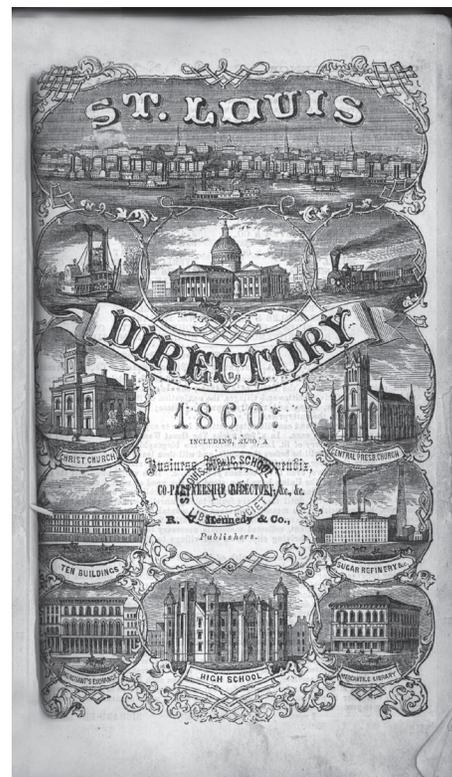
9. ***Nebraskans, 1854-1904.*** Omaha, Neb.: The Bee Publishing Co., 1904.

Photographs of over 1000 "foremost men" of Nebraska, whose deeds and influence made the state what it was are included in this book. Brief captions identifying the person and his accomplishments are located under each portrait. The men are arranged by occupation, including politicians,

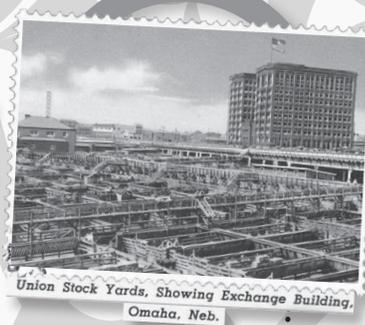
legislators, lawyers, physicians, businessmen, bankers, architects, engineers, railroad executives, large landholders and farmers, and early settlers. A personal name index is provided in the front of the book.

10. Savage, James W. ***History of the City of Omaha, Nebraska.*** New York: Munsell & Co., 1894.

This volume contains a history of the formation, important events, and development of this major city. Also included are histories of businesses, railroads, institutions, cultural activities, military activities (including the Civil War), and more. Biographies and portraits of important persons are provided as well as illustrations of buildings and other landmarks of the city. Includes a personal name index.



Site Seeing



Cyndi's List-Nebraska

<http://www.cyndislist.com/ne.htm>

We shouldn't need to tell you that a great first stop when researching your Nebraska ancestors is the *Cyndi's List* page for that state. The website includes an extensive Categories List, plus a list of Related Categories, all of which may prove useful to the person researching Cornhusker ancestors. Categories include How-To; Libraries, Archives, & Museums; Maps, Gazetteers, & Geographical Information; Mailing Lists, News Groups & Chat; and Military (to name just a few). Jump-start your NE genie research with a trip to *Cyndi's List!*

Nebraska GenWeb Project

<http://www.usgenet.org/usa/ne/state/>

A collection of sites with Nebraska information created by volunteers interested in keeping free information about Nebraska ancestors available on the Internet.

Nebraska Maps in the Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/nebraska.html>

A collection of digitized Nebraska maps.

Nebraska Memories

<http://memories.ne.gov/>

A cooperative project to digitize Nebraska's historical and cultural materials and make them available free to researchers via the Internet.

Nebraska State Historical Society

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/index.htm>

They collect a wide variety of materials including books and other published works; newspapers; maps; photographs; government records; papers of individuals, businesses, organizations, and religious bodies; sound recordings; and moving images.

NebraskaStudies.org

<http://www.nebraskastudies.org/>

Offers teachers, students, and history buffs access to archival photos, documents, letters, video segments, maps, and more. Captures the life and history of Nebraska from pre-1500 to the present.



Nebraska Treasures From the Library/Archives

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/research/treasures/index.htm>

A virtual exhibit of digitized materials from the collection of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Special Collections of the Omaha Public Library

<http://www.omahapubliclibrary.org/catalog/spcollect.html>

Includes the Omaha/Nebraska Collection and the Black Culture Collection. The Omaha/Nebraska Collection consists of thousands of items related chiefly to the Omaha area as well as greater Nebraska. Included are books; maps; photographs; newspaper clippings; city directories; microfilm of census and newspapers; and numerous other formats and types of materials.

World War II Casualties From Nebraska—Army and Army Air Corps

<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/ww2/army-casualties/nebraska.html>

Lists World War II casualties. Arranged by county and then by surname.

World War II Casualties From Nebraska—Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard

<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/ww2/navy-casualties/nebraska.html>

Lists of World War II casualties arranged by surname. 



They Came From . . . *Nebraska!*

1714 – Etienne Veniard de Bourgmont became the first recorded European in Nebraska.

1803 – The U.S. acquired Nebraska in the Louisiana Purchase.

1804 – Lewis and Clark reached the eastern edge of Nebraska. York, a slave of William Clark and a member of the famous expedition, was the first black person recorded in what would later become Nebraska.

1806 – Explorer Zebulon Pike visited southern Nebraska.

1812 – Manuel Lisa built Fort Lisa on the Missouri River near Omaha.

1819 – U.S. Army established Nebraska's first military post, Fort Atkinson.



1820 – Congress passed the Missouri Compromise prohibiting slavery in the unorganized lands that would later become the Nebraska Territory.

1830 – The Indian Removal Act allowed the U.S. government to relocate Native Americans west of the Mississippi River.

1834 – The Trade and Intercourse Act prohibits whites from trespassing on Native American lands west of the Mississippi River.

1842 – The word "Nebraska" first appeared in print when John Fremont explored the Platte Valley and named the area Nebraska.

1844 – The first bill to organize the new Nebraska Territory, introduced in Congress by Senator Stephen Douglas (IL), failed to pass.

1848 – Fort Kearny was established along the Oregon Trail.

1854 – Kansas-Nebraska Act created the Nebraska Territory. The act overturned the Missouri Compromise by allowing legislatures of the Nebraska and Kansas territories to determine whether to permit or abolish slavery.

1860 – The territory's population grew from 2,732 in 1854 to 28,841 in 1860. Ten of 81 black persons listed in the Nebraska census were slaves. Pony Express riders followed the Platte River valley, carrying mail to the west coast.

1861 – Nebraska Territory furnished a total of 3,300 men to the Union Army—a remarkable contribution for a territory whose population in 1860 was approximately 30,000, with only 9,000 males between the ages of twenty and fifty. Some Nebraskans chose to serve in regiments from other states, especially Iowa and Kansas.

1866 – A clause limiting suffrage to "free white males" in the proposed Nebraska State Constitution delayed Nebraska's entrance to the Union for nearly a year until the legislature changed it to comply with the Fourteenth Amendment.

1867 – Nebraska joined the Union as the 37th state on March 1. David C. Butler was elected the first governor. Lincoln replaced Omaha as the state capital.

1869 – The Union Pacific Railroad was completed; terminus was at Omaha.

1875 – A new state constitution was adopted.

1877 – Oglala Sioux leader Crazy Horse surrendered in Nebraska.

1890 – 23% of Omaha residents in 1890 were of German descent.

1892 – The Populist Party held its first national convention in Omaha.

1900 – Black population of Nebraska rose to 6,269.

1904 – Birth and death records are available from this year forward from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Inquire at the relevant county courthouse about records prior to this year.

1909 – Marriage and divorce records are available from this year forward from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Inquire at the relevant county courthouse about records prior to this year.

1910 – 57% of Omaha residents recorded in this census were of German descent.

1918 – 345 Nebraskan soldiers, sailors, and Marines are listed in the American Battle Monuments database of American servicepersons buried in European cemeteries.

1920 – The census counted 15,818 persons born in Czechoslovakia who were residing in Nebraska. The total for persons of Czech descent (included persons born of Czech parents or grandparents) was around 51,000.

1933 – Gov. Charles Bryan imposed a moratorium on Great Depression farm foreclosures.

1945 – 2,976 Nebraskans in uniform died during World War II.



1974 – Nebraska native Gerald Ford (born in Omaha) became President of the United States.

2000 – Largest population groups in Nebraska 2000 federal census included persons of German, Irish, English, Czech, and Mexican descent.

ETHNIC SPOTLIGHT



Germans in Nebraska

Germans began moving into Nebraska while it was still a territory. Immigration to Western states like Nebraska increased dramatically starting in 1862 when the first Homestead Act offered the promise of 160 free acres of land to anyone willing to reside on the property for five years and make improvements to a certain percentage of that property.

German settlers in Nebraska were not just farmers. Many skilled workers settled in Nebraska cities. By 1890, twenty-three percent of Omaha's population consisted of persons of German descent. By 1910, that figure was fifty-seven percent (many of them from Bavaria and southern Germany). In 2000, persons of German descent still comprised one of the largest population groups in Nebraska (other large population groups included persons of Irish, English, Czech, and Mexican descent).

Immigration from Europe (generally) and from Germany (in particular) was halted during World War I (1914-1918). By the time the United States entered the war in 1917, some Americans were concerned about the loyalties of German immigrants and their descendants. Would they support Germany, their Fatherland, or their new home, the United States? Germans living in America who had not begun the naturalization process were required by the Federal government to register as "Enemy Aliens".

Anti-German sentiment abounded in Nebraska during the war. German language books and newspapers were publicly burned, and the state legislature prohibited the use of foreign languages on the public streets or on the telephone. Schools were prohibited from using or teaching foreign languages below the high school level.

Some German immigrants were insulted (and sometimes assaulted) by local "patriots." Many German businesses and churches in Nebraska voluntarily stopped using the German language in sermons or to conduct business since they did not want to give the impression that they were not loyal Americans. Many German-language newspapers were forced to print

only in English or to close their doors.

Wikipedia—Germans in Omaha, Nebraska

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germans_in_Omaha_Nebraska

Wikipedia—Meyer v. Nebraska

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meyer_v._Nebraska

Indian Tribes of Nebraska

By the mid-1800s, the Pawnee, Omaha, Oto-Missouria, Ponca, Lakota Sioux, and Cheyenne were the main American-Indian tribes living in the Nebraska Territory. Each tribe faced the challenges of the plains in slightly different ways. Some tribes had settled into their own villages with earth lodges for shelter. These tribes were primarily agricultural with seasonal buffalo hunts to supplement their diets. Other tribes were more nomadic, especially after they obtained horses. They lived in the American-Indian equivalent of the mobile home—the tepee. These nomads were hunter-gatherers.

The Omaha

The Omaha tribe spoke a Siouan language very similar to the tongue of the Ponca people. The Omaha were living in southeastern South Dakota when first mentioned in historical records in the early 1700s. By the end of the 18th century, they had relocated to Nebraska. At that time, they numbered about 2,800. Smallpox and other diseases soon reduced that number by at least two-thirds.

The Omaha were farmers and gatherers who lived in earth lodges. They raised corn, beans, and squash, and went on summer and winter buffalo hunts in western Nebraska. The Omaha were quick to adopt use of the horse as an adjunct to hunting and warfare, and as a result were for a time much feared by their Indian enemies. The Omaha traded extensively with trappers and fur traders. Present-day Omaha tribe members reside on a reservation that lies partly in Nebraska and partly in Iowa.

The Pawnee

The Pawnee were the most populous tribe in Nebraska and lived in the area longer than any other American Indian group. They spoke a Caddo language, which was very different from the languages of other Nebraska tribes. The earliest villages of the Pawnee consisted of circular earth lodges located along the lower Loup River where most members of the tribe continued to live

even after contact with white settlers. There were smaller Pawnee villages along the Platte and Republican rivers.

In 1800, there were approximately 10,000 Pawnee in Nebraska. Because of their numbers, the Pawnee initially had little to fear from other tribes. By the 1830s, however, Pawnee villages on the Loup River were being raided by the wide-ranging Lakota. A widespread cholera epidemic in 1849 halved Pawnee numbers; other diseases like smallpox also killed many tribe members. The Pawnee moved eastward along the Platte River throughout the 1850s in an effort to minimize attacks by the Lakota, but this only increased Pawnee contact with white settlers. The Pawnee eventually ceded all their lands in Nebraska to the United States, and in return received land in Oklahoma.

The Ponca

The Ponca spoke a language very similar to that of the Omaha and moved with the Omaha into Nebraska, at which time the tribes separated. Diseases introduced by white settlers plagued the tribe throughout the 19th century, and ongoing warfare with the Sioux was a problem. In 1877, most of the Ponca were forcibly removed to Indian Territory (Oklahoma); a subsequent investigation allowed interested Ponca to return to Nebraska.



Nebraska Indian Tribes

<http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/nebraska/index.htm>

Omaha Tribe

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omaha_\(tribe\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omaha_(tribe))

Pawnee Tribe

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pawnee>

Ponca Tribe

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponca_Tribe_of_Indians_of_Oklahoma

Help!!

Help!! provides an opportunity for readers to ask for assistance with genealogical queries. See the **Contact** section for e-mail and postal addresses. Put GFH-HELP!! in the subject line.

Q: *Help! Was homesteading really a factor in the creation of the Dust Bowl?*

Yes, definitely! The Dust Bowl was a period of major dust storms that

occurred in parts of the United States and Canada during the 1930s. These dust storms were caused by a combination of severe drought and poor farming practices. Homesteaders on relatively small farms tended to raise one crop year after year. Plowing of the soil killed the natural prairie grasses that served both to hold the soil in place and to retain moisture. Years of failure to rotate crops and to let portions of these farms lie fallow led to major erosion. Severe drought coupled with strong winds resulted in dust clouds so huge that they blackened the daytime sky. Approximately 100,000,000 acres were

ultimately affected by this phenomenon. The problem only began to mitigate when the federal government began teaching responsible farming practices like crop rotation and the planting of cover crops and paid farmers to follow these practices. 🍃

Dust Bowl

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dust_bowl

Homestead Act

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homestead_Act



DID YOU KNOW? } *Nebraska Cornhuskers*

Sports teams of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln haven't always gone by the nickname "Cornhuskers." They were known for a time as both the "Hawkeyes" and the "Antelopes." The University of Iowa later adopted the "Hawkeyes" nickname. The "Antelopes" is now the nickname for teams at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Another pre-Cornhusker nickname was the "Bugeaters," a nickname they

probably are not unhappy to have discarded. Other limited term nicknames include the "Old Gold Knights" and the "Mankilling



Mastodons." By 1900, the "Cornhuskers" nickname had taken the place of all others for sports teams at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Nebraska Cornhuskers

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebraska_Cornhuskers



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Contact!

The staff of our History & Genealogy Department can do limited genealogical research for persons making inquiries. Please be specific about who and what you are looking for. We will search our collection and make copies of any materials that answer your questions. We charge \$.25/page for microfilm copies, and \$.15/page for photocopies. There is a postage and

handling charge of \$1.00 per inquiry per Library department (non-U.S. requests are billed actual postage costs). Materials from more than one department may be necessary to answer inquiries. Do not send payment with your order: we prefer to bill you. We cannot make refunds or keep accounts for our customers. Questions (however transmitted to us) will be answered in the order in which they are received.

The St. Louis Public Library's website, with our online catalog, events calendar, special indexes for St. Louis historical and biographical materials, an index of selected *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* newspaper obituaries, death notices, and burial permits, and an archive of past issues of this newsletter is located at www.spl.org.

