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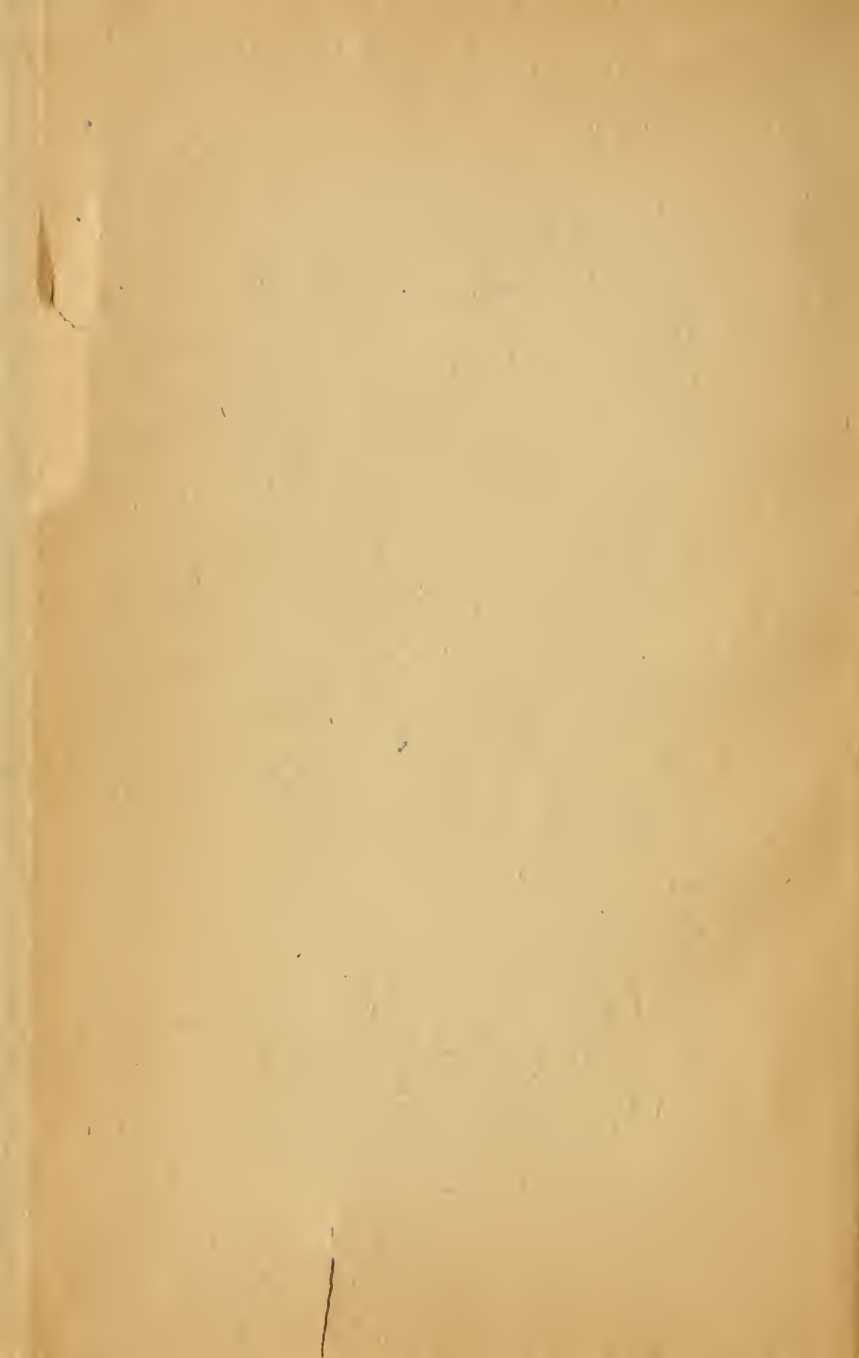
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Nemaha County

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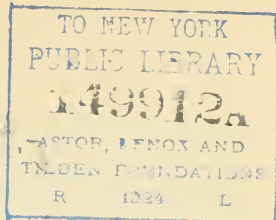
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*Journal, John H.*

# Nemaha County.

"The Banner County" of the state of Nebraska is a river county, hence among the first settled. 1

In its earliest history it was known as Forney county but the name was changed to Nemaha at the first regular session of the territorial legislature.

This county in an early day consisted of beautiful rolling prairies which were traversed by streams of living water. These streams are the Little Nemaha river, Mud creek, Camp creek, Rock creek, Honey creek, Long's branch, Daugherty's branch, Buck creek, Distillery run and many other small streams. When white people began to settle here timber was considered a scarce article, as frequent prairie fires destroyed all young trees except those growing on the banks of streams, and many of the early settlers can tell of hauling fire wood a distance of twenty or thirty miles. But today, be it said to the credit of an enterprising people, there is scarcely a farmer in the county but has wood "to burn" and for making improvements on his farm. The best of building stone is being quarried by the hundreds of car loads; and these quarries are not beneath many feet of soil, or under water, but conveniently piled or corded along the hillsides where they are easily accessible. That coal in abundance awaits developments is generally believed; and this belief is based on the fact that in different parts of the county in digging for water conditions have been found that lead old miners to contend that a strata of coal must be near at hand.

Almost 100 years have passed since the Lewis & Clark expedition passed up the Missouri river. History relates that this expedition took note of the mouth of the Little Nemaha river, and this fact disproves the story sometimes told by those who were the earlier settlers, to the effect that when they first came here the Nemaha river flowed from southeast to northwest.

It is quite generally believed that the Lewis & Clark adventurers landed at a point some distance southeast of where the buildings of the state normal school now stand, though the history of the expedition does not mention such landing. The reasons for this belief are because the earliest settlers discovered a cross of cedar wood planted in the bluff. Upon it was a neatly carved inscription in French, "Ourian, Died April, 1812." In 1858 a grave was discovered containing a human skeleton, nearly sixty feet from the post, or cross. The coffin had been made by splitting a log and forming two troughs for coffin and cover. Whether Ourian was a trader, a missionary or a member of the Lewis & Clark party history must be silent, and only conjecture be related.

Both Brownville and St. Deroin lay claim to being the first spot in the county where a white man's cabin was erected. In 1853 a half-bred Indian named Deroin laid out the town that was later "sainted," and the same year Robert Hawke erected a house and opened a stock of goods. Those who claim Brownville as the initial point, of course pronounce St. Deroin only a trading point, for not until 1854 was the Indian title extinguished by the act of congress that organized Kansas and Nebraska. On the 29th of August, 1854, Richard Brown, of Oregon, Missouri, crossed the Missouri river in a canoe and laid the foundation for a claim cabin joining a plot of ground where Brownville now stands. Mr. Brown was

not long a lone resident, for but a few weeks had elapsed until the following named persons could have answered at roll call: Rev. Joel M. Wood, Jesse Cole, Newton Kelley, Henry Emerson, Elder Thomas B. Edwards, Talbot Edwards, Josiah Edwards, B. B. Frazer, Houston Russell, James W. Coleman, Allen L. Coate, Israel R. Cuming. Stephen Sloan, A. J. Benedict. Henry W. Lake. O. F. Lake, W. A. Finney, Hiram Alderman, W. H. Hoover, Homer Johnson, R. J. Whitney, Mat Alderman, Eli Fishburn B. B. Chapman, Hudson Clayton, Thomas Heady, sr., Steward Chastian, I. N. Knight, Dr. J. Hoover, William Hall, William Hawk, Thomas Jeffries, William Hays, Arch Handley and others.

In his proclamation organizing the county the acting governor proclaimed: "There shall be one precinct or place of voting in said Forney county, viz: at the place known as Brownville, at the house of Richard Brown. Richard Brown, Allen L. Coate and Israel Cuming shall be judges of said election. and A. J. Benedict and Stephen Sloan shall be clerks of said election."

The first officers of the county were appointed by the governor, and are recorded as follows: A. J. Benedict, probate judge; H. W. Lake, register of deeds and county clerk; Thomas B. Edwards, sheriff. These gentlemen enjoyed the emoluments and honors of their respective official positions until the first election for county officers which occurred December 12, 1855, and resulted as follows: A. J. Benedict, probate judge; W. H. Hoover, register of deeds and county clerk; J. W. Coleman sheriff; W. Hobbitzelle, taeasurer; Allen L. Coate, county surveyor. The townsite of Brownville was laid out by A. L. Coate in the spring of 1855.

Was the first election in Nemaha county free

from personalities? No; it was animated and fraught with bitterness and recrimination, but resulted in the election of Richard Brown to the senate (council under territorial laws) and William Finney and Joel M. Wood as representatives. The first white woman to come to Nemaha county was Mrs. Thomas Edwards, and the first white child born in the county was, according to tradition, either a daughter of Thomas Fitzgerald and wife, or a son of Alexander Weddel. The first death was an infant daughter of John Mullins. The first lawyer to hang out a shingle in the county was Daniel L. McGary. The first couple to be united in marriage were Samuel Stiers and Nancy Swift, who on the 20th day of October, 1854, before Rev. Wood, the first man to preach a sermon in the county, promised to love, cherish, protect and obey, and though they did not take a wedding trip on the cars they have lived happily and are at present respected residents of the county. The first school in the county was opened July 10, 1855, by H. S. Thorp. The first stock of goods brought to Brownville was opened in March, 1853, by Whyte & Hobbitzelle. The first steam sawmill was built in 1855 by R. Brown, Henry Emerson and S. E. Rogers; and the same year Messrs. Brown and Finney put in a flatboat that plied the river at Brownville. The first physician to locate at Brownville was A. S. Holladay, to whom the writer of these lines is indebted for many facts pertaining to the early history of the county.

One of the acts of the first legislature was to change the boundary lines of this county. As first described the boundaries were: Commencing at the mouth of Camp creek, thence due west to a point sixty miles from the Missouri river, thence due south twenty miles, thence east to the head waters of the Little Nemaha river, thence along the north bank of

said river to the Missouri river, and thence along the Missouri river to the place of beginning.

At the first session of the legislature the county seat was located at Brownville, where it remained for thirty years, or until 1885. A ferry was also chartered, T. B. Edwards and W. A. Finney securing the franchise; and three commissioners were appointed to locate a road from Brownville to Marshall's Trading Point, on the Big Blue. During the years 1835 and 1856 immigration poured into the state and it was chronicled that in one week fifty families crossed the river at Brownville and settled in Nemaha county. And then it was found that better postoffice facilities were needed. R. Brown had been appointed postmaster, but Frederick Swartz, who conducted a tailor shop in a small room, was deputy and he had been able to store all the mail that arrived each week in his stove pipe hat.

As early as December, 1855, a debating society was organized, and questions of the hour were discussed in a manner that would put congress to blush by comparison. And ever since that day Brownville the Athens of the state of Nemaha, has been noted for its eloquent orators.

Before the year 1855 had been numbered with things of the past Dr. John McPherson arrived with a printing press and outfit for a newspaper office. This outfit he valued at \$3,500 and succeeded in trading it for one-half interest in the townsite of Brownville. The doctor had a list of 250 names of persons in Miami county, Ohio, from whence the plant was removed, and 500 copies were taken by parties interested in the growing city. In April, 1856, R. W. Furnas, Chester Langdon and John L. Colhapp reached Brownville, and Mr. Furnas entered upon the publication of the Nebraska Advertiser which, according

to contract, was to be conducted for one year as an independent, or non partisan paper.

The early settlers did not forget their nation's birthday when they crossed the river. The first fourth of July celebration was held in 1856, a free barbacue. Nearly every inhabitant of the county attended. The president of the day was R. J. Whitney; marshal, Captain Thurbur; assistant N. Myers. Benjamin Whyte roasted the meats. Henry W. Lake read the declaration of independence and R. W. Furnas delivered the oration.

During the summer of 1856 the Nemaha Valley bank was established with Alexander Hallam as cashier and S. H. Riddle as president. And then it was fondly dreamed that a railroad could be secured if the enterprising citizens would but get up and howl in good earnest, and the road that was to be was named the North Missouri & Brownville R. R. Yet many years passed, and many of those who were hopeful that they would soon hear the snort of the iron horse, passed on to the "land beyond the river" before the arrival of a railroad.

Of those who were active men and women in the days of Brownville's earliest history but very few are still living. Some of them went west when the gold fields of Colorado promised a rich harvest. Some of them witnessed the growth of the city so long as it continued to grow, but sought other fields when there were signs of decay, but a very large number of them sleep in Walnut Grove cemetery and know not of the changes time has wrought.

While at Brownville there was advancement and much to foretell growth and development, there was but five miles to the south another growing hamlet that at times bid fair to outrival the one the future of

which had been guaranteed by the location of the county seat. In 1854 a plot of ground was named Nemaha City and city lots were staked for sale when but a few months before the title to the land was not vested in Uncle Sam. The first man to erect his cabin on the townsite was Allen L. Coult, while H. Russell, W. Weddle, Nathan Myers, Dr. Wyatt, A. D. Skeen and Dr. Jerome Hoover were little behind. Dr. Hoover was on his way to Texas, but when he beheld that most beautiful landscape viewed from the bluff, broad river to the east and the valley to the north and west, he exclaimed, "Had the God of the universe spent a life-time at the work he could have produced no more beautiful resting place for a city," Then in his mind's eye he beheld trains winding up and down the valley, steamboats loading and unloading at the wharf, the smoke arising from numerous manufacturing plants, school buildings, churches, magnificent residences, etc. The "city" was incorporated by the territorial legislature, and a charter for a ferry boat, and another for a mill dam across the Nemaha river. The ferry boat did not make many long and perilous voyages until it gave way for a toll bridge, which some years later became the property of the county and ceased to be a grinding monopoly. For some time it was said that at Nemaha there was a dam and a millsite, but there was no mill by a dam-site. But the mill materialized and made many tons of flour; and possibly more than its share for while it is generally true that "the mill will never grind with the water that is passed," 'twas not so with this mill, for being situated but a short distance from the Missouri river there was back water often, and the water that passed often returned and passed again. This mill has been in the hands of different owners, and

has seen the ups and downs of life in the financial scale. Since 1856 it has been the property of Samuel Bennett, Rowe & Trobridge, Rowe & Son, Kinion Skeen and Bennett Bros., and it is still doing duty. In 1857 the material for a sawmill was brought from Missouri by W. Hill, but before the wheels were in place Mr. Hill succumbed to the inevitable and passed to the silent beyond. Mr. Hyatt completed the mill and continued to run it until 1858, when it was sold and moved to Pawnee City.

In 1857 Nemaha could boast of a public school and a newspaper. The school was taught by D. C. Sanders, and the paper, The Nemaha Valley Times, was published by Seymour Belden, who after about twelve months had to publish the usual lamentation about subscribers who were willing to read the paper but who believed that an editor could live on wind; and it is quite possible that like others before and since, he was surprised that after he had pulled the fire in the engine, stopped the wheels of the press and turned the D. B. accounts over to the constable for collection, the sun arose as usual and Nemaha did not droop and die.

Another sawmill was put in by C. E. Holmes and was sold to Tidrow Bros., who later sold to B. F. Lushbaugh, who in turn sold it to Levi Sprinkle who moved it to Brownville and added a flouring mill thereto. The first store in the place was opened in 1856 by McAllister & Co., afterwards McAllister & Kite. The business was shortlived. Mr. McAllister disappeared and what became of him was never known. Mr. Hyatt erected, during these years, two hotels both of which were licked up by the fire fiend. Moore & Brownlee of Indiana also opened a stock of goods, but creditors from Cincinnati closed them out, and J. R. Davis conducted a general merchandise



store for about three years and then went out of business. W. L. Thurman bought the stock of goods formerly owned by Moore & Brownlee and soon after moved to Aspinwall. Mr. Coult erected a brick building and opened an excellent stock which was later purchased by Hoover & Tynan.

The early settlers of Nemaha can relate incidents relative to John Brown and the underground railroad, as one of the stations on that road was near by. Of Old John Brown it was said:

It worked like madness in his brain  
To see his brother drag a chain,  
And let who would forbid or scoff  
Straight went John Brown to strike it off.

In his work of assisting slaves from Missouri to escape into the territory and on to Canada Old Ossawatimie found hands to assist among the people of Nemaha, and wives and mothers were ready to bring forth the contents of the larder for the hungry refugees. Mr. Leaman and others of Brown's faithful followers spent the winter of 1857-58, here and here was brought a load of Sharp's rifles after the war of '56 had subsided between settlers and border ruffians in Kansas; and these arms were taken to Civil Bend, Iowa, which was a division station on the underground line.

As early as 1853 claim cabins had been erected in the vicinity where Peru now stands, and if tradition erreth not in that year Rev. W. S. Horn with his two sons, William and Thomas, made improvements on the lands they owned for so many years southeast of where the state normal school buildings now stand, though the family did not cross the river for some time. Mt. Vernon townsite, which was laid out on the high lands east of the present city of Peru, was staked out and platted in 1855. A postoffice was secured the same year and J. E. Haycock sorted the mails, sold and licked stamps and told the inhabitants

when a letter to their address arrived. The surveying for Peru townsite was not done until two years later, but for some time Peru and Mt. Vernon contemplated being one large city, while at times there was rivalry existing. But the rivalry is no more, for Peru became the city of the living and Mt. Vernon the city of the dead, and they who spend a lifetime in Peru are laid to rest in Mt. Vernon. The townsite of Mt. Vernon was surveyed and platted by H. C. Carpenter, Henry Sessions, jr., J. B. Gridley and Henry McKenney. The first survey for Peru was made by W. H. Dunbar May 11, 1857, and the original proprietors were S. A. Chambers, R. W. Frame and Jacob Norfsinger. S. F. Nuckolls later purchased the greater part of Mr. Chamber's interest. Among the early settlers in Peru and Mt. Vernon were D. C. Cole, Samuel Pettit, Aus Medley, Rev. John W. Hall, Harman Ray, R. W. Frame, S. A. Chambers and sons, Jackson and William, William and John Compton, William Tate, W. H. Denman, Rev. Hugh Doyle, John Patterson and others; and what was known as the Honey Creek settlement in Peru precinct was first settled by the Headys and Medleys. The first sermon preached was by Rev. W. S. Horn, Protestant Methodist, in 1855. The first school was taught by one Manketello in 1856. The first justice of the peace was Lewis Reade, who was ever afterwards known as "Esquire" Reade. The first mayor of Peru was William F. Ball, who was also one of the first to answer the summons from the relentless messenger. The first couple whose billing and cooing gang nat agley was Decatur Cole and Mary Buchanan, who in 1857 solemnly promised and became Mr. and Mrs. Cole. The first white child born in the settlement was Mary Medley, whose arrival was on November 16, 1855. A Mr. Still ran the first ferry boat at Peru making the first trip early in 1855,

and about the same time Mr. Alfred Medley opened a blacksmith shop. Mr. Medley's assistant was John C. Wyne, who is at this writing still doing business at the old stand. Messrs. Compton & Medley were the first merchants and the building they occupied was swept away by the raging Missouri while that stream was on one of its periodical sprees. The first doctor was Russell Peery, and the first man to be honored with the appointment to the office of notary public was J. W. Bliss. Sometime during the summer of 1855 two men named Walker and Wheat engaged in a bloody street fight and Walker was wounded in the leg. His assailant was very much afraid that justice would be done him as there was no lawyer in the place to defend him, and thinking "leg bail" the best he could give he took his departure, never returning for his laundry. The first death in Peru was that of a son of William Tate, who met death while assisting his brother to fall a tree. This was in 1857. The Methodist Episcopal church effected an organization in Peru in 1857 and the first sermon was preached by Rev. Wray Taylor, a man who is still living and can tell of many of the hardships and privations of frontier life.

The little village of Aspinwall arose, flourished and fell, but as it never arose very high and never flourished like a Greenbay tree it didn't have far to fall. The townsite was on the half breed reservation and owned by a half breed named Louis Neal, and was purchased in 1856 by I. T. Whyte & Co. John Ellis increased the population 100 per cent by moving there with his family. Louis Neal, jr., was the first child born in Aspinwall, date of birth 1856. John C. Odell and Miss Harriet Neal enjoyed a courtship that led to marriage though they seldom attended the theatre or fashionable balls be-

cause of the fact that the street car line was several blocks from their homes. Aspinwall secured a flat-boat ferry in 1856, but no cathedral or church was ever built in the place. Ben Holladay, the great stage coach man of the west, at one time owned 800 lots in Aspinwall, and over 1,600 acres of land in the precinct, but our county records will not show that he made millions on the lots, nor a vast fortune from the lands. Among the early settlers were W. Thurman, Darius Phipps, Henry Hart, Israel Cummings, Milt Paulin and J. Hegler, but not until 1861 was the first school taught. The teacher was Miss Clara Parker. This same year an effort was made to establish a weekly paper, called the Union. The proprietors were Dr. A. S. Holliday and John H. Mann, but it was short lived, and its remains were shipped back to Brownville.

As early as 1854 several prairie schooners wended their way across the states of Illinois and Iowa, crossed the river at what was called Otoe ferry, a short distance above the point now known as Minersville, and pitched their tents near where the city of Brock now stands. These were Jacob Delay, Philip Starr, Lawrence Kennison and their families, and they hailed from Vermillion county, Illinois. In January of the following year Jacob Delay passed to that land that has no storm; and not many months later an accident happened that not only saddened all hearts in the little community, but ended the life of another of the trio. Lawrence Kennison, while engaged in hauling some logs on a sled with five yoke of oxen for a team made a misstep and fell in front of one of the runners, where he was caught and dragged until his bones were crushed and life extinct. In December of the same year the first marriage in the colony was solemnized between David Kennison and

Miss Miriam Delay. Mr. Kennison, then a young man, seemed to readily embrace the vices of the times until he was one of the leading toughs of the territory, but some years later he abandoned the cup and the vices which are its associates, united with the church and engaged in preaching. He is today one of the most highly respected, conscientious and able ministers in the U. B. church, and is now preaching at York, Nebraska. In 1858 Truesdall Reeder taught the first term of school at the home of Philip Starr, and Miss Lucy Bishop, now Mrs. John Martin of Linden, Missouri, taught a school of thirty-five pupils in the same house, though eight years rolled around before a schoolhouse was built. A postoffice was established in 1856 called Dayton, with Lawrence Kennison as postmaster. In July, 1855, Rev. Wray Taylor, who "wasn't a bit stuck up," preached the first sermon and organized a society of ten, and after this would call around occasionally and preach one of his practical sermons, which for good advice and earnest appeal would discount many of the sermons of today.

Many of the sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters of the trio of pioneers are residents of the county and as they have taken part in the events of the past they of course have helped to make history. W. H. and H. P. Starr still reside at Brock where for many years they have owned and operated the flouring mills. George Srouf, who was one of the 1855 pioneers, and who was the first settler on the land which is now a part of Brock, was for some years engaged in hauling freight to Ft. Kearney, Julesburg and Denver, and later was among those who went to fight Indians. He acquired considerable property, but met with reverses and while in poor health, in the early seventies, took his own life.

As early as 1854 Henry and Jonathan Higgins were discovered by parties in quest of homes. They had a small cabin on the place now owned by Albert Higgins, and were engaged in improving a farm and burning lime, for which they found a ready sale at Nebraska City. These home seekers were Messrs. Burress and Swift. Mr. Burress located on a piece of land which he made his home for thirty-five years. Mr. Swift took what has for many years been known as the Gill farm, but some weeks later traded his claim for a yoke of steers and a silver watch, Mr. Pettit being the purchaser. About this time, 1856, Salatheal Good located on the quarter section that at present belongs to his son Oliver, and Jacob Good, the eldest son, took the land that is now the Bishop farm. A postoffice was soon after established and Mr. Good was appointed postmaster. Being a Methodist and strong in the faith, his humble abode was soon opened for preaching and Sunday school, and here the first quarterly meeting in the county was held.

September 7, 1857, Allen Coate, county surveyor, began the work of surveying and platting Glenrock townsite. The proprietors of the townsite were Richard Brown, Cyrus W. Wheeler, Alexander Hallam, John L. Dozier and D. L. McGary. The land plotted lay along the west side of Rock Creek and extended north one mile. Mr. Hallam soon after decided to erect a flouring mill and at once set about securing a bonus from the farmers in the vicinity, and while he found those willing to assist if it were in their power, he found that the farmers in the vicinity were not troubled relative to surplus in their bank accounts. J. M. Burress, now of this city, and eldest son of Thomas Burress, can take the readers back to the days when the proprietors of the townsite worked at

making and driving stakes, boarded at his father's when the several courses at table were Johnny-cake, hominy, corn-bread and more Johnny-cake, and the boarders declared that they never ate heartier or slept better. Mr. Hallam erected a mill at a rocky ford on Rock creek, about one-half mile from the mouth of the stream. He also erected an elegant dwelling house and a large store building. The mill did good service for a time but the stream proved inadequate to the task and the mill was moved to the Nemaha river. The store building was never occupied until after the war, when it was converted into a cattle shed. Johnathan and Henry Higgins, who had been carrying the dish cloth in the pocket and allowing the dog and cat to lick the dishes clean, had both tired of single blessedness, and among the later arrivals they found two of the most amiable beings on earth. Johnathan won the hand of Miss Polly Good and never doubted having made a good investment. After the wedding came the charivari, for on the frontier ringing of cowbells, and beating on tin pans with all possible noises to accompany, always follow a wedding. And when the pumpkin pies and watermelons had been set out the boys helped themselves regardless of rules of etiquette, bade the newly married couple good-night and retired each to his own abode; and not many days elapsed until Henry Higgins and Martha Swift made public the vows they had spoken in secret and had to furnish more pumpkin pies and watermelons. This township was first called Allen township, being named after Allen Philips, who with his two sons, William and Er, were among the early settlers, but long before the numerous additions to Glen Rock made it evident that the whole township was soon to become one great city, the name was changed to Glen Rock. Another of the early settlers

in this precinct was Wyman Kent, who in 1856 had some difficulty with unfriendly Indians and for a time was obliged to lie himself to a portion of the county where settlers did not have to go five miles to visit their nearest neighbors. He left his belongings, consisting of frying pan, blanket and goods box to be destroyed by fire had the Indians seen fit to reduce his mansion to ashes, and strange as the incident may seem, sought refuge at the home of Joshua Karn near Peru. And here he was safe, so safe that he forgot that there were any Indians in the territory, and when he bethought himself that he had a habitation on the frontier and told Miss Katherine about how lonely was his lot and how he dreaded to return alone, she just consented to go with him and be 'hisn' so long as they both should live; and though he had to buy a broom and many household goods that a woman always considers necessary in a well regulated family, he did not complain, but was actually glad that the Indians scared him from home.

San Francisco in Nemaha county is known in history, and possibly remembered by some of the early settlers. Captain Holland of St. Louis, who thought he too was entitled to the honor and wealth that would accrue from the transformation of a strip of prairie land into a great city, surveyed and platted San Francisco on the high bluff between Nemaha City and Aspinwall. A. J. Ritter, and W. E. and Alfred Opelt took up their residence there and several houses were built, but San Francisco, Nebraska, never became a city of great commercial importance.

Since an early day the stone church has been known as one of the land marks of Nemaha county; for but a short time elapsed after there was a "German settlement" until there was a German church. The first to settle on Mud creek in Benton precinct were



Thomas Casper, J. Yelkin, A. J. Behrends, William Tuxhorn, Albert Fauss, B. Bourrow, R. Webber, Gerd Williams and others whose names cannot at present be recalled. A schoolhouse was built as early as 1857, and Rev. Magie preached the first sermon, and for some time was the Evangelical Lutheran pastor. The first birth in this settlement cannot be given to a certainty, as twins were born to Mr. and Mrs. Webber in 1856, but even the bible with the family record is silent as to whether it was one or the other that was born first. The first marriage was that solemnized between John Tuxhorn and Cora Williams in 1857, and the first death was that of an infant of Mr. and Mrs. Bower. The early settlers in this vicinity learned from actual experience of the hardships and privations of frontier life; and especially was this true of some of the women whose husbands enlisted when the first call to arms was heard. One of the well-to-do farmers of this section tells that since coming to Nebraska he had been for a whole year so short on change that he did not have one dollar in his house and yet he contends that the family was hearty, healthy and happy. Store coffee, granulated sugars, etc., were not common among these settlers, but barley coffee and sorghum molasses tasted good. Then it was believed that the uplands were sterile and unproductive, hence only the bottom lands were cultivated, but a great variety of crops was grown. The first threshing machine that ever hummed in this settlement was owned by Wesley Dundas and H. F. Palmer, and as late as 1864 John Tuxcorn, W. Williams, William Tuxhorn, Hi Coleman and Henry Bolken stacked their wheat, oats, rye and barley all in the same yard, and it took less than one day to thresh the whole setting. Early in the sixties was the first suicide. A Mr. Weirs, who

had not enjoyed good health and who, as it was reported, had been unsuccessful in attempts to win the heart and hand of one of the fair sex, took a small rope and went west to the last tree on the little branch that was large enough to hold his weight, climbed the tree and fastening the rope to his neck and to the limb he let go and dropped. The body was found some days later and consigned to mother earth. Soon after this event two Germans who had settled on one of the branches of Long branch, had some difficulty about some trees standing near the line between two claims on school land. As one of them was driving out of the timber sitting on a load of wood he was attacked by the other, who struck at him with an ax which was imbedded in the log where the driver sat, but the driver slipped off on the other side and only his coat-tail was wounded. The party attacked went to Brownville the next day and paid \$16 for a revolver with which he intended to take the other fellow's life. Early the next morning he hid himself in the timber and waited for his game. Hours passed and time rolled on. The sun arose, passed to the zenith and was about to wink its usual goodbye for the day, but the man who was wanted did not come. At this point the man who had held the revolver the livelong day resolved to practice, or to get a little satisfaction out of putting a few balls into a tree and calling it his victim. He squared himself a few feet from a large cottonwood tree, took deliberate aim and then, in all probability, shut his eyes. Pop went the revolver, but the tree was not scarred. He kept on until six balls had whizzed through the air and not a scratch had been made on the tree when he beset himself to thinking what a fool he had made of himself and resolved that he would rather be a respected though insulted citizen than a fleeing criminal, disturbed by

sound and frightened at the sight of a fellow-being. He put up his revolver and never loaded it again, and is today one of Nemaha county's best citizens, and the assailant met death some years later by accident, while running a threshing machine.

A few miles to the northwest of this German settlement, and in Washington precinct, there was surveyed and platted another townsite known as St. Fredricks. Who the venerable St. Fredricks in honor of whom this place was named was, history does not relate. Possibly C. A. Freyberg, who with Gus Harvey, M. W. Rider, C. G. Dorsey, S. H. Vickory, Herman Utrecht and C. F. Geutzhmer were owners of the townsite, was something of a saint himself. But be this as it may the title to city property has not been affected because of the uncertainty as to when Fredrick was sainted. St. Fredricks became a thing of the past, and yet no bats have ever inhabited the deserted buildings, no ivy has overgrown the crumbling walls and the owls have not hooted in the ruins as if desirous to mock her former greatness. The stakes that set metes and bounds to Broadway, park, campus and public squares were burned by prairie fire, and where the public buildings never stood there grow immense crops of corn and other grains.

London, the second townsite in what was then Brownville precinct, was named by one Robert Heap, an Englishman who contended that London, Nebraska, might some day become as large as the great metropolis of his native country. "For," he contended, "hit as the room to grow." The first settlement was made in July, 1856, John Houman, William Wilson, William Buchanan, Eli Lauker and Wyatt Nessler being the first settlers. The next year two hearts which had already begun to beat as one caused James Cook

and Louisa Snyder to take themselves into the presence of a minister and there make the vows required by custom if not by the laws of the territory. The first schoolhouse was erected in 1857, though before the erection of the schoolhouse Miss Louisa Snyder had been so successful in teaching a school in one room that it was great cause for regret that Mr. Cook got ahead of the board and engaged her to teach a school of one scholar. The first sermon preached was by Parson Wells of the U. B. church. The first death was the infant child of William Buchanan and wife. London was incorporated under the general act of the legislature, by the district court, and the common council consisted of Robert Heap, James Cook, N. Minick, E. Lauker and J. Hauman. Who was the first convert under the labors of Rev. Wells has not been recorded, but some of the boys who attended meetings in those early days tell that Sandy Stoddard, a Scotch lad of sixteen, was at one time in attendance, and according to a strict Scotch Presbyterian bringing up, he knelt when others did, but did not arise at the amen signal. He kept his place while a song was sung and another prayer offered, but seemed in no wise to partake of the emotionalism of the occasion. When he was aroused from a sound slumber he exclaimed, "I dinna think I was in the kirk or I'd na be sleeping like that."

Bedford was so fortunate as to escape the location of a townsite until 1882, hence the early settlers were those who came to make for themselves homes and engage in agricultural pursuits and stock raising. The first man to settle in Bedford precinct was Patrick Daugherty, who in 1855 began work on the quarter section that was his home for nearly forty years, and to which he has by hard work, perserverance and rigid economy added over 600 acres which he still owns.

Mr. Daugherty came from Erin's isle when a young man, and was in his prime when he came to Nemaha county, and yet his struggle to keep the wolf from the door and make a home was such that but few would have continued the battle. Others came, selected land, laid a foundation for a residence or made some improvement and then went back east and never returned to look after their claims, but it was not until 1857 that neighbors came to stay. Mr. and Mrs. Daugherty have the honor of being the first settlers, the first to pay taxes in the precinct, and to them was born the first white child in Bedford precinct. In May, 1857, William and Amos Hughes came to stay, and for some time there were but three families in the precinct. Then came others, a few of whom tarried, but most of whom were soon after taken with the Colorado gold fever, or later went to assist in putting down the great rebellion. Robert A. Stewart was one of the '57 arrivals who took up a claim on the Muddy in the southwest corner of the precinct, and there, assisted by a devoted wife, not only made a comfortable home but assisted their boys and girls to acquire the rudiments of an education while about the old fire-place in winter and under spreading trees in summer.

Clifton is not a city, was not a city, nor was it ever the abode of a townsite. To the north and east of what was once St. Fredricks there was a considerable portion of Washington precinct that because of the scarcity of timber, was not taken by the early settlers, a considerable of it remaining the property of Uncle Sam until after the enactment of the homestead law, and even after the close of the war. Early in the sixties a party residing in Douglas precinct was driving some cattle that had strayed away and when about

half a mile south of the present site of Linden school-house, one of the cows walked to the edge of a bluff and at once dropped from sight. The ranchman hastened to the rescue to find that the earth had given way and that the cow was in a cave. He had read of Mammoth cave, Wengal cave and other historic holes in the ground, but now he had discovered a cave in Nebraska. This cave was neatly walled with stone though, as he figured, the mound builders or cave dwellers who had constructed this abiding place had never learned to burn lime and make mortar. What surprised him more was that the cave was supplied with many articles such as he had seen used by the people now on earth. There were hammers, awls, stitching jacks, rings, buckles and harness fixtures in almost endless profusion, and so modern were these fixtures that he began to figure out that the cave-dwellers could have lived only a few years before that date. He later learned that he was not the first white man to cross these prairies, for one Jacob Dustin, a Connecticut Yankee who had in his younger days learned that she whom he loved loved another, had drifted westward and some years before had constructed a "dugout" where he had stored his saddlery outfit and made his home. He had fenced several acres and raised corn, but having concluded that he could lead a more miserable life in the army, had fastened up the entrance to his cave, or dugout, and gone to be a soldier, and the grass and weeds had overgrown his field and the bats had not found an entrance to his dwelling. He returned from the army but seemed to prefer the life of a recluse, and when the infirmities of age came to him he provided that his relatives should not possess his property, by deeding the land to the county in consideration of a home at the county poor house, where he died not long after-

ward. Bernard and George Ottens were among the earliest arrivals, and for many years they had plenty of room. Both these men could tell of walking to St. Joe in quest of work that they might earn the wherewithal to pay preemption fees on their lands, but both lived, prospered and acquired a competency. The first man to take land in Washington precinct under the homestead law, was Robert Ord, who though near life's sunset, had come from Ohio that he and his aged wife might spend their last years with their son, Joseph Ord, who resided in Douglas precinct. When the old gentleman, who had worked hard for many years both in England and America, beheld prairie land that did not need clearing of timber, he seemed to renew his age and said that he must have a piece of land. He erected a stone cabin which for years was the Methodists' place of worship, and the aged couple never bade the hungry "Go thy way, be ye warmed and filled," but they had charitable enough to cover a multitude of sins; though, God bless their dear souls, they had no multitude of sins to cover. H. F. Palmer took a homestead, erected a cabin and set about breaking the stubborn glebe. William Hawley and Peter Smith had settled the year before just across the line in Lafayette precinct, and were of the Clifton settlement. Then came H. O. Kerns, Benton Aldrich and Deloss Hughes, and but a few months elapsed until R. A. Hawley, R. Coryell, J. Gilbert, B. Coryell, Peter Warner and Grandpa Hawley came to assist in the march of progress. The residence of William Hawley was the place where the Baptists met for service, while those of the Christian, or Campbellite, faith, held forth at the home of R. A. Hawley or D. B. Coryell. The first school was taught by Mrs. M. Oppermann, and Benton Aldrich was first postmaster, and was also

librarian and treasurer for a library association that was organized early in the settlement and continued for many years. Probably no more successful reading circle or library association has ever been conducted in the state than was the Clifton Library association. The first marriage was that of D. B. Coryell and Marguerite Hughes, and as Mr. Coryell was an elderly man and an elder in the church the charivari was conducted by the church membership on lines of strict decorum(?)

Douglas precinct was discovered by Henry Harmon and others from Atchison county, Missouri, who were on a fishing and hunting expedition, and though the lands were not open for settlement, George Harmon laid claim to the quarter section later preempted by Peter Whitlow, and Henry Harmon decided that what later became the Henry Higgins place in Glen Rock precinct, would suit him to a dot. Later when it was learned that others had taken up their abode on these lands George Harmon said he didn't care a fig for Nebraska would never amount to anything. Later Mr. Harmon took the land where he made his home for nearly forty years, and was the first white settler in what is now Douglas precinct, who tarried to see Nebraska territory become a great state. The surveyors came soon after, running first precinct, and later section lines, and Mr. H. conducted the boarding house where the surveyors found board and lodging. Others came later, and '56 and '57 brought many homeseekers, and speculators as well. One of the earliest settlers was Peter Whitlow, who still owns the land and the same is occupied by his son, Charles, whose birth was the first in the precinct. The quarter section on which the Auburn canning plant now stands, was taken by one Patrick Sweeney, but only a few months elapsed when, while construct-



ing a lime kiln a brick fell on his head and he died from the injury, and in October the widow sold the claim for \$120, the purchaser being James Dundas, who with his son Wesley and L. Hodgdon had come from Aurora, Illinois, to secure land for homes. A short time after the death of Mr. Sweeney Mr. Williams, who owned the claim joining on the north, met with an accident that cost him his life. He was hauling hay, and in climbing onto the load fell at the heels of the horses, which caused a runaway. The wife, left with six small children, continued to make that her home until the time of her death in 1870, and the place is still owned by the heirs. John Long was one of the first to take land in the precinct, and though he combatted the privations and hardships of pioneer life he lived to the ripe old age of 89 years and some months, taking his place with the silent majority but a few months since. At his residence was built a blacksmith shop and one Lorenzo Dow Foster was so successful in coining money that he feared, like Carnegie, that he would die rich, and he set about dissipating his fortune by the most speedy way and met with excellent success, and later when the cry to arms was heard he went south but never returned. The quarter section where the M. P. depot and a portion of Auburn now stand was surveyed, platted and staked for a townsite, and was named St. George. This place never went down on the map as a battleground for the roar of cannons and the rattle of musketry never disturbed the inhabitants, but so soon as the place was named it leaped into notoriety because of the fact that a prize fight was to take place on the public square and from all parts of the county people came to witness the encounter and to put up their money on Milt Goheen or Harvey Hayes. The police was not called out to prevent the

fight and the governor sent no troops to disperse the combatants, but by some disagreement relative to Queensberry rules the fight was declared off, and the crowd went home disappointed. The first school in the precinct, according to one tradition, was taught by Peter Swartz. Others claim that at an earlier date there was a term of school at some point on the banks of the Nemaha. The school taught by Peter Swartz was held in the John Hughes cabin on the farm that is now the west part of the Goosman estate. Several of those who attended this first school are at present residents of Auburn. They are Thomas Burley and William and John Harmon; and Mrs. John Harmon, who was then a very little Miss Clary, was present on one occasion to see what a district school was like. Henry Harmon and wife, who are still residents of Auburn, relate that when they had two boys large enough to go to school their library consisted of one spelling book and one almanac. But Mrs. Harmon knew how to economize, and as Will had already mastered the alphabet the first leaves of the speller were cut out and pasted into the almanac so that each boy had a book. This was but the beginning and today the parents, who for many years were very familiar with hardships and privations, are shedding no tears because of the efforts they put forth in behalf of their children: for their eight sons and six daughters made the best use of the common schools, and thirteen of the number are still living. They are the pride of their parents and have not forgotten father and mother. Thomas Burley has not forgotten a moral lecture he received when quite young. His father had some fat hogs but no flour, and Mr. Hallam offered to exchange flour for a small hog, but did not want a large one. Mr. Burley went home and as he thought the trade a good one he butchered a hog that weighed

nearly 400 pounds. When the hog was delivered Hallam complained, but Burley declared, "It was the smallest hog I had." Some days later, as the old gent used to relate it, he was giving Tom a lecture on the great sin of telling a lie, and as he cautioned him against speaking anything but the truth and told about the place prepared for liars, Tom looked him in the face, batted his off eye and said, "It was the smallest hog I had." The old gent used to relate the incident whenever he told of the privations of early days, and would add, "The fool that I was to tell the boy not to tell a lie when I had told at least one myself. There hasn't been a day since that I have not thought about 'the smallest hog I had.' "

And Douglas precinct had another townsite. Thomas L. McCoy and J. D. Batton of Illinois took what is now the west quarter of the John Long and the east quarter of the Thomas Keedy place, under the townsite provision. On the line between the two quarters there was a little mound perhaps fifty feet in diameter and about four feet high, and out of the top of this gushed a beautiful spring, and standing upon this mound a fish pole could be run down its entire length in what seemed to be only soft mud and light turf. This place was named Minerva, and Minerva had "healing in her wings," and she was to be a great health resort. Cripples were to come on crutches, and to go away every whit whole, while asthma, gout, influenza and ingrowing toe-nails were to be washed away by the little stream. But Minerva's greatness was of short duration and her name was derided. The proprietors did not comply strictly with the provisions of the law, and did not comply with their promises to pay John Long for their board or the stakes they drove, and Mr. Long filed papers be-

fore the department setting forth that the entry of the lands was fraudulent, and ten years later the entries were cancelled and John Long and Dreweary Coulthard took the lands under the homestead act. A settlement was made in 1858 on the headwaters of Long's branch, and was known as the Scotch settlement. The first settlers were James Adamson, William Watson and Henry Naysmith, three men whose earlier days had been spent in coal mining in Scotland and in America and they too, had to walk to St. Joe to find work, and on some occasions carried the "store tea" they used, that distance. Rather more of a happening than of history was an incident that must here be related. Mrs. Naysmith returned to their cabin one evening to learn that the same had been ransacked, and of course this at once led to the belief that there were Indians about, though none had been seen in the vicinity. A careful examination of the premises led to the belief that it was not Indians, but that some person had gone in and helped himself to the best the larder afforded. William Watson, jr., then a boy of twelve years, had been seen in the vicinity and suspicion at once pointed. The father was very indignant and resolved not to spare the rod. The boy was whipped severely, but he protested his innocence, and after he had dropped to sleep the father's heart was heavy, for who can listen to the sobbing of a child while he realizes that he was the cause of his grief? The next day the father learned that his son was innocent; that the house had been entered by a nephew who had walked a long way to make the family a visit, and being hungry helped himself. And what did the father do? Did he tell the boy that he had needed whippings before and had escaped? Not he. He humbly begged the little fellow's forgiveness and said that he would never again

strike one of his children. This promise he sacredly kept, and forty-three years later when so badly injured by a fall that it was believed that he could not live his five sons and five daughters came from Omaha, from Dawson county, from Oklahoma and from Washington, and there was not one to hesitate to do all possible for his comfort; and during all this time he has suffered not from the keen arrows of unavailing remorse because of having spoiled his children by withholding the rod.

Another townsite was platted and some stakes driven on what is now the William Campbell home farm, though the perfect survey was never made. An aged and eccentric hoosier by the name of John D. Hopkins conceived the idea of building a city that should be symmetrical and beautiful. It was to be a perfect circle and all streets to extend from the center to the circumference like the spokes to a wagon wheel. Of Mr. Hopkins it was said that so large was his heart and so generous his impulses that he would divest himself of coat, vest or shoes and give them to those in need, though he had to go barefoot and half clad himself, and yet he was prosperous and happy. He could relate adventures as a hunter that would cause a wooden man to laugh. But, poor soul, he met his Waterloo. He went to board with a widow woman named Mary Delay who had a cabin near the spot where the Glenrock mill now stands. He fell desperately in love and the widow smiled serenely. The time for the marriage was near at hand and she requested him to go to Brownville for groceries. He returned with the groceries and brought with him the justice of the peace who was to officiate, and when he had delivered the groceries and was about to enter the cabin he made a misstep and staggered. The woman, who had feigned love and gotten the groceries, seized

upon the opportunity, and also upon the broom and while she unwound French, broken English and profanity, called him a drunken crappo and declared that she would not marry such a man. He did not return the compliment, but went out in the cold and darkness and after wandering about for several hours reached the home of Thomas Burress, with both feet so badly frozen that he came near losing his life. He later left the territory, believing that getting married was a failure and that Glowing Ring was only a dream, and it is probable that his confidence in the gentler sex that had been so ruthlessly broken asunder, was never entirely restored. And what of the woman? It is related that though she was not fond of Mr. Hopkins that she worshipped the mighty dollar, and that the first acre of ground ever cultivated on the William Holroyd farm was spaded up by her, and that the compensation was four dollars. She later bought a yoke of cattle and engaged in freighting to Fort Kearney, bought more cattle and did quite an extensive business. Later she went to Colorado and became a mine owner, and if reports are true returned to France a few years ago the proprietor of \$200,000.

The first settlers on the west bank of the Missouri river were not unfrequently disturbed by reports that the Indians were about to sweep down upon them, and though the oldest inhabitant cannot call to mind that one person lost his life by the Indians in this county, there are not a few who can tell of having been "horribly skeered." One of the earliest arrivals at Brownville was Conrad F. Harms, who came there in the employ of the first proprietors of a ferry boat. He can tell about getting out of bed at different times and hustling to the oars, for some one had seen or dreamed that an Indian was coming, and women

and children were on the banks begging to be taken across the river. Mr. Harms had only arrived from Germany a few weeks before and could not speak or understand one word of English, but he could read the expressions of fear and alarm and hastened to ply the oars to rescue the people. Later Mr. Harms went west and settled on the land now owned by Hon. George Crow, and while keeping back and improving his land he acquired an English education, and for a number of years was one of the county commissioners. He is still a resident of Nemaha county and owns one of the best farms in Washington precinct. But the early settlers had other troubles and grievances hard to be borne. The legislature on March 16, 1855, enacted a law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in the territory, hence "bootlegging" became an industry on a limited scale; and then as now the liquor sold was not as pure as when it dripped from the still worm, and when some of the stuff was brought across the river for medical purposes it was found necessary to thaw it out before using. And this happened during January, 1856, and February, 1857, when it was so cold that the mercury stood thirty-three degrees below zero.

On September 5, 1857, three runaway slaves were discovered secreted in the willows at the head of what was then known as the lower island, just below Brownville, and either prompted by a desire to be law-abiding and return slaves as required by the fugitive slave law, or anxious to secure the reward, were pursued by J. R. Davis, Thomas Williams, William Myers and others. Myers coming upon the negroes first, was shot and fell. The negroes attempted to escape, and one was wounded by J. R. Davis and captured. R. W. Furnas being the first to reach Myers, gathered a pillow of willow boughs and leaves and

placed it under his head but in a few seconds Myers ceased to breathe. The wounded slave was brought to Brownville and a preliminary trial had before J. D. N. Thompson, justice of the peace. He was held to answer before the district court and finally acquitted.

In the spring of 1857 the land office for Nemaha district was located at Brownville. Appointees were George H. Nixon of Tennessee, register, and C. B. Smith of Nebraska, receiver. The office was opened for business September 2, 1857. And the same year witnessed a financial crisis that while it drove many to the wall in all parts of the county, was particularly disastrous to the early settlers of the county; and added to this was an invasion of the county by a vast army of grasshoppers. Though this army did not devastate the territory or leave human bones to bleach in the sun, and did not do the damage to crops that was done in later years by the same pests, yet their ravages helped to dishearten the people]

This same year John W. Hall, who resided on Honey Creek, brought to town a number of apples that he had grown in his orchard, and there was another hurrah registered for Nemaha county; and the Nemaha county agricultural and horticultural society was soon after organized for the purpose of advancing the interests of agriculture, horticulture and stock raising in the county. The first officers were John S. Minick, president; J. W. Coleman, vice president; R. W. Furnas, secretary and Jesse Cole, treasurer. In October of this year the first steam ferry boat arrived at Brownville. It was named Nemaha and the event was hailed with great rejoicing, and in the evening a cotillion party was given. A correct snap shot of those who whirled in the giddy maize cannot be given. And could the picture be exhibited today how many



of the characters could be recognized? Forty-five years have wrought changes, and the very few who still linger are not the active men and women they were then. This boat was owned and operated by David Leeper, who still resides near Langdon, Missouri, and John Codington, who died at his home near Auburn about three years ago. In January, 1857, the first number of the Nemaha Journal was issued at Brownville, with S. Belden as editor and publisher. Shortly afterward Langdon & Goff commenced the publication of the Daily Snort, which was about the size of a small postal card; so small that today if it were on earth it would lie itself to the woods at mention of the Glenrock Eagle. Owing to want of subscription, which was taken in "Good Monongahela, Stiff Rye, Old Bourbon, Scotch and Irish Whiskey," its continuance was of short duration.

During the years over which the readers have been glancing several elections were held, and probably then as now the history of campaigns would be a recital of events in which deceit, double dealing and misrepresentation played a large part. In 1856 Robert W. Furnas was elected councilman; William Finney, S. A. Chambers and Isaac C. Lawrence, representatives; John W. Hull and I. L. Knight, county commissioners; W. H. Hoover, clerk and register of deeds; J. W. Coleman, sheriff; A. J. Benedict, probate judge; William Hobbitzell, treasurer; A. L. Coate, surveyor. At the election in 1857 S. A. Chambers, John S. Minick, A. J. Benedict were elected representatives; Jesse Cole and I. L. Knight, commissioners; E. E. Parker, clerk; W. H. Hoover, recorder of deeds; D. Plasters, sheriff; R. J. Whitney, probate judge; R. T. Rainey, treasurer; T. W. Bedford, surveyor, and William Thurber, school superintendent. In 1858 Mr. Furnas was reelected coun-

cilman; F. M. Clark, Samuel Daily and Jesse Noel representatives; Allen Philips, D. C. Sanders and Jesse Cole, commissioners, while the balance of the county officials were reelected except Mr. Thurber, who was succeeded by H. S. Thorp.

The first term of the territorial district court was held in Brownville in 1856, the building that had served as schoolhouse, church and general place for public meetings being the court house. Judge James Bradley was on the bench and William McLellan was district attorney, and the business was not conducted with neatness and dispatch, but with the usual delays and monkey work that still characterize court proceedings. The mails, like the courts, were slow things. Nemaha, Brownville, Peru and St. Deroin up to September '56 received mail twice a week provided there were no Indian scares, swollen streams or boozy carriers. Sometimes letters were lost and sometimes they arrived with astonishing haste. It was a matter of surprise when a land warrant left Washington and arrived in Nemaha county so promptly that it was located the same month.

During the fifties the national questions which were discussed on all occasions were the "Missouri Compromise" and "Popular Sovereignty" with the different phases and opinions thereon. The people of Nemaha county were divided. Some were from Missouri and the south and were pro slavery. In Brownville nearly one-half of the inhabitants were from Miami county, Ohio, and these were anti slavery people. John Brown crossed the county many times during these days in his determined effort to secure the freedom of as many as possible of the slaves of Missouri, and there were men and women in different parts of the country ready to render assistance, while there were others who believed not only in the divine

right of master to hold slaves, but in the divine right to secure the return of slaves to their Missouri masters and receive the \$100 reward that the state paid in such cases. John Brown and his followers were desperately in earnest. They were well armed and equipped, and while the leader believed that there was no greater crime on earth than for one man to hold another as his slave, he was willing at all times to take great risks to secure success, for like fanatics of old he believed that it was right to take life if need be rather than give up a slave to be returned to his master. Others read in biblical lore and looking at the more favorable side of slavery, were anxious to see the laws enforced. Brown and his men were camped but a few miles from Brownville at the time of the wounding of the negro and the killing of Myers, and it probably was fortunate that they were not in town the following day when Missourians came over with the determination to mob the wounded negro. And it was also fortunate that the negro was in charge of a man of cool courage (B. B. Thompson) when the mob arrived. As one of the adjuncts to the overthrow of slavery, a paper was established in Peru in 1857, but, as it is remembered, was printed elsewhere. The editor was Martin Stowell, who had gone from his eastern home to Kansas in the interest of the Free State party. He was zealous and in earnest, and it is told that he did good service as an officer of the underground railroad, and aided negroes to make their escape. At the breaking out of the war he was one of the first to enlist, and among the first to answer the summons. The G. A. R. post at Peru was named the Martin Stowell post, in memory of one so true to his convictions. And right here it will not be amiss to relate a little incident that it used to afford Dr. Daily great pleasure to relate.

Thomas J. Majors, who later "went into the army when a mere boy," and Austin Medley decided to play a joke on Mr. Stowell. They blacked their faces and near the hour of midnight called at the office, represented themselves as slaves from Missouri and wanted to get conveyance to Nebraska City. They were provided bread, butter, milk and some delicacies, and while they were eating Mr. Stowell left, saying he would soon have a wagon ready at the outskirts of town to take them to Nebraska City, but when he returned his blackbirds had flown and he was uneasy lest they had fallen into the hands of their enemies. The next day the boys were boasting of their prowess and their cunning when Tom remarked, "We got an elegant supper and if we hadn't hidden we would have had a free ride to Nebraska City." To this Mr. Stowell replied, "Yes, Tommy, you did get an elegant supper, but it was all cooked and prepared by your estimable sister who has worked many hours for your comfort, and if you had gotten a free ride to Nebraska City it would have been in Mr. Glasgow's wagon, for he, heaven bless him, looks at the question of human slavery more seriously than do you." Tom was ready to drop the question and, strange as it may appear, he never wove the incident into one of his political speeches. The question of slavery was not settled forever when the courts decided that a southern man had as much right to take his slaves to the territories as a northern man had to carry his horses or cattle with him, and when Colonel Nixon, the registrar of the land office, and Richard Brown, the proprietor of the townsite, brought slaves to Brownville, it looked as though the war were waged anew, and these men were outnumbered, for while there were many pro slavery men in the county there were very few to give sanction to the course of

Brown and Nixon in arousing greater prejudice by bringing their slaves to Nebraska. Colonel Nixon, though forced by circumstances to send his slaves back to Tennessee, was none the less a pro slavery man, and when the tocsin of war was sounded he bade his friends in Brownville a kindly farewell and went to fight with his brothers in the south. It is related that after the war was over the colonel met one of his former slaves who was engaged in teaching a colored school, and instead of heaping anathemas upon him he volunteered to pay the expense of giving him a good schooling, and the negro whose first dreams of freedom and of an education were dreamed in Brownville, was a quarter of a century later a professor at the head of a southern seminary for the education of colored children. Esquire Kenneda, now eighty-five years of age and a resident of this city, tells about being called out of bed on a very cold morning in January, 1857. Two covered wagons with thirteen white men, eleven negroes, two wenches and a babe had stopped and wanted permission to cook breakfast. Mr. Kenneda took them in, built rousing fires, and the wenches had breakfast about ready when one of them stepped to the door and asked for Captain Brown. This was the first thought that he had as to who his guests were. He asked Captain Brown if he were the noted man from Osawatomie, when Brown replied, "Yes sir, I am John Brown. Take a good look at me and see what you think." Mr. Kenneda, though not a believer in slavery, did not endorse the methods of Brown. But Brown contended that he was engaged in a righteous cause, and was there for breakfast. After breakfast one of the men came in and reported a number of men coming, when Brown cried, "Get your guns ready." The men proved to be only several of a neighbor's children on their way

to a private school. And now the 'squire was uneasy, for it was known that he had harbored John Brown and runaway negroes. Parties at his old home in Andrew county, Missouri, sent him word that if he ever came back to that county he would be mobbed; and he was also aware that he was "spotted" by some of the Brownville pro slavery people. The man Martin Stowell was probably one of the strongest anti slavery men in the territory. He was as firm in the faith as was Wendell Philips or William Lloyd Garrison, for he was in command of a company at the time of troubles in Boston when Garrison was mobbed and Philips was threatened, and he it was who was arrested and tried for the murder of the slave driver who lost his life in a mad attempt to seize Anthony Burns and convey him back into slavery.

In Nemaha as it has ever been elsewhere where government lands have been opened for settlement, there have been those who have sought to take advantage of others by "jumping" their claims. In May, 1857, one Jeremiah Campbell had taken a claim in Brownville precinct, and while absent at work a Canadian by the name of Thomas Gallaher went upon the land and began making improvements in disregard for Mr. Campbell's rights. But when Campbell returned he waited not for arbitration or law, but shot the man who had sought to deprive him of his claim. Campbell was regarded as measurably justifiable and was given his liberty. In the absence of well defined regulations relative to taking and holding claims the citizens organized an association which no doubt had a good influence, for the first to take claims were encouraged to make improvements so that there would be no chance to conclude that the claim had been abandoned, and later arrivals were dissuaded from attempting to "jump" the claim of another. And

yet it was then as it has been since, there were those to get to the front, lay claim to the best land and then were too shiftless to so much as do a day's work to indicate that they had taken the claim. Later some one would give them something for their right and they would move on and claim another piece of land or go east and stay with the wife's people.

In the spring of 1858 Joseph Deroin, the man who founded St. Deroin and who was really "it" had an unpaid account against one Beddow. Instead of placing the account in the hands of a lawyer who would write a saucy letter and then forget all about it, as is done nowadays, Mr. Deroin declared he would have his money if he had to whip the man who owed him. As he neared Beddow's cabin he was warned and told to come no farther, but he was determined and as he reached the yard fence he was fired on by Beddow and instantly killed.

By act of the legislature Brownville was made the county seat, but before a new century had dawned yea, before the passing of a cycle of years, there was a move to remove, or relocate, and on August 28, 1858, an election was held which resulted as follows: For Brownville, 209; Glenrock, 75; London, 84; Nemaha City, 3; St. George (St. George was what is now that portion of Auburn lying east of First street and north of Central avenue) 164; Peru, 66; Middleport, 1; Center, 35, and St. Fredricks, 1. Thus it will be seen that 429 votes were polled for removal, but they were wonderfully scattering.

About this time another man took his departure to that land lying beyond the dark river. This man's name was Arnold and his home was at Nebraska City, but for some time he had been doing a lucrative business stealing horses and cattle in Otoe county and driving them into this county and selling them or

running them across the shoot onto Sonora island, and then with strict commercial economy he would steal others in this county and dispose of them at Nebraska City. He finally stole a horse from Mr. Wilhelm at the city, but when he came this way he fell into the hands of Sheriff Plasters, who put him in charge of a guard in an upper room of the Brownville hotel. When the sheriff and guard went to dinner he declined to go, and when they returned they found that he had taken the hitch strap that was on the horse he had stolen, and which he must have had secreted under his clothes, and adjusting it about his neck and to the bed railing, he had laid down on the floor and choked his fool self to death. An hour later parties arrived from the city, but having no use for the rope they had brought along, they loaded the lifeless form into the wagon and took it to the city, where it received a rude burial. Wesley Dundas, who had met Arnold on the island, used to speak of him as a shrewd dissembler. He was a man of fine appearance, good education and pious bearing. He was a school teacher by profession and a man of pleasing address. On one occasion he called upon a couple who had been so unfortunate as to have been overtaken by age and poverty at the same time. Mr. Arnold condoled with the aged couple, spoke of this earth as the home of sorrow and sighing and of the land beyond the river where Jordan's waters flowed by the city the streets of which were paved with gold, etc., etc., until the old folks had almost crossed over in blissful anticipation. And before bidding them goodnight he commended them to the care of him who notes the fall of the sparrows and never forgets his children; and then before leaving the premises he stole the one yoke of oxen, the only property the aged couple were possessed of.



While the early settlers put up with privations and inconveniences they enjoyed one luxury that it is not the lot of the people of today to enjoy. It was the pleasure of witnessing steamboats passing up the river and landing at the wharves with tons of merchandise and hundreds of passengers, among whom could sometimes be seen a familiar face, a friend from the east coming to make a visit or to make his home in the west. When the loud whistle announced the coming of a steamboat the boys hastened to the wharf, and it was a cruel father indeed who would command his boys to saw wood and say nothing when a steamboat was pulling in at the landing. And not only the boys, but the girls, young men young ladies, business men and even the aged and infirm came down to the river so that the children could see the boats. It is related and has gone into history that when the arrival of the first boat of the season had been announced that young men forgot decorum and hastened out of the church; the young ladies were restless and wondered if the preacher ever would quit, the deacons slipped out to look after the boys lest they fall in the river, and the preachers, finding the thread of their discourse broken, hastened to the concluding paragraphs, made a short prayer and requested the congregation to sing the four line doxology, and then went to the river, thinking possibly they would meet a friend. And this interest did not abate with the coming of more steamers, for near the close of the war when a half dozen steamers would arrive daily the banks were lined with sight-seers. The first boats to arrive in the spring were welcomed because of the fact that merchants had often run short on some of the staple articles. On one occasion barrel salt had become scarce, and being subject to the law of supply and demand the price had

gone up to twelve dollars per barrel, hence some were disposed to obey the injunction relative to taking everything with a grain of salt.

After the long winter of '58-9 when the ice began to break up in the river it opened the way for the ferry boat near Peru, but gorged and froze up again but a few rods below. Wesley Dundas, then but twenty-four years of age, but very active, was getting out fence posts and rails on the river for his claim, the place now owned by John Simmons, near Auburn; and as he drove onto the flat boat the front wheels of the wagon struck the approach and broke the rope that moored the bark. The boat pushed out into the river and the horses made a desperate effort to keep their place. The "river rats" who run the boat were scared, and while Wesley tried to cut the traces these men stood back and rendered no assistance. After three traces had been loosened the remaining trace pulled both horses into the river. The boat by this time had reached the gorged ice and the horses floundering in the water, also reached the bank of ice when the owner got hold of the bridles, held their heads above water and called for help. The boatmen only answered, "You'll drown," and would not assist. At this George and Joshua Tate drove down to the river on the opposite side and seeing that someone was in trouble they tied their team and ran across the river on the ice, arriving just as faithful Jim had ceased to look imploringly into his owner's eyes and had sunk to rise no more. The Tate brothers assisted in saving Fannie and in getting out the wagon and lumber. And after this there was another incident which, though it transpired away off in northern Illinois, must have a place in the history of Nemaha county, for there was a home where every letter from Wesley was read as often as is the young lady's letter

from her beau in the army, and too, the Nebraska Advertiser was each week perused from a to izard, for the members of that household were only awaiting the return of health to the father when they were to journey to the land of large pumpkins, big yields of sod corn and beautiful prairie homes. And when the tidings of the drowning of old Jim and the perilous struggle of son and brother reached that home there was not a dry eye around the hearthstone, and all joined in a petition to Wesley to go back to Illinois, where the treacherous Missouri river did not flow and where there were those who were anxious for his safety and well-being.

In 1858, John Maley, who had for several years been in the employ of James A. Garfield, but had settled near Aurora, Illinois, had saved enough while working by the day at ditching, bought a land warrant and set out on foot for Nebraska. The quarter section he selected is still his home and is one of the most valuable farms in the county. He returned to Illinois, worked longer at ditching and soon was able to buy a yoke of steers and wagon with which he and his family come west. But Mr. Maley met with bad luck and for several years he was obliged to leave his family and go as far as Gentry county to find work. But he did not weary in well-doing, but each time as he walked back to spend the winter with his family he brought honey locust seed, walnuts and peach pits, which he planted upon his land, and though five years rolled away before he was able to pay for the breaking of more than a couple of acres, yet he continued to toil on. Later his eldest son was killed by lightning, and so harrowing were the circumstances that the wife was almost overcome with grief. Mr. Maley was determined to owe no man anything and to provide honestly for his household, and his strug-

gle was up-hill for about ten years when the seed he had planted bore fruit and his peach orchard brought in several thousand dollars, every cent of which was judiciously expended.

Robert Fox, a seafaring man, who after he had lost the dollars he had been years in accumulating and had laid his companion to rest in the east, worked on a farm near Aroua, Illinois, until he had saved enough to pay for a land warrant, when he walked across the broad prairies of Illinois and Iowa and reached Nebraska when Uncle Sam had land to trade for warrants. Mr. Fox endured hardships for years, but when he died he left his family well provided for, and left his children what was of greater value—the recollection that their father had been what has been appropriately called the noblest work of God—an honest man.

There were other potations for the early settlers, and one of these was when it was told that the sale of government lands was soon to be held. Thousands of acres were sure to pass into the hands of speculators who had bought soldiers' land warrants. It was rumored that the land sales were to take place in 1857 and as many of those who had laid claim to land were unable to buy land warrants, or to pay \$1.25 per acre. Some of them paid as high as 40 per cent interest in order to secure land warrants. Some of those who had claims and were unable to raise the money became desperate and declared that they would shoot the man who bid on their lands. The lands were advertised for sale in 1858, but at the earnest solicitation of settlers the sale was postponed for one year. In 1859 the land from the river sixty-four miles west was offered for sale, and all the lands not sold at the sale were open for sale to speculators who located land warrants thereon. Before one year had rolled

around farmers were selling corn at 20 cents a bushel to raise money to pay the 40 per cent interest they had to pay; and while some of them pulled through others were unable to do so. And added to this discouragement was the prevalence of fever and ague. Mrs. Adamson, who was one of the early settlers tells of doing a churning on her "well day" and that the next day being her husband's "well day" he walked to Brownville and traded the butter for several doses of quinine. Some of the learned ones attributed the presence of ague to the condition of the low lands and the fact that some people drank water from the streams wherein were many impurities. One man who resided near Glenrock lost a cow which being too weak to get up the bank fell back into the Nemaha. The man was quite uneasy lest the dead animal poison the water and that more sickness would result to those living down stream. But the next day when he and his boys went to see if they could get the cow out that they might bury her, he found that a number of Pawnee Indians had camped near by, had found the cow and were feasting sumptuously. And some expressed pity for the poor half-starved Indians who were so hungry that they could eat dead cow. Others claimed that the Indians were the most healthy people on earth because they would eat anything, while others wanted to send missionaries among them to read them some bible passages relative to flesh diet.

Gold had been discovered in Colorado in 1857 and in 1858-9 the fabulous tales told of rich discoveries brought on gold fever and the heads of many of Nemaha county's good citizens were turned westward. One of the first to go to Pike's Peak from Nemaha county wrote back to friends in the county and his letter which appeared in the Advertiser, which though probably only a fake, nearly set some people

wild. He told about driving two yoke of cattle through to Pike's Peak within a very few days, and that so plentiful and nutritious was the grass that the cattle were excellent beef. He sold the hind quarters at fabulous prices and traded the fore quarters pound for pound for gold. As he sat down to write he requested his little boy to go down by the spring and bring some of the rich dirt in his shirt flap that he might report to the friends in Nemaha county, and ere he had finished the letter his wife had washed the dirt and come to his elbow to remark that it was not as rich as usual for the gold found therein only amounted to a little over \$15 worth. Some of the farmers who went to Pike's Peak returned poorer but wiser men. Others returned, loaded their wagons with flour, groceries, etc., and returned to the mountains where they found ready sale for their loads at just such prices as they saw fit to charge; and others never returned but stayed to make their stake, and not a few lost their lives in the greedy race for gain.

With the discovery of gold in Colorado overland freighting began, and as it was soon necessary to have soldiers stationed along the line to look after the Indians there was still further demand for food, and Nemaha county played a full part in the freighting business, and until the arrival of the railroads at points in the mountain regions and the forts along the way, there were a large number of Nemaha county people engaged in freighting. Sometimes a train of from twenty to sixty wagons could be seen crossing the county westward bound, and these wagons were not all drawn by one engine, for generally the wagons were loaded with from three to five ton, and drawn by from three to five yoke of cattle, and many were the dangers encountered, and many were the losses sustained. Early in the sixties George Srouf with two wagons,

one driven by J. M. Burress and the other by himself, and Isaac and Frank Rue, each with one wagon, were within seventy miles of Denver when driving down to the little stream called the Bijo they came upon the wreck of a train that had but the day before fallen into the hands of the Indians. The men had been killed, the wagons burned and the cattle driven off. There were no Indians in sight, but the road for the next half mile laid through a thicket of underbrush where a thousand realskins might be hiding. A council of what to do was held, when Mr. Srouf said he would take his gun and go across the ravine, and if he landed safely on the other side he would discharge both barrels of his gun in quick succession, when the others should come. Then spoke Frank Rue, saying that he would go, for he had no wife, no children and only the one brother, while Mr. Srouf if killed would leave a family to mourn his loss. Srouf contended that he should go for he had greater interests in the train than did Mr. Rue. Mr. Burress tells of this council and compares Messrs. Rue and Srouf to Damon and Pythias. Finally it was agreed that Mr. Rue should lead the way and his brother, Mr. Srouf and Mr. Burress shook his hands and said goodbye, for they believed that they would never meet him again. But no Indians were seen and the train passed on in safety and all returned to Nemaha county; but the next trip Mr. Srouf made across the plains he lost his entire outfit at Plum Creek, Nebraska, but laid the leader of the gang low before making his escape, while his son brought away an arrow that was shot through his clothing.

On the 4th of July, 1861, some of the young men of Peru went down to the river to bathe, and one John Shanklin, who but a few days before had come to Peru, ran to the bank and plunged in, but this was

his last plunge, for he didn't rise, and though the river was dragged for a long distance, and anvils were fired on the banks the body was never found.

Before the great wire-clothes line was stretched from St. Joe to Omaha and while wireless telegraphy was still in use Messrs. Ritter, Roberts, Overman, et al, had engaged in cutting wood on what has since been known as Shook's island, above Deroin, though the title to the lands was vested in the Half-breeds. Uncle Sam was apprised of the depredations and sent a company of twenty-seven officers and soldiers down on a boat, from Fort Kearney, or Nebraska City. The island was patrolled, but the big offenders were conspicuously absent, while a couple of the axmen were arrested and taken to Aspinwall, where beneath the boughs of a large tree these men were court martialed and sentenced to be hanged. A rope was made of handkerchiefs and a small limb selected. Judge John Shook, now of Auburn, was then a mere boy and in the employ of Ritter, and while Ritter had to look after some business in the bluffs, Shook was sent as a spy to learn the fate of the choppers, and arrived in time to see the bodies cut down and allowed to return to their homes, though one was strangled and would have died a victim of the joke had all the soldiers been as full as were the leaders in sport.

In August, 1860, Messrs. Elsworth & Porter completed the telegraph line from St. Joe to Brownville, and on the 29th the first telegram ever sent from the state was sent. It read: "Nebraska sends greeting to the states. The telegraph line was completed to this point today, and the first office in Nebraska formally opened. Our citizens are jubilant over the event, and now realize the advantage of being connected with their eastern friends and the 'rest



of mankind' by means of a lightning line. 'Onward. Westward, the star of empire takes its way.' " Then Editor Furnas of the Advertiser wired the editors of the Gazette: "The Advertiser sends greeting. Give us your hand. Hot as blazes; thermometer 104 in the shade. What's the news?" Editors Pfouts and Candiff replied: "We are most happy to return greeting. Thermometer 100 and rising like h—l. You ask for the news. Douglas stock fully up to the thermometer, and rising rapidly. St. Joe drinks Nebraska's health." Then followed the jubilee. Anvils and guns were fired, bonfires lit up the hillsides and the citizens responded to toasts, and Messrs. Nixon, Hill, McPherson, Halliday, Brown, Whitney, Smith, Atkinson, Bedford and others made speeches, and a large number became intoxicated; some with excitement and others with something stronger. Then thirty-five rounds were fired for the thirty-five states, one round for Nebraska and one for the telegraph line, and all retired to sleep off the booze and dream of Nebraska's future greatness.

And now it becomes necessary to recite some of the incidents of war. Ella Wheeler Wilcox has asked:

Why should the poets of these pregnant times,  
Be asked to sing of war's unholy crimes?

Further interrogations might add:

Why should the preachers of these pregnant times  
Be asked to pray for war's unholy crimes?

The people might murmur because of having to pay for war's unholy crimes; and this historian would prefer to write naught of war's unholy crimes. But history must be written, and a recital of unholy crimes ranging all the way from the smallest to the most heinous must be given, for war licenses every crime, turns loose every evil in the land and revels in all that adds to human misery. Other historians have

written of magnificent achievements, bravery, courage, daring, and of glorious victories; and on thousands of pages have been recorded the results of the folly that has allowed human beings to try to enlarge their sphere of happiness by making other human beings miserable. The history of Nemaha county will not of necessity be a record of much of the hell called war.

On May 26, 1861, the first war meeting in the county was held at Nemaha City, being presided over by E. T. Grubb. The object of the meeting was explained by Robert W. Furnas, and stirring addresses delivered by Col. J. D. Thompson, T. W. Tipton, Dr. McPherson and Dr. A. S. Holladay. On the 27th a meeting was held at Peru, and on the 28th one at Brownville. On June 8th the organization was effected of what was afterward known as Company C of the First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, with J. D. N. Thompson, captain; T. J. Majors, first lieutenant; Reuben Berger, second lieutenant, and W. A. Pollock, first sergeant. The company was located at Omaha for a short time, and then moved on to the seat of war. Many of the officers and privates of this company had previously belonged to the Home Guards. The Brownville Union Guards had been organized the January before with R. C. Berger, captain and J. H. Morrison and A. W. Mathews, lieutenants; and in May the Brownville Home Guards was organized, with O. B. Hewett, captain, and P. M. Martin and W. H. Hoover, lieutenants. Sometime during the year 1862 another organization was effected which was known as the Nemaha Cavalry company. J. S. Miniek was elected captain and George Crow and J. Standley, lieutenants. Another company was formed and named the Paddock Guards. The officers were A. W. Mathews, R. F. Barrett and W. H. Hill.

Besides these there were the Governor's Guards, the Peru Union Guards and the Nemaha City Guards. In the fall of 1862 three cavalry companies were formed for the Second Nebraska regiment. The officers for Company C were T. W. Bedford, J. W. Coleman and H. M. Atkins. Company E was officered by R. W. Furnas, Lewis Hill and J. H. Mann, with Dr. C. F. Stewart as post surgeon. Company M had for officers S. F. Cooper, O. B. Hewett and S. M. Chaplain. These three companies were composed from Nemaha county volunteers except that forty-five were from other localities. The funeral of Mr. Halanan was conducted as a military burial on the 19th of September, Mr. H. dying before he had gone forth to assist in the work of destroying life. The three cavalry companies, instead of being sent south to fight rebels, were sent to take part in the Blue Earth war to help subdue the Sioux Indians, who after suffering repeated wrongs at the hands of settlers, officers and missionaries, had broken out with hostilities and taken the lives of settlers along the Blue Earth river in Minnesota. Thirteen months later these companies were honorably mustered out of the service. Company C (infantry company) was mustered out of the service in 1864, though thirty-six of the 169 had answered the final summons and had not returned. Company C reenlisted, but became cavalrymen, and made a part of the Nebraska second, the officers being T. H. Griffin, David Smith and W. E. Majors, T. J. Majors having attained to the rank of major and W. A. Pollock had been mustered out as captain of the company some months before.

In addition to the companies named, many of the Nemaha county boys enlisted in Kansas, Iowa and Missouri regiments. Among the number were O. P.

Root and Nate Russell, who were two of the best soldiers in the Fifth Iowa cavalry; G. W. Fairbrother and John Hall were with Pennick in Missouri; J. C. Bousfield, John Tuxhorn and W. McIninch served in a Kansas regiment, and Fred Moore, John Thompson, George Hodkins, H. O. Minick, Ben Thompson and others had their part in different regiments and in different states. Both O. P. Root and Nate Russell are living and reside in Auburn. Mr. Russell, his brother, W. T. Russell, and sister, Mrs. Fuller, claim the proud distinction of being the first settlers in the county who are still living. Theodore Hill was appointed adjutant general, and R. W. Furnas was brigadier general, second brigade, Nebraska militia. The fidelity of the people of the county was always to be commended, and as early as 1858 when it was thought necessary to send soldiers to Utah a company was raised in the county, the officers being M. A. Clark, W. A. Finnev and B. B. Thompson. The services of these men were not required and they never left the county.

In writing of war's unholy crimes the history of Nemaha county tells not of battlefields, demolished fortifications, burned cities, devastated country or crowded hospitals where the bruised and mangled soldiers ended their suffering. And yet the curse of war was not an unknown curse in the county, for at almost every fireside there was a mother, wife, daughter or sister whose heart was beating in fearful anticipation of the evils which were to befall their sons, husbands, fathers and brothers. And today the sad stories of the curse of war are related.

The Nebraska First that went into the war with 169 men returned with but 123. Twenty-three had died in service, nine on the field of battle and fourteen succumbed before reaching home. Milton Go-

heen and Lorenzo Dow Foster, who went from Douglas precinct, enlisted in a Missouri regiment. Foster was killed in one of the first engagements, and Goheen had served out his period of enlistment and had his discharge in his pocket when he was killed by the explosion of a shell. Elisha M. Baker, James Vandeventer and a Mr. Jones, the two latter residing across the line in Richardson county, were those who enlisted in Pennick's regiment. Messrs. George Randall, Vandeventer and Jones were killed in the same engagement, and Mr. Baker is still living, but can tell stories of man's inhumanity to man when war's license is in force, and these recitals would shock the nerves of the barbarians in the days when crime ran unmolested. James Gruell and William Standley, members of the company of the first regiment that became a part of the second, lost their lives at Plum Creek, Nebraska, while away from the command looking for game. The party, consisting of three, was attacked by the Indians, and but one made his escape. Of those who enlisted from Douglas precinct but two-thirds of the number ever returned, and several of those who returned were physical wrecks; and too, the curse of alcoholism had fastened itself on a number to that extent that they were never restored to full manhood.

The army custom of appropriating the property of the enemy became quite prevalent, and later degenerated into brigandage, horse stealing and petty larceny. At the beginning of the war there were many to justify the course of the jayhawkers, for, as they contended, these bands of men only took property from those who were rebels against a good government. There were some cases where property was taken and afterward returned to the owners because it was made to appear that the owners were union men.

But it was not long until it was realized that when these men wanted horses they could easily find some excuse for taking them, no matter who was the owner. An "anti-jayhawk" meeting was held at Brownville December 16, 1861, and among those who took part in the proceedings were J. H. Mann, who now resides at Crete, George Crow, who resides in London precinct, and O. B. Hewett, C. W. Wheeler, T. W. Bedford, Richard Brown and others. The resolutions reported and adopted were:

There is reason to suppose that our civil laws, in the present unsettled condition of affairs, will not afford the people of this vicinity the protection to which they are entitled in quiet and peaceful times, therefore

Resolved, That we will use all means for the protection of the lives and property of those persons who have or may enter into this organization, and who shall take the oath to support the constitution of the United States.

Resolved, That any person who refuses to enter into this organization, for the general protection of the lives and property of our citizens, has no lawful right to expect protection at our hands.

It was further resolved that they would not recognize the right of any party of men to come into the county for the purpose of jayhawking or robbing without due process of law. At this time it had become evident that the prime object of the jayhawkers was plunder. A strong organization was effected, and Major General Hunter, commanding the department of Kansas, wrote Judge Wheeler, commending the course taken and adding, "It is necessary to organize for mutual protection." Captain Cleveland was a notorious jayhawker and on one occasion came to Brownville accompanied by seven men all loaded down with arms. He was invited to attend an anti-jayhawk meeting, which he did. He spoke of those

loyal to the flag and of those disloyal, and was wont to make it appear that those opposing jayhawkers were disloyal. At Peru one of Cleveland's men stepped up to a Mr. Long, took hold of his shoulder and asked if it were true that he had denounced jayhawkers as horse thieves. Mr. Long replied in the affirmative, when the fellow drew his revolver and fired. The ball struck Long between the eyes, making an ugly wound, but it was not fatal. Thinking his headquarters in Kansas a more congenial clime, Captain Cleveland decamped, and fearing that a sheriff and posse might be at his heels he arrested Sheriff Coleman (father of Mrs. S. W. McGrew, now of Auburn) and took him along until the county line was reached, when a good dinner was provided. after which Coleman was released and allowed to return. But Captain Cleveland and his men grew no better fast, and Major General Hunter issued a specific order for his extermination, and in 1863 he was overtaken and killed by United States soldiers. Thus between bands of jayhawkers, organizations of anti-jayhawkers, and minor offenders there was considerable unrest. On the 15th day of November, 1863, a span of horses was stolen from John Bennett near Brownville, and from that date until a heavy snow fall in December there was scarcely a night passed that there was not from one to three horses stolen. Many of the settlers at that time were forced by circumstances to go into the anti organization and then they were pronounced rebel sympathizers and their property was liable to disappear in the night. Several farmers disposed of their horses and did their work with cattle because horses were so handy for the fellows after plunder. On several occasions horse thieves were pursued by a posse of citizens and on one occasion one of the men was shot from the horse by the owner, who was one

of the pursuers. In the spring of '63 a family consisting of mother, four sons and one daughter rented a piece of what is now called the Gooseman farm, but it was quite apparent that they dealt more largely in horses than in the cultivation of the soil. The next winter J. H. and C. D. Dundas went down the east bank of the Nemaha to tear down a log house and make posts of the logs. As they neared the cabin three men with five horses rode away, and after stopping at the Gooseman place for some directions lit out in the direction of Nebraska City. A few hours later parties from Table Rock arrived and took the trail, which they pursued to Glenwood, Iowa, where they overtook the thieves and returned them to Pawnee City, where Judge Lynch put an end to their career and possibly frightened other offenders, for the family on the Gooseman place were soon on the move, as it was quite evident that they were familiar with the nocturnal raids through the county. A story floated about for many years to the effect that one of the jayhawkers or horse thieves whose home was near Peru, and whose name was Lowery, was taken by a mob and put under the ice in the Missouri river, but as dead men tell no tales and those who make them dead are about as reticent, there is no sworn testimony extant relative to the matter. Lowery may still be among the living, and may not.

Indian depredations in Nemaha county were almost unknown. The Pawnees and the Otoes made frequent visits in this section, but there were no outbreaks and but little stealing, yet both these tribes were notorious beggars. If they succeeded in killing large game, were given a quarter of beef or found a dead animal on the prairies, they generally feasted until it was all gone, and then went out to hunt for more. On one occasion a number of Otoe Indians



camped at the foot of the bluffs not far from Peru. Some days after they had broken camp Mr. Chase Horn was passing the spot and noticed an object on the ground where the wigwam had stood. It proved to be a squaw barely alive, while pressed to her bosom was her little girl baby. The woman lived but a short time and the child was taken and cared for by a family by the name of Chamberlain, who treated her as their own child as long as they lived, when she went to live with a daughter of the old couple who had married a man by the name of J. W. Bliss, and after the death of Mrs. Bliss Junetta, as she was called, succeeded to a place in the affection of Mr. B., who at present is editor of the Republican at Greenleaf, Kansas. Why this squaw and her child were deserted is not known and probably never will be. It was certainly a strange case, and especially so for Otoe Indians, who generally bury their dead with considerable ceremony. It was the custom among the Indians to bury their dead in a large grave and with them to bury their guns, tomahawks and even their ponies, so that they would be ready to come forth when the great Dogobattle beat his gong on the resurrection morn.

The north, south and west boundary lines of the county were established by act of the legislature and they have remained unchanged, but the east line of the county could not be found with an X-ray machine. The center of the current of the Missouri river was made the east line of the state, hence was the east line of the county, but as the said center of the current has changed with almost every moon it has been difficult to tell just when some parties residing on that stream became Missourians, if the center of the current had continued to mark the boundary. About the year 1857 Samuel G. Daily planted

a saw mill about two blocks east of Main street in Peru. The title was in fee simple and not disputed, but after the same had been sold to Green & Baker steps were taken by the river to secure the land, and there was no court in the territory that could enjoin it and see that it so much as waited the action of the court. The proprietors removed the mill but the lands were confiscated. Since that time the river, as though sorry for its rash acts, has withdrawn a distance of one mile and now there is a question as to who owns the abandoned lands. At times teams have passed dry shod from the west bank over to Sonora island, and again steamboats have plowed through the waters. Hog-thief island, south of Brownville, has once or twice disappeared and again loomed up. Where the county and state fair was held one mile below Brownville, there the river rolls in its majesty and mud. Where the flouring and lumber mills stood at the foot of Main street the river has sloshed and slopped and carried off many acres, and again become disgusted and gone over to the Missouri side, and the railroad has had to move back at different places. During the summer of 1867 a large bend in the river that was a part of Peru precinct, was cut off by a caprice of the angry stream that shortened the distance to St. Joe about twenty miles by cutting across a narrow neck of the land. And when the first boat came along after the change in channel had been made it was compelled to take the short route. But this was its last trip, for it was wrecked on the bar and one life was lost. The land cut off by this freak of the turbulent stream and left to the mercy of the blood-thirsty Missourian, was, by the commissioners, made Island precinct. And now when the inhabitant of this island desires to pay taxes he goes over into Missouri, north into Iowa, where at Hamburg he

takes the train for a fifty mile ride to the county seat. The office seeker, or vote seeker, generally has a blank of a time if he goes to the island after votes, for he returns feeling sure that he has the vote of the precinct in his pocket. But when the returns get in he generally finds out that the count either stands 21 to 22 or 22 to 21, and his long ride did not bear the fruits he expected.

While some of the voters of the county were away hunting for gold in the mountains, or were in the service there were those left who were ready to serve the county or the state in an official capacity, and there were those to favor and those to oppose, so that each year there was a campaign, a squabble and then some shouting over the victories and some cussing because of defeat. The successful aspirants in 1859 were John P. Baker, Jesse Noel, George Crow and W. H. Keeling, representatives; C. W. Wheeler, probate judge; D. C. Sanders, Allen Philips and Jesse Cole, commissioners; W. H. Hoover, register of deeds; T. W. Bedford, clerk; Jacob Strickler, treasurer; A. L. Coute, surveyor, and J. B. Wells, sheriff. In 1860 T. W. Tipton, councilman; Thomas Fisher, James Hacker, George Bean and J. P. Baker, representatives, and Charles Brochers, commissioner, were the successful candidates. In 1861 John McPherson, councilman; A. S. Halladay, George Crow, William Reed and J. P. Crother, representatives; John Barnes, W. Denman, commissioners; W. H. Hoover, clerk; John Morrison, treasurer; E. Grubb, surveyor, and James Coleman, sheriff; in 1862 Thomas R. Fisher, councilman; John P. Crother, A. D. Skeen, Jesse, John and W. B. Philips, representatives; S. W. Kenneda, W. S. Horn, C. Brochers, commissioners, and C. P. Richardson, coroner. In 1863 C. G. Dorsey, G. W. Fairbrother, Joseph Lash, Lorenzo Rice, representa-

tives; Herman Utrecht, commissioner; Jonas Hacker, treasurer, James Hacker, surveyor; W. G. Glasgow, sheriff; David Gwinn, coroner; D. C. Sanders, judge.

The state of Nemaha, as some of the politicians of the state have called this county, has generally taken a hand in filling the officers of the territory or state. In 1859 Samuel G. Daily was elected as a delegate to congress, though it is claimed that one year before he was the only member of the state legislature who avowed himself a republican. He was avowedly opposed to slavery, and was outspoken, and though not a college bred individual he filled creditably the office, and the following year successfully distanced J. Sterling Morton, and in 1862 was again elected by a large vote. Mr. Daily made many friends, and in 1864 was appointed deputy collector of the port of New Orleans, and died in that city the following year.

During the days of carnage the education of the young was, of course, measurably forgotten. There were several district schools in the villages and perhaps a half dozen school houses in country districts where schools were taught for three months in each year, and occasionally a few months of subscription school would be held. The writer of these lines had his first experience as a teacher in Peru precinct, where he was hired to teach a subscription school; was paid seventy-five cents per day and "boarded around." In Douglas precinct in 1865 there were eighteen families making their homes, but "nary" a school house or church, though the Baptists held meetings in a small log house near where the flouring mills now stand east of Auburn, and the Protestant and Methodist people occasionally had preaching at the Sage farm in what is now the west room of the old building opposite the Talmage house. In those

days everybody went to "church." The young people from the "Sage settlement" were often in attendance at meeting and Sunday school at Highland, at Glenrock, at Rock Creek school—near what is now Julian—and at the "Starr Settlement"—north of where Brock now stands,—and to these congregations Uncle Wray Taylor loved to preach, for, as he put it, 'the common people heard him gladly.' Some of those of the early sixties remember an incident that may be mentioned as characteristic of western push. A man who with his family had come from the backwoods of Arkansas, rode to Brownville on a fractious mule, and becoming worse for the drink he lost his life by being thrown from the mule and kicked on the head. A local preacher from Glenrock preached the funeral sermon, which he turned into a revival exhortation, took all the members of the family of the deceased into the church, and then waited only for dinner until he took them to the Nemaha and administered baptism. One of the preachers who used to draw large audiences was an Arkansas Southern Methodist. He was extremely ungrammatical, un-rhetorical and illogical, and always crowded to the front if possible, and always began by saying: "Brethren and cistern, it isn't for no worldly honor that I get up here to make an explay of my ignorance." And yet August Reimers, Perry Whitlow, Henry, James and Dance Culwell and the Harmon boys can remember sitting for two hours to listen to the "explay of ignorance" and hear him sing with such abrupt stops and starts that every note would have been wrenched from the staff had it not been for the fact that 'the good Lord taught him to sing without no songs.' In those days a real old style Methodist campmeeting was held once a year, and besides these there were many "basket meetings" which generally held for

two days. On one occasion while a campmeeting was being held on Honey Creek someone sent a bogus telegram stating that the Indians were massacring settlers about Beatrice and requesting that a hundred men at once get ready to start the following day under the command of Judge O. P. Mason. The recruiting for the church was turned into recruiting for the army that was to go at once to the battle-field. Wives wept as their husbands came forward and enrolled their names; young men said goodbye to their sweethearts, and then there was some more weeping. Some of the boys would not wait for orders. Some of them got as far as the Nemaha river, while a few went on to Beatrice where they found no Indians to encounter, and returned to report that they had saved Beatrice.

In the year 1865 was begun the agitation of the question of building an academy or college at Peru. The first move in this direction was when Major Daily refused to give one dollar toward building a church, but offered to give \$500 for a school building. Dr. Neal said he would give as much as any other man, and W. W. Smith, who was blacksmithing at the time, gave a deed to eighty acres of land worth \$800, and Giles Reeder, Jonathan Higgins and others came to the front with enough contributions to warrant going ahead with the enterprise, and on March 27, 1866, several hundred men, women and children were in attendance at the laying of the corner stone of Mt. Vernon college. The building, 40x80 feet and three stories high, was erected, and by the 23rd of the following December several rooms had been plastered, and the school which had been in progress for some months in an old store building, convened in these rooms. This school was

under the auspices of the Methodist church, but it was soon evident that there were a considerable number of the young men in attendance who had no inclination to sit by and hear anything that in anyway disagreed with their religious "bringing up." And it was soon realized that even a small schoolbuilding could not be completed and a school continued without more funds. At the next session of the legislature Messrs. William Daily and T. J. Majors, who represented the county in the council and house of representatives, tendered the property to the state for a normal school. The proposition was accepted, and \$3,000 was appropriated to finish the building; and besides this twenty sections of saline lands lying in Lancaster county were set aside as an endowment. The first board of education for the said normal school consisted of Superintendent of Public Instruction Beals, State Treasurer Sweet, S. P. Majors, D. C. Cole, J. F. Neal, A. B. Fuller and William Daily, and this board held its first meeting in August, 1868, and October 24, 1869, the first regular term of the normal school was begun. Since that date there have been added improvements to grounds and buildings every year, and the attendance has increased and the scholarship each year improved. Today the state normal school is the pride not only of Nemaha county, but of the entire state. Hundreds of young men and young women have gone out well equipped for the work of imparting knowledge to the young, and have almost invariably proven successful teachers. At the session of the legislature of 1871 a law was enacted giving a one-fourth of one mill tax for a new building and from this fund (\$30,000) the school building was erected.

June 1, 1862, a wealthy merchant came from New York, bought the quarter section which is now

a part of the city of Auburn, and began preparations to spend many thousands of dollars in improvements. A costly edifice was to be erected just where the Talmage house now stands, and the gentleman and his wife were making great plans. The wife was perfectly delighted with Nebraska, but one day when she was telling Mrs. Sage about how near they were going to live and how handy it would be to visit, the old lady bluntly remarked, "If you build there I will have no chicken range." This was a heavy blow and the poor woman cried until the return of her husband and then said, "Take me back to New York." Nebraska became to have a very dark and gloomy appearance; the sun did not shine as beautiful as it did, and three days later the couple took their departure for New York, and never returned to trespass on anyone's chicken range.

In the fall of 1862 while Washington and John Sage were felling a tree near where Horrum's brick yard now is, the tree broke and fell, catching Washington in such a manner as to crush one of his legs and hold him fast. John ran home for the father who when he came was wholly unable to release the suffering boy, and could only hold his head and bathe his brow until life had gone. From this shock Mr. Sage never recovered.

In October, 1863, George Homewood began hauling stone and declared his intention to put in a mill, and single handed and alone he toiled for many months until he had the building up, the machinery in and the Nemaha river harnessed thereto. This is the Taylor mill east of Auburn and it has been busy ever since, resting only for repairs and improvements. About 1868 Messrs. Thompson and Loveless began work at a point five miles farther down the stream, and within a few months they were grinding corn



and, obeying the orders of Zerrubbabel, they continued to "build on" until it became a grinding monopoly and groaning success. It is today known as the Curtis mill and is still in the ring. During the summer of 1870 D. C. Sanders attached a circular saw to the moving waters at a point farther up stream and began sawing lumber for the erection of a flouring mill, but long before the mill was completed Mr. Sanders went down in the saw pit to do some work and came in contact with the saw, which inflicted a wound from which he died some weeks later. The mill was bought by John Walton, who fell short of making a fortune out of it and later it fell into the hands of W. H. Hawley. Near this mill J. M. Campbell opened a small store in the early seventies. Later came a blacksmith shop, a postoffice, a notary public hung out his sign, and the little city by the mill was named Howard, but was called Podunk, Pinhook, Dannebrog, etc., but there was not enough in a name, or a half dozen names, to check its growth. It is now the proud city of Brock and J. M. Campbell is still on deck selling goods. The mill became the property of William Starr in 1873 and until a few months since he has been very busy keeping the wheels turning and hauling an excellent grade of flour to surrounding towns. Late in the sixties E. M. Long and John Sage conceived the idea of putting in a small mill on Long's branch north and west from what is now the Sheridan cemetery. An engineer was secured, who with a carpenter's level and a fish pole ascertained that there was a fall of twenty-four feet to the mile. Work was begun, but about the time \$100 had been expended more practical eyes doubted there being so great a fall and another survey was taken and work was at once abandoned. The steam flouring mills at Peru, as some tell the story, "went

into liquidation." The wheels stopped never to go again and the building would have become the haunts of the bat and the mole had not the citizens cleared away the dust of ages and converted it into a city hall and opera house.

In the spring of 1863 there arose trouble between some parties in Atchison county, Missouri, and a rather quiet individual was forced to fight or run. He chose to fight and was too many for his assailants. Some days later this man, whose name was Nathan Handley, had come to work for old Mr. Dodd, three miles west of Brownville, and was one day called upon by several mounted men who told him that he must go to Brownville to testify before a justice of the peace, and compelled him to mount one of the horses behind one of the men named La Folet, while Kit Richardson and a younger brother rode behind. When about half way to Brownville Handley undertook to make his escape and was riddled with bullets, over a dozen passing through his body. The men succeeded in making their escape into Missouri, but the leader, La Folet, was later arrested and lodged in jail where he died some weeks afterward.

The county commissioners in 1864 found it necessary to remove the old bridge of cottonwood poles across the Nemaha known as Long's bridge, and the contract for a new bridge was let to C. W. Wheeler. The stone piers which still support the bridge, are twenty-five feet in height and the stones were laid in cement that cost eleven dollars a barrel. The men who hauled the stone were paid \$4.50 per day and the oak lumber came so high that when two of the floor plank had been stolen by a minister who resided where M. T. Conner now lives, it cost just fourteen dollars to get two plank to complete the bridge. It cost the pastorate twice fourteen dollars besides the loss of his pastorate.

During the winter of 1864 several companies of the Nebraska Second returned from their chase after the Sioux in Northern Minnesota and Dakota, and were mustered out at Brownville, and it was a "business day" for the dozen or more saloons then in operation. While a soldier was on duty on lower Main street a man who had been drinking and had lost his month's wages, came staggering up to the guard and demanded that he be given the gun. The guard ordered him to halt, but he advanced, declaring that he would have the gun. At this point an officer who was on the opposite side of the street cried out, "Guard, do your duty." The guard fired and the man fell dead at his feet.

May 1, 1866, a tornado swept over the country, but did no great damage except at Brownville, where about \$6,000 worth of property was destroyed. The Christian church was unroofed and the south wall blown down. Loveless' house was unroofed. Hill & Co.'s ware house lost its roof. Den's ware house was demolished. The First Presbyterian church was blown from its foundation. Foster's house was unroofed, the flouring mill damaged to the amount of \$500, and many of the bravest citizens were scared to that extent that they were never able to say just what was the measure of damages sustained.

In 1867 Nebraska, that for some time had been looking hopefully forward to statehood, was allowed to don the new dress and take her place in the sisterhood of states. Then it was that there were many looking hopefully forward and making predictions as to the future greatness of the state of Nebraska. One of the students at Mt. Vernon college in his speech at the close of the term reviewed the progress that had been made, and that was being made, and the intellectual advancement at the time so pronounced, and said,

"Ere a quarter of a century shall pass railroads will cross the state, and on to the Rockies, and this magnificent building on which we now look with so much pride will stand as a monument sacred to the memory of those who by their industry and enterprise placed it here as a beacon star to future generations."

But a few years passed until the railroads had crossed the state, gone on to the Rockies, and still on to the Pacific coast, but it was some time before the panting of the iron horse was heard in Nemaha county.

"One night in June," as they sing, while several farmers in Glen Rock precinct were not so much as dreaming of Indian raids, there was grand larceny stalking abroad, and they awoke the next morning to find their corrals empty, and no note on the table to tell the tale of the goneness of their bovines. About sixty head of cattle had disappeared, and there was no sign of Indians having been about and the work could not have been done by wolves. One man who had lost twenty-seven head struck a trail and followed it to the north and when near the Cass county line he met his cows, some of which had left calves at home, and they were on the return trip. Then followed other members of the herd until all were found except a large yoke of oxen, the property of Henry Hooper, and the following November the oxen were found near Louisville where they had been sold to a farmer. The pesky thief, who had been staying in the neighborhood for some time, had "bit off more than he could chew," but would probably have been successful had it not been that the production of lacteal fluid was greater than the demand, and the cows longed to return to their "loved ones at home."

As provided by law appraisers were appointed in 1868 by the county clerk to appraise the school lands lying within the county, and the values fixed ranged

seven to ten dollars per acre except for timbered land, which was much higher. The sales took place some weeks later and in most cases parties who had settled on the lands bought it at the prices affixed by the appraisers. At these sales A. W. Morgan and Anthony P. Cogswell of Brownville bought the southeast quarter of section sixteen in Douglas precinct, and at once announced that the same was in the center of the county, hence would be the location for the county seat. These men secured a deed to one forty, surveyed and platted the same as Sheridan and held a public sale of city lots, at which nearly \$1,000 worth of lots were sold. The following season Wesley Dundas opened a small store, secured a postoffice, a commission as notary public and was elected justice of the peace, and from that day Sheridan loomed up as the live competitor for the county seat. The old stage coach came this way, making tri-weekly trips from Brownville to Beatrice, and a ride across the prairies on a beautiful day seated by the talkative driver, was an enjoyable trip; but a ride of the same distance on a cold day while the roads were rough was an occasion for many an "intellectual bump," and an occasional swear word.

In these early days court week, or court weeks, loomed up as a drawing card and the attendance at district court, and sometimes in probate court, was very large. In those good old days there was considerable "legal legerdemain, judicial jugglery and court cussedness," and at the same time there was fun for the fellows who had no part in paying the fiddler. On one occasion while Cyrus W. Wheeler, who was one of the meekest men on earth, was presiding as probate judge he had occasion to reprimand the attorneys, who in turn added insult to impudence, when the dignity of the court was made manifest to the at-

torney by the judge, who hurled an inkstand at his head and bespotted his linen. He then exacted a fine for contempt of court not only from the attorneys but from the judge. In district court there was a hotly contested case and John Long, who was perhaps the best known man in the county, was a witness. The lawyer wore a "boiled shirt" and was considerably overbearing toward the witness, asking questions only to aggravate. This was too much for Long, who rose to his feet and besmeared the lawyer's shirt bosom with about a pint of amber. This created quite a commotion and it looked as though a free for all fight would follow; but the judge restored order and fined Long \$5.00 for contempt of court. "Cheap enough," cried Long, as he reached into his jeans and drew forth money enough to pay several dozen such fines. The records of the courts, if preserved, will tell that the county at one time had a judge of probate who frequently had a horrid spell, as he would "suppeny Tomes Doe to appeer on Weusday at the court house in Brownvil Nimehaw county to testify in a case where S. B is playntef and H. B. defendent;" and yet it was claimed that his decisions were just and were never reversed by a higher court. One of the lawyers who used to be very insulting to witnesses tackled a lengthy Kentuckian, who very soon lost his temper and despite the orders of the court and the request of the sheriff, seized the lawyer by the foretop and pasted him one over the ear. As it happened the foretop came off and a bald head went over against a chair. The lengthy Kentuckian held the wig in his hand and looked bewildered, not knowing whether he was guilty of high treason, grand larceny or of having discovered a crowned head. And the lawyer looked up and congratulated himself over the fact that he had been built in sections, hence could not be hang up a la Absalom,

On July 4, 1867, one of the orators of the day was the Methodist minister at Brownville who arose on the wings of eloquence and beat his patriotic breast with his manly fist, making for himself a reputation as an orator. Some weeks later there was sorrowing and sadness abroad when a telegram received at Brownville announced that the Rev. — had fallen into the Missouri river at Omaha and was drowned. It was later learned that he had fallen a victim to the charms of the hired girl and had made his way to Canada.

Near the close of the year 1868 Dr. A. S. Holliday, who had filled many official positions in the city of Brownville, the county of Nemaha, the territory of Nebraska and as surgeon in the army, decided that it was time that Nemaha county have another newspaper, and not many weeks elapsed until the Brownville Democrat was launched in the hands of Calhoun & Vancil. This paper changed hands several times but was the property of Mr. Holliday until 1875 when, having been rechristened the Nemaha County Granger, it became the property of George B. Moore, who for eleven years successfully managed and ably edited, disposing of the same in 1886 to the present proprietors. The files of the Democrat and of the Daily Democrat, which lived for over four months, were destroyed by fire in January, 1891, at the time of the burning of Dundas' store building and the Bennett & Higgins livery stable.

Early in the year 1869 Jacob K. Bear, agent for the U. S. Express company at Brownville, was found at a late hour of the night sweltering in his blood and groaning with pain. After he had so far recovered as to tell the story he told that he had been sandbagged, shot and robbed of several hundred dollars while returning from the office. The company provided a

better safe for the office and offered a reward for the arrest and conviction of the robber. The robber was not caught, and there were those to pronounce the affair a grand farce or rather fishy. On the 28th of August Mr. Bear went about the city squaring up his grocery and meat accounts, and the next morning the express office was not opened as usual, but the editors of the Democrat received the following letter:

“Holliday & Calhoun—I suppose before you read this you will have heard the rumor that I have absconded with a large amount of money, which you can believe is true, and no mistake. The amount is about \$12,000. Suppose you will get a job of printing circulars, giving a full description of me, when the superintendent (Mr. Quick) comes down. You can show him this, and I recommend that you get out as good a poster or hand bill as he will need to distribute over the country. Wonder how much reward they will offer for my arrest? Expect it will be pretty large, though. There is one thing, however, that you can give me credit for, and that is this. I don't leave Brownville owing different parties any money, not even the printer, as I have paid all my just debts. Well, I expect when you hear from me next it will be to the effect that I am in the hands of an officer, as I know there are ninety-nine chances that I will be caught to one that I will escape; but I prefer to take the one chance for \$12,000. There is only one thing that I feel sorry for, and that is my wife, but I don't think she will trouble herself much about me (at least I would advise her not to). Won't this make a splendid local for you?  
J. K. BEAR.”

A reward of \$2,000 was offered, but the Bear seemed to successfully evade the hounds of the law; but after an absence of many months returned, penitent from the ground up. He told with tears in his voice and a tremor in his eyes, how he had lost money by gambling and dared not face the music; how he chose between suicide and flight, and having decided to flee the country he had



taken the available cash of the company which he had in a closed tin box, but that as he stepped into the skiff to cross the river he had dropped the box into the river. He further confessed that the wound he received when he reported that he was sandbagged, was inflicted by his own hand, and that the reason that the jugular vein was not severed by the ball was because he pulled the loose skin of the neck away from the vein and fired the ball through the fold. The presiding judge sentenced him to a term of twelve months in the penitentiary, but only three months elapsed until he was pardoned by the governor, and his wife, who had secured a divorce, like the old maid, concluded that she would rather be "squz by a bear than not squz at all," and again became Mrs. Bear. Since this event there has been a great amount of speculation as to what was done with the money, and young men have seen visions and old men have dreamed dreams about the hidden treasure, and the ground about the house where Mr. Bear resided has been "plowed deep" by those who read in the stars that the money was there. Mr. Bear is still living and Dame Rumor has several times reported that he had visited Brownville and looked longingly over the garden wall, as though looking for the lost money.

At the election in 1864 A. S. Holliday was elected councilman; George Crow, Samuel Pettit, W. B. Philips, J. W. Taylor, representatives; Forest Amsden and Henry Steinman, commissioners; Jonas Hacker, treasurer; W. G. Glasgow, sheriff; James M. Hacker, surveyor; W. H. Hoover, clerk; David Gwinn, corner and D. C. Sanders, probate judge. In 1865 W. A. Polock, W. B. Philips and John Greene were the representatives; G. W. Fairbrother, probate judge, F. G. Holmes, commissioner; W. F. Wright, surveyor

and C. P. Ricardson, coroner. In 1866 T. J. Majors was councilman; W. Daily, Louis Waldter, C. F. Heywood and George Crow, representatives; Philip Starr, commissioner. In 1867 S. M. Rich was senator; G. W. Fairbrother, W. G. Glasgow, D. C. Sanders and W. A. Pollock, representatives; A. W. Morgan, probate judge; James M. Hacker, county clerk; G. W. Bratton, treasurer; D. Plasters, sheriff, B. Ottens, coroner; O. B. Hewett, school superintendent and James McGee, commissioner. In 1868 T. J. Majors was state senator; J. S. Church, H. Steinman, G. R. Shook and George Crow, representatives, and A. J. Ritter, commissioner; in 1869 W. Daily, senator; H. O. Minick, representative; M. M. Conner, coroner; Julius Gilbert, surveyor; C. Harms, commissioner, and S. W. McGrew, superintendent; in 1870 E. W. Thomas, senator; W. Daily, S. P. Majors, G. R. Shook, and D. C. Sanders, representatives (Mr. Sanders died before the beginning of the session and De Forest Porter was elected to fill vacancy); H. O. Minick, commissioner.

The village of Hillsdale is no more, there being not so much as a postoffice to commemorate its past greatness. Hillsdale was located at the foot of the bluffs of the Missouri river in township 4, range 16, the original proprietors being John and Delilah McFarlin and D. H. and J. S. Hamlin, and the surveying and platting was done by James M. Hacker June 25, 1866. At this point a saw-mill was conducted by Messrs. George and John Shook, and for a number of years the trade in lumber was immense. Today there is a large number of farmers in Nemaha county who look back to the days when they secured land and then cast about for some means to raise the wherewith to erect a shanty and make improvements. At Shook's mill they were always given a chance to ex-

change labor for lumber or to buy on credit, hence many availed themselves of the opportunity and faithfully met their obligations, but there were others to take advantage of the opportunity but never returned an equivalent. A large two story school building was erected at Hillsdale, the best of teachers employed, and for some time the little city ranked high as an educational center, while today there are those who have made their marks in the world and now look back with a feeling of pride and gratitude as they speak of the school where they received the first inspiration in the acquisition of knowledge.

During the five years following the close of the war school houses were built in almost every school district in the county, and spelling schools, cyphering matches and debating societies, the great educators for youths, adults and sometimes the aged, sprang into existence and did a noble part toward furnishing entertainment for the young and awakening an interest along educational lines. It is possible that Dr. McGrew has not often related his first experience in a Nemaha county debating society, hence it may as well go down in history. The doctor had graduated in medicine as well as in the arts and sciences, and had come west to help make the west mighty. He attended a debating society and was of course the first choice on the affirmative of a very simple question. He arose and bowed more gracefully than was the custom, and indulged in a lengthy review of the benefit to accrue from these societies, stating that when he first attempted to speak in public he could say but very little on any question. He then made a weak effort to speak on the question, but as there was neither science, medicine nor politics in the question he did not succeed in the debate. He was followed by Elbert Phillips, a sixteen-year-old lad who was

familiar with Nebraska ways. He failed to see what sort of a human specimen the "dude from Pennsylvania" could have been before a flash from the intellectual corner of some debating society lit up his dark cranium, and wondered if a few years spent in the intellectual west wouldn't bring him up to an average. Some years later, after the doctor had served as superintendent of public instruction he remarked that he found the west greatly advanced to what he expected to find it, "For," said he, "I find many a graduate of an eastern college living in a sod house, country school teachers who are away up in the sciences, and sixteen-year-old lads who can carry off the prize at a debating society."

In the summer of 1864 a train of freight wagons was loaded at Brownville and started to Santa Fe, New Mexico, but before they had reached the west line of Kansas, and while within a few miles of a government fort it was overhauled by a band of Indians who would have gotten away with the whole outfit had not the soldiers at the fort been appraised of the attack and hastened to the relief of the teamsters, most of whom had lost their lives in the first attack. Albert Edwards, now a resident of Johnson county, was shot, scalped and left for dead, but he recovered, though he still suffers from the scalp wound. His cousin, who is a brother of Green Edwards of this county, lost his life.

As early as 1857 a company was organized in Brownville for the purpose of building a railroad west to Fort Kearney, but, as may be concluded, the proposition did not materialize. But ten years later (May 1867) the Brownville, Fort Kearney and Pacific Railroad company was organized. The sum of \$100,000 was subscribed by Brownville people, and at the first meeting John McPherson, was elected president and Charles Dorsey, secretary. The incorporators were

McPherson, Carson, Lett, Hoadley, Hewett, Lushbough, Furnas, Atkinson, Wheeler, Dorsey, Hoover, Church, Thomas, Colhapp, Worthing, Hill, Bedford, Cogswell, Blackburn, and Halladay. On the 7th of January, 1868, an election was held on the question of bonding the county in the sum of \$118,000 to assist in the construction of the road and 523 out of the 1006 votes cast were in favor of the issuing of said bonds. But be it understood there were not a few illegal votes cast. When the bonds were declared carried, R. W. Furnas, J. McPherson and County Commissioner Holmes were selected as a committee to go to Washington to endeavor to secure a land grant. To defray the expense of Commissioner Holmes the county board appropriated \$500 from the general fund, and then came a storm of indignation. Public meetings were held at Glenrock and Aspinwall, and at Nemaha City the voters resolved that the whole official career of Mr. Holmes showed a lack of judgment, consistency and appreciation of the rights and interests of the people.' At London an indignation meeting was held and the railroad election was branded as a cheat and a fraud. The committee that went to Washington secured the co-operation of T. W. Tipton, who had a short time before taken his seat in the United States senate, but though they toiled earnestly they failed to secure the grant. During this time the St. Joe & Council Bluffs road was constructed along the east bank of the Missouri river, and came within two and one-half miles of Brownville; and this for some time furnished an outlet, but the people of Brownville determined to have a road of their own and worked hard to secure a line from Kirksville, Missouri, that should cross the river at Brownville, and there was some grading done across the bottoms. The Midland Pacific Railway company,

later the Nebraska Railway company, had expended about \$50,000 in grading south and east from Nebraska City, and in the winter of 68-69 an act was passed providing that 500,000 acres of internal improvement lands accruing to Nebraska should be given to aid in construction of railroads, and that 2,000 acres per mile should be given so soon as ten miles of road should be constructed and the rolling stock thereon. The first ten miles of the Brownville, Fort Kearney & Pacific road was graded, bridged, in some places with bridges and in other places with brush, stumps, etc., the track laid and an engine pulled several freight cars over the line. And then the land grant was reached for. And not many months passed until the road-bed was overgrown with weeds, but the track was not hidden, for lo, both rails and ties had been "loaned" to the Midland that was building along the river. Of the \$118,000 voted the company received its \$40,000 for the first ten miles of road completed, but the remaining \$78,000 were cancelled, as the transfer of right of way "loaning" of rails and ties, to the Midland did not fill the requirements under which bonds were issued. Brownville precinct, which then embraced what is now Brownville and London precincts, voted \$100,000 to the road, and the city of Brownville severed a jugular vein by voting \$59,000 in 8 per cent twenty year bonds to the same road. Peru precinct voted \$28,000 to the Midland Pacific, and Nemaha and Aspinwall precincts each voted \$4,500 for the same road. Hence for a time the railroad bonded indebtedness of the county, precincts and city of Brownville amounted to \$196,500. The legality of the \$100,000 bond issue by Brownville and London precinct was questioned, and no small amount of lawing and ill feeling was had; and long after Peru, Aspinwall and Nemaha City

precincts had wiped out their indebtedness a compromise was effected between the holders of a large portion of the bonds and the taxpayers of the precincts and new bonds were issued, the precinct saving considerable by the compromise. as the settlement was made on a basis of  $33\frac{1}{3}$  per cent of bonds and accrued interest. The Midland Pacific, or Nebraska Trunk line, as it was afterwards called, did not complete its road to Brownville until the spring of 1874, and several years elapsed until it was extended to Nemaha City, which continued to be its southern terminus until 1881.

During the latter sixties there was considerable agitation over what was generally called the "herd law." Those improving farms were anxious to be protected against the ravages of neighbors' stock, though they had but very little, if any fence and the older settlers who had for years allowed their stock to roam at large, formed themselves into warring factions. Both sides to the contest held meetings, passed resolutions and circulated petitions and remonstrances. At one meeting held in Douglas precinct those opposing the law restraining stock from running at large, held an indignation meeting, denounced the law as unconstitutional, abominable, etc., and a flagrant outrage upon the right of the citizens. At one of the meetings when both sides of the question were being discussed one man got a real campmeeting warming up, and brought the house down with the declaration, "A few days ago I was over in Missouri where the herd law isn't in access, and there I saw 450 head of cattle in one swarm and one man consumed them all." The windy orator probably meant that one man assumed charge of the whole herd. But be this as it may the outraged people forgot their grievances and raised such a laugh that the man concluded he had established his reputation as an orator.

Some one has hinted that booze has ever cut quite a swath in the work of breaking laws, increasing human misery and raising Texas generally, and of its cussedness history must some times speak, yet not all of its diabolical work can be noted, for, in bible language, "The world itself would not contain the books" if all were written. On one occasion David Campbell, who was city marshal at Brownville, arrested a boisterous "drunk" by the name of Wells, but before he had lodged him in the cooler Wells' father-in-law, a Mr. Campbell, put in an appearance and said that Wells could not be taken to jail. Marshal Campbell handed Wells over to Constable Lannon and turned his attention to Campbell, who drew a large knife and showed fight, and for a few moments the battle waged and resulted in Campbell being tamed in with the "billy" while Marshal Campbell was badly slashed and cut with the knife, and during this encounter Wells showed fight, but by a liberal use of the club he too was tamed, and with the assistance of by-standers both men were lodged in jail and paid the price of their folly. Marshal Campbell was badly hurt and would certainly have lost his life had it not been for Frank Scofield, who kicked the drunken man's hand and sent the knife flying across the street. On one occasion a wooden legged man by the name of Stevens attacked a man by the name of Gibson and almost disemboweled him before he could be arrested; and yet, strange as it may appear, but a few weeks elapsed from the time that the bowels were replaced and the wounds sewed up, until Gibson was about and to all appearances a well man. Three men were reported dead after a jug of whiskey had been swallowed at a country hoedown on the Nemaha; but the next morning it was learned that they were only dead drunk, and possessed of no serious wounds.



In August, 1870, Rus Philips came up from Southwestern Kansas with a half dozen young horses that he represented he had bought from the Indians. He traded some of the horses to his father for a pony team, but had not moved on when parties came on from Kansas, claimed the horses and secured Philips' arrest. He was lodged in jail at Brownville awaiting a requisition, but two days later twisted a piece of stovepipe into shape and unlocked the door, stole the lock, went back to his father's place near Highland Baptist church, and after getting what he wanted to eat, he saddled one of his father's horses and rode about the neighborhood flourishing his revolver and demonstrating that he was a crack shot. The father dare not remonstrate and the family and many of the neighbors who had known him for years were terrorized. The next day it was reported that he had been seen in company with two men who from appearance were birds of the same feather, and several farmers guarded their horses that night. The next morning it was reported that parties had attempted to enter the residence of Wyman Kent but being met by a faithful dog a fight ensued. The dog was stabbed and killed and a saddle blanket was left where the horses had been tied. This of course confirmed the belief that Rus and his pals were bent on deviltry, and before nine o'clock a posse of perhaps fifty farmers was out in search of the men who, as they believed, were secreteed somewhere in the neighborhood. The country was scoured for miles, and a report that three men on horseback had crossed the Nemaha near Glenrock mills and gone west, lead a party of about a dozen to take the trail which they learned was the trail of three farmers from near Nebraska City who were going out to buy some cattle. The hunt was kept up until about four o'clock in the afternoon, when the horse

that Philips had taken away was found tied in a corn field on the farm of Calvin Phippenney. A line of march was formed and near the center of the field Philips was discovered lying by a straw stack with his revolver ready for the emergency. As soon as his pursuers caught sight of him two shots were fired. One ball inflicted a severe scalp wound and the other lodged in his back near the spine. He was lodged in jail, and later taken to Kansas, but the parties having recovered their horses preferred to move on rather than remain to testify against him, and he was soon after set at liberty. The grand jury investigated the matter but failed to indict, but about two years later Philips brought suit in the federal court against a number of the farmers who were in the gang and after lawing for some time a compromise was effected by the payment of several hundred dollars as damages by reason of the wounds received. After the shooting it was learned that Philips was in no wise connected with the supposed attempt to burglarize the house of Mr. Kent, for Dr. Collins and a brother who had been to Brownville and were returning so full of bad whiskey that they didn't know "straight up," admitted to being proprietors of the lost saddle blanket and of being the parties who won in the encounter with the dog.

The county agricultural fair was another enterprise of the county which stepped aside during the dark days of carnage, and not until September, 1867, was a county fair held, but this was quite successful. The premium lists were large and the awards satisfactory. At this fair were exhibited turnips twenty-six inches in circumference, beets twenty inches long and twenty inches in circumference; five ears of corn weighing seven pounds; carrots two feet long; pumpkins five feet in circumference, and the display of

plums, grapes, peaches, apples, etc., was decidedly encouraging. The state fair was held on the county fair grounds the years 1870 and 1871, and the same was attended by a large number from all parts of the state. The grounds were located about one mile south of Brownville, and in 1873 another county fair was held, but the exhibit was not large and from this time on, owing to the ravages by grasshoppers it was some time before the association again got on its feet, though the Nemaha County Driving Park association to some extent took the place of the fair, and in 1876 and for several years later annual fairs were held with considerable success attending.

During the early days of 1872 a move was inaugurated which resulted in the erection of a large belfry at the stone church in the German settlement, and the suspending of a very large and sonorous bell. This bell was presented by Wilhelm, Emperor of Germany, and was manufactured from a cannon captured from the French during the Franco-Prussian war. The gun was sent from Germany to Detroit and then cast into a bell and sent on to Nebraska. On clear mornings this bell has been heard at points fifteen miles distant.

Nemaha county had received several political shaking ups, and fanaticism in garb of religion had at times disturbed the quiet of some of the people, but in June, 1867, came a visit from an earthquake, and though the earth did not open and swallow up the inhabitants, and lofty buildings did not crumble and fall, yet there was a good sized commotion. Goods fell from the shelves in the stores, dishes rattled in the cupboards, windows danced about as though standing on hot bases, and the farmer who had laid down his hoe and was leaning on the fence thought that the fence had received life and was dancing a

mountain hornpipe. The writer at the time was sitting in his seat in the chapel of the old Mt. Vernon college worrying over some of the problems or propositions of Euclid, Caesar or some other departed spirit, when his chain of thought was broken and he (according to best recollection) could see the chapel seats sliding about on the floor like popcorn in a skillet. Then came the classes, teachers and occupants of the rooms above, and such screaming, rushing and falling over each other was seldom witnessed in a well regulated school. And on that occasion W. E. Majors wrote his name among those of noble deeds by bounding up the stairs and bearing a sleeping babe to the arms of its almost distracted mother. But the building did not fall, did not burn and was none the worse for the shock. The shock was felt for many miles up and down the river, and the numerous stories, not by the Shakers, but by the shaken, would fill many volumes. Editors wrote about "close call" and preachers told their hearers to be good or God Almighty would give them a worse shaking up, etc.

During the year 1867 County Commissioners Kenneda, Starr and Steinman caused to be erected a county court house. The carpenter was James Medford, and the stone and brick work was done by Messrs. Beckell & Gates. Wisely concluding that the day would come when the county seat would be removed to a more central part of the county these commissioners did not waste money in a costly edifice, but chose the most central part of the town and arranged a building so that it might be used for a store room when no longer needed for a court house.

The building was erected in connection with what was then McPherson's block and was 25x80 feet. The basement was used for the county jail. The

county clerk, treasurer, superintendent, sheriff and surveyor had offices on the ground floor, and the upper story was court room and offices of county judge, while the clerk of the district court had an office across the street. This building did service as a court house for almost twenty years, and although the offices were small and dingy and the furniture of a rude pattern, yet there was many a squabble as to who should fill the offices and who should draw the salary.

While the county fair was in progress at Brownville the fall of 1868 a small shooting gallery was being conducted by a traveling sport, and during the afternoon a half drunken man attempted to show his marksmanship, but instead of hitting the target he sent a ball into a covered wagon and into the breast of a woman who with her little child was arranging her toilet preparatory to taking in the fair. Medical aid was at once summoned, but no relief could be had. The woman suffered for several hours and died in great agony. An attempt was made to secure an indictment against the managers of the fair for allowing the shooting gallery on the grounds, but the grand jury, after duly considering the matter, found no bill, but censured the managers and suggested that nothing so liable to work injury to anyone be again allowed on the grounds.

The legislature of 1869 enacted a law providing for the location of a state road commencing at Long's bridge on the Nemaha river and as nearly direct to Lincoln as the lay of the ground would admit. Three parties were named as commissioners to lay out and plat the road, one of the parties named being James W. Coleman. Parties through whose land this diagonal road was to run were highly indignant, but to whom could they send remonstrance? The legislature

had adjourned, and it is barely possible that not one in ten of the members had any knowledge that said law had been enacted. It was decided to enjoin the commissioners from surveying the road and thereby hold the matter in check until another legislature could be elected. About this time Mr. Coleman died, and as there was no provision for the appointment of another to take his place the road was never surveyed.

The Nebraska Advertiser, that began its career but a few weeks after the first house was erected in Brownville, has been in the hands of a large number of publishers, but never went to sleep in the hands of any of them. On the 28th of May, 1861, the Union office was consolidated with the Advertiser, and T. R. Fisher was taken in as partner. May 8, 1862, Furnas & Fisher were proprietors, with Fisher & Hacker as publishers, Mr. Furnas having gone to war as a colonel. In December T. C. Hacker withdrew. In 1863 T. R. Fisher was the editor and publisher. Later the name Fisher & Colhapp appeared at the head. In September, 1864, W. H. Miller became the publisher but in December was succeeded by G. W. Hill and J. D. Colhapp. July, 1867, R. V. Muir entered the firm. November the same year J. S. Church bought the interest of Hill and Muir and the firm name became Church & Colhapp. January, 1868, T. C. Hacker entered the firm as junior partner and business manager. January 6, 1870, R. W. Furnas bought out Mr. Church and the firm became Furnas, Colhapp & Hacker, and in 1871 Church & Hacker became the publishers. The following July Major Caffery bought Church's interest and the firm name became Caffery & Hacker, and no further change was made in proprietorship until 1874, at which time G. W. Fairbrother bought out Caffery and the firm of Fairbrother & Hacker continued until December,

1881, when Mr. Hacker sold his interest to Fairbrother, who in 1882 moved the plant to Calvert, where it was conducted by Fairbrother & Co.

During the winter of 1873 a disease broke out among horses which spread until it affected almost every horse in the county; and for a time work with teams was almost entirely suspended. The disease was first called horse distemper. Later there were those to call it a mild form of glanders, and later it was called epizootic and with that horrid name it finally took its departure and most of the horses recovered.

During the summer of 1872 the road was graded from a point in the southwest corner of Glen Rock precinct south and west through Douglas precinct and on west to the west line of the county and bridges constructed of pine lumber were put in. The bridge spanning the Nemaha river was about three-fourths of a mile north of where the M. P. depot now stands, and the grade came within about forty rods of the townsite of Sheridan. Then there was talk of laying off another townsite on the land now owned by W. Stoddard, but all talk about the railroad making "Douglas" and killing Sheridan was so much eloquence wasted, for the snort of the iron horse was never heard along the line, the road-bed became overgrown with weeds, the bridges were carried away by piecemeal, and the large bridge across the Nemaha river endured all the evils incident to a life of idleness for about ten years, when it fell into the river to be pulled to pieces and floated or carried off to be used for barn and corn crib timbers.

The county campaign of 1873 was a lively race for office. Hon. Church Howe, a recent arrival from Ben Butler's school of politics, took a part in the campaign championing the election of the candidates

on the republican ticket. Schoolhouses were packed with eager listeners and there were not a few to remark that a political meeting was as good as a circus. The voters at the time divided and stood in the ratio of three republicans to two democrats; and though "politics warmed up" and candidates waxed eloquent. The campaign closed with the election of E. M. McComas, D. Plasters and D. W. Pierson, three of the candidates nominated by the minority party. At the next republican county convention Mr. Howe resigned as a member of the central committee and declared his intention to cast his lot with the toiling masses and his fellow farmers. Some time prior an independent political move had been inaugurated, R. A. Hawley, president of the agricultural society, being the leading spirit in the move. The object was to get away from party bosses and to secure the election of farmers to a just proportion of the offices. The first convention was held in Sheridan, and as there was no auditorium or opera house to be had the "mass" assembled on the platform of W. Dundas' hay scales, and during the deliberation someone stepped up to the scales and ascertained that the "mass" weighed about 830 pounds. This convention nominated a ticket composed of two who had previously announced themselves as candidates independent of party, and of others anxious to throw off the oppressive yoke of monopoly. The ticket was named the anti-monopoly ticket, but by some called the "succotash ticket." And yet some of the candidates outran their opponents and passed under the wire several steps ahead at the November races.

J. B. Elliot, Deputy Grange Master, organized February 14, 1873, the first Grange in Nemaha county. June 28, 1873, the first county association of Patrons of Husbandry was organized with George



Crow, president; J. F. Neal, vice president; T. J. Majors, recording secretary; H. O. Minick, corresponding secretary, S. W. Kennedy, treasurer, and E. D. Rogers, gate keeper. This organization did not spread like wildfire, but not many months elapsed until there were from one to four lodges in every precinct, and almost every farmer became a member. The object of the movement was to form co-operative societies, oppose monopolies and dispense with retailers, or middlemen, by buying of wholesale houses and at first cost. The members soon became extremists, denounced the merchants, grain buyers, shippers and implement dealers as cormorants, parasites and robbers. Political demagogues took advantage of the situation and joined in the tirades against middlemen and urged farmers to boycott the merchants. They wrote resolutions which were adopted nem dis, setting forth just what per cent merchants should have above cost and that the cost of all goods be marked in plain figures and the per cent, that in no case was to be more than ten, be added. The catalogues from large wholesale houses were secured, also price lists from catalogued order houses, and the more the farmers studied the prices and were encouraged by self appointed guardians, the more they grew bitter toward the men of whom they had been buying. Political bosses within the ranks were wont to tell the farmers, "We can live without the merchants and middlemen. We can raise our own hog and hominy. We can drink corn coffee which we know is pure and healthful and we can sweeten it with sorghum of our own make." Some merchants were disposed to close their doors until the craze should die out. Some of them went to the open meetings and plead guilty to having sold goods at too great a profit, but offered to allow the Grange to say just what profit they should

have if the members would buy of them and not send away for goods. Several of the merchants of the county declared that they would quit business rather than sell at less profit, and noticing that some of those loudest in denunciation of the merchants were ward heelers whose promise to pay was not very good, some of the merchants put their heads together and got out a little book giving names of former patrons and rating a, b, c or d, according to their promptness in keeping their word. This step had a salutary effect, as the merchants were protected and the heelers learned a valuable lesson. The Grange was a non-partisan organization; in fact, politics and religion were not to be questions for discussion, but it was not long until the anti-monopoly question had been discussed to that extent that the members became to believe that it was time to "enlist for the war." After an animated review of the wrongs being heaped on the farmers the County Grange, which was holding forth at Grand Prairie, resolved to adjourn as a grange to meet then and there in mass convention to take such political action as the emergency demanded. And then and there was organized the people's independent anti-monopoly party. The Brownville Democrat that had been busy changing editors for some time, was made the organ of the new party and the Grange movement and was named "The Granger." A large subscription list was soon secured, and the Advertiser, that had not embraced the faith, was refused at the postoffice and in some cases was thrown upon the floor and spit upon. For a time it looked as though everything was going against the republican party and that monopolies would receive their death blows. The candidates nominated by this party were O. B. Hewett for the senate, C. M. Hayden and Church Howe as representatives. Mr. Hewett coun-

seled moderation, and was defeated. Mr. Hayden said but little and was elected by a small majority, while Mr. Howe, who lead the way as an anti-monopolist, was elected by a large vote. The campaign the next year was a lively one and will be remembered as a "hired girl" campaign, being so called from the fact that the campaign against W. E. Majors for county clerk was made upon the story that Majors was so much of an aristocrat that he would not allow the hired girl to eat at the table with his family; that A. H. Gilmore was always "putting on agony," and that Charles Haywood's pants looked as though they had been made to wear the other side before. Haywood was defeated by J. S. Church who, though the choice of the people two years later was surreptitiously defeated in the convention, and at each election both sides felt that they had won great victories. To the name people's independent anti-monopoly party was added greenback, but after battling with adverse circumstances for some time the party virtually passed in its checks when the leader in 1879 declared that John Sherman had killed the greenback party and that he was not going to sit up with the corpse, and returned to the republican table where a more delicious meal was spread.

In 1874 grasshoppers again put in an appearance and very soon set about depositing eggs, and in 1875 the number of these winged pests was so great that no man could number them. All manners of devices were tried for their destruction, but there appeared to be millions more instead of dozens less. There was a gloomy outlook indeed, though but few signs of discouragement. When the wheat was gone corn was planted, and when corn was destroyed farmers planted again in hopes that some calamity would befall the insects. Many fields were left perfectly bare, and the

tender twigs of trees were stripped of their bark. Col. Furnas lost several thousand dollars worth of nursery stock that he had expended many dollars on in bringing to perfection. Efforts were put forth to secure varieties of seed corn that would mature in a short time and farmers continued to plant. Seed was furnished to parties unable to buy for themselves, and there were a few to manifest their hellish greed and take all that they could get. Hon. C. Howe procured from the Grange Aid society \$450 which went a long way toward furnishing seed. Those who were faithful to the last reaped a rich reward, for the rains descended and dampness overspread the earth to that extent that the grasshoppers laid down and died, while corn grew as corn never grew before in the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

Early in the seventies there was an effort made to organize a prohibition party in Nemaha county. The state committee appointed a county committee consisting of J. S. Church, W. Tidrow and J. H. Dundas, and a convention was also called by the state committee, but the attendance was small. both Tidrow and Dundas being absent on account of sickness. Later Mr. Church was nominated for governor and made an earnest canvas. but was not elected.

The year 1876 found Sheridan with a population of about forty, but with an ambition to rank as the first city in the county, and knowing that she was in the center of Nemaha county the friends of the little city, together with those living in the west part of the county, sought to secure the location of the county seat. The requisite number of petitioners was secured and parties in Brownville interested in the townsight of Sheridan offered a bonus to be applied to the expense of building court house, but fearing the opposition at Brownville they made their offers through Au-

burn parties, while they pretended to be opposed to the removal. The election was held on June 3rd and resulted in 825 votes for Brownville, 658 for Sheridan and 66 for Nemaha City.

During the year 1872 the board of county commissioners purchased 160 acres of land in Nemaha City precinct for a "poor farm" and the same year a large brick building calculated to accommodate thirty persons was erected, and John Maxwell and wife at once took charge. For a number of years this home was sustained at no expense to the county except the use of farm and buildings, and the number of inmates ranged from four to twenty-one persons. More land has since been added, and additional buildings have been erected, while the faithful couple who first took charge of the farm and the homeless who came that way, renewed the lease with the county until thirty years had elapsed, when they retired because of age, but retired with the thanks of the taxpayers and the friends of the unfortunate, for while duly economical they were ever kind and considerate. And during these thirty years several of the inmates passed to the land beyond the river, their last words being fervent "God bless you" for the couple that ministered to their wants during their last days.

After the suspension of the little monthly at Peru, during the dark days of slavery, that city was without a paper until 1867, when Barton L. Easley, who had just put out a nursery where T. J. Majors now resides, established a monthly called The Orchard and Vineyard. This, however, was short lived, and they who had paid subscriptions in advance mourned the goneness of their dollars. The first weekly newspaper published in Peru was the Herald, an eight column paper established in 1875 by Mr. Ferre. He was succeeded by M. J. Fenn, who continued the publi-

cation for about four years, making a very creditable paper. The plant was then purchased by Dr. F. B. Reed and his nephew, F. D. Reed, who continued the publication until August, 1881, when the plant was moved to Shelton where it is still conducted by F. D. Reed as the Shelton Clipper.

The Independent Order of Good Templars had been organized in Brownville in 1868, and quite a number of those known as hard drinkers had united with the order and sobered up. Some of the number remained sober but a few weeks; several held out for a year and one man who had "been in the gutter" lived and died a sober man. Soon after this the Berry Washingtonian was organized and it is said that two of the number kept the pledge of total abstinence to the end of the time for which it was taken, one year. The Sons of Temperance was organized in 1872, and though thirty years have passed since the oath was taken, there are several who have faithfully kept the sacred promise.

In 1873 there was quite an excitement in Brownville over the postoffice robbery that, as reported, had been effected by an entrance through a back window. A man by the name of McCreery was arrested but established an alibi, and U. S. Detective Fury came down from Omaha to look over the situation. After taking in the situation and apparently abandoning the chase, he went away to Humboldt on "other business" but soon returned and informed Postmaster Pollock that he had the burglar where he could lay his hand on him. Mr. Pollock looked surprised but Mr. Fury answered that the thief was none other than William Pollock, the twenty-two-year-old son of the postmaster. The old man could not believe it possible, but when William was arrested and brought before his father who counseled him to tell the truth, he ad-

mitted that he was the guilty party. Mr. Fury had observed that the money had been taken without ransacking the office and as it was found where it had been hidden it was quite apparent that the thief knew something of the plans pursued by the postmaster. Mr. Pollock was all broken up over the affair, and as friends noted the droppings from the fountain of sorrow they came forward to condole, and attorneys were ready to defend. But Mr. Pollock answered no and said that his boy was no better than any other boy who would do a like deed, and that he would have to take the consequences, and Will Pollock put in two years at hard labor at Anamosa, Iowa.

In the early days of the growth of Nemaha county William Maley, twelve-year-old son of John Maley and wife, was sent to the Homewood mills for some chicken feed. The father was away from home harvesting and when he returned and found that the son had not reached home he started out to look for him, and on the prairie one-half mile northwest of where Sheridan cemetery is located he found the lifeless form of his boy and plenty of evidence to show that lightning had done the work. The father bore the lifeless form to the humble home, where he was met by the wife, who was so overcome by the shock that it was feared for days that she would lose her reason. The latter part of July, 1865, old Mr. Neal, father of Dr. J. E. and Charles Neal, was killed by lightning, and Charles was badly shocked, at the old log house a few rods southeast of where the doctor now resides. But a few months later Mr. Marsh, postmaster at Brownville, who had been in poor health for some time, passed to the land that has no storm, and his brother was appointed as his successor. In August, 1871, another home was visited by the swift but unseen messenger and at the res-

idence of D. Y. Culbertson Alma Meader, the eleven-year-old sister of Mrs. C., was the one to answer the summons, while other members of the family escaped injury.

From the year 1856 up to 1871 the banking business, like the press, was in many different hands, Four Browns, together with Waterman and Frazier, established the first bank in Brownville with a capital stock of \$50,000, and the same year Riddle, Henn, Williams & Co. engaged in the banking business. Later Pegram, Jones & Parkelow, Rogers, Davidson and McCoy in turn were connected with the bank and before one year had passed away J. L. Carson, O. B. Hewett and J. S. Minick were appointed trustees to wind up the affairs. Brown and Hallam, whose bank enterprise has been mentioned heretofore, were connected in some way with the Nemaha Valley bank, one of the wildcat banks of issue that had a brief existence under a fraudulently enacted state banking law, but this bank succumbed to the inevitable. Lushbaugh & Carson established a private bank in 1857 and the same continued to do business until August 28, 1867, when it was succeeded by the First National bank with J. L. Carson president; A. R. Davidson, cashier; J. C. McNoughton, assistant cashier, and Frazier, Bailey, Handley, Den, Johnson, Atkinson and Shellenberger, directors. The State Bank of Brownville was organized under the state law in 1870. It was a bank of deposit, discount and exchange, and its officers were D. Remick, T. Hill, G. P. Eaton, and this bank did business for ten years and then paid depositors and went out of business.

While this county was never the scene of any Indian depredations there are those of our citizens who can tell of narrow escapes, and some of them were called to mourn the loss of friends. Mrs Malinda



Parker of Claude, Oklahoma, helps the historian a bit by a recital of an "attack" by Indians that she will surely remember until the close of life. She was then little Miss Malinda Chapman and while she and other little children were going up what is known as the Hannaford hill about twenty Indians, yelling like demons, surrounded them and made them prisoners. Their cries and tears were unavailing and as hope was dying away a half-breed rode up, demanded the release of the little girls and hastened to accompany them home, saying that there were more Indians coming and many of them were drunk. Andrew Skeen was never burned at the stake, pinned to the ground with arrows or scalped by Indians, but he tells that he once went away out west and at times the hair arose on his head as though anxious to be removed by the tomahawk. The family had settled on the east side of the Nemaha river and across on the west side was away out west. He and his father crossed the river on a drift and walked to the cabin of John Long to buy a couple of hens and a setting or two of eggs, and though they returned in safety it was quite a venture. But added to this venture Andy listened to a story that Uncle John Long used to tell as one to cap the climax when big stories were told. It was to the effect that when he lived in Illinois he became involved in difficulty with a number of suckers, and being too many for the crowd they fell back and were re-enforced and came on with shot-guns, revolvers and Sharp's rifles and he had to cross the Mississippi to make his escape. The river was frozen over, but the ice was so thin that the calks on the horses' shoes cut through at every step, and rifle balls rattled on the ice and whizzed by his ears at every step. Men of this stripe, of course, did not fear the Indian's rifle. Mr. Solomon Pasco, father of Charles

and George Pasco of this county, on a return trip from Smith county, Kansas, July 4, 1871, with another traveler camped for the night on a small stream but a short distance from Fairbury, and just at dusk they were attacked and both men were killed by one drunken Indian by the name of Jim Whitewater. This bad Indian had been in town and filled up on white man's whiskey and grew hilarious and boisterous. He believed he was Blackhawk, Redjacket, Sitting Bull, Handsomemanwithapipelineinhismouth, and the incarnate spirit of all the other chiefs living or dead, and he declared he would spill white man's blood as did his noble ancestors. The bodies of the unfortunate men were found the next day, and when Jim Whitewater was arrested and his whiskey was gone he confessed that he was the tribe that did the deed. He was sentenced to the penitentiary for life and for many years he was the only representative of his race in the state boarding house. He was reprieved some time since.

The crime of '73 was committed in this county, or a crime was committed in this county in 1873. Walter Starry had bought a wagon of a widow lady in the southwest part of the county, but when he went after the wagon it was in use by a Mr. Cohle who was a son-in-law of the old lady, and as he had determined to buy the wagon he refused to give it up. Words lead to blows and Starry, who was the under dog in the fray, had received a couple of knife wounds in his shirt, when he succeeded in getting his revolver out of his pocket and shot Cohle in the abdomen. Cohle did not realize that he was wounded until he was told by a lad by the name of Cranmer who stood by and tried in his boyish way to stop the fight. Cohle ran to the house, got his gun and made several attempts to shoot Starry, but the percussion caps

wouldn't percuss, and he continued in the attempt till he fell from the loss of blood. The neighbors came to the rescue, and Starry and Cranmer were nearly frightened to death. They mounted their horses and lit out. Cranmer was arrested before he reached Brownville but Starry went from place to place, avoided highways, swam streams and suffered from hunger and fear for many weeks when he was arrested in Harlan county by Sheriff Piper, later Secretary of State Piper, but made his escape by riding off one of the horses of the team that was taking him back to Brownville. After a couple of years he tired of hiding and returned, gave himself up and was acquitted on the plea of self defense. Colile lived but a few days after receiving the wound.

In the month of August, 1874, a man who from appearance was a painter, was seen in several parts of the county, and was thought to be insane, as his eyes had a fierce stare and he walked hastily and aimlessly about. At the farm of Frank Morer he called for water, drank greedily, bathed his head and then gave his name and told that he had a brother in Hamburg, Iowa. He also said that he was going to be found dead. On Sunday Old Mr. Nelson found the man's hat hanging on a corn stalk and but a few rods into the field the lifeless body was found. The man had evidently died of apoplexy on Friday and it was Tuesday before the inquest was held. The body was buried at the edge of the cornfield and some days later friends came from Iowa and erected a board fence around the grave, and then it was learned that the man was of a well to do family, was highly educated and had started in life with plenty of money, but plenty of money had proven his downfall and whiskey had wrought his ruin.

Prairie fires often swept over portions of the

county, and despite best efforts much property would be destroyed. On one occasion a fire that started a little northwest of Table Rock swept eastward, jumping streams and burning everything in its line, and was not checked until it reached the Coleman farm in London precinct, where it destroyed several hundred rods of good fence, but was checked from going farther. In 1876 Mathew Peck and Major Howell lost heavily by prairie fire, and it was by hard fighting that they saved their houses.

In the good old days of long ago the district spelling school was one of the entertainments that entertained, and young and old as well gathered at the school houses, chose sides and had a contest for the honor of being the best spellers. The boys and girls were always ready to go to spelling matches and distance did not stand in the way.

The historian might write many pages, aye, volumes, on the politics of the county, especially for the years '75 to '80, but a little must suffice. In '76 the anti-monopoly, people's independent, etc., parties swept the entire platter, C. Howe for the senate; J. J. Mercer, J. G. Evans and John Frerichs for the house and J. H. Peery, commissioner. Mercer had always been a democrat, but the others were formerly, and laterly, republicans. The next year the tide turned and Hubbard for treasurer, Smith for judge, Hawley for clerk, Snyder for commissioner, with all the minor offices, were left at home.

The papers of these years teem with political rot and partisan folly. Mr. Howe cut a wide swath in the reform movement, and by one side he was lionized while those of the other party denounced him as one of the worst of men.

Patent right venders and quack doctors have on many occasions found suckers in this county. One

man who in early life had arisen to prominence as a preacher in the Methodist church in New York, but had later embraced spiritualism, went over this county appointing agents for the sale of the Sprague & Welch seeders. These seeders were to cost \$35 at the shop, and were to sell at \$75, hence a large profit to the agent. But this wily cuss never left his agents until he had secured a note for the amount of the profits on the second four machines sold, and these notes were soon cashed at the banks and Mr. Sprague moved on. In this way some six or eight farmers were gulled to the tune of \$160 each, and not one of them ever realized one cent in return, except some experience. Other schemes on the same line were worked upon others until not a few farmers could tell of the lessons learned.

Some of the "dreamers" of the seventies looked forward to the time when the iron horse would draw his heavy loads up the valley of the Little Nemaha river. But the Granger and Advertiser of Brownville hooted at the idea and said that such a road could never be made to pay, hence would never be built. The road that would pay and could be built must of course pass through Brownville.

In June, 1876, two men came down the river in a skiff, tied up at Brownville for the night, and before morning effected an entrance to Denn's store via the cellar. They secured as many goods as they could carry, and succeeded in getting down the river as far as Nemaha, where they pulled ashore, built a fire and were drying their clothes when the sheriff and Mr. Denn walked up and made them prisoners.

The fourth of July was this year celebrated at Brownville and at Harmon's grove, and very large crowds were in attendance at both places. And late that night A. E. Benedict and Edson Rich, who hap-

pened to be out late, discovered a fire in Russel's restaurant and by their united efforts arrested the flames and saved the city from being a heap of ashes, and the river from being licked dry by the flames.

It is told for truth that on the night of July 6th burglars entered the residence of T. C. Hacker and took \$50 from his pantaloons, then called on A. W. Nickell where they secured \$90 and then called at the home of Dr. Holladay, where they were unable to find even a nickel. The story may be true, but as Mr. Hacker was a newspaper man there are doubts arising relative to his having \$50.

Sometime in August a debate was held between D. B. Coryell of the Christian church and H. P. Freeman of the Baptist church, the question being, "Resolved, That Water Baptism is no Part of the Plan of Salvation." The debate was held in Harmon's grove on the Nemaha, and continued until sundown, and after supper another round was had. Mr. Coryell contended that a person could no more be saved without baptism than a woman could be a wife without being married. He contended that only fools, idiots and children could be saved without being baptized. And when they had talked and talked and then talked some more, the friends of each faith went away feeling that the other side was badly scooped. But others said darn the difference, neither knows which is right, and they would better be trying to act the part of good citizens than quarreling about vagaries.

In September it was learned that G. W. Fairbrother of the Nebraska Advertiser had applied for membership and had been initiated in the Grange in one of the lodges that met in Nemaha City precinct, and when this intelligence reached State Master

Howe he at once issued a bull declaring the charter of the said lodge forfeited.

As the spring of '77 dawned great fear went abroad, for the ground was thoroughly planted to grasshopper seed, and it was feared that they had become acclimated and would stay. The county commissioners bought a barrel of tar for each road district and the road supervisors prepared to wage war on the young destroyers. But the pests departed, emigrated or died and there was a good crop harvested.

On June 1st parties from Brownville who had been up the river in a skiff found the body of a woman afloat in the current, not far from the north line of the county. The body proved to be that of a woman who with her husband and little girl resided at Minersville, and who was last seen in company with the husband in a skiff. What became of the husband was not learned, though it was reported that he had been seen farther down the river, hiding in the willows. And this incident calls to mind that about thirteen years before the date given above, Frank O'Connell, H. F. Palmer and R. M. Dundas took the body of a woman out of the river on the west shore of McKissock island. A few hours later parties from Otoe county came down the river in skiffs and took the body back with them. And there was a report that when the author of the woman's disgrace was told of the sad affair that he simply remarked, "I always thought she was a — fool, but I didn't think she was fool enough to go swimming while the water is so cold." And then as report had it the man was lynched and suspended to the limb of a tree. Yet it is more than possible that there is no truth in the story so far as it relates to the man.

In the early days in July of '77 Mr. Ed Culbert and Mr. James Cartmell of Glen Rock precinct had

some difficulty over the possession of an old harness, and on Sunday while Culbert was herding cattle near Glen Rock cemetery, Cartmell came along and engaged in the use of rough language. Culbert went after him with his whip and Cartmell drew a revolver and sent a ball into Culbert's abdomen. Cartmell was arrested and held to await the results of Culbert's injury, but as Mr. Culbert gradually got well, and as it was to all appearance a case of self defense, the matter was dropped and Cartmell left the state.

In June of this year Clark Allen, a well to do but rather rough citizen of Glenrock, died from what appeared to be corrosive sublimate poisoning, and the jury at the inquest returned a finding to the effect that he had been poisoned and that the poison had been administered by the wife, Elizabeth Allen, and son, Frank Allen. The parties were arrested and held for some time but were not convicted of the crime.

July 13th Mr. Wheeldon, who had started an eating house in Sheridan, appeared before the county commissioners and asked for a license to sell intoxicating liquors, but a remonstrance against the granting of said license, signed by about 150 citizens of the precinct and county, was also filed, and the license was refused by the commissioners.

This year the publication of the delinquent tax list was awarded to the Grainger at  $44\frac{3}{4}$  per cent of legal rates, and then there was more war between editors.

In August two stacks of grain were burned on Mr. Howe's farm in Bedford precinct, and it was believed that it was the work of lightning, but when they threshed other stacks in the same field they found evidence that lead to the belief that the stacks had been fired by human hands, as paper and matches



were found where an attempt had been made to fire another stack.

At the election in '77 the voters of the county voted on the question of changing from the commissioner form of county management to that of township organization; and wisely, they decided to retain the present form.

On the 27th of November the county and the Normal school were called to mourn the death of Prof. Perry Martin, who was one of the brightest young men in the county and one of the most able teachers in the Normal school.

Brownville, whose citizens were ever enterprising, was greatly pleased at the prospect of having packing houses located in the suburbs of the city, and were on one occasion taken in by a party who came for the avowed purpose of locating such an enterprise, but who stayed long enough to have his board and other bills pile up, when he went to Nebraska City and cashed several checks to which the names of Brownville business men were forged.

After the harvest was over, the summer ended, and many farmers had stored away bushels of their wheat in the Glenrock mills, the fire fiend set to work and destroyed the mill and its contents, but left the water and the damn.

Ever since the white man has made his home near the treacherous Missouri river that stream has been claiming victims. One fine morning in the month of July a number of youths were bathing just below Brownville when Frank Paxton, who was riding a log, dropped into the water and was seen no more. He was one of the brightest young men in the county, and a more expert swimmer could not be found on the river. He would dive into the water, remain for some seconds and then come up where he

was least expected, and when he dropped off the log all who were present looked for him to emerge at some point, and some of them could hardly believe he was drowned. The body was found ten days later about four miles down the stream, and the fond mother who doted so much on her only child, was almost wild with grief. Some months later Stewart Black, a senior in the State Normal school, lost his life while bathing in the river at Peru, and he, too, was among the scholarly and beloved young men of the county.

In the fall of 1879 two young men of Sheridan named Parkins and Moore, laid a plan to rob the store of W. T. Reed. They had both worked for Mr. Reed at different times, hence were acquainted with the surroundings. They went to Brownville, constructed a small flat boat and tied it fast at a bunch of willows. Then they hired a livery team and drove to Auburn, arriving at about eleven o'clock. But before their arrival Moore either weakened or was simply acting detective, for Mr. Reed was apprised of their coming and had men on guard. The guards kept quiet until the store, which stood where George Halliday's house now stands, had been looted and the goods piled near the big cottonwood tree that still stands on North First street, when they were surrounded and imprisoned. They had planned to pass down the river and make their extra home in the backwoods of Arkansas, but their boat never sailed. Parkins was imprisoned, and attorneys counseled him to stand trial. They told Reed that he was really party to the theft, as he kept still and let his store be robbed when he could have prevented. Reed decided not to prosecute and Parkins was allowed to go without day.

The historian of 1876, Dr. A. S. Holladay, who

in an address on July 4th gave a condensed resume of the progress of the county up to that date, said:

“The population of Nemaha county today is 10,864; assessment, \$2,473,707. Number of schools, 73; number of teachers, 111; five water mills and three steam mills; 100,000 acres of land under cultivation; all kinds of stock too numerous to mention, in which the wealth of the county largely consists. A beautiful tract of land, known as the county farm, on which are erected sufficient improvements required for many years to come. Substantial bridges have been built over all streams or water-ways. There are thirteen precincts, seventeen postoffices, thirty-three granges, and the Nemaha County Agricultural society. The whole county is in that condition which prognosticates the early dawning of an era of unprecedented prosperity for all classes of our people. With such a soil of inexhaustible richness and adaptability to agriculture, and with the smiles of Providence, our county must regain what she has lost, and eventually be entitled to the name of the “Banner County of Nebraska.” The county government is admirably conducted. It is undeniable, a fact beyond cavil or doubt, that Nemaha county stands today the peer of any county in Nebraska, or the west, in all the elements designed to render a people wealthy and great. A soil that is capable of producing such a variety of crops with such ease and certainty, is now and must be for ages to come, a source of unbounded prosperity. There is no such word as fail attached to the career of Nemaha county. Indomitable will, energy and pluck that have marked the past energy of her people, augur a future as bright as the most sanguine can desire or the imagination of the enthusiast portray.”

A fight was precipitated in Brownville during the month of February by some boys engaging in snow-

balling. It was a small affair at first but by the time a number of older boys, men and women had engaged there was a prospect that the driven snow would be crimsoned with human gore. Windows were broken in, women shrieked, children cried and the men said — — —. But the storm blew over and then the picture was a laughable one.

In June, 1878, Henry M. Atkinson sued the Nebraska Railway company, claiming \$13,000 for services as superintendent and attorney, in which capacity he secured 20,000 acres of land for the company. The company contended that it was the firm of Converse, McCann & Co. that got the land and not the company. 'Twas a case of when schemers fall out honest men note the scheme. Mr. Atkinson got a judgment for \$8,000, and following this suit H. C. Lett brought suit against the same company for \$10,000 for services as president of the road, etc.

The Granger of May 31st had the following lines: "The Missouri river has been on a "tare" lately, and has torn considerable real estate from owners along the bank at this point. Several buildings have been removed to make room for the river. Mrs. Zook and Mr. Matt Aldermann were obliged to remove their dwellings. The road leading south from the city has been washed away at the foot of College street, which will necessitate opening a new road to accommodate the travel from that direction." The same issue of the paper tells of a cottonwood tree being cut and sawed into lumber, which said tree had grown at the rate of one inch per year ever since it had been put out.

Brownville had a fire on June 13th. Three buildings were burned. One belonged to John Flora and was occupied as a millinery store by Misses Flora &

Wilson. One building was occupied by Robert Teare and about \$2,500 worth of farm machinery was destroyed. The other building was a tailor shop occupied by A. D. Marsh, and the goods were saved.

It reads not like a romance, but like the political hash of today, and it is a story of man's inhumanity, the unfaithfulness of friend, treachery, etc. It is an open letter to the would-be congressman from the would-be postmaster at Brownville. It tells of army life, party loyalty and party work and then a turn down when office is asked for and the writer claims that he is persecuted and forgotten because he voted for Church Howe, the great enemy of the republican party. And history is still busy repeating itself.

And in Nemaha county there was another fourth of July and he who had served as chaplain in the army, member of the legislature, and representative of the state in the United States senate, was one of the speakers. And this true and loyal man spoke of the north and the south, saying, "Though we dwell in the north and they in the south, yet we are not all angels, nor are they all demons. Let us be considerate. They shoot and burn negroes in the south. We hang, shoot and burn white men in the north (referring to the cattle men shooting, hanging and burning at Plum Creek). These remarks aroused some of those whose patriotism consisted largely in hatred for the south, and some of those hobby riders tried to incite others to acts of violence, but Mr. Tipton had many warm friends in the county and the attempt was fruitless.

In July of this year was seen a flock of swans. They were past three score years of age, weighed about 175 pounds each, hence could not fly a little bit, though it was claimed that they could sing. They were the Swan brothers, some of them of this county,

some from Missouri and one from Illinois.

It has been said that everything is fair in war and politics, and quite generally people seem to believe that the ends to be reached justify the means employed. "United States Marshal Daily is canvassing the county in the interest of national banks and in opposition to greenbacks. He calls that republican doctrine and asks the people to endorse that by voting for Neal and against Mr. Howe, the greenback candidate."—From the Granger of November 1, 1878.

In the fall of 1878 Patrick Bourke, a well to do farmer of Aspinwall precinct, accompanied by a number of his neighbors, went to Brownville with loads of grain, and while there several of them partook quite freely of the vile mixture at the bar. Returning home Mr. Bourke became drowsy and lay down in the wagon, and at Nemaha City some one tied his team expecting he would soon arouse from his stupor and drive home or put up for the night, but later when they went to the wagon they found that life had departed.

As County Commissioner Higgins retired after a term of office there was a vote of thanks extended to him, and some said he had made the best commissioner the county had ever had; and then as the record of commissioners was discussed it was called to mind that in all the years of the county's history there had been no defaulters, no swindlers and no thief in office, hence a vote of thanks to all the officers of the years past.

W. H. Lorange was reported as found dead by the road side. Later it was learned that he was not dead but seriously injured. He had been run over by a runaway team and lay helpless for some time before he was found, and as he was well advanced in years, a soldier of the Mexican and of the Civil war, it was thought he could not recover. But his time had not come and today, though nearly twenty-two years have

been added to his age, he is counted the best constable the county has ever had.

In November, 1878, a man giving his name as Frank Wilson hired a horse at Brownville and went to Peru. He had a large sum of money on his person, and at Peru he met a man by the name of Higgins who had for some time been overindulging in the ardent. Higgins reported that Wilson played poker while at Peru and that one man won from him \$1,000. The real facts of the case were never made public. Wilson left the country, at least he was not seen in the vicinity after the "clouds rolled by," and Higgins paid for the horse which was hired at Brownville.

On February 21st William Hawley reported his spring plowing about completed.

Again in the month of March, 1876, there was a move that for a time lead to the belief that the road would be tied and ironed into Brownville from the east, but alas, it came not.

On June 25, 1879, the Missouri river secured another victim. A Mr. Caldwell who was fishing near the fair grounds below Brownville, undertook to haul ashore a piece of driftwood that he had caught with a pike pole. He made a misstep and fell in and was not seen again. Two young ladies who were near by witnessed the fall, otherwise it would probably have never been known what became of Mr. C.

Several parties appeared in Brownville with horses for sale. One man told the name of the town he hailed from in Missouri and told Aaron Palmer to wire thence for his reputation, but when he learned that Aaron had sent a dispatch he concluded he didn't want to sell the horse, so just skipped and left horse, saddle and bridle. Ned Opelt bought one of the horses, but feeling certain he had bought a stolen

horse he wrote the parties to come and get their property.

April 1879, Fayette B. Tiffany, a real live Yankee from down east, who had come west to cause the country to grow up in good shape, bought a Washington press and several cases of type and started the Sheridan Post. The half dozen business men of Sheridan subscribed liberally. W. Dundas & Brother, who were conducting a general merchandise store in a room 20x60, subscribed and paid for sixty copies. The Post was soon the paper, and but a few weeks passed until the Brownville Advertiser, the Nemaha County Granger and the Sheridan Post were busy throwing dirt, and ere the Post editor had been a resident of the state six months he began to lay his wires to capture the office of county clerk, but his candidacy did not materialize and he sold out and left the county. The Post passed into the hands of H. R. Peery, later Tenney & Peery, Peery & Ewan, A. E. & E. T. Ewan, and before it was a two-year-old it was owned by Major Daily and edited by R. O. Fellows. Later E. Taggart became a half owner but retired after some months, when the plant was bought by Church Howe, and from that time until 1895 it was conducted by Mr. Fellows, who was ably assisted by his better half during the last ten years of his work. February 13, 1880, there was organized in the city of Brownville a society which should find an earnest membership in every city and village in the state. It was the society for the prevention of cruelty to animals. The officers were J. L. Carson, R. W. Furnas, J. S. Minick and H. C. Lett and the executive committee consisted of B. M. Bailey, A. S. Holladay, C. F. Stewart, W. H. McCreery and W. W. Hackney. It is needless to add that this society, though it never made a great spread, did some excellent work, in a quiet way.



The old steam ferry boat that had done good service at Brownville for many years struck a snag on February 8, 1880, and was doomed. The captain summoned all available help, and by the use of pike poles, improvised paddles, etc., the shore was reached and the teams were on dry land before the water closed over the deck.

Seldom if ever did the bells toll more solemnly than on the 8th of February, when word reached Nemaha county that Lucius B. Church, eldest son of Judge Church and wife, had died suddenly at the chapel in the state university at Lincoln. Lucius had completed his course in the high school in Brownville, had attended the state normal school at Peru and had taught school and worked at type setting in Sheridan, and he certainly had a host of friends. Hence there was sadness in many a heart when it was learned that he had passed away. It was his ambition to be a journalist, and had he lived he would have never contented himself with simply being a newspaper man. But death calls not to ask who is anxious to go or who can be spared, and Lucius Church departed this life ere he had reached the age of twenty-three years.

In March, 1880, a great temperance crusade was inaugurated in the county and temperance meetings were held in all of the villages and in many of the school houses. The speakers were John B. Finch, George W. Baine, Ellen Foster, T. W. Tipton, J. S. Church, Church Howe, Revs. Reed, Rowe, Willis, Weeber, Henry and Wilson, and O. B. Hewett. S. A. Osborne, T. L. Shick, J. L. Carson, A. H. Gilmore, J. P. Crother, A. W. Morgan, H. C. Lett, Charles Blodget, B. M. Bailey and R. W. Furnas were assistants.

The Glenrock mills so long owned and operated by Mr. Hallam, and later, his son, passed into the

hands of John L. Carson and Joe Huddart in the spring of 1880, and D. H. McLaughlin took charge as miller.

In April, 1880, the Sheridan Post, republican, of course, had these lines: "The exodus wave struck Sheridan Thursday, ten of the supposed seed of Ham having passed this way enroute to Mr. Aldrich's in Washington precinct. It may be policy from a business standpoint to employ labor of this kind, but when we look at the matter from a social standpoint it seems to throw a different light;" and then there was noted a little of the inconsistency on the part of the republicans, and democrats said it made a difference whose ox was gored.

The city election at Brownville bid fair to be close between the pros and antis on the license question, and on the eve of election the U. S. marshal dropped into town and picked up five voters who were among the number favorable to license, and when it was discovered that the license was defeated and that by but a few votes, then the voters aroused to the realization that these men were arrested and taken away in order to keep them from voting.

The republican convention to elect delegates to the state convention, to elect delegates to the national convention, was held in Sheridan in the month of May, and unfortunately for Church Howe, he was that morning caught between the upper and nether millstones in a runaway, hence was unable to take part in the convention in his usual way, and then and there his opponents wickedly slaughtered him by electing Thomas Burress to the state convention by a vote of thirty-one while Mr. Howe got but thirty. But Mr. Howe submitted to the "abuse" and continued to live.

The storm that visited the county on May 25th abounded in electricity, and Fred Oestman near Hick-

ory Grove had one horse and one colt killed by lightning, but he succeeded in getting the other horse out of the barn before it was consumed by fire. During this storm W. F. Paris, residing near Brownville, was in the path of the lightning and was knocked less than fifty feet, but being a light weight he did no great injury to the earth where he lit, and two days later was able to go to Brownville to tell of his escape.

On the afternoon of June 27th Mrs. Jane Claire of Glen Rock precinct was found dead in Rock Creek, near her home. An inquest was held and it was decided that she had fallen from the log into the creek, and being seventy-two years old and quite feeble could not recover from the position.

A campaign for the nomination for the office of state senator was waged between Messrs. Howe and Daily. Weeks before the convention was called these two men traversed the county to secure favorable delegates. At Sheridan two livery stables had been opened. One hired every rig to be had in one stable and the other did likewise at the other stable. There were a few to say that neither should be elected, but soon the republican voters and many others had lined up on one side or the other, and the campaign for the nomination grew very warm. When the convention met some of the wise bosses who had been in the habit of shedding tears over ill harmony in the ranks, were anxious for a compromise, and Daily was named for the senate and Howe for the house; and then the voters said, "Damit, that's just what Howe and Daily had planned before the convention," and then they said "Damit" again. The other two representatives were T. L. Shick and M. B. Raymond. These candidates were opposed during the campaign by J. H. Broady, D. Plasters, Henry Hackmeyer and D. O. Hoagland.

John Bright was one man who did not busy himself rejoicing over the election, for he had trouble of his own. While working about a threshing machine his right hand was caught and crushed so badly that amputation was necessary. But while he mourned his misfortune he realized that he had many true friends who stood ready to render any assistance possible.

A very entertaining entertainment was given in Justice Giel's court early in the winter of 1881. Two railroad contractors who were camped near Sheridan engaged in a quarrel over a pair of sideboards to a wagon. Mr. Sheedy, who was one of the largest men in the county, and Cope, a small man, waxed warm for battle. Sheedy siezed an ax in one hand, siezed Cope with the other, and as he wielded the ax over his head he swore that he would consign him to a thousand hash houses in the islands of the south seas. But while he was thus engaged Cope drew an Allen revolver from his pocket and fired. Sheedy had a pair of overalls rolled at the top and the ball passed entirely through the four or five thicknesses of denim and lodged in the outer skin of the old man's belly. Sheedy swore out a warrant and Cope was brought into court, the court room being the carpenter shop that still stands on Main street. And now what was to be done? There was not a lawyer in town, nor nearer than ten miles, and what would a trial be without lawyers? Judge Giel sent for J. H. Dundas, whom he appointed prosecuting attorney pro tem, pro bono publico, and pro lingo ex officio, and Ex-County Judge Morgan was appointed to defend. At noon the curtain rose and the play began. A half dozen of the witnesses could speak only French, and then the attorneys disputed as to which of them should act as interpreter. 'Twas a real "genuine farse" and ere

the midnight hour arrived the attorneys had exhausted themselves in their laborious tasks, in the interest of justice, and in defense of a client, and the prisoner was discharged and court adjourned.

In his historical address in 1876 Dr. Holladay said: "Sheridan, at this date, is not an incorporated town. She has only recently entered the race for municipal honors and fame. The youngest town in the county, yet, judging from her central location and unrivaled natural surroundings, associated with magnificent scenery in all directions, the prediction is not unfounded that the anticipations of her citizens will be realized at no far off future."

On the 16th of September Tobias Castor in the guise of a ranchman appeared at Sheridan and representing that he desired to start a large stock farm, bought 160 acres from J. B. Piper, 160 from G. R. Reynolds and 160 from J. L. Smith. The Smith quarter is the one to the south and east of the court house, and was bought for \$16.50 per acre. Work on the extension of the road west from Nemaha City was soon begun, and early in 1881 the lands above mentioned were platted and the new townsite was named in honor of T. E. Calvert. J. N. Brush was the first man to settle on the townsite and a few days later opened a small stock of groceries. The Chicago Lumber company put in a lumber yard in charge of George Cross and before six months had rolled around 100 cars of lumber had been disposed of. A second lumber yard was put in by J. W. Kerns, and July 14th a newspaper, the Courier, was issued. During this time the grading on the railroad progressed slowly, and for months, and for nearly a year, the entire force of men and teams of John Fitzgerald's outfit worked to complete the grade, and cut through the hill and fill the hollow east of the townsite. Then of course there

was engendered a spirit of rivalry and jealousy. During the month of July J. E. House, representing the M. P. railroad, called on the Sheridanites and declared the intention of the company to at once construct a road down the valley of the Nemaha. He wanted to secure the right of way through the county on terms satisfactory to all concerned, and declared it was not the policy of the road to make enemies of those who would most likely be the patrons of the road at a later date. But a few days passed until teams and men were at work. Wesley Dundas, A. H. Gilmore, F. P. Tenney, W. T. Reed, A. W. Morgan and J. H. Dundas gave bonds to secure the right of way across Douglas precinct in return for the depot being located within one-half mile of the public square. Mr. Nixon was owner of the northwest quarter of section 22, Howe & Nixon bought the Sage farm of 160 acres, and Howe, Nixon & Wilson became owners of the east half of the northeast quarter of section 21. A. H. Gilmore had purchased the west half of the southeast quarter of section 16. Reed & Gilmore purchased the west half of the northeast quarter of section 21, and the balance of Douglas precinct was reserved for agricultural and grazing purposes.

The Missouri Pacific was completed to Sheridan on February 4th and very soon new capital began to come in and building began, and six months later the heavy grading east of Calvert had been completed and the B. & M. trains were running into town. Large buildings were erected and large stocks of goods were put in. The completion of two railroads through points as near the center of the county as could be selected of course foretold the removal of the county seat at no distant day, and Brownville, that for years had suffered mortal dread in anticipation of losing the county seat, and had made no advance steps, now saw

that her greatness was gone. Some of the business men had quietly disposed of their realty; some sold at a sacrifice and moved to Lincoln, Omaha and other parts, while a number came west to grow up with the county seat.

The Methodist church in Sheridan was built as early as '76. St. Joseph's Catholic church was built in Calvert in '81. The Presbyterian church was erected on the line dividing the two townsites in the year 1882. The Baptist church had been enclosed the year before but was not completed for some time later. The Christian church was erected in '84, the Lutheran in '85 and the Episcopal in 1889.

In the fall of 1881 Esquire Milton Paulin of Aspinwall precinct was suffering from a bruised hand, and while at Nemaha City it was decided by the doctors that one finger would have to be amputated. The operation was performed by Dr. Andrews, assisted by Dr. Oppermann, but he never recovered from the effects of the chloroform. The same year James L. Hitte, an aged farmer residing several miles south of Nemaha City, was crossing the railroad track just south of Nemaha when he was run into by a construction train that came around the curve. Mr. Hitte was killed, and the vehicle was a complete wreck.

The accident shooting of little Nettie Wood on the 2nd day of June was a sad, sad affair. She, with her brother Wallace and Otis Dovel were playing about the granary at the residence of A. C. Leeper when Otis picked up an old gun and exclaimed, "I am going to shoot Nettie." The gun was discharged and the little girl fell, and only gasped once after her sister, Mrs. Leeper, reached her side.

June 20th parties arrived at Calvert and began digging holes in the ground for telegraph poles, and

among the first messages to come over the line was the announcement that President James A. Garfield had been shot by a cowardly assassin in the depot of the B. & O. railroad in Washington.

July 7th the editors of the Sheridan Post received through the mails a box of bonbons, about three-fourths of which was eaten by the boys and a brother of the junior editor who was present, and soon there was great sickness among the boys and it was quite evident that the candy was poisoned. No death resulted though for a time it was feared that several of the force would not recover. Who sent the candy was never learned, and possibly it was simply a rude joke.

Aaron Sharp, a youth living near Bratton, was kicked by a horse and for some days was not thought seriously injured, but was taken with spells of vomiting and died before the doctor could reach the residence.

Norval, the wonderful boy preacher, came to Sheridan in August and planted his batteries with the avowed intention of capturing the town for Jesus. He howled loud and long and called all the preachers in the county hypocrites and all others cowards and fools. But the people were thinking about railroad and didn't give a blank for Norval, so he shook the dust from his feet, begged enough to pay his hotel bill and said Sheridan might go plumb to hell for all he cared.

The death of Hon. T. L. Schick occurred in Brownville August 9, 1881, and his death was mourned by the people of the whole county, for all who had met him had recognized in him a true gentleman and as a representative he was true to his oath of office.

Nemaha county never became notorious because



of mob violence, but when one Robert Gobel, who with wife and child camped near Calvert and was too blank lazy to go twenty rods to the well for wholesome water but allowed sick wife and child to use water from a filthy pond, while he lay in the shade and spun yarns, then it was that the boys thought that forbearance was not a virtue, and Mr. Gobel was called on and required to ride a rail, carry water in an oyster can for a couple of hours, bare his back to be scourged with nettles, and to promise to go to work or go hence. The next morning he could not be found, and the sick wife and child were taken to the poor farm. Later he secured work as freight agent at Brownville and the family was reunited.

The Post of September 8th had an item that read: "Dr. Boal is going to build, Mrs. White is going to build, Mr. Jones is going to build, the Post has commenced to build, M. C. Green has commenced to build and Cap Crawford has finished building."

The republican county convention was held early in October. J. C. Bousfield was nominated for treasurer; S. W. McGrew for clerk; John Culp for sheriff; Mrs. E. T. Schick for county superintendent, J. Pohlman for commissioner; George Shook for surveyor; Dr. Oppermann for coroner; Judge Stull for county judge and V. P. Peabody to fill vacancy caused by the death of T. Schick as representative. Messrs. McGrew and Culp were defeated, and the balance of the ticket elected, Mrs. Schick having a walkaway, as she had no opponent.

Mention of an incendiary fire that destroyed property in Sheridan in the winter of 1879, was omitted from notes at that date. Early in the morning C. W. Williams discovered fire in the frame building occupied by W. W. Harmon, who carried groceries and dry goods. The alarm brought out fire fighters and

the flames were extinguished, but it was easy to see that the fire had been kindled by someone who was determined to destroy the building and goods, as coal-oil had been thrown over the floor and up against the outside of the building. The repairs were made and Mr. Harmon continued in business, but just one week later the citizens were again aroused by the cry of fire and the same building was in flames.

Sometime in November word reached Sheridan that Rudolph Newman had lost his life by a fall from a house he was shingling, but later it was learned that he was still alive, and the next day he enjoyed a laugh when a wag sang, "He fell from the ladder and broke his skull and they carried him home his corpse to wake."

On December 1st Senator Daily reported having secured 5,000 salmon with which to stock the Nemaha river. The editor of the Post directed him to place half of them in Long's Branch and the balance in Rock Creek and then the Post waxed happy as it thought of the excellent fishing we would soon have.

George Reynolds, a farmer residing west of Sheridan, met with an accident on the 11th of December and the injuries proved fatal but a few days later. He was driving across the field between Calvert and Sheridan and when about where Thomas Keedy's residence stands the seat on top of the hog rack gave way and he was thrown to the ground between the horses. The team ran away and Mr. R. was dragged for some distance. His injuries were such that it was evident that he could not recover.

George, the fifteen-year-old son of W. Williams, was accidentally shot while he and some boys were shooting at a mark, but the wounds were not serious and he thought he had learned a good lesson.

As the ides of December drew near there was a

social dance association formed, and for nearly two years the social dances were greatly enjoyed. And who were they who chased the glowing hours with flying feet? Well, among the number were W. A. and E. Taggart, R. O. Fellows, W. P. Freeman, Nate Miller, C. O. Snow, J. H. Dundas, Ed Juel and F. P. Tenney, and there were just any number of good looking ladies.

During the holidays the Post took a lay off and the senior editor went to Illinois on a visit. During his absence some of the boys about town secured entrance to the office and issued a spurious edition that was a long way from being fit to circulate or be admitted to the mails. This caused considerable commotion but after the editor had given the responsible parties a good dressing down he dropped the matter and resumed business.

It only took a man with half an eye to see that the county seat could never be removed from Brownville to Sheridan or to Calvert, and that if moved at all the court house would have to be located on the beautiful plat of ground on the line between the two townsites.

Early in the year 1882 a sort of courtship sprang up between the towns of Sheridan and Calvert. The owners of the townsites wanted to unite their fortunes for better or for worse, as it was evident that neither Sheridan nor Calvert could secure the county seat, and at a point some three miles to the southeast, where the M. P. and the B. & M. railroads crossed there had been stakes driven and a townsite called Carson had been surveyed. The courtship continued for some time and then the twain agreed to forsake all others and become Auburn.

While Milton Shubert and Henry Shubert and son were driving into Brownville on Wednesday,

March 27th, the team became frightened at the repeated whistling from the engine of the incoming train. Henry Shubert and son jumped out of the wagon and got hold of the bridles, but could not hold the horses or keep them in the road. The neckyoke gave way, the wagon tongue struck the ground and the fore part of the wagon went up in mid air. Milton Shubert was thrown out and lit on his head and shoulders. His neck was broken and he lived only a few moments. The team ran about fifty yards, jumped into the Missouri river and both were drowned. Mr. Shubert was a bachelor and about forty-five years of age.

And W. E. Majors tried his hand at stopping a runaway team, but got run over and trampled in the dust. When he gathered up the pieces he found that his leg was broken and his ankle dislocated.

One of the old residents of Brownville, W. A. Pollock, who had served in the army, in the state legislature and as postmaster at Brownville, passed away on March 30th, aged sixty-four years. He refused to take medicine and said he wanted to die a natural death. He then asked that the old settlers and members of the G. A. R. post attend his funeral.

And when May 1st had come along and Sheridan and Calvert were no more but Auburn was the one city in the center of the county, many improvements had been made, and along Central avenue store buildings had been erected on nearly every lot for about one and one-half blocks, and all other interests seemed to be keeping pace. The school district had decided it necessary to have more room and voted bonds in the sum of \$,50 to build an addition to the old school-house and the building was soon completed.

Measly sharks have often visited Nemaha county and again must be mentioned one who like the one

mentioned some time previous, appeared in the guise of a preacher. The name of a certain farmer in the county will not be mentioned unless August Reimers does the mentioning. Brother L., accompanied by a slick gentleman, drove up to the residence of Brother S. and introduced the slick gentleman as Mr. B. and then went on his way. Mr. B. was a perfect bundle of affability and after telling Mr. S. that he had a fine farm, healthy children and some fine stock, he proceeded to inform him that he had a patent solution that would preserve fence posts, and if sprinkled on the old posts in time would restore them to a sound condition and make them last until the democrats quit talking tariff. "Get off my farm or I kick you off. Go at once, I don't want any of your truck. Leave my premises," cried Mr. S. but Mr. B. stood on the order, begged pardon and said that the good book taught him to render good for evil, and that he wanted under all circumstances to be a humble follower of the Meek and Lowly. Brother S. finally asked him if he were a christian and he answered that he was, and when asked to what church he belonged he answered that it was to the church, and that there was but one church, but one faith, one Lord and one baptism. He then went on to say that for the past seventeen years he had been preaching the true gospel, etc., etc. Mr. S. was of like faith, hence begged pardon, said he was too hasty. He didn't want the patent, but wanted the saintly peddler to stay to dinner. He stayed to dinner, to supper, over night and to breakfast, and in the morning after pointing the family to the richer joys beyond and bidding them goodbye until we meet again, left with Mr. S.'s note for \$150 in his pocket.

The year 1881 is still remembered as the year of the great flood along the Missouri river. For several weeks the water extended from bluff to bluff with

scarcely a foot of land that was not inundated. Cattle were shipped out in flat boats and cord wood and farm machinery were swept away and in many cases never recovered. In some houses the water stood a foot deep on the floors and when the water receded several inches of dirt were left on the floors, while the topography of the farms was so changed that it was difficult to tell where neighbors could be found. One of the parties who was over the bottoms in a skiff helping to rescue the unfortunate people, told of one of the most heart rending scenes he ever witnessed. He had just arrived at a farm house when he discovered a woman wading about the yard in water about eighteen inches deep. She had a broom with which she was probing about as though hunting for deep water. When accosted she answered that she was looking for the well, and said that her poor children had been crying for water for two days and that she had been unable to find the well. She was "from Missouri and wanted to be showed."

The Bank of Auburn commenced business on May 20th, under the management of Messrs. Kelsey & Starin. This was the first bank in the north part of town, though Samuelson's bank had been doing business at the south side for nearly a year. This bank continued to do business but a few months when it passed into the hands of the Samuelson bank stockholders and was continued for some years.

A very peculiar accident occurred on the M. P. railroad near Talmage on the 24th of June. A heavy storm came up in the north and six section hands took shelter under a hand-car, wedged in like so many sardines. The wind started a freight car down the track, and as the storm made great noise the approach of the car was not observed until it struck the hand-car. One man was killed outright. Two others died

from their injuries, while two others were badly injured. The hand-car when it was struck by the box car was in Otoe county, but the bruised and mangled bodies were all pushed across the line, hence the inquest was held by the coroner of Nemaha county.

While Mr. Loufborough of Brock was out helping the boys in the band on the evening of July 3rd a sneak thief entered his store and helped himself to the cash and a box of cigars, but as Mr. L. returned and stepped into the store he saw the thief attempting to reach the door. He seized him by the collar and marched him down town and turned him over to the constable. The next week he was sentenced to the pen for one year. On the following day a sneak forced an entrance into the residence of Thomas Keedy west of Auburn. He got away with a revolver, a watch and a lot of pennies, all of which were valued at seven dollars. Constable Day pursued and arrested the thief at Peru, and when he was brought into court he plead guilty and piled the stolen valuables on the court table. He was sentenced to thirty days in the county jail, but when he was being taken away he begged the constable to get his book, which, by the way, was not the book that tells of the rescue of Jonah or the death of Stephen, but was the life of the James and Younger Brothers. But a few weeks later a horse was stolen from the south part of the county. The thief was captured by Constable Day and brought before Judge Dundas, who held him to answer at the next term of the district court. And he, as he took his departure to the lone cell, asked for his belongings which consisted of about forty cents' worth of linen and the life of the James and Younger Brothers. And then the question was asked as to why these boys had gone astray, and one who had read the book mentioned answered that the book, which to all appear-

ances was the only one they had ever read, made both the James and Younger boys heroes, and spoke of their deeds of deviltry as if it were a grand display of heroism.

Henry Hahn near Johnson lost a barn, two span of mules and a fine stallion during an electric storm on the 16th of July.

There was a county seat meeting held in Samuelson's hall on the evening of August 12th and a large number from all parts of the county were present. Two of those who did the talking were Church Howe and S. A. Osborn, and they improved the opportunity to shoot each other a few shots until the meeting became a political pow wow. Judge Church, who was presiding, tried to check the angry combatants as both were republicans and he feared the party might suffer from the wrangle, but others cried, "Let 'em go ahead; when rogues fall out honest men get their dues." And the war of words continued until Sunday had almost arrived, when an adjournment was taken and the county seat was not so much as pried loose. The store of Nate Miller was entered on the night of August 12th and the safe, a fire proof Mosler Bahmann & Co. was entered by using crowbars, ax and pick, and about eighty dollars was taken. The burglars were never apprehended, but the party to whom suspicion pointed lost his life at a later date by discharging a trap gun while attempting to open the money drawer at the store of J. W. Roscow in this city. The bank of Auburn incorporated in August of 1882 with a capital stock of \$25,000, with Charles D. Nixon, Church Howe, A. H. Gilmore, P. P. Starin and W. Starin, directors.

And as the campaign for 1882 drew near there was mention of Hon. R. W. Furnas for legislative honors when the Post laid down on the proposition



and declared that Furnas' record would kill him too dead to skin, but it was a long time before the average voter could read between the lines and see why the Post was "ferninst" Mr. Furnas. The republican convention that was held a few weeks later at Samuelson's hall, as the Post had it, was the most harmonious convention ever held in the county, and every candidate was nominated without a dissenting vote. Hon. Church Howe was endorsed for congress; J. S. Church was nominated for the senate; George Shook and Jacob Good for representatives and Frank Redfern for commissioner. But it did not appear to the republican minority that the convention was the most harmonious, for every candidate nominated was defeated by figures ranging from 564 to 834, and Mr. Howe was not nominated for congress.

On August 18th while J. E. Neal and his two sons were returning from a chicken hunt Scott reached for his revolver that he might discharge it, but the revolver was too quick for him and the ball struck the father in the back. Fortunate for Mr. Neal he was leaning forward applying the break to the wheels, hence the ball passed up the back instead of entering the body. On the same day that Mr. Neal met with the accident a man by the name of George Hall, who had but a day or two before arrived from the old country, received a charge of shot in his hand and the wound was so bad that amputation was necessary.

During the latter months of 1882 the dread diphtheria was quite prevalent in this county and many a home was darkened because death claimed the loved ones. John Loveless and wife laid two of their little ones to rest on two consecutive days, and three lovely flowers blooming in the home of John Hastie and wife were rudely cut down within one week.

On a bright June morning in November about

seven individuals called on the editors of the Journal, which at the time was published at 431 South Fall street in Auburn, and emphatically gave the said editors to understand that unless the Journal changed its tactics it would be short lived, as they would stop their papers. And the editors, as editors are apt to do on such occasions, said, "Go to Texas, we are running this paper." And when the five out of the seven whose names were on the list withdrew, the paper continued to live, and as is usual in such cases others came in and swelled the number of subscribers away up.

On the 30th of November Philip Young, a wealthy and aged farmer of Lafayette precinct, was trading at Brock and when he started for home his team turned about, broke the buggy tongue and threw Mr. Young across the whiffletree where he was kicked by the horses until he died.

The Omaha & St. Louis express on the M. P. line was ditched just north of Howe station on the 22nd of December and about forty passengers got a roll over. Messrs. Broady, Howe, E. Rhodes, Paul and W. Gilmore, John Maley and W. A. LeGrand all had taken the train at this point and all but LeGrand and Maley escaped uninjured.

A youth to fortune and to fame unknown, a Sweed by birth, who had been working in the saw-mill at Brownville, did not answer at roll call, and the next day he was still absent and some tears were expressed that he had fallen into the river while loosening logs from the raft. Days passed until a week was gone, when his body was found suspended to a small sapling, having hung himself with a pocket handkerchief. The body was badly decomposed when found and hogs had torn the flesh from his lower limbs.

During the session of the legislature for 1883

there was an effort to secure the enactment of a law requiring railroads to build switches, depots, etc., at crossings with other roads. The bill was favored by those interested in the Carson townsite, but it never materialized, though it caused considerable uneasiness among the people at the center, as it looked possible that the county seat might go to Carson if a depot should be built at that point.

Again in January, 1883, petitions were presented to the county commissioners asking for a vote on county seat removal. Considerable money was subscribed toward building a court house, but as the courts held that an offer of this kind was the nature of a bribe, the offer was withdrawn. The vote on removal took place on February 27th and resulted in 1211 votes for Brownville; 1397 for Auburn; 6 for Carson and 18 for Nemaha. It was evident that all that Auburn had to do to get the county seat was to fat up the colt and run him again, and that the next election would be sure to give Auburn the necessary three-fifths vote could not be gainsaid; hence Auburn continued to grow and Brownville to decline.

The Nebraska Republican was established in Brownville early in 1883, and for a time it opposed county seat removal but one year later it was moved to Auburn, and within a few months the Granger followed suit.

In March, 1883, a young man by the name of Reynolds complained that the sum of forty dollars had been stolen from his pockets while his clothing had been hanging in the closet at his mother's residence, and he charged that the money had been taken by a young man named Spradling. Spradling was arrested, found guilty and sent to the penitentiary until he should learn to quit his foolishness.

In the spring of '83 Judge Morgan erected a large

and commodious hotel across the street from where the Antioch school building now stands, but one year later it was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt.

On May 19th after the saloons had done some free advertising, a man by the name of Amos Whitlow got gloriously full and wanted to "clean out the town." After making several attempts to engage in a fight he struck one Fred Keedy with a knife, burying the blade in his jaw and breaking the blade off at the handle. He was promptly arrested by Constables Rogers and Day and was taken before the justice of the peace, when a crowd of angry citizens and some from other parts formed a sort of lynch committee, at the head of which was a half drunken wholesale runner, and for a time it looked a little as though violence would follow. The judge, seeing that the prisoner was too utterly utter for trial, directed Constable Day to swear in twenty men if necessary and take the prisoner to the county jail and see that he was properly guarded until 9 o'clock on Monday. The lynch committee withdrew to take counsel from the leader, who had become a little sleepy, and the rope was slipped out of his hands while he was unaware of what was going on.

A deaf mute by the name of Johnson was struck by a freight engine near Auburn on June 12th and was badly, but not fatally injured.

On June 16th the Nemaha river, that had been booming for some time, left the channel and spread over the bottoms. Near Frerich's lake one T. O. Smith was drowned while attempting to get to where a skiff was tied. He was running in water but a few inches deep when he fell, and being near a large draw he was swept out of sight and nothing more was seen of him until four days later when his body was found eighty rods below. Great damage was done to the

railroad and trains were delayed for nearly a week. Bridges were washed out and in some cases telegraph poles were uprooted and floated down the broad stream. The Post, unable to get ready prints, issued on a sheet 9x12 and there was hardly paper enough in town to supply the demand.

July 7th a conductor by the name of G. V. Holmes on the M. P. road lost his life by being crushed beneath the wheels of a tender and engine. He was walking but a few feet from the tender while the engine was being backed, his foot caught in the frog and he fell in such a way that one arm and one leg were crushed. He lived but thirty minutes and was conscious that death was approaching. His last words were, "What will become of my wife and children?"

Some years before the happening of the accident above related there was a scene in the north part of town that beggared description. Mr. and Mrs. William Pugh had just completed and moved into their new house, and surrounded by their two bright little boys and a lovely daughter of two summers you may conclude that there was a happy home. Little Charley was sent to the kitchen to kindle the fire while the mother set about preparing for supper. The fire did not burn to suit the boy and he tried the use of coal-oil. An explosion followed and the little girl was so badly burned that she suffered indescribable agony for about thirty hours and then came the welcome messenger. The boy was so badly burned that it was thought for a time that one of his lower limbs would have to be amputated. He finally recovered though he has ever since been slightly crippled.

In the month of January, 1884, Thomas Daugherty, a youth in his teens, was engaged in a friendly scuffle with a companion when by accident or other-

wise a revolver in the hands of the other lad was discharged and a ball passed through Daugherty's left lung, making an ugly wound from which he suffered for many days, and from which he never fully recovered.

As bad as the newspapers of the county have ever been in the eyes of the fellow who allows his subscription to go unpaid for years and then disputes the account, or the fellow whose cussedness has been made public, these horrid papers have never been found guilty of great crimes, and with one exception there has not been an editor whipped in the county.

And yet it is possible that not all of the newspaper men have been angels. Early in 1884 some parties who had been engaged in a neighborhood quarrel that grew out of a church quarrel in an adjoining county, were still anxious for revenge, and one of the parties who had some poetic jingle in his head wrote some verses hardly fit to be read in a cow barn, and these lines with a lot of kindred matter were collected and printed in a small sheet called the "Stinkfinger."

The parties against whom the nonsense and filth were hurled took the matter into the United States court and the editors of the Nebraska Republican of Auburn were arrested and when taken into court told who were the writers, and admitted that they were the parties who got out the wonderful paper. The boys were discharged but not until they had learned a valuable lesson.

There are men in different parts of the state as well as in Nemaha county who before the great scare wore locks of black or brown. During a big temperance revival in the city of Brownville, while John B. Finch was delivering a lecture, a chandelier fell and a conflagration followed. Women screamed, men screamed and even the children did likewise. There

was no chance to escape as every avenue seemed barred, hence it was fight or die. For some time terror reigned, but willing hands wielded overcoats and extinguished the flames. No lives were lost, yet there are those today who turn pale at mention of that fire.

On March 24th, 1884, the cry of fire was heard in Auburn and it was soon discovered that Richards' livery stable that stood where the marble works now stand, was on fire. The flames were fought with an earnestness born of desperation, but the stable with seventeen head of horses, the residence of W. W. Crandell, the business house owned by J. Mutz and occupied by F. S. Hawly & Co., and full of farm implements, and the store building standing where the First National bank now stands, occupied by T. S. Horn as dry goods and grocery store, all succumbed to the flames.

While the Missouri river was on its vernal rage a flatboat came floating down stream and was captured by Henry Brown. It was constructed of white maple, hand sawed, and was put together with hand made nails. It was believed to be at least 100 years old and the supposition was that it had been taken up the river, wrecked and then covered by the shifting sands, and there had dwelt in silence and repose until set at liberty by the shifting of the stream.

March 28th, 1884, J. H. Dundas purchased a two-thirds interest in the Nebraska Republican from B. B. and J. C. Thompson and entered into partnership with L. M. Zook, the firm name being Dundas & Zook. And then the subscriptions began to roll in and parties came forward with "words of encouragement" and with words of advice. The new editor was cautioned against offending the saloon keepers, against criticising the church, against giving names

in reporting court trials, etc., and one man actually advised him to go right ahead and not say nothing about no one. But the new editor just bowed and said, "Whatsoever course we believe to be right that course we shall pursue."

Mrs. A. Lahrman, who resided near Brownville, was on May 16th assisting her husband at burning brush when her clothing caught fire and she was so badly burned that she died a few hours later.

In June of '84 there was a move inaugurated to secure funds with which to prospect for coal at Brownville. The necessary amount was subscribed and the work of drilling to the depth of nearly 2,000 feet was done, but while at several points coal was reported there was not a sufficient find to warrant further work.

The Auburn Street Railway company was duly incorporated June 20, 1884, with capital stock of \$10,000, but as the road has not yet been completed it might be well for the man who writes history a thousand years hence to point to the inactivity of the incorporators, who were A. H. Gilmore, D. J. Wood, W. T. Reed, C. E. Waite, F. J. Sliter, Church Howe, J. H. Dundas, C. H. Willard, O. J. Stowell and H. R. Howe.

The newspaper men of Nemaha county have generally been whole souled fellows and the only thing small about them has generally been their charges for public printing. In '84 the Auburn Register filed a claim against the county for \$295 for publishing the treasurer's semi-annual statement, and the editor of the Granger was just so small as to go and publish the fact that such claim had been filed.

On the nation's holiday J. L. McGee of Brownville attempted to cross the railroad track near the depot at Brownville and was struck by the train and thrown onto the cow catcher, his feet dropping down



between the ties. The train was stopped as soon as possible, but his feet were badly lacerated and several of the bones were broken. On the same day there was a disturbance in the city of Auburn which resulted in the death of one man. One David Worrel with another man was engaged in a game of billiards when Mark Hall, who had been drinking enough to make him feel quite funny, came along and made some comments which lead to unpleasant words between him and Worrel, when Hall seized a billiard cue and struck Worrel over the head. Worrel fell and was unconscious, but was not considered dangerously hurt so was laid in the shade at the back door of the saloon, where at about five in the evening he breathed his last. Hall gave himself up, wanted to plead guilty and take his medicine, but was prevailed upon to stand trial. Later he was released on a straw bond and skipped for Texas. After an absence of nearly two years Mr. Hall returned, ignored his counsel in the case and entered the plea of guilty, claiming that he had no intention of killing Worrel and that he regretted that he had left the country instead of entering the plea of guilty at the time. He was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary, got full credit for good conduct and returned to Nemaha county, where he has ever since conducted himself as a worthy citizen.

And yet another chapter in the Hall case. Mrs. Nancy Worrel, mother of the man who died from the effects of the blow from Hall, brought suit against J. G. Maclay and Ford & Manigan, saloon keepers, and their bondsmen, for the sum of \$10,000. A judgment of \$2,000 was secured, and after the decision of the lower court had been affirmed by the supreme court the judgment and costs were paid by the saloon keepers, who retired from the damndest business on earth.

The election held in November of 1884 resulted

in the election of C. Howe as senator; H. Williams and S. P. Robertson, representatives; J. Pohlman, commissioner, and W. Rich, superintendent.

The Auburn Champion was established in January, 1884, by L. P. Boyd and J. H. Curry, and the same had hard sledding, for on the following November the Nemaha county Granger was moved from Brownville, thereby giving to the growing, but yet youthful city, five newspapers. The Champion continued for several years, but the editor, who was a graduate from an eastern college, became exceedingly fond of the wine that man loveth and some years later succumbed to the inevitable.

In the month of April, 1880, a man by the name of John Clark, with his family, arrived in Peru, having driven from western Kansas. He declared his intention to become a resident of the city, and had rented a house. Within a few days he was seized with a violent form of insanity and murdered his wife. He then started up the street with gun in hand, and seeing someone in the harness shop who he claimed had made fun of his team, he raised the gun to fire. The parties stepped back, but Mr. Sargent, the proprietor, stepped to the door and was shot dead. As though maddened by his rash acts he started out as though bent on taking the lives of the balance of the citizens, but John Majors grasped a double barreled shotgun and at first sight of the villain compelled him to hold up his hands. The man was lodged in jail, and later was sent to the insane asylum.

June 3, 1884, was celebrated the completion of the South Auburn Wagon factory, and speeches were made by J. L. Carson, J. H. Broady, T. J. Majors, Cap Philips and others. The building was never made use of for the manufacture of wagons, but later was converted into a flouring mill and is today a part

of what constitutes the German-American Milling plant.

The residence of Henry Harmon was gone through by a thief on the first of June and some clothing was stolen. The thief was captured before he got out of the county and was anxious to plead guilty to the charge of petty larceny, but as the goods were of value above \$35 he got a chance to serve in the penitentiary for a term of five years.

Another body was taken from the Missouri river on July 1st and Coroner Oppermann held an inquest. The jury found that the deceased had on his person a pocket-book, knife and one cent in money, but no marks of violence, and it was decided that the man was about forty-five years of age. He was buried at Aspinwall.

On the 6th day of July a little child of Warren Manning and wife fell while playing with a dog and the child's leg was broken, and a few days later August Rogge was a victim of a runaway, and as he landed in a barbed wire fence he was badly hurt and one horse was killed and the other crippled for life.

The drug store of J. W. Croson of Howe was burglarized on July 22nd, and as there was no cash in the money drawer the tool thief filled his hide so full of bug juice that suspicion at once pointed.

The total valuation of realty and personal property in the several precincts for the year 1884 was given in the following figures: Island, \$9,448; Peru, \$94,458; Glen Rock, \$226,760; Lafayette, \$224,774; Washington, \$213,557; Douglas, \$139,675; London, \$129,822; Brownville, —; Nemaha City, \$97,008; Aspinwall, \$129,989; St. Deroin, \$12,967; Bedford, \$158,801; Benton, \$227,811. Value of personal city property: Peru, \$12,848; Brownville, \$58,763; Nema-

ha City, \$21,301; Auburn, \$98,822; Johnson, \$6,585; Aspinwall and Hillsdale, \$3,056.

The residence of J. M. Zook in Auburn was burned in the month of September, and it was believed that the building was set on fire once before. None of the furniture was saved.

In November there was a move inaugurated to tar and feather one William Pugh, a former resident of the city who had been arrested and returned from Indianola, Iowa. He had been guilty of breaking into and taking \$28 from a trunk belonging to Miss Minerva Gilbert while assisting the family of O. J. Stowell in moving. His wife, who had bought and nearly paid for a little home, mortgaged the home to secure bail, and then the miserable ingrate had skipped.

On July 15th Henry Burgman, who resided with his brother, George Burgman, in the northwest part of Bedford precinct, quit work in the stone quarry and went to the house complaining that the heat was too great to stand. At the house he asked his sister-in-law for the German hymn book, and after reading for some time he requested the sister-in-law to tell her husband that the letter that he had written was at a neighbor's house. He then said that he was going to go up stairs and kill himself. She tried to prevent his going but failed, and a moment later heard the report of the gun. She at once went for her husband, who when he came found that Henry had placed the muzzle of the gun to his mouth and blown out his brains. The letter referred to was written to the mother in Germany and stated that he hoped to go onto a piece of land of his own the next spring. He was a bachelor and about forty-five years of age.

While Johnnie McCumber was riding a colt on his way from Auburn to the Goosman farm he was thrown

from his horse and dragged for nearly a half mile. He was still breathing when found but no one present believed he could recover. He was taken to his home and carefully cared for by Dr. Oppermann, and after lying in a comitose state for nearly three weeks he regained consciousness and recovered.

Fish ponds have been constructed in the state of Nemaha but in the long run have proven a bad investment. One of the most successful farmers who tried fish culture was Clark Puffer of Lafayette precinct, but though he reaped a good harvest and enjoyed many a meal on brain food he was later forced to abandon the enterprise, as the dam would be damaged by heavy rains, and in dry seasons the springs did not supply enough water to compensate for that taken by solar evaporation. Mr. Puffer's experience was the experience of others, until it could be said that there was no longer a fish pond in the county.

The Republican of June 3, 1885, had the following: "Election is over. One thousand, eight hundred and sixteen voters expressed themselves in favor of re-locating the county seat at the center of the county, while only 689 were in favor of the old location. During the contest that ended with Thursday's election everything passed off quietly. No speeches were made for or against, and but little was said by the newspapers. It was simply this, the people generally believed in the justice of the removal and that the time for removal had come, and voted accordingly." A few days later Messrs. Howe & Nixon and the Lincoln Land company set to work and erected a frame building 40x40 two stories high with an addition 14x40 with a 9x13 fire proof vault which was rented to the county for five years at sixty dollars per month with privilege of continuing the lease for a longer term. This building was leased for a number

of years and then purchased by the county and another vault added, and was occupied until December, 1900, when the offices and records of the county were moved into a beautiful and substantial court house that had been built at a cost of \$40,000, which, according to contract, was to be paid for during the years of 1901-2-3 and 4.

On the morning of June 13, 1885, it was discovered that burglars had effected an entrance into the three saloons in Auburn, and while they had secured but a few dollars in money neither the liquid nor the cigars had been touched. Hence it was contended that the burglars must have been prohibitionists. But the naughty saloon men contended that if the prohibs had got into the saloons while no one was looking on they would have devoured all the liquor in the establishments.

The Nemaha County Agricultural Fair and Driving Park association was organized during the summer of 1885, and on October 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th was held the first county fair at Auburn. This fair was a success and has been successfully conducted ever since, except the year 1901, when no fair was held.

While at work near the banks of the small stream that runs past his residence, in April, 1885, James Clarke found a human skull, but as it was not labeled it was not possible to return it to its owner; and in fact the history of the one who was once proprietor of this dome of thought cannot be here given with accuracy. Many believed that it was the same cranium owned by Mr. Dailey, a former county treasurer of Johnson county, who, it was thought, had been murdered near this place over fifteen years before. But whether this cranium was once the property of some love sick swain who sought the solitudes of the prairies and there ended his own career; some unfor-

tunate wanderer who died from a bolt from the skies while the elements were at war, or that of Mr. Dailey, or whether Mr. Dailey is really dead or not, no one has ever learned.

From a letter dated at Omaha December 14, 1885, and written by John C. Thompson are, gleaned some facts relative to former Brownville and Nemaha county people; to wit, T. W. Blackburn is a faithful employe of the U. P. Young Crawford works for the same company. H. E. Gates has a position in the First National bank. A. D. Small is in the employ of the Republican's job department. Miss Dicie Johnson is teaching in the high school. L. M. Zook is holding cases in the office of the Republican. R. Worthing has a place with Berger & Smith, grocers. William Small follows painting, while his son Charles has developed into a first class barber. Miss Fannie Arnold has a lucrative position with St. Philomena's cathedral. Dr. Ed Arnold has an office here and a good practice, while Dr. William Arnold has an office with his son. Ben Arnold holds a responsible position with an insurance company. Evan Worthing is working in Woodman's Linseed Oil mill. Thomas Perry, the King brothers, Alf Burnet and Mace Cochran, all carpenters, are at work here. F. D. Muir is an employe of the Nebraska National bank. Messrs. Don Arnold, F. Sliter, W. Nixon, Charles and Franz Helmer are among the recent arrivals, and all the Nemaha county boys are doing well.

On January 7, 1886, Mrs. Henry Carson received a telegram from Benkleman, Nebraska, which read: "Your husband supposed frozen to death. If found what shall be done with remains?" At the same time Mrs. Cessler received a telegram in the same words, and each was signed by Joseph H. Pear. It was soon learned that these two men had left Auburn but a few

days before to go to Gandy in Sherman county, Kansas. A later telegram announced that the bodies had been found. A fund was at once raised by the citizens of Auburn and one of the neighbors undertook to go after the bodies, but the storm had stopped trains on all lines and for several days no trains got through.

Some time in the summer of 1885 John Clark, who was in the employ of the M. P. railroad at Auburn, fell while stepping from a moving coal car. His heel was caught under the wheel and crushed so badly that he died two weeks later. The administrator of the estate brought suit against the railroad for \$5,000 but the same was compromised by the road paying about \$500.

During the heavy snows of 1886 a man was overtaken by a freight train in a deep cut near the crossing. When the whistle sounded he climbed up on a bank of snow to allow the train to pass, but as the engine passed his hat blew off and in his efforts to recover it the snow bank gave way and he fell in front of the wheels and was caught by the brake and dragged until life was extinct. An inquest was held but it was never learned who the man was. A photograph was taken and a description of the man placed in the county archives, and the body was laid away in Sheridan cemetery.

In February of 1886 Auburn, that had for some time strutted about as a good sized village, just doffed the village apparel and donned the dress of city of second class.

In the month of April, '86, Mr. Fritz Holtz, a German who lived alone in a small house on his farm in the eastern part of Douglas precinct, concluded that life was not worth living, and as he had no one to share his joys or sorrows or to saw wood for, he sent a ball into his head and was instantly on the other



shore. On the same day that Mr. Holtz crossed the silent river the body of a man was found on a sand bar in the Missouri river at Peru. In the pocket were twenty cents and a pocket knife, but his identity was never established.

In the month of May, 1886, was published the first daily paper ever published in Auburn. It was a four column folio and was published by J. H. Dundas, editor of the Nebraska Republican. It was not started as a business venture nor in the interest of the city, but simply for amusement, and to ridicule the proposition to raise money and establish a daily in a city where weeklies were starving. The daily was issued for two weeks; about one dozen subscriptions were offered but declined, and then the publication was suspended.

Early in June the barn and graneries belonging to Rudolph Schneider in Bedford precinct were destroyed by fire, and Mr. Schneider narrowly escaped death from over exertion while fighting the flames.

On June 20, 1886, J. H. Dundas, editor of the Nebraska Republican, and L. D. Wheeldon, who had for six years been connected with the Nemaha County Granger, entered into partnership and purchased the Granger which they consolidated with the Republican. It had been the boast of the fellows who started the publication of papers that the one launched was to "fill a long felt want," but Messrs. Dundas and Wheeldon soon realized that by consolidating the two papers they had filled a longer felt and greater want than they had calculated upon, for one less weekly was hailed with appreciation. Some months later the remaining paper at the south side moved to Nemaha city, and still later there was another consolidation, and another long felt want filled.

Late in the month of June a messenger came to

town to summons a doctor for A. C. Leeper, whom he reported as bleeding to death. The doctor went in haste, and those who had known Albert for many years began speaking of the loss society would sustain, spoke of his good qualities and minimized his bad ones, etc., as is the custom. But the doctor returned and reported having taken up the artery and dressed the wound, and said that Albert was talking politics when he left.

Before the city council appeared O. J. Stowell and asked that the license given Saloonkeeper Bromwell be revoked as the same had been secured by fraudulent means, and when the facts were made known it was plain that the man had, as attorney for Bromwell, secured such license illegally, and as Mr. B. refused to pay the attorney fee the attorney sought to have license revoked.

A seedy looking tramp came to the county and made many inquiries as to where he could find the residence of C. W. Wheeler, and when Mr. Steuterville secured his confidence he told that Miss Maude Miller, who made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler, had fallen heir to a vast fortune, and that he had been hired to put her out of the way, and was to receive \$500. He was lodged in jail and at once wrote a communication for the Granger that not only went to show that he was crazy, but nearly made the editor crazy to read it.

On the 28th Coroner Oppermann was called to hold an inquest over the body of Michael Welch, a seventeen-year-old son of a widow residing in Glen Rock precinct.

The barber shop of George Webb was burglarized and about \$15 in money taken, while the Granger office, next door, was not molested. Even the library,

consisting of congressional globes, was not disturbed.

As the campaign of 1886 drew near, Lawyers Stull and Taylor fought a duel with their pens and Sheriff Fowler chimed in to the discomfort of Mr. Stull.

The lifeless form of a German was found on the platform of the depot at Brownville October 3, 1886, and as there were no marks of violence it was believed the man died a natural death. Some quinine and sixty cents in money were found in his pockets.

Not every voter in the county has forgotten the campaign of 1886, though it would perhaps have been as well for the young, and old too, if the scenes of that campaign had never been witnessed; for, if the records of the times were correct there was in that campaign bribery galore and falsehood and misrepresentation mountain high. The candidates over whom the battle was fought were C. Howe and J. McShane for congress in the big first; and as Mr. Howe was a Nemaha man his election was fought for and against with desperation, and if reports are true many thousands of dollars were spent, and it is possible that some of the money from the vaults of the opposing faction was handled by his supposed friends. He carried the county, by nearly 200 votes, but was badly defeated in the district. Majors was elected to the senate by a majority of nearly 500 and McGrew and Alexander "won out" in good shape over democratic and prohibition opponents. Conner, democrat, beat Shook, republican, by fifty votes, while Stull defeated Kelligar for county attorney but forty-three votes, and the amendment to the constitution making a legislative term sixty instead of forty days, and increasing the per diem from \$3 to \$5, was snowed under in Nemaha county by a majority of 1223 votes; and when, in the next session of the legislature the ques-

tion of a legislative recount was urged, Nemaha county furnished two of the three votes against the measure.

On the evening of November 28th as a freight train was pulling out from the M. P. depot Little George Whalen undertook to take a ride, but by some mishap he fell and was crushed beneath the wheels. He was found by his sister but a few minutes after the accident, some twelve feet from the track, where he had crawled after being hurt. The little fellow was but six years and six months of age, and had not been missed by his father who was sitting in the depot.

An altercation took place between John Hall and Ed Sterret and while Hall was willing to use his fist Sterret drew a revolver and in striking at Hall discharged the weapon and sent a ball through the side light into Reed & Butler's drug store.

As the year 1886 drew to a close Auburn could boast of another railroad, as the road from Nebraska City to the junction above town was completed and the cars were making regular runs. She could also boast of an elegant opera house that had been put up and neatly furnished by Patrick Daugherty.

And when the Ides of November had come it was learned that under the infamous law enacted by fraud and kept on our statute books by damnable lobbying the three Republican papers of the county had received \$900.10 for the publication of the delinquent tax list, though it had only been published in one paper.

In the early part of January, 1887, a span of horses was stolen from Bass Srouf. Mr. S. and Sheriff Tate took the trail and recovered the horses at St. Deroin but the thief was not found.

The Starry boys while out on a hunt came foul of a monster wildcat which when hard pressed by its

pursuers made a break for Brownville, and before the home guards could be gotten into line terror reigned supreme, and though three companies of armed men undertook to capture the ferocious animal it made its escape.

While Mrs. Henry of Brock was sweetly sleeping with her two children, someone opened a window in a lower room and kindled a fire, which would have burned the house and most likely cost the lives of Mrs. H. and children had they not been aroused by the smoke. Mrs. Henry had fallen heir to some property in France, and a few days before the fire her brother had insisted on her signing over her right to him, and had made threats that lead to the belief that he was the guilty party.

On June 29th the family of George Klein were called to mourn the death of their four-year-old son and brother whose death resulted from inhaling steam from a teakettle of boiling water.

While coupling cars at the M. P. depot J. C. Mason was caught between some rails that projected from one car and the end of another car and for a time it was thought that he had received his last hug, but he escaped with less injury than did Adam when he was cast into slumber, for he didn't even lose a rib.

Burglars visited Auburn on the night of February 16th and effected an entrance to each of the saloons on the north side, and at each place secured about \$2 in change for their trouble. They also entered the hardware store of C. H. Willard where they succeeded in opening the safe, but did not so much as get one cent. They then stuffed their pockets with cutlery and departed. The same night the postoffice and drugstore at the south side were entered, though but little was secured. Months later while a sidewalk

was being repaired on Court street a darkey who went by the name of "Horse" volunteered some assistance, and while at work found the cutlery that had been taken from Willard's store, and later he admitted that he was one of the burglars.

On the 23rd of February, 1887, Selatheal Good of Glen Rock precinct departed this life, and ere the dawn of the following day his wife, Enlalia Good, closed her eyes in death. This couple had journeyed together for 51 years and some months, and on the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage their children and neighbors were present to celebrate. At this anniversary it was related that the two were born on the same day; on the same day made the vows to love, cherish, etc.; on the same day became parents, and on seven different occasions, on the same day rejoiced over the arrival of an addition to their family; on about seven different occasions both witnessed their family increased by the addition of a son-in-law or a daughter-in-law; on the same date both smiled at the receipt of the welcome news that they had each become a grandparent, and so on until many grandchildren and great-grandchildren had been added to their family. "But," remarked the relater, "this journey together will probably not continue much longer, for death will come to claim what he may desire, and the one will be taken and the other left." Yet strange as it may appear one was left but for a few short hours.

Auburn, after spending considerable time disputing over location for high school building, finally arrived at a compromise and the building was built but a short distance from the court house, and was completed in 1886. Since that date not only the city of Auburn, but Nemaha county in general has felt a degree of pride in our excellent schools, and many

from the rural districts have taken advantage of the school facilities.

The Daily Post was launched in Auburn in April of 1887, but it was not long until Mr. Fellows, the proprietor, realized that the outlay was greater than the income, and the publication was suspended for one century.

The Peru Argus was the name of a small paper launched at Peru in the spring of 1887, by Mr. Parkinson, but the venture was not a lucrative one.

The lawyers of Auburn seemed to be in hard luck in the month of April. Lawyer Fenn, who was justice of the peace, was arrested for disturbing the peace while on a royal toot, and Lawyer Stull was on the same day arrested for embezzlement, but there were lawyers to defend lawyers and the difficulties were adjusted.

Another newspaper adventure was that launched at Brock by one Walker, a Baptist preacher by profession, but an irresponsible cuss by practice. This man had the plan for a typewriter in his head and succeeded in enlisting the efforts of W. F. Wright and W. H. Hawley, two well-to-do farmers who were members of the church he represented. A company was organized, a large brick building erected, machinery put in and workmen hired to manufacture the typewriter, Mr. Walker at the time still planning to perfect the device. The Typewriter was also published by Mr. Walker, or by the company, and within three months Mr. Walker claimed a circulation of 500. The invention, gang aglae; the paper suspended, the press and outfit were sold and the subscription list tendered to the Granger, but declined, and Walker walked off leaving Wright and Hawley to pay the bills and take the assets.

On June 5th while bathing in the Nemaha river

northeast of Auburn, Fred, the only son of John J. Leach and wife, got into water too deep to wade and sank to rise no more. The body was recovered several hours later and taken to the home. The father and two sisters were in western Kansas and were not reached by telegraph until some time after the remains had been laid to rest.

Charles Skillen, an old soldier and a harness maker by trade, met with an accident that proved fatal three weeks later. He was assisting with well drill and by some misstep got his foot into the gearing of the horse power. His ankle was so badly crushed that amputation was necessary.

Late in the month of June Marshal Daugherty of Brownville was a victim of bad whiskey which had been drunk by one James Allen, who struck Mr. D. on the top of the head, driving the large blade of a pocket knife into the head to the depth of two inches and breaking the blade. It was not thought possible that Mr. Daugherty could recover, and Allen felt very bad to learn that he had hurt anyone, and especially Mr. D., whom he regarded as a true friend, and when Mr. Daugherty recovered he refused to prosecute his assailant.

August 8th Hiram Schoonover was arrested and brought before Esquire Degman, charged with the crime of shooting his mother-in-law, Mrs. Sloss. Mr. Schoonover had a small field of corn near his house in north Brownville, and late in the evening he heard some noise among the stalks, and thinking it some wild animal he discharged his shot-gun and then went to find what he had killed. Some days later a stabbing affray took place in Brownville between Jesse Plasters and Tom Wilson and while some deep wounds were inflicted it was necessary for each to pay a fine of fifteen dollars and costs for their folly.



The prohibitionists were in evidence in 1887 and N. P. Meader was nominated for treasurer; S. W. Kennedy for judge; J. T. Swan for clerk, J. H. Battles for sheriff; J. E. Harns for superintendent of public instruction; W. H. Hawley for commissioner, Dr. J. F. Neal for coroner; Wesley Dundas for surveyor and D. J. Wood for clerk of the district court.

Jacob Marohn of Brownville was called upon by a dude who demanded money and who succeeded in getting the old gent's pocket book and considerable of the coin of the realm, and Mr. M. declared that he would rather pay forty dollars than be choked to death that way again.

Late in September the Center school house and Meader school house in Glen Rock precinct were entered and the clock and several articles of furniture carried off. Parties went in pursuit and to their surprise learned that the devilment had been done by a young man of a respectable family. He had been to Peru and filled up on Jayhawkers Burglary Bitters.

The republicans nominated the following county ticket: Judge, J. S. Church; treasurer, D. O. Cross; clerk, W. P. Freeman; sheriff, John Culp; clerk of the district court, Ed Juel; superintendent, J. L. Meloin; commissioner, Clay Shurtleff; surveyor, R. A. Gilbert; coroner, Dr. Oppermann. The democrats named for judge, J. B. Johnson; for clerk, T. H. Gillan; treasurer, S. Reed, commissioner, T. F. Burrese; sheriff, H. Culwell; for clerk of district court, S. S. Hare; for surveyor, Stephen Gilbert. The ballot resulted in the election of Messrs. Reed, Gillan and Culwell on the democratic ticket while the balance of the officials were republicans.

Another very sad accident occurred at the home of Charles Welton and wife near Johnson on the 24th of October. Mrs. W. had set a tub of hot water on

the floor and her little two-year-old son ran along and fell in head first. He suffered for about ten hours before death came to his relief.

Near the close of the year 1887 a law suit was on between R. O. Fellows as plaintiff and J. S. Stull as defendant and the same attracted a considerable attention as it was a suit brought to recover \$75 which Mr. Stull had promised to pay to Fellows for the influence of the Post during the campaign. Mr. Stull did not deny promising the amount but contended that the contract should not be enforced as it was against public policy.

Near the close of the year 1887 a number of leaders in the democratic party called upon Messrs. Dundas & Wheeldon of the Granger to declare that the democratic party of the county must have an organ and asked on what terms the Granger could be secured. They were answered by the proprietors of the Granger that they would under no circumstances turn the Granger over to any party or clique. They were ready to treat with fairness every candidate who sought office and was willing for the people to decide, but would continue to expose crookedness without regard to party. The reply did not meet with the approval of the majority of the committee, and they at once set about raising a bonus of \$600 to secure a "truly democratic" paper, and in January J. W. Barnhart launched the Nemaha County Herald, which is still published at Auburn.

January 12th the county was swept by the skirts of a Dakota blizzard, but no lives were lost and no serious damage resulted.

It was reported that robbers had attempted to enter the residence of Judge Wheeler and had fired one shot under the kitchen window. The judge, who was awakened by the screaming of his foster daughter,

at once put himself on guard and was ready to meet the burglar, or a host of them, but no one attempted to enter the house. The next morning it was discovered that the shot had been fired from a jug of yeast that stood near the kitchen stove.

The grocery store of B. Stroble of Brownville was burglarized on the night of February 28th and about \$16 was secured, also some ladies' shoes and a gold ring.

A shooting affray took place in Bothel's livery stable in Auburn on March 12th and the same reflected no credit on some of the citizens. Several citizens anxious to emulate Nebraska City called on a man who had been staying in town for some days, and who had made statements damaging to the reputation of one of our citizens, to request that he leave town at once. No sooner did the man discover himself covered with revolvers than he too brought his shooting iron into play. About a dozen shots were fired, and the leader of the mob received a slight wound in the hand. His companions at once bethought themselves that it was bed time and left for home. The man would not go, and several of the boys who had been in the gang suggested that the matter be kept out of the papers.

The good people of Nemaha City were called upon in March, 1888, to mourn the gone-ness of the cashier of the bank, as Blank was conspicuously absent, and the funds considerably short. The creditors came in with attachments and it was learned that the stockholders were strictly left to the tune of several thousand dollars.

The assessors of the several precincts met at the court house and decided to assess farm horses at \$30, mules at \$35, sheep and goats at 75 cents, fat cattle

and hogs at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound, corn at 8 cents and steers and cows at \$7 per head.

Parties professing to be the advance guard of the salvation army visited Brock, but they succeeded in making some uneven exchange of wearing apparel at the hotel and moved on at an early hour the next day.

Two small barns were burned in the south part of Auburn on April 16th and men and women and children fought the flames with courage and with desperation, and saved another small barn but a few feet to the south.

Fisher's bridge across the Nemaha near Glenrock went down under the weight of eighteen head of cattle and but one was killed.

Another pencil duel was fought during the months of April and May between J. W. Barnhart, whose right to vote was challenged, and G. B. Beveridge, who was the challenging party, but though many shots were fired both came out of the encounter without stains of blood on their apparel.

Lightning struck a large cottonwood tree standing a few feet from the residence of Albert Jewell, in Washington precinct, and though the tree was split into over 10,000 pieces and scattered a distance of 300 feet, the family was not disturbed by the shock.

The assessor's returns for the year 1888 showed the personal property of Douglas precinct to be \$148,664; real estate, \$203,273. Personal property of the city of Auburn, \$92,499; real estate, \$87,038. The assessment was taken on a basis of thirty percent.

Probably the best circus that ever came to Auburn was unwound in Justice Warren's court in the month of June. August Albrich and his nephew Joseph, who were bachelors and occupied the same premises, were in court, Joseph as prisoner at the bar, charged with assault and battery, and August as com-

plaining witness. August swore that 'Yo didn't keep his picks tied up good in the pen, and that while his own picks were tied always up in the pen, Yo's picks were running his rye allover, so he run the picks after to scare them mit a rod wagon, when Yo come out and throwed him mit a stone that was bigger as five hundret pounds, which broke pretty near his ribs in.' Joseph made general denial and swore that 'he only made some little stones the fence at and it yumped the fence over and hit August yust a little bit sometimes.' The attorneys kept their clients reciting and re-reciting the difficulty, while a large audience roared with laughter. Joseph was fined \$10 and was obliged to borrow the money from August, after which both got into the wagon together and started for home feeling that justice was satisfied, as the demands of the law had been met.

A very strange accident happened to a six-year-old boy who made his home with Lars Peterson west of Auburn. The little fellow was leaning against a well curb holding a mule that was drinking. The mule became frightened and pulled back, upsetting the curb, letting the boy fall into the well. The boy's skull was fractured and his body bruised in all parts, and he was unconscious for several days.

July 24th another call was made for Coroner Oppermann and he went to Aspinwall to hold an inquest on the body of a man found floating in the Missouri river. The body was dressed in a good suit of work clothes; two dollars were in the pockets, also a bunch of keys and a pocket knife on the handle of which the letters "T. J." were engraved.

Milton, the ten-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Rice of Brownville, was drowned in the Missouri river on the 29th of July, and the next day the body

was recovered and was buried in Walnut Grove cemetery.

Peru was visited by two spiritualists and so wonderful were the scenes the audience didn't see, and so sweet, though discordant, the music heard, that unbelievers began to say, "Well, what in the devil can it all mean?" One night while the parties who had paid fifty cents each to be sold, were listening to the music of a violin while their hands were clasped, one of the listeners' heads came in contact with the violin. He seized the instrument and smashed it on the floor, greatly to the indignation of the medium. Then there was talk of tar and feathers, and then the couple went to greener fields and mediumistic foolery took a rest.

On the 16th of August a party arrived in Auburn with a small folding table and a number of shells from English walnuts, and after securing a couple of fellows who were to win a V he got on the shady side of a building and was about to engage in business when a good looking gentleman stepped up and remarked that it was easier to keep out of trouble than to get out, and so saying he touched a star on his lapel. The fellow retired, remarking that he would as soon fight the whole — city of Chicago as that fellow. The marshal was Arthur Walsh.

Beginning in 1887 and continuing for some years there were published in the Granger letters written by "More A. Non" who was a regular attendant at "Harmony Ridge" meetings. These meetings, if ever held at all, were certainly held in the interest of the republican party, and its bosses, and the correspondent dealt in deepest satire by simply reporting proceedings et-scateratum. But a few weeks elapsed until there was begun the publication in the same paper, letters from A. N. Out, who dealt in humorous but satirical lan-

guage while reviewing the proceedings of the meetings of the democrats at "Rural Deestriect."

Late in August Messrs Cochran, Alderman and King landed a steam ferry boat at Brownville and the same was named Grover Cleveland.

The millinery store of Mrs Prouty was burglarized in August, 1888, but as but few articles were disturbed it was concluded that the burglars were ladies who wanted to secure the latest styles that they might be in style for one day before the fashion changed.

While George W. Hayes slept the sleep of the just and the tired, the next morning he was short \$140 and had no pocket in which to carry money if he had it, for pants and cash had both disappeared.

Two of Brownville's most loyal and patriotic citizens (we know they were loyal and patriotic for they went to war—with each other) engaged in a quarrel, lost their tempers, said cross words and then "fit." Both were victorious, though one had two ribs broken and the other had a broken finger and a black eye. They compromised after the fight just as nations do, and then both continued to boast of having whipped the other and to sing their own praises for defending their own honor, though it looked as though they had but darned little honor to defend.

At the county fair in October an incident took place worthy of chronicle. Two men stood on opposite sides of the table covered with corn, pumpkins, etc., and each had something to say about the products. One of them remarked to the other that the voice sounded familiar and the person addressed, touching his bronze button, said that he had served in the 34th Iowa infantry, and gave his name as Henry Conner. Then the two grasped hands and began to talk, but broke down and cried. The two had been

army comrades, had stood side by side in battle, suffered hunger and had known privation; had divided their last cracker and then gone to sleep to suffer with hunger while they dreamed of home and plenty; they had tried to appease their hunger on corn that they had picked up from under the feet of the teamsters' mules, and finally both had succumbed to the disease producing miasmas of the south and were together borne to the hospital. Later Mr. Keith was discharged. He bade his comrade a tearful adieu, never expecting to meet him again. Later he learned that Conner was dead and had been buried alongside of some of the other boys in blue, and at the request of the widow he (Keith) had preached the funeral sermon. He had never learned anything to the contrary and supposed his friend was sleeping in a southern grave. And as they talked and cried there were those who stood by who joined in the lachrymal refrain.

A "tourist" who had begged a night's lodging at the home of Walter Nicholson, had the cash to pay for his breakfast and lodging, but later the hired man had neither pocket book nor \$12 that it contained.

The election in 1888 resulted in the election of C. Howe for senator; A. Corbin representative 2nd legislative district, T. J. Majors and E. Lash as representatives; G. W. Cornell, county attorney and L. Fisher, commissioner, all republicans except Lash, who had a fair majority over Pohlman while Colonel Majors came within thirty-five votes of being elected to stay at home, while his stay-at-home opponent lacked only thirty-five votes of being elected.

One of the great enterprises that never came forth was a move to take the water out of the Nemaha river near Glenrock mill and send it down in underground pipes, thereby giving power that would turn all wheels and all heads. The plan did not materialize, for it



was found that Engineer Dawson had blundered in his calculation as to the water level, and that he was not familiar with hydrostatics.

While at work near Aspinwall a man giving his name as George Phefer was accidentally shot through the knee, and so bad was the wound that amputation was necessary and death followed later. Before closing his eyes in death he told that he had a wife and two sons in Iowa, but as he had only acted the part of a drunken husband and father he would not consent to make known the address of his wife.

One of the most shocking incidents that ever took place in this county was the shooting of James M. Williams by Ben Skillman, which took place at the front door of what was then the Commercial hotel, on the evening of January 29, 1889. For weeks the story had been told of the treachery of Williams and the disgrace of Miss Rebecca Skillman, and the father of the girl, whenever under the influence of liquor, was wont to parade the disgrace to his family before so many as would listen to his recitals, and some, moved by his tears, told him he should shoot the author of his daughter's disgrace, while others were so deeply disgusted at his recitals that they were disposed to befriend Williams. Ben Skillman, the twenty-year-old brother of the girl, had heard different parties declare what they would do under like circumstances, and too, he had been told that he was a chump for not avenging the wrong to his sister. On the evening mentioned Skillman met Williams in front of the hotel when Skillman at once drew his revolver and fired. Williams fell and a bystander grasped Skillman but was unable to hold him. Williams arose to his feet and had hardly crossed the threshold of the hotel when a second shot laid him low, and five minutes later life was extinct. At the inquest it developed that Miss

Skillman first met Williams and asked him if he proposed to let her bear her disgrace alone, or intended to share it with her. He answered that already she had caused him trouble enough, and undertook to pass on but was met by the brother. Skillman was arrested and lodged in jail and there were fears that violence would be done and guards were stationed about the jail. The trial was one in which many were interested, but resulted in the acquittal of Skillman, and the family soon after left Auburn.

Henry Bergman had a valuable horse stolen on the night of January 12th, and as the best horse in his lot of twelve head was taken he believed that the thief was acquainted with the premises.

Near the last days of January six children, brothers and sisters, were found where they had taken shelter in a vacant house and were trying to fit up a stove. They were the children of William Kiechel, a drunken lout, and the mother had died some months before. They had walked from Brownville and were both hungry and tired, but were unwilling to go to the hotel when ordered to do so, because they feared their father might not like it.

The colored population of Nemaha City were nearly all sick from drinking coffee that it was thought contained blue vitriol, and some were inclined to believe that someone compassed their annihilation, but all but one recovered.

At Brownville a family by the name of Fimple was arrested on the charge of having maltreated the mother. When the facts in the case were brought out about twenty-five citizens called on them and notified them that if they did not quit town, as they were out of the hands of the law, they would be put to soak in the Missouri river, and they moved.

While Lafe Higgins was on his way home from

Auburn he was attacked by two footmen near the Burley bridge. One man struck at him with a knife and cut a hole in his clothes but the knife point struck the ring of his watch. Some of the boys were disposed to make light of the story and asked Lafe if he were at home when the nightmare took its departure. The same day George, the eighteen-year-old son of George Ottens, was bitten by a dog supposed to be afflicted with hydrophobia, but as he recovered without serious results it is believed the dog was only out of humor.

Brownville suffered from two fires, one of which destroyed the Crim building and the other burned the grocery stock of Dick Talbott, but was extinguished before the building was destroyed. And a day later someone created a great excitement by telling that Patrick Mooney had taken the life of his better half. All hands turned out and found Mr. M. sitting by the fire peacefully smoking his pipe, while the better half and children were reading the Granger. Mr. M. remarked that it must be a silly child indeed to tell such a story. And then it was remembered that there was not a better citizen or more conscientious husband and father in the county than Patrick Mooney.

On February 21st, while William Bailey of Brock, aged eighty-one years, was attempting to cross the railroad track in Brock, he was struck by the cross-beam of the engine. The train was moving at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour, and Mr. Bailey was killed instantly. His son, B. H. Bailey, was but a short distance away and saw the old gent cross the track, but stop and turn around just in time to be struck by the end of the large beam.

William Miller, son of M. B. Miller, slipped away contrary to his father's wishes and attended a country hoe-down, and the next day he undertook to

show his sisters how he could do the double shuffle, but all at once he disappeared from sight, for the platform on which he performed was loose boards over a well. Will landed in two feet of water and two feet of mud and got cooled off before the windlass could be attached and his feet drawn out of the mud.

On March 25, 1889, an inquest was held over the body of a man found with his head in the gutter and his feet on the walk near Klein's saloon. He was about fifty-five years of age and had been sawing wood and cleaning spittoons for Saloonkeeper Wyman to pay for what crackers and cheese he ate and what whiskey he drank, while he slept in the barn, where he had taken a severe cold and was suffering with lung trouble.

On the 24th of March one John Hutchinson of Peru was making loud profession as a servant of the Lord and was marched to the residence of Mr. Craig and asked to plead guilty to the charge of stealing hay, to which he promptly responded. It was learned that he had swindled a good old man out of \$250; had mortgaged property which was not his and had stolen both hay and corn, and yet the brethren of the church said that it was better to say nothing about it, and let the pious(?)cuss cross over into Iowa to find other fields where he could shout of free salvation, while he fleeced the credulous.

While some of the school children were playing with a fire that had been burning near the schoolhouse in Auburn, the clothing of Little Dolly White caught fire and before Miss Cornell, the teacher, could extinguish the flames, over one-half of the body had been charred. She suffered but two days and sank to rest. Two days later the residence occupied by Professor Fordyce was found to be on fire, but willing hands

lent assistance and the building was saved; though the woodshed had to be destroyed to reach the fire.

The famous fraud, Dr. Janss, visited the county, sending before him advertising matter for the three papers. The Granger had heard of the old fraud and refused to advertise; but on the contrary wrote up some of his crooked work in other counties. Later the doctor called with blood in his eye to demand retraction, said he had four assistants and that he was barely able to control them and keep them from flogging the Granger and smashing everything in the office. And then the editor got his Irish up and told the old cuss to go and bring his assistants and he would be ready. He then proceeded to hunt up and publish the proceedings and transactions of the old fraud, and later had the pleasure of seeing him pull out, declaring that the Granger had knocked him out of \$40,000 worth of business in the county, and to realize that the people of the county were about that much better off for having the fraud exposed.

George Behrends and Henry Ratloff of Benton precinct had some difficulty over some corn and the difficulty resulted in a physical encounter in which Behrends was so badly bruised that it was thought for a time that he could not live.

About the 10th of July John Caywood lost his life by drowning, while bathing in the Nemaha river near Allen's mill. The body was recovered and the funeral took place at Nemaha City.

During the summer Church Howe graded about a low spot of ground, constructed a race track and a fish pond, but the heavy rains soon caused a washout, destroying both track and fish pond before the work was completed.

Mrs. S. C. Bennett was found near death's door at her home in Nemaha City on July 30th, and to all

appearances death resulted from morphine poisoning, but whether the dose was taken with suicidal intent could not be learned.

During the month of August, 1889, a new disease appeared among cattle and some of them lost their sight while others recovered after a few weeks of trouble.

One evening Landlord Chrisman reached the conclusion that one of his boarders was not conducting himself as became a good boarder and he sought to have him "strike the road." The boarder locked the door of his room and refused to move on, and Chrisman first hurled a flat iron through the transom, and then a lighted lamp followed and holy terror! the fellow got and the citizens came at the alarm of fire and saved the building, but the furniture was destroyed. On the following day one Peter Brower, loaded with bad whiskey, tried running horses while returning from Auburn but fell from the wagon and was run over by the other team and narrowly escaped fatal injuries.

The little village of Howe was thrown into consternation and for a time it was thought that the place was doomed. Water from a heavy rain had found its way into the cellar of the drug store. Barrels of oil and other liquids were overturned and mingled with the water, and when the cellar was about half emptied and the streets about half full, someone set fire to the oil and a blaze went skyward. The boys threw on water but to no avail, and C. E. Blessing cried, "Throw on salt." The command was obeyed and the flames were extinguished.

While on their way to Auburn Mr. Eritson and daughter of Richardson county were quite seriously hurt by reason of the giving away of a bridge across the Muddy.

The body of a man was found in the river near Peru on Sunday, September 3rd, and an inquest was held. Who the man was could not be learned, though it was probable he was one of a government rip rap boat, who had been missing for several days. A few days later Charles Colerick was drowned while fishing in the Nemaha river near Nemaha City.

An attempt was made to burn the Park theatre in Auburn on the night of October 6th. A window had been broken in and an armful of hay put in and set on fire. The hay was burned and the carpet destroyed, but the building was not greatly damaged.

The hardware store of R. M. Gillan & Co. in Daugherty's block in Auburn was entered on the night of October 7th and the safe blown open with powder. About thirty dollars and some goods were taken. The store of Roscow Brothers in the same building was also entered and several suits of clothes taken. But two days before the residence of Breckenridge Blount of Loudon precinct was burglarized, and a watch and several dollars in money were secured, and on the same night a barn belonging to Lloyd Mason of Bedford precinct was burned and considerable hay and grain was consumed, but horses, harness and wagon were rescued.

On October 30th Julius Johnson, sr., was found dead in his room at the residence of his son near Johnson station. A note was left which read: "I feel that it would be an abuse of myself and, on some accounts, wrong to try to lengthen my life. I am surely fast approaching utter helplessness, a condition you know I have always had in the utmost dread \* \* \* I know a just God will never punish me severely. And now comes the hardest task of all. My dear children, one and all—farewell."

A thief who stole a horse from H. Starr at Brock

was arrested at Broken Bow and brought to Auburn and lodged in jail; and as his belongings consisted of an old sack containing keys, screw driver, file, etc., it was apparent he had been a man of "business."

The election that took place November 4th did not materially change the partisan complexion of the official roll call. J. S. Church defeated I. H. Claggett for the office of county judge. C. W. Pierson, the independent candidate for superintendent, defeated Melvin, the republican. B. F. McIninch, republican nominee for commissioner, got eleven more votes than his opponent, M. T. Conner. James Hacker got 1087 more votes for the office of surveyor than were received by his independent opponent, G. W. Haywood. Dr. Tyler, republican, received 120 more votes than Dr. Kay, democrat, for the office of coroner. G. W. Berlin, republican candidate for clerk, lacked 465 votes of being even with T. H. Gillan, the democratic nominee. F. Snyder, democratic nominee for treasurer, beat both E. B. Hubbard, republican, and W. A. Codington, prohibitionist, and had votes to spare. H. Culwell, democratic nominee for sheriff, left John Wirick 178 votes behind, while the vote for court house bonds stood 942 for to 1344 against.

Following election came a campaign for postoffice with S. W. McGrew, R. O. Fellows, W. R. Leach, D. S. Hacker and J. W. Brush as candidates, and when the shuffle was ended R. O. Fellows was the lucky fellow.

The village of Johnson was attacked, early in 1890, by a man who, after walking up and down the center of the street for some time, mounted a wagon and cried: "Hear ye! hear ye! and repent, for the end of the world is at hand." Some of the citizens turned pale, others wished they hadn't been so blamed wicked, and Julius Johnson said he couldn't help it. He didn't



believe Jonah swallowed the whale or that Samson slew the Philistines with the jawbone of an ass. Finally John Zook ventured out and told the weird looking stranger that he was about the only sanctified man in town and took him out to his farm so that the people of Johnson might recover from their fright.

Two of the Allen boys of Glenrock visited Brownville and filled up on tangle foot. They then came to Auburn and wanted more tangle foot but were requested to leave town. A little way out of town they overtook Robert Leeper, who with a young lady was riding in a road-cart. One of them threw a rope over Leeper's head and put spurs to his horse. Leeper was jerked out of the cart and dragged some distance before he could get free from the rope. The boys were arraigned before Judge Church the next day and entered the plea of guilty, and the further plea that it was whiskey that did it. They were fined three dollars and costs and registered a lot of promises to do better in the future.

The organization of a county alliance was effected January 24, 1890, the officers being elected from members of different alliances throughout the county. The officers elected were: President, W. F. Wright; vice president, W. Clark; treasurer, Fred Parker; lecturer, J. H. Elmore; executive committee, George Dye, George Peterson and John Ashley.

An attempt to break jail was made by the man who stole a horse from Hewett Starr, the negro who was charged with stealing two horses from Nick Ackerman and another man charged with grand larceny. They would heat the stove shovel and then hold it against the door, and thereby succeeded in burning the door so as to almost loosen the hasp. They were detected by Joel Culwell, son of the sheriff, and had to sit in the cold for a time.

The quiet of the Cottrell house was disturbed by the crack of a revolver in the hands of a lady who with her four children had come to Auburn to join her husband, and on arrival found that he was occupying apartments in the city with another woman whom he had introduced as his wife. The ball from the revolver did not hit the husband, but all the same he concluded it best to respect the little woman who had pluck enough to take her own part, and woman No. 2 departed.

Burglars were again in evidence in Auburn on March 1st. About \$100 worth of goods were taken from the bankrupt store; Cashier Hay's clothing was carried off and the money taken from the pockets; Dr. Shull had a silver watch and a pair of overshoes and other articles taken, and at the home of Dr. Oppermann a gold watch and several pieces of silverware went along with the burglars. The residence of Judge Wheeler was visited but the judge happened to be enjoying a spell of seasickness and the burglars doubtless concluded he was loaded. Fire broke out at about 2 o'clock in the morning of the 13th of March, and before the flames could be arrested Jarvis Newman's billiard hall, George Klein's drug store, W. Klein's grocery store, an unoccupied building, another containing pumps, etc., belonging to Fred Schiel were destroyed. Mr. Newman and family, Robert Stewart and family and Mrs. Dickinson occupied the upper rooms, and these made their escape but saved none of their goods. The buildings burned were on the west side of the street north of the B. & M. depot, and the losses footed up about \$3,200.

There was a sensation in Nemaha when it was learned that a Mr. Brown by name but a Mr. Black by color, manager of the "Happy Little Darkies," had gone and with him had gone a Miss Young and all the

funds of the troupe, while Mrs. Brown and the little Brownies were left.

M. C. Wesson of Nemaha City precinct became a raving maniac about the last days of March and it required several strong men to hold and care for him.

The city dads and all the other dads of Brock forgot to call an election until a few days before the regular time for holding annual elections. The saloon question was not an issue.

On June 26th an accident happened to James H. Cook of Glen Rock precinct that rendered him a cripple for the balance of his life. While working about a corn sheller his glove caught in the cogs and his arm was crushed from the ends of his fingers to his elbow.

The cry of fire was heard in Auburn on May 1st and the citizens rushed forth to do duty in arresting the flames. The building was a frame structure and stood almost touching the McKnight block and less than thirty feet from Bousfield's bank. It was packed with flour, bacon, oil, wood and groceries. Everybody rendered all assistance possible, saved some of the goods and prevented the flames from reaching other buildings.

During the night of April 26th the discharge of a gun was heard and in the morning it was learned that Roscow Brothers, whose store had been entered not less than four times during the past year, had set a trap for the burglar and as a result Mr. Burglar received a charge of shot in the region of the heart just as he drew the money drawer to load up the coin. An inquest was held and Roscow Bros. were held blameless for the act of placing the gun where it would be discharged by the opening of the drawer. The body was, by W. Spradling, sr., pronounced that of Cole Grogan, a man who had been suspicioned of all

sorts of deviltry, and especially as the fellow who burglarized the safe belonging to Dundas & Miller several years before.

During the month of May Rev. H. Presson and Elder M. Boals engaged in a debate on several propositions relative to baptism and each demonstrated that he was good at bombast, sarcasm in rejoinder and disrespect for decorum, but the audience simply tired of the farce.

At about 11:30 on the night of May 11, 1900, smoke was seen coming from the roof of the Gilmore building on the corner of First street and Central avenue, and before 1 o'clock, despite the best efforts that could be put forth the fire had made its way eastward, burning ten stores with most of their contents. Those suffering loss were Gilmore & Hetzel, J. M. Lindsey, J. T. Swan, W. G. Swan, E. H. Dort, McKenney Brothers., D. Dickinson, H. Cooper, Auburn Clothing House, J. E. Thomas, Bauer estate, Berlin & Co., Dr. Clutter, W. M. Robison, F. M. Hosmer, Dr. Shull, J. W. Darrah, McKnight estate, J. Conley, G. DeGet, T. S. Horn, Bousfield & Co., N. Jones, Cooper & Horrum, F. Fritch, I. O. O. F. and Dr. Daily. Total loss, estimated, \$52,525; insurance, \$24,500.

Another floater, another inquest and the body of another unknown individual was laid to rest. The body of a woman was caught floating down the river at Brownville. Most of the clothing was intact. Shoes were on her feet and a dark wrap or circle was worn.

W. H. Morrow was thrown from a buggy on June 6th and his foot and ankle so badly crushed that amputation was necessary. Two days later Harry Douglas of Johnson was attacked by a cow. His ankle bone was broken and he was badly bruised, but

he remarked that he was not so badly hurt as he might have been had the cow had horns.

On Monday, June 16th, Frank Johnson came to town and informed Coroner Tyler that a man was lying dead near the railroad on the Wheeler farm southeast of town. The body was found to be that of James Whiteman, and the jury in the inquest returned a verdict setting forth that Mr. Whiteman had come to his death by a pistol shot, the shot having been fired by Charles Johnson with felonious intent. Whiteman was a brother of Mrs. Johnson and the two men farmed the Wheeler farms, and had fallen out over a piece of grass that each claimed. Johnson made his escape but the next day surrendered, admitted the shooting but plead self defense. He was convicted of manslaughter and served a term in the penitentiary.

Two boys at Peru sought to enrich themselves by stealing three beef hides from the slaughter-house of Mr. York and selling them in Nebraska City. But while they covered their tracks they could not cover the odor and the hounds of the law were in hot pursuit.

The case for disbarment of G. W. Cornell for using language indecent and unbecoming an attorney caused considerable excitement in the county and there was considerable difference of opinion as to what should be the outcome, but Cornell was not disbarred.

The alliance, or indepeadent, party placed in nomination C. W. Williams for senator; W. W. Scamman for float representative; J. D. Storm and A. C. Leeper for representatives; G. B. Beveridge for county attorney and M. C. Shurtleff for commissioner. The editor of the Herald at once demanded the resignation from the ticket of both Leeper and Beveridge, thereby giving a side issue in the campaign. And besides these issues the amendment campaign was on and

politicians were kept busy expressing themselves for or against the amendment according to the crowd they were in.

The one-year-old son of J. W. Wyrick and wife was bitten by a rattlesnake and for several days it was thought the child could not recover. About a week later W. W. Adair and wife were called to mourn the loss of their seventeen-year-old son, Lorenzo B., who fell into the Nemaha river and was drowned while fishing a short distance from where his father was at work. The young man was troubled with fainting spells and it is supposed he fainted while on the bank of the river.

The district reunion of the soldiers of the rebellion was in Auburn on September 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th, and a large number attended and many there were who met comrades whom they had not seen for many years and whom they never expected to meet again.

The republicans of the city held their convention on October 3rd and nominated C. Howe and B. H. Bailey for representatives; Ed Bourne for county attorney; Shurtleff for commissioner, Messrs. J. S. Dew and J. Pohlman having previously been nominated for senator and float representative. Later the democrats placed in nomination M. T. Conner and W. H. Ressler for representatives and W. H. Kelligar for county attorney. The election resulted favorably to Williams, Howe, Storms, Kelligar and Shurtleff.

An M. P. train was wrecked near the creek north of the depot and one man, Conductor Olmstead, got a bloody nose because he did not stop as quick as the caboose stopped, and some copper ore was spilled.

While Ed Bishop of Glenrock was in town he came across a saddle that had been stolen from him

two years before. He learned who was the thief, but too late, for the fellow had flown.

John Ratloff, whose crib of corn had been visited too often, left his dog in the crib, but next morning found the dog in the throes of death from poison, and his crib broken open.

After election Church Howe was served with notice that his seat in the legislature would be contested on the grounds that he had made use of money and other valuable considerations to secure his election, and that depositions in support of said charges would be taken before Notary Public Bourne. Then followed affidavits and counter affidavits, et cetera and so forth until men of candor began to lose confidence in their fellow voters. The taking of depositions proved to be a grand farce, each side accusing the other of bad faith, perjury, subordination of perjury, etc,

On the night of January 9, 1891, fire broke out in the Red Front building standing opposite the Dustin & McConnell barn, and despite the best efforts of the citizens the building and the livery barn belonging to Bennett & Higgins were consumed. Several buggies were burned in the store building, also the household goods belonging to W. A. Bailey, and considerable grain and hay were burned in the stable, though the horses were rescued.

Nemaha county was awarded the prize for the best field of corn in the state for 1890, and Bass Srouf was the farmer who raised the corn, and then he succeeded in selling his corn for two dollars per bushel.

The residence of Fred Lung, occupied by Walter Douglas at Johnson, was burned on the night of February 6th. Mr. D. and family had a narrow escape and lost nearly all of their household goods and clothing.

The contest begun against Church Howe after the election in 1890 was renewed in the legislature of 1891 but after the committee on privileges and elections had tussled for several days the house accepted the majority report and the matter was dropped. And then Mr. Howe's friends in Nemaha county made a trip to Lincoln and presented him with a gold headed cane and lots of flowers.

Fred Pickett undertook to move from the best county in the best state in the union to South Dakota, but his team ran away and he came out of the wreck with a broken leg.

In the southeastern part of the county farmers' hogs answered not at roll call, nor could the defunct bodies of their dead corpses be found, hence a vigilance committee set to work and but a few weeks elapsed before several sons of Vanlaningham were behind the bars at the state penitentiary; and at the same term of court Albert Chrisman was fined five dollars for shooting at his father, the court taking into account the fact that the boy was defending his mother against brutal treatment by a drunken husband. Another case in court was the trial of a man who deserted his wife and ran off with his mother-in-law, but returned after he had secured a considerable of the old lady's property.

Quack cure-alls again made their appearance in the county and before launching out in quest of farmers' notes they called at the Granger office and ordered many dollars' worth of blank contracts, blank notes, etc. But alas, their scheme was exposed in that issue of the Granger and they had to send for money to pay their board, having secured but one note. These parties while getting their printing done had given Mr. Wheeldon a full insight into their mode of securing notes and giving nothing in return.



A national bank was organized and began business in January, 1891, with J. C. Bousfield, W. H. McIninch, Ed Lash, Joseph Moody, Henry Harmon, S. W. McGrew, Ben Thompson, Smith Thompson, J. G. Maclay, G. S. McGrew, Charles Bourlier, Joseph Lash, Henry Morgenstern, James Ely and W. H. Bousfield as stockholders.

At Johnson there was a hot time in the old town over the granting of saloon license and John Walton, one of the remonstrators, was struck over the head while entering the council room, and knocked down stairs. He was unable to prove which man assaulted him, hence no conviction.

Harry Harryman, a son of Mrs. Charles Howel of Bedford precinct, was drowned on Sunday, July 12th, while bathing in a pond on the farm of Eph Rhodes.

Burglars effected an entrance to the store of W. M. Robison on the night of the 14th and got away with a lot of clothing, etc., but as they happened to hide down by the banks of the Nemaha they were run onto by John Oldfield, who was out early to see his fish traps. They were darkies and were apprehended.

But a few nights before this O. C. Pamel slept while burglars removed the screen and carried off clothing and \$43 in money.

Great excitement prevailed at the home of Mr. Aimee near Julian when it was learned that his little son had fallen into the cistern, but the sister let down a rope and the little three-year-old clung to it and was rescued. On the same day G. R. Elliott, a brakeman on the M. P., was knocked off the car and caught by the brake beam. He was badly bruised, but recovered.

Late in the month of August it was learned that one of two Germans who had been baching and farming near Auburn had skipped out with the mules

which belonged to the other. The truant cuss turned up near Rock Port, where he sold the team and hired out to a farmer, but he was not prosecuted by the owner of the mules for he was a female and the twain had been living together for many months.

The seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto of Bedford precinct was kicked by a colt and the skull was crushed. He lived but a few hours.

While Thomas B Stocker was away from home someone stole his \$40 shot gun, and Mr. S. thought that such fellows ought not to be allowed to run at large. The same day six of Albert Leeper's grade cattle went to roost on the M. P. railroad and were ruthlessly hurled from the road-bed, and the appraisers said the damage was \$240.

The heavy rains did great damage along the streams. B. Ottens' sheep were drowned and H. Simpson lost many fat hogs.

Obstructions were placed on the B. & M. track west of Johnson on several occasions, and a detective was sent out and found that it was the work of little boys who wanted to see things fly.

While crossing the bridge just north of town their team became frightened at the train and backed off, landing buggy and horses in the bed of the creek, but Mr. George and Mrs. Bernard, each past the age of three score and ten years, managed to escape unhurt.

The residence of Richard Clare near Julian was burned in the latter part of September, and two men who were seen in the vicinity were arrested, charged with the crime of setting the fire. They were bound over to the district court but skipped out and left their bondsmen to foot the bill.

F. M. Chrisman was found dead at one of the stalls on the fair ground, but before the coroner had

succeeded in securing a jury for an inquest Chris had overcome his dead drunk and was on his bus and at the depot.

While the farmers northeast of Auburn were attending the county fair thieves entered their residences and W. H. Hollman, W. Clark, Marion Willyard, Let McKenney, George Coulter and Laf and Floyd Higgins lost clothing and valuables.

As candidates for the several offices the following parties were nominated: Treasurer, E. T. Ewan, republican; T. G. Ferguson, independent; F. Snyder, democrat; clerk, J. M. Burress, independent, L. Barnes, republican, George Vandemark, democrat; sheriff, H. Culwell, democrat, J. Stevenson, independent, John Wyrick, republican; judge, J. S. Church, republican, J. H. Dundas, independent; superintendent, W. M. Crichton, independent, B. F. Neal, republican, J. A. Parsons, democrat; clerk of the court, F. G. Huutington, independent, Ed Juel, republican; commissioner, L. Fisher, republican, O. P. Root, independent; coroner, Dr. S. W. Bourne, republican, Dr. C. L. Cook, independent; surveyor, Julius Gilbert, independent, R. J. Gilbert, democrat, J. M. Hacker, republican. When the votes were counted Burress had 57 votes more than either of his opponents. Snyder was ahead seven votes. Culwell had seventy votes more than either opponent. Church was sixty votes ahead of his opponent. Cook got a majority of sixty-eight. Fisher was ahead 205 votes, Crichton 290, and Juel came in ahead with a majority of 263. And the proposition to issue bonds for court house was snowed under by almost 600 votes.

The residence of Albert Sultzbaugh was burned the last of October and nothing was rescued, and as there was no insurance the loss was quite heavy.

A not overly brilliant boarder at the hotel

Johnson wrote a letter to the hired girl and the same was hardly fit for publication, Thereupon the landlady called the boarder into the dining room and belabored him with a blacksnake whip.

In January, 1891, the teachers of Nemaha county came home from the state teachers' institute bearing the prize flag and again we said that Nemaha county is the "banner county of the state."

Martin Srouf and his brother-in-law, Mr. Kuman, had difficulty over the possession of an old whiffle-tree and when Kuman had run Srouf into the house while he followed with a large knife, Mr. Srouf seized a shot-gun and Mr. K. received a charge of shot in his side. Srouf gave himself up but Kuman made oath that he was the one to blame and that Srouf shot in self defense.

A sort of an impromptu duel was fought between Sheriff Culwell and a boarder by the name of Canady, but the ball from Canady's revolver struck the Presbyterian church and the one from the sheriff's shooting iron went close to Canady's head with a zip that made him cry out, "I'll be good!" and he returned to his cell.

Mrs. Amy Beecraft died at the residence of Dr. A. Oppermann about the 24th of January, and the coroner summoned a jury and held an inquest, the verdict of the jury being that the cause of her sickness and death was abortion effected and brought about by doctors in an adjoining county.

While Eugene Hawley was running a saw mill fire from the smoke stack flew to his barn and one horse was scorched and the barn consumed.

While Mrs. McKnight and granddaughter were at church thieves entered the house and ransacked safe, drawers, cupboards, and even the basket of dirty

clothes, but found only twenty cents, while a pocket-book containing several dollars was not found.

Fred Merchand of Glen Rock precinct was brought to Auburn so badly disfigured that he could not be recognized. He had been kicked in the face by a horse and his jaw and cheek bone were broken and his face badly cut up.

The signal service flag pole was broken by the high wind and fell lengthwise on the iron roof of the Hetzel block, the upper rooms of which were inhabited by lawyers, and it is probable that never before were so many men brought to a speedy repentance. One man who beheld Judge Stull a few moments after the supposed signal to "wind up" had been sounded said that he was so pale with fright that his mustache appeared coal black by contrast.

A war was inaugurated and fought in one of the barber shops in Peru and shaving mugs were hurled at human heads in good earnest.

In the store of Graff & Hamilton Clerk Kelley noticed a peculiarly corpulent man leaving the room in haste, and he seized the fellow by the collar and removed some surplus fat in the shape of a pair of corduroy pants, and the fellow and his pals had to go to the county jail and then skip.

Elder D. B. Lake tried farming, but his team ran away and upset the wagon. The elder alighting heavily broke his arm and dislocated his wrist.

Burglars effected an entrance to the Forney second hand store by breaking a window, and at the same time the key was in the front door. It is thought that the thieves got two pair of cotton hose and a bunch of hairpins. At Frank Fritch's tailor shop they secured a second hand pair of pantaloons.

An old toper by the name of John Webb confessed that he had robbed the saloon at Johnson and

he was sentenced to one year in the pen, and the saloon that had robbed many people, was allowed to go without day.

A worthless cur in human form attempted to elope with the daughter of a farmer near Brock, but the farmer, with a barrel faucet for a shooting iron, brought the fellow to his knees.

The cry of fire was heard in Brownville and soon flames were seen mounting from the Marsh block, but before the fire company from St. Joe could reach the city Tom Daugherty, who had to fight or jump from the south end of the block, had extinguished the flames which had caught in the pitch while he was putting on roofing.

At the Christian church on April 25th the congregation was standing while Elder Harris was invoking the divine blessing when the steeple of the church was struck by lightning. The elder's prayer was not finished, and the congregation did not wait for a formal dismissal.

Disease appeared in the herd of cattle belonging to Thomas and Bert Engles during the month of May, and for a time they lost from seven to twenty head per day.

A two-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Barbour fell into a cave that was partly filled with water, at Johnson, and was drowned.

On May 25th the waters overspread the bottoms of the Nemaha river to that extent that parties had to construct rafts to reach the high land.

B. Stroble of Brownville was again robbed by burglars who entered his store at the back door. About \$400 worth of jewelry, cutlery, etc., was taken. The marshal pursued and arrested the suspects at Nebraska City. About this time the city council of Brownville whereased and resolved that as no saloon

could be licensed in that city no marshal would be needed and could not be paid, therefore the office of marshal was declared vacant, and peace reigned.

On the 17th of June, 1891, burglars entered Ball's drug store at Brock and got away with several hundred dollars worth of cutlery and jewelry.

On July 4th the sheriff seized a number of cases of beer, palm root and elixir of life from parties who were selling the same without license, and "experts" were unable to tell which was beer, which "belly-wash" and which elixir of life, and Messrs. Wright, Miller and Whitlow gave bonds to appear at district court.

Two horse thieves, aged about sixteen and eighteen respectively, were arrested in Auburn and returned to Missouri to answer to the charge that if true entitled them to a five year job in the pen.

Burglars again left evidence of their presence at the home of B. G. Whittemore, where they traded pantaloons with one of the boys, but left handkerchief, knife and tobacco. At the residence of W. Dundas they found the way upstairs and took F. H.'s trousers, which they left near the house after securing about fifty cents.

The barn at the residence occupied by George Hays was burned to the ground, and it was only by desperate work that the house was saved. It was supposed that the little boy had been playing with matches and some of the brilliant ones seemed rather put out because Mr. Hays refused to flog the boy.

Another man found a watery grave on Sunday, August 14th. George Schardt, senior proprietor in the firm of Schardt & Taylor, owners of the Auburn Flouring mills, was drowned just below the dam, where, as it is supposed, he had gone to bathe. The body was recovered a few hours later but it was not thought necessary to hold an inquest.

The reunion of the boys in blue was held in Auburn on the 16th, 17th and 18th of August and the attendance was very large, and the citizens greatly enjoyed seeing the soldiers of the sixties become boys again and live life over.

Lightning played a peculiar trick at the farm of Walter Bush when it made a hole in a wheat stack from top to bottom, and about three feet into the ground. The hole was but a few inches in diameter, but smoke soon began to arise, and failing to extinguish the fire by pouring on water, Messrs. Bush and Lake set to work and tore down the stack and extinguished the fire, thereby saving several hundred bushels of wheat.

A small war broke out within the ranks of the independent party precipitated by William Watson who, in a few lines published in the Granger, called attention to the fact that W. E. Keough had been allowed \$239.15 for taking assessment of Douglas precinct. Some of the independents said that then was the time to call the fellow down who did not act like a reformer. Others said that other assessors had done nearly as bad, while others denounced Watson as a traitor to his party because he exposed one of the members of said party.

While John Oldfield was looking after his fish traps on the Nemaha he came across three parties who were dividing the spoils of a haul they had made by stealing some grips from runners at Talmage. The fellows were arrested and taken to Nebraska City.

At Brownville early in September a woman about fifty years of age died very suddenly and the physician pronounced the case opium poisoning. She had been married but three weeks and left a husband less than seventeen years of age to mourn—if disposed to do so—her departure.



John Ratliff, while up with a sick horse, went to a stack for some hay, and while getting the hay fell over a man who jumped up and ran in one direction while John made haste the other way. When he went back to the stack he found a grip that was filled with cutlery and jewelry, which was later identified as the property of a Mr. Troxell, from whom it was stolen at Talmage.

The prisoners in the county jail made a break for liberty and while the authorities were feeling glad to get rid of three petty thieves one of them returned and surrendered to the sheriff.

The Bank of Johnson opened for business on the 24th of September with Peter Berlet president and W. Gaede cashier, while the stockholders were a number of well to do farmers in the vicinity.

On the 4th day of October, 1892, the death of Dale Harris was mentioned in all parts of the county and later reports confirmed the first reports. Dale was the eighteen-year-old son of Elder J. E. Harris and wife, and an unusually intelligent and highly respected young man, and without confiding to anyone that he was despondent or unhappy, he procured a revolver and instead of going to the schoolhouse where he was teaching he went to Grant cemetery, placed the muzzle of the revolver inside his vest and put a ball through his heart. Whatever lead up to the rash act will probably never be known.

While Mr. Ritchie, an old soldier from Aspinwall precinct, was driving to Auburn to attend the reunion, he was so unfortunate as to be struck by the B. & M. train at the crossing one-half mile east of the depot. He was thrown into the air and landed on the cow catcher, where he lay until the train was stopped a little way from the depot. It is probable that he

was killed instantly. The wagon was smashed and one horse killed.

A lad at Peru by the name of Rue tried hunting rabbits with an old pistol for a shooting iron. Getting his feet tangled in the willows he fell on his weapon and a ball struck a rib and passed around his body, but the rabbit was not hurt.

The candidates nominated in 1892 were J. E. Harris, independent, and E. B. Hubbard, republican, for the senate. Harris won by a majority of 237. For float representative C. W. Williams, independent, and Theodore Smith, republican, were opponents, and Smith won by 211 votes. The candidates for representatives were C. Howe and John Pohlman, republicans, and B. Johnston and A. Watkins, independents. Howe received a plurality vote of 44 and Johnson 58. Burnham, republican, Kelligar, democrat, and Lambert, independent, were after the office of county attorney and Burnham had 68 more votes than either of his opponents. Dressler got a majority of six over McIninch in the contest for commissioner.

The two-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Matinee was left alone by the stove. Her clothing caught fire and she was burned to death.

An explosion took place in the laboratory of the high school building and when the smoke cleared away the animate form of Will Crichton was found. He pleaded that he was only trying to make H in chemistry but had made h—ll all around.

On November 26th James and George Hickey and Robert Pearl started for Missouri for a day at the fish ponds, but before they had reached their destination James Hickey, who was riding in a double seated carriage, allowed his gun to slip down until the hammer struck the buggy box and the gun was discharged. The charge struck Mr. Hickey just below his right

ear and tore away a considerable portion of his head. Death was instantaneous, and the party returned to Auburn.

John Ebbs, A. Robison and William Corey were arrested and taken to jail charged with the crime of burning J. L. Gandy's store at Aspinwall. Some of the goods were found in Robison's possession and he admitted that he, Corey and Ebbs had got someone to invite Mr. Hall, who was in charge of the store, to go coon hunting, while they left the protracted meeting, where they had been "acting up pious," went to the store, helped themselves to all the goods they could carry and then fired the building. Corey had bought a pony from Gandy and given a mortgage in the sum of thirty-five dollars, and he declared he wanted that document burned. The postoffice with about \$300 in stamps was burned, hence Uncle Sam stepped in and made it warm for the boys.

Early in the month of January, 1893, Mrs. J. H. Cook stepped to the bedroom door to see if her baby were sleeping, when she discovered that the lamp had been overturned and the bed clothes caught fire, but instead of stopping to scream she set to work and hurled bedding out of doors. The baby was not hurt.

Fire consumed the store and stock of goods belonging to Mr. Pyle at Julian on the night of January 10th, also the barber shop, meat market and post-office.

The Gilbert bank opened for business at Nemaha City on February 1st with H. E. Gilbert president and Stephen Gilbert cashier and manager.

Another fire put in an appearance in Auburn at the Berlin bakery, but was discovered by Nightwatch Horn and extinguished in its incipiency by willing hands.

While Hugh Naysmith was felling a small tree

his little brother James thought to help by pushing on the tree; but he came in contact with the ax and came very near being cut in two, but after the doctors had had a sewing bee he again became united.

Burglars effected an entrance to the Daylight store of A. Moore and secured two complete suits of clothes with hats, shoes, socks, cuff buttons, etc. The thieves spent the balance of the night in a box car of baled hay, where they left tickets and cost marks from the goods.

At the Morer schoolhouse was found a baby boy but possibly two days old. It had been left by someone who had wrapped it in a horse blanket and had built a good fire in the building. The child was adopted by a family in the vicinity but the parents never came to claim their own.

On Thursday, March 30th, Ed Sterrett met his wife on the side-walk nearly opposite the Talmage and engaged in conversation, the nature of which could be guessed when it was known that she had left home with an avowed intention of never returning. They had talked but a few moments when Sterrett drew his revolver, placed it near her face and fired. She fell and he then placed the muzzle of the revolver to his temple and made a good shot, for he fell dead across the walk. No inquest was held, and at the burial there were no tears to fall, as Ed Sterrett was too well known in Auburn. Mrs. S. lingered until the following July and died at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn.

Early in April Mrs. Harmon Ray was found lying on the floor of her room with her hand on her heart, but life had departed. An inquest was held and everything went to show that it was a case of heart disease.

Brownville stepped astride the color line at the

spring election and elected a colored man as mayor of the city, and while there were some to protest others remembered that Mr. Brown, by name, but black by color, was a man who was not backward about setting up the drinks.

The body of a dead man was taken from the Missouri river a short distance above Brownville on the 18th of June. In the pockets was found a B. & M. check, also money to the amount of \$175. It was more than likely that it was the body of a Sweed who was drowned at Louisville while guarding the bridge some weeks before.

The temple of justice was desecrated during the month of June by the conduct of Attorneys Stull and Burnham, who were on opposing sides in a case against C. Gillispie, who was charged with bastardy, which said combat led to a fight in which both attorneys got slightly bruised, while James Bennett, who undertook to assist in the battle, got his finger in Stull's mouth just as Burnham struck Stull over the head. As a result Bennett lost one finger while the lawyers gained a first class reputation.

While John Burger was peacefully dreaming of the profits on his farm, with eyes open and ears unsealed, he was aroused by a noise at his barn and hastily dressed and went out in time to call down a horse thief who was just riding away on one of his horses, but though he cried a halt and emphasized the command by several cracks from his revolver, the thief would not stop, but horse and saddle were left behind in the flight.

The fire fiend got in another night's work on August 24th and about \$7,000 worth of property went up in smoke. The buildings were Faber's butcher shop, Mrs. Faber's gallery and the old Reed & Gilmore block across the street from the present Granger office,

while the frame building to the south was torn down and the flames arrested while on their way to a long row of frame buildings.

One of the pleasant events which have occurred in Nemaha county was the fortieth anniversary of the marriage of Alex McKenney to Miss Sarah E. Swan. This couple, together with William McKenney, with their large families, had resided in London precinct for thirty-five years and it looked as though there was not a man or child in the county who was not glad to do them honor. The family of Alex consisted of five sons and three daughters, while at the home of William McKenney the tables had to be set for parents, six sons, six daughters and a foster son. But though the families were large the markets were first class, and it was not many years until all of the sons and daughters were seated at tables of their own.

Albert Faus and George Wears, two German farmers of Benton precinct, had for some time been on unfriendly terms, and as Mr. Faus was on his way to Johnson he was attacked by Mr. Wears, who did not let up until he had broken several bones and made many bruises. Some of the friends of Mr. F. wanted to resort to mob violence, but the minister of the church where they both worshiped urged that there was a better way, and a sort of church arbitration followed in which the matter was amicably settled.

Petty thieves made their presence known in Nemaha county, and as John Trayer returned home in the evening he saw a fellow escaping through the window. He called the fellow an Irish blackguard, a Dutch fiend, etc., but he would not stop until he landed in a barbed wire fence when he had to drop the suit of clothes he had stolen. The fellow got away with several bills but as the independence of the southern confederacy was never acknowledged the bills

were not valuable. The residence of Laf Higgins was raided, but when Marshal Hinds got after the suspected party he dropped a red handkerchief containing bracelets, sleeve buttons, breast pins, etc., to the value of over \$35 and later he had to drop into the hands of an officer.

Lightning rod fiends came into Glen Rock precinct with blank contracts for rods. These fellows had planned to let the farmer down in great shape, and the first man they struck paid \$105. Then Uncle Ed Jones signed a contract, but his daughter pointed to the clause that allowed the agents to charge as long as they could get their breath, and Mr. Jones said he was not to be run over, so armed himself with a pitchfork and refused to allow the measley agent to climb his barn, and thereby saved his hard earned money.

The prisoners in the county jail discovered that several cases of beer that had been seized had been stored in the outer room. They succeeded in making a hook from a bed slat and hauled the cases ashore, or to where they could reach them, and after the seven prisoners had drunk thirty-six bottles of beer they got up a little war that came very near proving quite a saving to the county.

While W. E. Keough was noting the growth his hogs were making a man stepped up and asked him to be so good as to help him load a hog that had gotten out of his wagon. Will said he would send his hired man as he had on his store clothes. After the hog had been loaded and the man had gone it was discovered that the hog was one of Will's own thrifty shoats. The sharper was pursued and required to cough up dollars and dollars, and then some, and then go his way.

The store of Thompson & Peery was burglarized on the night of November 7th and about \$75 worth of

goods taken, and the burglars made good their escape.

The campaign of 1893 was fought out by the following candidates: For clerk, Burress, Harmon and Lohr, Burress being the winner. Eustice, Engles and Gillan were after the office of treasurer, and Eustice was the successful man. Messrs. Church and Lambert were opposing candidates for the office of county judge, and probably a more foul campaign was never waged than that set on foot and carried out by J. S. Stull in opposition against Mr. Church, both of whom were members of the republican party and each had served three terms as county judge. Lambert won by about 120 votes. The candidates for sheriff were Burger, Glasgow and Mangon, and Glasgow was the winner. Bradfield ran against Hacker for the office of surveyor and was left. Drs. Keeling and Oppermann were the candidates for coroner, and Oppermann was successful. Crichton opposed Ord for the office of superintendent of schools and was successful in the race.

The B. & M. depot was burglarized on November 15th but only a few pennies were secured.

Barney, the seventeen-year-old son of J. D. Wilkinson and wife died from the effects of a kick from a horse nearly one year before.

M. T. Conner traded a couple of slices of bread and butter to a couple of tramps for a single harness, but later he advertised that the owner of the harness could have the same by proving property.

M. P. detectives arrested two able bodied men and let one get away, all of whom were engaged in stealing coal.

In the issue of the Granger of December 8th appeared a column criticism upon the lawyers and judge of the district court under the headlines, "Legal



Legerdemain, Judicial Jugglery and Court Cussedness." Judge Babcock, who was presiding, and two of the lawyers who were most severely criticised, demanded the arrest of the editor, who when he was arraigned answered, "I cannot in justice to myself and observance of truth, say that I did not mean what I said." He was fined twenty-five dollars and costs, but in less than twenty minutes those who had observed the proceedings in court subscribed the money to pay the fine and requested that the Granger continue its criticisms until a better and more creditable court proceedings be had. And then the editor learned that it was understood between attorneys and judge that the fine was not to be paid, but that it was done to silence criticism of court and court proceedings. But the fine was paid and still more cussedness was exposed.

His Honor Judge Church was called upon by a woman who desired a license to wed. But the judge urged that it took two to make a couple and that she was only half that number. She said that the other half could not come, as he was serving out a sentence in the county jail for robbing hen roosts. She finally secured the necessary papers, hunted up a preacher and went to the jail and the twain were made one, when she took the train to Talmage to watch and wait.

As the state teachers' association that was held in Lincoln drew to a close in January, 1894, it was again evident that Nemaha county was entitled to the flag as 62 per cent of the teachers of the county were in attendance while the other counties fell short of 36 per cent. And then a motion was made to the effect that Old Nemaha county be given the flag outright, yet our teachers would not have it so.

The fire fiend sneaked in on the upper rooms of

Pat Cline's shoe shop on the 15th but was overpowered and smothered by willing workers. And while willing hands were assisting, John Riddle, a deaf mute, noticed one citizen attempting to conceal something under his coat. Riddle could not cry for police and could not tell any one else to do so. So he seized the fellow by the collar and shook him until he dropped eight pairs of gloves and mittens and begged for mercy.

The home of J. Burger of Glen Rock precinct was burglarized and some valuables taken, but John Cook, who was a neighbor of Burger, just lit out to find the burglar, and the next day overhauled him near Minersville and brought back both burglar and spoils.

The voters of Auburn held an election and voted yea on the question of issuing \$20,000 city bonds for water works, but so strong was the opposition by some of the taxpayers to the issuing of bonds that it was found impossible to sell them as purchasers feared they would buy a law suit as well. After having the bonds on the market for two years the council ordered them destroyed, and the money that had been collected on bond levy was made use of for the erection of a city hall.

There was no small degree of excitement in all parts of the county when it was learned that J. Will Argabright had shot and killed his father-in-law, William C. Smelser, at the Champion schoolhouse in Nemaha precinct. Mrs. Argabright and children had left their home in South Omaha because of the fact that they had been neglected and ill treated by the husband and father, who had become a frequenter of saloons and gambling dens, and were making their home with Mrs. A.'s parents, and the trouble that lead up to the shooting had its origin in Argabright's de-

manding that he be allowed to see the children and Smelser's refusal to allow him to do so. Argabright was arrested on the spot by Citizen George Dye and turned over to the sheriff, and when tried in the district court was found guilty and sentenced to a term of ten years. Since that date Mr. Argabright has twice been granted a new trial, which only resulted in a change from a ten years sentence to one for life.

On February 17th two sons of C. H. Larimore were driving across the large bridge south of Nemaha, when the horse staggered and fell, broke the railing and went off the bridge and the cutter and one young man landed on the ice, but the horse caught one hind foot in the rods and hung head down until assistance came and the horse was killed.

Coroner Oppermann was called to Brownville on February 20th to hold an inquest on the body of Jacob Sloss, that was found lying on the hearth of the fire place partially burned. There was no suspicion of foul play.

On the 16th Calvin E. Phippeney dropped dead while at work feeding his stock about the barn, but as there was no suspicion of foul play no inquest was held.

Mrs. A. Brayton and son, W. E. Keough, lost a large barn, corn crib, buggy house, tank, windmill and one horse by fire on the 9th of March, and it was apparent, though not certain, that the fire was kindled by a tramp.

Court was convened by Judge Bush in the month of March, and as a reform step several parties were arraigned for perjury, one for kidnapping a witness and one for subordination of perjury.

March 29th Jacob Erisman lost barn, five head of horses, farm implements, hay barn, harness and considerable grain by fire, which was probably kindled

by someone who was so unfortunate as to take a horse that had not been trained to ride. The horse and saddle returned, but the thief was never apprehended.

Messrs. Furlong & Eustice, who had forgotten that their store had been burglarized before, lost about thirty dollars worth of revolvers, clippers, razors, etc., on the 9th of April, and the burglar was not captured.

The purchase of Fisher's lake near Glen Rock by a piscatorial syndicate that was to expend thousands of dollars in stocking the same with whales, sea lions, etc., was never consummated. In fact the whole story was a burlesque on some of the Auburn people who were given to telling big stories about what was to be brought about at Auburn.

Joseph and Richard Leahy of Glen Rock precinct were unable to cope with the fiend on April 16th, and barn, three horses, grain and farm implements were consumed, while the house was saved only by Herculean efforts upon the part of a nephew.

The Nemaha County Mutual Fire Insurance company was organized during the month of May, 1894, though the German Mutual had been doing business among the German farmers for a couple of years. Both companies are still doing a satisfactory business.

Again burglars effected an entrance to the tailor shop of Frank Fritch and Frank's loss was over \$100, though some of the stolen goods were found where the thieves had tired of carrying them. The thief was later arrested at Falls City, where he offered thirty-five dollars worth of pants goods for one dollar.

When John Quinn went to the barn to harness his horses one Sabbath morning to go to church he found no harness to use. It had been stolen, and John forgot the day of the week but recalled the big words his mother had slapped him for using.

B. F. Jones of London precinct almost forgot that

it was Sunday and did what he could toward saving barn, sheds, cribs, implements, etc., but fire took them.

The Nemaha City cemetery association and one of the lot owners disagreed relative to lot sold and the association hired men to remove the body of a child, but before the work was completed the men were arrested and confronted with the penalty of the law in such cases made and provided.

The city of Brock had a fire on June 1st, or the fire had Brock. Messrs. Peter Berlet, Young & Worley, DePue & Currie, the Odd Fellows, O. D. Jones, the Masons and Postmaster Blair suffered heavy losses with light insurance.

While Kelley's army was in evidence in Nebraska and Iowa the Granger had a representative along in the person of L. D. Wheeldon, junior proprietor, who tramped, slept on the ground, begged for something to eat, etc., and wrote many interesting lines relating to the trip.

A freight train was captured by a half dozen baseball players who had bet on the wrong team and were out of money but bound to go to Tecumseh. After being put off of one car they would climb onto another until conductor and brakeman gave up in despair. But at Johnson they were again put off, and as they waited for the signal to again mount, the train was backed out of town a half mile and then went by at the rate of seventy-five miles an hour. They didn't "catch on."

While Arlie Reimers, Charles Lair, John Mills, Dave Watkins and Joseph Schantz were bathing in the Nemaha north of Glenrock station, Mr. Schantz got into water too deep for him and sank to rise no more. The body was recovered a couple of hours

later, and the following day was buried at Walnut Grove cemetery at Brownville.

Mrs. Sarah Jones of Aspinwall precinct, wife of a wealthy farmer, took her own life on Sunday, July 22nd, by cutting her throat with a razor. She was past sixty years of age, the mother of a large family, but had been in poor health for some time.

The Missouri river claimed another victim on Friday, August 5th, and at the home of John Lewis there was mourning, for their sixteen-year-old son, Malcolm, lost his life while bathing in the turbid stream.

When Sandy Stoddard and family returned to their home the evening of the 19th they found that their house had been broken open and everything ransacked, though an old watch and a few pennies were all that was missing.

The fire fiend got in a good night's work and laughed at all efforts to check him in his mad career, on September 16th and Church Howe & Son lost a large and well furnished barn, 2,000 bushels of wheat, 600 bushels of corn, sixty tons of hay, together with carriages, wagons and farm implements.

Deputy Sheriff Hill overtook and captured four armed tramps who proved to be the fellows who were wanted in Saline county, as they had overpowered the sheriff and walked off with his revolvers.

While Marshal Crandell had his off eye on a number of tramps he saw one of them go off to a hay stack, and when he returned he was arrested on "spicion," and then the marshal went to the stack and found a small sack containing about \$100 worth of jewelry, and as the sack proved to have once been a pocket in the pantaloons the fellow had on he could do no better than to "fess up."

The official vote of 1894 showed that Htichcock,

republican candidate for state senator, had received 169 more votes than Williams; his independent opponent. Pohlman was thirty-one votes ahead of the independent candidate, Overturf, as float representative. Bridge, republican, was only thirteen votes behind Johnston, and Ely, republican, was over 200 votes ahead of Raymond, independent candidate, the last four named being candidates for the lower house. Burnham, republican, and Kelligar, democrat, came within ninety-six votes of a tie for county attorney, and Davis, republican, was 150 votes ahead of Dundas, independent.

Gold! Gold! Gold was the talk for some time and by many it was believed that David May had discovered that precious metal on his farm north of Brownville. But the mines were never successfully worked.

Marshal Crandell pulled a couple of fellows who were in the retail clothing business and had their stock of goods in corn shocks. The goods proved to be the property of Alex Robison.

William Anderson and wife of Nemaha City were in a runaway that happened in Brownville and Mrs. Anderson was so badly hurt that it was feared for a time that she could not recover.

That portion of the county capital lying near the court house was visited, June 8, 1895, by the fire fiend, who put in his appearance during the afternoon but so quietly began his work that his whereabouts could not be learned for some time, and when located he still continued his work despite the efforts of all who could do battle. Smoke was first seen issuing from the Herald office, and ere the flames were arrested that office, Young's harness shop, Bovec's restaurant and Mayer's saloon were embraced and had to succumb.

John Jones of Aspinwall precinct accompanied a friend to Falls City, and on their return Mr. Jones lost his life in a runaway.

The residence of Albert Rowe in Bedford precinct was burned on January 16th and Mrs. Rowe and children were badly frozen before they could reach the home of a neighbor.

On Monday, January 28th, J. S. Hetzel, one of the best known men in the county, dropped dead while engaged in conversation with Mr. Avey, in the room now occupied by the postoffice in Auburn.

Space forbids a full and concise report of the battle that occurred in the city of Auburn on February 26, 1895, but after the smoke of battle had cleared away it was told that Tom Crummel got baptized in mud, Attorney Cornell and Policeman McKnight had had a set-to in which a half dozen were ready to assist the other fellow, Wilkinson had had his coat torn nearly off, Freeman had been arrested for inciting a riot by being a looker on, Cornell had had his face pounded, and perhaps a dozen others had played a minor part.

The residence occupied by W. Gaede at Johnson, was damaged by fire but the fire department responded and extinguished the flames. The next night the residence on the H. E. Clark farm southwest of town went up in smoke.

On March 17th Patrick Costello, a well to do farmer residing near Julian, lost his life by being crushed beneath the wheels of a passenger train from which he had alighted.

A demure looking individual who claimed to reside at Brock made his appearance at Johnson where he first stole a pair of clippers, next a billiard ball, then a pair of horse blankets, next a pitchfork, etc., but finally he undertook to steal a dog and the of-



ficials of Johnson declared that there were depths of infamy to which men could not be allowed to descend in that city.

Walton Shurtleff while repairing an old house near the M. P. depot, discovered a vault which when broken in was found to contain several hundred pounds of brass engine fittings which had been stolen several years before from the M. P. trains.

A couple of days after his oppointment as postmaster at Auburn George Harmon was seen approaching the office armed with a double barreled shot gun, and about the same time the retiring postmaster, Fellows, seized his gun and rushed to the door, but the two men instead of choosing seconds and fighting a duel, stepped into an old wagon and went down on the bottoms to hunt ducks.

Ned Parriott was aroused from his reading by a noise near his corn crib and seized his shot gun and went forth, but the animal that sought to escape walked not on all fours. He halted, threw up his hands, went back, filled up his sack, promised that he would never come again, and said he would never mention the offense if Ned would do likewise.

The organization of the Auburn Telephone company was effected on Tuesday, April 9, 1895. The officers were W. H. Kelligar, president, and G. B. Beveridge, secretary, while the board of directors were J. W. Kerns, T. W. Eustice, C. Howe, G. W. Cornell and J. S. Stull, and since that date the said company has done a growing and profitable business, extending lines to all parts of the county.

A case of total depravity was brought to light in Lafayette precinct when A. A. McFerrin was arrested for forgery. He had before been jailed on the charge of stealing school books from the district west of where he had been teaching, but so adroit was he in

smoothing the matter over that his accusers believed him innocent, and that the books had been stolen by a lady teacher and sold to him. But it developed that the "innocent and wronged young man" was the thief, and though a great church worker and Sabbath school superintendent, he was teaching school with a certificate that he had stolen and changed his name to fit, that he had dabbled in forgery and been guilty of several offenses, any of which would entitle him to a term in the pen, and he got a chance to step in at the yawning doors.

Bert Buchanau of Nemaha City, whose wife had secured a divorce, was shot by John Crother Sunday night, May 5th, while he, Buchanau, was attempting to effect an entrance to Crother's residence, where his divorced wife had for some time made her home. Mr. B., who had established for himself an unenviable reputation, lingered and suffered for over a year, but Crother was not arrested for the shooting.

William Bamber, residing near Johnson, found on going to his cellar that considerable provision had disappeared, and he soon noticed a buggy track that had been made by a wheel that wobbled, and before noon he had the thieves before Justice Clagget, and an hour later they were sent to board with the sheriff.

At about seven o'clock on the morning of May 19th the dwellers in the vicinity of Hamilton and 5th streets in Auburn were startled by loud cries from a woman, and Mrs. Robert Pearl was seen rushing from the house, her clothes enveloped in flames. H. L. Hobson seized a blanket and extinguished the flames, but the poor woman only lived to suffer for three days and then said goodbye to husband and seven-year-old son and passed away. The fire resulted from the explosion of a gasoline can, and the house

and all the household goods except one rocking chair were destroyed.

Early in the month of August an inquest was held over the body of Mrs. George Berge who, it appeared, came to her death by drowning, and it was clearly a case of suicide. She was fifty-eight years of age, and the family was in moderate circumstances.

Mr. Guachat of Lafayette precinct lost several sets of farm harness but a wobbly wheel was tracked, the harness recovered and an old man and son were compelled to foot up eighty dollars besides what they paid to the lawyer.

One night in August harness thieves were abroad in the county. R. Kite lost one and one-half set, Mr. Stroe one set, and George Lewis of Aspinwall precinct, one set.

Articles of incorporation of the Southeastern Nebraska Building and Loan association were filed in August, 1895, the incorporators being W. H. Hay, A. H. Gilmore, F. E. Allen, Monroe Burress, J. S. Church and Church Howe, and the said association has since continued business, gradually increasing each year, and has afforded an opportunity for young men to lay up a little money and have interest accumulated thereon, and for others to secure homes of their own, paying for them instead of paying rent.

Outside of Nemaha county occurred a stabbing affray in which a Nemaha county boy was the one to wield the knife. At Mount Hope church in Johnson county some young men bent on having some fun at the expense of one Will Tate, exasperated him to that extent that he plunged a knife into Archie Cathcart, inflicting a wound from which he died before morning.

There was an attempt at suicide in September by

one John Humphrey, who swallowed a large dose of rat poison. The doctors run several sections of rubber hose down his throat and the poison came up. And then an elderly widow appeared on the scene and between sobs and sighs told that she was responsible for she had refused to marry Johnnie and he had sought to end his days. But Johnnie recovered and said that it was no such a darned thing, for he would not marry the queen of Sheba or the grand duchess of perdition.

Sam Hickman's store was not burglarized in October, for lo, when the panel had been removed from the door the head of a bulldog protruded and the would-be burglars thought how wrong it would be to go in without permission.

On Sunday morning, October 26th, Ed Hoover, aged about twenty-six, residing with his mother on a farm in Nemaha precinct, took his own life by a pistol shot. No one surmised that such a deed was contemplated and no one could divine what lead to the rash act. He simply stepped into the parlor and before the looking glass, when he placed a revolver to his temple and fired. He lived a few hours but was not conscious.

And in 1895 another county election was held. A. D. Gilmore, republican, came out ahead of S. L. Caldwell, independent, 272 in the race for the office of clerk of the court. H. E. Peery, independent, was fifty-four votes ahead of Burress, republican, as candidate for county clerk. Engles, independent, beat Eustice, republican, sixty-one votes for treasurer. Lambert, independent, had 310 votes more than Fablinger, republican, for county judge. Glasgow, republican, beat Watson, independent, by 273 votes and was elected sheriff. Gilbert, independent, lacked 161 votes of having as many as Hacker, republican, hence

Hacker was elected surveyor. Dr. C. L. Cook, independent, ran against Dr. W. Daily, republican, for coroner, but lost by 138 votes, and M. H. Carman, republican, had 144 more votes than Harris, independent, for county superintendent.

Wellington Gardner, residing near Auburn, was confined to his room with lung trouble, and directed his hired man, Mr. Alderman, to take a load of hogs to town and bring back a load of coal. But the price of the load of hogs was more prosperity than the fellow could stand. He got the money, cashed a small check and skipped for parts unknown. He was later arrested, plead guilty and got a term in the penitentiary.

About the last days of November, 1895, it was learned that cure-all frauds were in the county hunting up the afflicted and securing notes, and Andrew Higgins, who had earned every dollar he possessed by honest toil, came to town and secured warrants for the arrest of E. F. Harrington and James Tucker, who had prevailed upon him to give a note for \$35. Being unable to secure bail for a time these doctors(?) were obliged to board with the sheriff, and then it was learned that instead of Dr. Tucker of Des Moines it was James Tucker of Falls City, who as a preacher and tree peddler had become to be known in the county years before. These men found it unprofitable to practice in the county, though had it not been for Mr. Higgins and Fred Merchand it is probable they would have secured many notes before leaving the county.

On December 5th Mrs. George Sanders started to drive home from Brownville when the team became frightened at a dog and ran away. Mrs. S. was thrown from the buggy and received injuries from which she died a few days later.

One Melvin Kyes of Howe either attempted suicide or came in contact with a very poisonous cigar on December 24th, but prompt medical aid was had and his life was saved.

Cyrus Tripp, who resided near the B. & M. depot in Auburn, had missed a number of articles of wearing apparel and some household goods belonging to his mother, and about the last of December he packed his goods and started for Colorado, but was obliged to return after going to Tecumseh, and on his return he found Cy Tripp's coat covering another man. He at once secured a warrant for the arrest of Claude McKennie and his father, who were near neighbors, and also a search warrant, and upon searching the premises several hundred dollars worth of goods were found. The young man plead guilty but declared that his father was not party to the transaction. The son was sent to the pen and the father set at liberty.

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### SOME REMINISCENCES.

Some of the events which have transpired in the county have never been chronicled. Others have been overlooked and not as yet found place in these pages, while others have been brought to mind by conversing with old settlers, or those familiar with the events as they passed.

Back in the year 1863 Captain David Snyder, who resided on a farm in Glen Rock precinct, was fixing the lock on an old gun that his little boy had been hunting with but could not break a cap. The gun was discharged, the charge tearing away a portion of the boy's side. The little fellow was the family idol, and for a time it was feared that the mother could not survive the shock, and she never recovered from the blow.

Esquire Clayton, who had twice recovered a horse that had been stolen, was one evening sitting at his table when a stranger called to tell how it was. He it was who had sold the horse to the man from whom it had been recovered, but he wanted to tell Mr. C. that he bought the horse from another man. After he had, as he thought, convinced the squire of his innocence and had partaken of a hearty meal he arose from the table saying that he must go as he had to be at Nebraska City the next morning. But 'Squire Clayton informed the fellow that he would have to go with him to Brownville, and failing to convince the old gent either by logic or threat he went along and was soon in the hands of the sheriff, and he it was who suicided at the Brownville house rather than go to Nebraska City to be tried for a series of crimes charged against him.

Late in the sixties it was deemed expedient to encourage the planting of trees, as at that time fires swept the prairies so often that scarcely a tree could be found away from the banks of some of the streams. The legislature enacted a law exempting from taxation certain values in realty for each acre of growing timber, and a certain amount for each acre in orchard. The law proved a success and hundreds of acres were planted to cottonwood, maple, walnut and other varieties; in fact, on almost every quarter section of improved land several acres of forest trees and orchard were planted. And since these trees have attained from fifteen to thirty years of age fire-wood has been quite plentiful and hundreds of thousands of feet of lumber have been sawed.

Benjamin Cooney, one of nature's noblemen, who some years since went on to join the silent majority, used to relate some of the hardships he endured during his pioneer days. Sickness came to his humble

abode and two of the children died within a few hours time. Mr. C. wanted the children to receive the priest's blessing, and that they be laid to rest among the sleepers whose graves were not neglected, so he constructed two coffins, or boxes, placed the bodies therein and with team and wagon started for Nebraska City. A storm arose and night came on and the poor man was obliged to spend the night on the prairies, accompanied only by the lifeless forms of his little ones and his faithful horses. But notwithstanding the suffering he endured and the solemnity of the occasion Uncle Ben would make laughable a portion of the recital as he exclaimed: "But God knows and I don't believe he'll condemn me for it, I sthole hay from a sthack to feed my poor horses that night."

As early as 1869 the state teachers' institute was held in the city of Brownville, and among the "professors" were S. W. McGrew, Henry Roberts, Perry Martin, Andrew Skeen, W. Rogers, J. H. Dundas, A. L. Stiers, Will Stewart, Phil Crother, Peter Fraker and others. One of these "professors" and a professor from Douglas county were so courteous as to secure the company of twin sisters who were teachers in Illinois, but were visiting at Brownville, and these sisters, both and each of them, looked alike, and during the evening that of course wound up with a social, these "professors," who had bought candies, passed compliments and been complimented in return, became lost in the shuffle and could not tell to which of the twin sisters he belonged. The professor from Douglas county was equal to the occasion. He met the two ladies and asked to be excused, as he was obliged to prepare and telegraph a report of the institute to the Omaha Daily. But the professor from this county just stood back and allowed the sisters to go home alone.



On several different occasions have efforts been made to organize and maintain an old settlers' association and on several occasions the efforts failed; but for the past fifteen years the association has not only lived, but flourished. Any resident of the county, male or female, who became a resident of the county before the change from territorial to state government, is eligible to membership, hence a good number are enrolled. Once a year a grand picnic is held, generally at Nemaha City, and old settlers greet each other and enjoy recalling the events of the years gone by and congratulating each other over the fact that the children of today are enjoying the privileges their parents could not enjoy.

Over twenty years ago the farmers in the vicinity of Clifton organized by electing officers and holding a farmers' institute, and these institutes have been held at Johnson or Brock ever since, and for several years meetings have been held at both places. At these meetings are discussed the different modes of farming, the time for planting, care of crops, marketing, etc., also the different questions connected with stock raising, horticulture, floriculture, etc., and many an interesting discussion is had.

The farmers' alliance, the birth and growth of which have been noted in previous paragraphs, proved an educator in many respects, and farmers who months before paid but little attention to the discussion of politics, appeared to wake up in earnest, and while they devoted much time to reading they entered upon the discussion of many political questions affecting farmers in the west. It was not long until a political organization was formed, the object of which was the advancement of the interest of the farmers. This organization was later revived and became the people's independent party.

According to the report of a committee appointed by the county commissioners in 1883 to investigate county affairs and county officials, the expense of the poor farm, including clothing, provisions, repairs and salary of superintendent, for the nine years ending December 31, 1882, was but \$13,371.30. The said committee also reported as to the amount each official had received in fees and salary for the ten years preceding, and made some timely recommendations relative to keeping accounts, showed up some expensive bridge building and road repairing, and recommended that the commissioners give more time to looking after the affairs of the county, and dispense with the lobbyists who were after fat contracts.

During the month of August Richard Hatchet arrived from England, and the next day accepted an invitation to go 'unting with his brother, George. That they might 'ave a 'igh hold time they took along a number of 'ounds and several bottles of hale. When they had reached an oat field near Grand Prairie George shot an owl and then Dick cried, "Throw 'im hup while Hi get a whack hat 'im. Hi 'ave never shot a howl hin Hamerica." George threw up the owl and Dick tried to shoot it, but fell over several dogs, and the charge of shot took effect in George's back and as there was not a doctor or surgeon within twelve miles, the writer undertook the task and succeeded in extracting over fifty shot. George recovered from the wounds but later succumbed to a more formidable enemy to the human family.

In the month of July, 1883, James G. Maclay and wife were called to mourn the loss of their little son, aged four years and four months. The little fellow was playing about the yard and fell into a cistern where he was found a few moments later, but too late.

Late in the sixties Oscar Hughes, brother of Deloss

and Elbridge Hughes, while handling horses at J. E. Neal's in Glenrock precinct, was killed, but just in what way was never known, but it is most likely that one of the horses he was leading became frightened and jerked him head first against a fence post. He was found soon after but life was extinct.

John Reynolds, for the past twenty years traveling salesman for a Kansas City firm, was once a little boy who herded cattle in this county. One night he did not reach home at the usual hour and his parents were uneasy. Hour after hour passed by and they could learn nothing of his whereabouts, but when morning dawned he was found on the prairie where his horse had fallen on him and broken his leg in two places. And from the injuries he never recovered.

While Oliver Pickens was cutting grass with a mowing machine he sought to please his little boy, Barker, by giving him a ride on the machine, but the little fellow fell off and one arm was caught by the sickle and hastily amputated.

Albert Smith of Howe was on his way to Kansas City with a car load of cattle June, 1887, and at Stella fell from a car and was crushed to death beneath the wheels.

Nemaha county has never had a judicial murder, though Charles Johnson was sentenced by Judge Broady to be hung in 1891 for the murder of White-man, but a new trial was secured, resulting in a penitentiary sentence.

Judge Lynch never held court in the county, though it is probable that two men lost their lives during the war by what may be termed mob violence. On receipt of the news of the shooting of President Lincoln A. J. Richardson remarked that if he had been killed long before the country would have been better off, and there were those who were anxious to raise a company and take his life, but wiser counsel prevailed.

A roster of ex-soldiers and sailors residing in Nemaha county was prepared and published in the Granger in June, 1887. At that time the following named soldiers who served in Nebraska regiments were residents of the county:

Thos. J. Majors, major, 1st cavalry,.....Peru

W. E. Majors, lieut. Co. C, 1st cavalry	.....	Peru
N. A. Coleman, pri.	.....	London
Geo. Crow, serg.	.....	Auburn
Got. Mahle, Bug.	.....	London
F. B. Reede, corp.	.....	Peru
F. L. Prouty, pri.	.....	Peru
Henry Snyder, pri.	.....	Peru
C. Hine, pri. Co. D, 1st cavalry	.....	Johnson
J. O. Young, corp. Co. H, 1st cavalry	.....	Peru
Edw. Opelt, pri. Co. K,	.....	Brownville
Mike Felthouser, pri. Co. K	.....	Auburn
Geo. B. Lewis, 1st serg. Co. L, 1st cavalry	.....	Brownv'e
R. W. Furnas, col. 2nd cavalry,	.....	Brownville
C. F. Stewart, surg., 2nd cavalry	.....	"
J. L. Carson, capt. Co. C, 2nd cavalry	...	"
P. Whitlow, pri. Co. C, 2nd cavalry	.....	Auburn
R. S. Hannaford, pri. Co. C, 2nd cavalry..	.....	"
Nate Sedoris,	.....	"
Jack Sedoris,	.....	"
John Sedoris,	.....	"
B. F. McIninch,	.....	Auburn
C. F. Harms,	.....	"
M. J. Combs,	.....	Peru
Reuben Graver, corp. Co. C,	.....	"
J. H. Hutchinson,	.....	"
H. B. Redfern, pri.	.....	"
P. G. Swan, corp.	.....	"
J. B. Berger, lieut.	.....	Auburn
William Kent, pri.	.....	"
O. C. Zook, pri.	.....	Nemaha
G. Lilly, pri.	.....	"
A. D. T. Hughes, pri.	.....	Howe
C. Tucker, corp.	.....	"
C. B. Roberts, pri. Co. D,	.....	Brock
Joseph Schutz, pri. Co. E,	.....	Brownville
J. L. Roy, pri.	.....	"
E. M. Long, pri.	.....	Auburn
Thomas Paxton, pri.	.....	Nemaha
Henry Hart, pri.	.....	Aspinwall
A. Reimers, pri.	.....	Glenrock
Altred Guinn, pri. Co. K, 2nd cavalry..	.....	Hamburg, Ia.
S. W. Simmons, corp. Co. L, 2nd cavarly...	.....	Bratton
Geo. Carpenter, pri. Co. M, 2nd cavalry...	.....	Brownville

Homer Johnson, pri. Co. M, 2nd cavalry.. Brownville  
 John W. Culp, pri. Co. M, 2nd cavalry.....Nemaha

And the following named soldiers who served in  
 regiments from other states were residents of the  
 county at that time.

## CALIFORNIA.

Robert Frost, private, B, 2nd cavalry,.....Nemaha.  
 L. D. Hughes, private, M, 2nd cavalry,.....Howe.

## CONNECTICUT.

Wm. R. White, private, A, 1st artillery, .....Nemaha.

## COLORADO.

Newt Kennison, private, G, 1st infantry,.....Auburn.  
 Amos Darrow, F, 2nd cavalry,.....Peru.  
 Levi McGrew, corporal, F, cavalry,.....Glen Rock.  
 J. H. Jackman, sergeant, M, 7th cavalry,.....Peru.

## INDIANA.

Thos. Ten Eyck, private, D, 11th infantry,.....Shubert.  
 Willard Eyck, private, D, 11th infantry,.....Shubert.  
 Wm. H. Ryder, private, I, 12th infantry, .....Nemaha  
 W. H. Chambers, private, A, 14th infantry,.....Brock.  
 Frank Gilbraith, corporal, G, 16th infantry,.....Auburn.  
 D. S. Hacker, F, 70th infantry,.....Auburn.  
 S. Adams, corporal, A, 19th infantry, .....Auburn.  
 F. C. Arnold, private, C, 24th infantry,.....Peru.  
 J. M. Fowler, private, H, 27th infantry,.....Auburn.  
 J. N. Montgomery, private, E, 34th infantry,.....Stella.  
 Henry Thompson, private, E, 37th infantry,.....Auburn.  
 T. A. Malone, corporal, E, 46th infantry,.....Elk Creek.  
 I. B. Shields, sergeant, E, 46th infantry,....Hamburg, Ia.  
 J. B. Kitchen, corporal, I, 51st infantry,.....Humboldt.  
 J. D. Storm, A, 55th infantry,.....Peru.  
 J. F. Scofield, private, I, 73rd infantry,.....Nemaha.  
 Clark Wicks, corporal, G, 83rd infantry,.....Brock.  
 J. W. Jaques, corporal, D, 91st infantry,.....Brock.  
 Thos. Kiplin, private, E, 128th infantry,.....S.Auburn.  
 Albert Goss, private, I, 149th infantry,.....Auburn.  
 August Quante, private, M, 1st cavalry, .....Brock.  
 G. I. Storm, private, C, 3rd cavalry,.....Peru.

## IOWA.

H. C. Plager, private, I, 5th infantry,.....Febing.  
 Walter Hadlock, private, C, 6th infantry,.....Nemaha.  
 Robert Haskins, private, C, 6th infantry,.....Nemaha.

W. T. Whitten, private, C, 7th infantry,.....Aspinwall.  
 J. N. Mackey, private, G, 7th infantry,.....Auburn.  
 A. M. Zook, private, A, 8th infantry.....Johnson.  
 John McCall, private, C, 12th infantry,.....Aspinwall.  
 John Justice, private, F, 12th infantry,.....Peru.  
 Simon Gongwer, sergeant, K, 13th infantry, Nemaha City.  
 J. W. Brush, musician, D, 14th infantry,.....Auburn.  
 John H. Shook, private, F, 15th infantry,.....Hillsdale.  
 Joseph N. Bunn, private, B, 16th infantry,.....Brock.  
 J. W. Perdue, private, D, 18th infantry,.....Auburn.  
 A. Kirkpatrick, private, C, 19th infantry,.....Auburn.  
 D. R. Calder, private, C, 20th infantry,.....Peru.  
 Moses Davis, private, E, 22nd infantry,.....Brownville.  
 J. W. Brush, 2nd lieutenant, X, 25th infantry,....Auburn.  
 Jacob V. Day, private, E, 28th infantry,.....Brock.  
 Paul Martin, private, H, 28th infantry,.....Brownville.  
 J. H. Thompson, private, H, 29th infantry, ...Hamburg, Ia.  
 J. H. Kuhlman, private, K, 31st infantry,.....Auburn.  
 S. Robinson, private, H, 32nd infantry,.....Nemaha.  
 J. D. Vandervort, private, F, 35th infantry,.....Brock.  
 Wm. Anderson, private, K, 40th infantry,.....Nemaha.  
 M. F. Anderson, private, K, 40th infantry,.....Nemaha.  
 David Jack, private, L, 1st cavalry,.....Peru.  
 Joseph Moody, private, L, 1st cavalry,.....Auburn.  
 John Smeizie, private, D, 2nd cavalry,.....Nemaha.  
 H. C. Rowe, private, A, 4th cavalry, .....Auburn.  
 Wm. F. Minshall, private, F, 4th cavalry,.....Auburn.  
 O. P. Root, corporal, C, 5th cavalry,.....Auburn.  
 E. Griffin, private, C, 5th cavalry,.....Nemaha.  
 W. T. Russel, private, C, 5th cavalry,.....Nemaha.  
 N. F. Russell, C, 5th cavalry,.....Auburn.  
 W. T. Moore, private, D, 7th cavalry,.....Howe.  
 J. F. Drain, private, H, 9th cavalry,.....Nemaha.  
 A. Ninceheler, corporal, H, 19th cavalry,.... Auburn.

## WISCONSIN.

Wm. McClean, private, I, 6th infantry,.....Auburn.  
 C. H. Willard, private, B, 7th infantry, .....Auburn.  
 F. M. Gifford, private, D, 14th infantry,.... Peru.  
 John Reynolds, teamster, I, 15th infantry,.... St. Deroin.  
 George E. Dye, musician, D, 28.....Nemaha.  
 Robert McMillin, private, E, 30th infantry,.....Peru.  
 Tone Wilson, corporal, I, 33rd infantry,.....Johnson.  
 Chris Schlitt, private, C, 35,.....Brock.

George Valandingham, private, E, 44,.....Nemaha.  
 Jason Kyes, corporal, I, 44th infantry, .....Howe.  
 H. A. Brown, private, H, 49th infantry,.....Brock.  
 B. G. Whittamore,sergeant, K, 50th infantry,.....Auburn.  
 J. M. Mason, private, H, 1st cavalry,.....Brock.  
 J. L. Culbertson, private, M, 2nd cavalry,.....Auburn.

## MISSOURI.

E. D. Sheldon, private, A. I M. S. M.,.....Brownville.  
 E. J. Gilliland, sergeant, C, 1st infantry,.....Auburn.  
 Charles Schantz, corporal, C, 5th infantry,.....Auburn.  
 G. W. Fairbrother, lieutenant, D, 5th M.S.M,.....Auburn.  
 Lewis Rue, private, I, 18th infantry,.....Brock.  
 D. E. Douglas, private, A, 13th infantry, .....Johnson.  
 J.R. Hall, 5th cavalry,..... Auburn.  
 Eli Robertson, private, G, 21st infantry,.....Aspinwall.  
 B. F. Leslie, private, B, 23rd infantry,.....Nemaha.  
 W. H. Lorange, private, C, 35th infantry, ....Brownville.  
 Vanness Griffin, corporal, D, 43,..... Hillsdale.  
 J. Gilliland, private, I, 43rd infantry, .. Auburn.  
 Thos. Mount, private, I, 48th infantry,.....St. Deroin.  
 Rabe Elliott, private, K, 48th infantry,.....Nemaha.  
 W. J. Jones, private, B, 81st infantry, .....Brownville.  
 D. A. Morton, corporal, 3rd battery, M. S. M.,...Nemaha.  
 Fritz Everett, private colonel Neal, .....Johnson.  
 R.B. Taylor, corporal, H, 1st cavalry, .....Auburn.  
 C. J. Haines, sergeant, L, 2nd cavalry, ..... Auburn.  
 G. B. Beveridge, private, A, 3rd cavalry, .....Auburn.  
 Phillip Lowery, private, L, 3rd cavalry, .....Auburn.  
 B. F. Culp, lieutenant, K 3rd cavalry,..... Auburn.  
 Henry Hitzman, private, C, 4th cavalry .....Elk Creek.  
 John Stevenson, private, K, 4th cavalry,.....Howe.  
 J. W. Horn, private, C, 5th cavalry, .....Brock.  
 E. M. Baker, sergeant, D, 5th cavalry,.....Auburn.  
 I. N. Cooper, corporal, D, 5th cavalry, .....Nemaha.  
 F. H. D. Hunt, corporal, D, 5th cavalry, .....Febing.  
 George Hodkin, U. S., 5th cavalry,.....Nemaha.  
 Gerd Weirs, private, K. C.,.....Febing.  
 A. Belinde, private, B, 7th cavalry,.... Johnson.  
 David Campbell, sergeant, C, 12th cavalry, .....Auburn.  
 J. H. Argabright, corporal, G, 12th cavalry,..... Nemaha.  
 F. R. Kirkham, private, A, 18th cavalry,.....Brownville.  
 Henry M. Curtis, private, F, 27th cavalry,..... Auburn.

Richard Opelt, private 33rd cavalry,..... Brownville.  
 J. P. Randall, private, A, 52nd cavalry, .....Peru.

## NEW YORK.

John Taft, private, D, 26th infantry,..... Auburn.  
 J. H. Wood, private, C, 50th infantry,..... Auburn.  
 Hiram Garfield, sergeant, E, 25th infantry, .... Glen Rock.  
 H. M. Curtis, corporal, I, 57th infantry, ..... Glen Rock.  
 Chas. Meitz, private, G, 147th infantry.....Brownville.  
 Joseph Donnell, private, A, 165th infantry,.....Nemaha.  
 Delos Hughes, private, D, 4th artillery,.....Auburn.  
 W. D. Abbott, private, 1st battery, .....Peru.  
 Chas. Skillin, private, 20th battery,.....Auburn.  
 John Ebbs, major, 3rd cavalry, .....St. Deroiin.  
 Caleb Dennis, private, H, 15th cavalry,..... Hamburg, Ia.  
 Hiram Garfield, 3rd N. Y., artillery,.....Glen Rock.  
 W. H. Hay, B, 4th heavy artillery, .....Auburn.

## OREGON.

G. W. Tate, private, C, 1st infantry,..... Auburn,

## PENNSYLVANIA.

J. B. Strickler, lieutenant, C, 2nd volunteer,.....Auburn.  
 I. F. Hartzel, corporal, I, 47th veteran volunteer, Bratton.  
 Levi Draucker, captain, K, 84th infantry,.....Brock.  
 G. S. McGrew, private, E, 105th infantry,.....London.  
 G. W. Hinkle, private, 127th buck tail, ..... Howe.  
 B. H. Bailey, sergeant, B, 203rd infantry, .....Brock.  
 C. R. Smith, private, 2nd artillery,.....Elk Creek.  
 Wm. Cotes, private, H, 1st cavalry, .. Brownville.  
 T. J. Alexander, 1st sergeant, G, 16th cavalry, ... Johnson.

## RHODE ISLAND.

John J. Green, corporal, H, 2nd infantry,.....Nemaha.  
 David Huntington,(war 1812) private, artillery,..Nemaha.

## TENNESSEE.

Lewis Keel, private, M, 1st infantry,.....Brownville.  
 W. H. Lorance, private, C, 5th infantry,.....Brownville.  
 Lewis Martin, private, C, 17th infantry, .....Brownville.

## OHIO.

Wm. Clark, private, A, 2nd infantry,..... Johnson.  
 A. H. Cowell, private, G, 14th guard,..... Peru.  
 J. Wirick, private, G, 20th infantry, .....Johnson.  
 V. B. Setzer, private, G, 32nd infantry,.....Brock.  
 H. L. Campbell, private, K, 34th infantry,..... Howe.  
 Chas. Swartz, private, A, 40th infantry,.....Stella.



Wm. Varney, private, B, 42nd infantry,..... London.  
 David Green, private, 47th infantry,..... Glen Rock.  
 James Cochran, private, H, 59th infantry,..... Brownville.  
 J. Curtis, private, H, 66th infantry,..... Stella.  
 Geo. E. McCoy, private, C, 68th infantry,..... Brownville.  
 George Loughrige, private, A, 71st infantry,.... Hillsdale.  
 C. M. Kauffman, private, C, 71st infantry,..... Brownville.  
 H. M. Hort, musician, F, 71st infantry,..... Brownville.  
 James Kay, private, I, 84th infantry,..... Nemaha.  
 Sam Scott, private, E, 89th infantry, ..... Nemaha.  
 Jacob Scott, private, E, 89th infantry, ..... Howe.  
 I. S. Nace, private, D, 94th infantry,..... Brownville.  
 Chas. Stillwell, private, B, 98th infantry, .... Brownville.  
 Chas. Shafer, private, B, 105th infantry,.... Stella.  
 Leroy Mason, private, E, 121st infantry, ..... Stella.  
 Ly Hawkins, private, H, 134th infantry, ..... Peru.  
 Thos. Bunford, corporal, A, 145th infantry,.. Glen Rock.  
 Peter Richard, private, D, 175th infantry, ..... Brock.  
 H. T. Minnick, sergeant, B, 179th infantry,..... Nemaha.  
 S. S. Hare, sergeant, A, 196th infantry,..... Auburn.  
 David N. Jones, far. C, 7th cavalry, ..... Brock.  
 I. Vannest, captain, E, 8th cavalry, ..... Nemaha.  
 J. W. Curtis, private; L, 8th cavalry,..... Stella.  
 E. B. Hubbard, sergeant, H, 9th cavalry, ..... Auburn.  
 John Kraft, sergeant, F, 10th infantry,..... Brock.  
 T. T. March, corporal, 2nd battery,..... Peru.  
 M. Scott, private, I, 49th infantry,..... Auburn.

## VIRGINIA.

J. E. Lambert, private, K, 8th infantry,..... Nemaha.  
 M. C. Shurtleff, private, B, 17th infantry,.... So. Auburn.

## UNITED STATES.

Wm. Steward, 1st lieut. I, 1st U. S. sharp shooters, Brock.  
 G. B. Beveridge, 2nd lieut., H, 6th U. S. artillery, Auburn.  
 Lorenzo Rounds, private, B, 13th infantry,..... Howe.  
 John Reno, U. S. navy,..... Johnson.  
 H. O. Minnick, captain, A, 49th infantry,..... Nemaha.

## KANSAS.

W. H. McIninch, private, G 2nd infantry,..... Brownville.  
 J. C. Bousfield, sergeant, G, 2nd infantry,..... Auburn.  
 Geo. Mayfield, private, H, 8th U. S. infantry,.. St. Deroin.  
 Geo. Strobl, private, D, 15th U. S. infantry, Brownville.  
 W. A. Judkins, lieutenant, F, 148th U. S. infantry, Brownville.  
 B. B. Thompson, private, G, 2nd cavalry, .... Brownville.

Thompson, lieutenant, U. S. colored, ..... Brownville.  
 John Tuxhorn, sergeant, G, 2nd cavalry, ..... Febing.  
 Geo. W. Meil, private, A, 7th cavalry, ..... Nemaha.  
 W. Clary, A, 13th infantry, ..... Nemaha.  
 John Stiers, private, E, 16th, cavalry, ..... Nemaha.

## KENTUCKY.

W. W. Mardis, sergeant, F, infantry, ..... Peru.  
 W. D. Abbott, private, 1st battery, ..... Peru.

## MARYLAND.

T. J. Keedy, corporal, 1st A, ..... Auburn.

## MASSACHUSETTS.

Church Howe, major, 15th Mass., ..... Howe.

## MINNESOTA.

Sylvester Yates, private, I, 1st infantry, ..... Nemaha.  
 A. L. Fry, sergeant, K, 1st M. K. .... Auburn.

## MICHIGAN.

Thos. McKnight, private, I, 18, ..... Auburn.  
 Ka Shepardson, private, F, 18th infantry, ..... Brock.  
 Stephen Gilbert, corporal, C, 19th infantry, ..... Nemaha.  
 F. A. Stuck, private, G, 30th infantry, ..... Johnson.  
 Milt Shepardson, private, G, 30th infantry, ..... Brock.  
 C. A. McGee, private, F, 11th cavalry, ..... Auburn.

## ILLINOIS.

N. B. Whitfield, private, A, 3rd infantry, ..... Peru.  
 Geo. D. Carrington, lieutenant, B, 11th infantry. Brownville  
 R. V. Black, captain, H, 11th infantry, ..... Brock.  
 Robert Phelps, fifer, A, 14th infantry, ..... Peru.  
 Frank Seitz, private, A, 16th infantry, ..... Auburn.  
 V. P. Peabody, private, G, 17th infantry, ..... Nemaha.  
 B. F. Souder, private, I, 20th infantry, ..... Auburn.  
 C. C. Sapp, private, B, 28th infantry, ..... Brock.  
 J. W. Huston, private, C, 31st infantry, ..... London.  
 Hershel Smilie, hospital steward, E, 37th infantry, Stella.  
 W. C. Cathcart, private, H, 37th infantry, ..... Brock.  
 Aaron G. Tibbitts, private, K, 42nd infantry, ..St. Deroin.  
 Thos. Richards, private, B, 45th infantry, ..... Auburn.  
 John H. Pohlman, private, E, 47th infantry, ..... Johnson.  
 Luke Fisher, private, I, 47th infantry, ..... Stella.  
 G. W. Kulp, sergeant, K, 50th infantry, ..... Nemaha.  
 Geo. W. Smedley, private, F, 51st infantry, ..... Brock.  
 Hiram Schoonover, private, F, 51st infantry, ..Brownville.  
 Geo. W. Adamson, private, D, 54th infantry, ..... Peru.

J. R. Edwards, corporal, K, 64th infantry, ..... Brock.  
 David Keithley, private, A, 58th infantry, ..... Brownville.  
 Lewis Milam, private, D, 64th infantry, ..... Howe.  
 G. W. Heywood, sergeant, G, 65th infantry, ..... Peru.  
 J. P. Toland, private, G, 71st infantry, ..... Tecumseh.  
 J. H. Dawson, private, C, 66th infantry, ..... Auburn.  
 J. A. Phelan, corporal, G, 71st infantry, ..... Tecumseh.  
 Norman Smilie, private, H, 75th infantry, ..... Stella.  
 W. W. Crandal, captain, F, 77th infantry, ..... Auburn.  
 A. H. Mallory, private, F, 77th infantry, ..... Julian.  
 V. P. Peabody, sergeant, H, 77th infantry, ..... Nemaha.  
 J. J. Mercer, captain, E, 78th infantry, ..... Brownville.  
 W. H. Norton, private, K, 83rd infantry, ..... Talmage.  
 Joel T. Martin, private, A, 86th infantry, ..... Brownville.  
 W. U. Combs, private, F, 66th infantry, ..... Nemaha.  
 T. S. Regan, private, 86th infantry, ..... Howe.  
 Thos. Nunn, private, G, 92nd infantry, ..... Talmage.  
 E. D. Berlin, private, K, 93rd infantry, ..... London.  
 David Wilkie, 2nd lieutenant, G, 95th infantry, ..... Brock.  
 M. Furlong, sergeant, I, 96th infantry, ..... Auburn.  
 J. H. Battles, 1st sergeant, B, 99th infantry, ..... Stella.  
 Wm. Heuston, private, D, 100th infantry, ..... London.  
 J. M. Robinson, private, K, 100th infantry, ..... Humboldt.  
 I. S. Vader, private, K, 112th infantry, ..... Stella.  
 Henry Sites, private, B, 116th infantry, ..... Bratton.  
 D. T. Smilie, corporal, F, 118th infantry, ..... Aspinwall.  
 D. O. Cross, 2 m s, C, 119th infantry, ..... Brownville.  
 Wm. H. Brooks, private, K, 124th infantry, ..... Glen Rock.  
 Geo. A. Clapp, 1st lieutenant, I, 125th infantry, ..... Brock.  
 V. G. Tansey, private, I, 125th infantry, ..... Nemaha.  
 Amos Clark, private, G, 129th infantry, ..... Auburn.  
 Stephen Cross, private, K, 135th infantry, ..... Brock.  
 Thos. M. Cox, private, H, 139th infantry, ..... London.  
 J. B. Sisson, private, C, 147th infantry, ..... Johnson.  
 J. M. Fuller, private, H, 147th infantry, ..... Nemaha.  
 Jas. W. Gavitt, private, A, 2nd cavalry, ..... Humboldt.  
 P. A. Sharp, private, C, 2nd cavalry, ..... Humboldt.  
 Wm. Boyd, private, I, 2nd cavalry, ..... Glen Rock.  
 Ed Jackson, private, H, 2nd cavalry, ..... Auburn.  
 W. C. Langford, hospital steward, L, 2nd cavalry, Auburn.  
 P. B. McFadden, regiment blacksmith, H, 7th cavalry, Howe.  
 Willard Osgood, private K, 9th cavalry, ..... Elk Creek.  
 Wm. Campbell, private, B, 11th cavalry, ..... Auburn.

Chas. Campbell, corporal, B, 11th cavalry,.....London.  
 Peter Mutz, private, F, 12th cavalry,.....Nemaha.  
 H. C. Kleckner, private, G, 13th cavalry,.....Bratton.  
 J. M. Kleckner, private, G, 13th cavalry,.....So. Auburn.  
 B. Bell Andrews, H. S., L, 16th cavalry,.....St. Deroin.  
 G. E. McClary, private, A, 4th cavalry,.....Brownville.  
 F. B. Tucker, private, H, 4th cavalry,.....Glen Rock.  
 John W. Wixon, private, D, detached service,.....Stella.  
 Hugh Stoddard, C, 149, .....Auburn.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

S. B. Jarvis, corporal, regular Mt. G. rifleman,....Brock.  
 Henry Plager, private, 8th veteran res., .....Elk Creek.  
 H. J. F. Wert, corporal, B, 1st M. M. brigade,....Auburn.  
 A. Driehaus, seaman, frig. con.,.....Johnson.  
 Hiram Alderman, private, Tom Ruffen,.....Johnson.  
 G. Wathan, 2nd lieutenant, A, Miss. mar. brig., Talmage.  
 W. A. Lewellen, private, squad. low Miss., .....Auburn.  
 Joseph Jones, private, I, Mer. horse brigade,..St. Deroin.  
 J. W. Foster, private, C, 17th Mtd. infantry,.....Howe.

## MEXICAN WAR.

J. W. Brush,.....Auburn.  
 W. H. Lorance,.....Auburn.  
 W. B. Whitfield,.....Peru.  
 G. W. Fairbrother,.....Brownville.  
 S. H. Clayton.....Brownville.

It was stated in these pages that the company of the 1st Nebraska that re-enlisted from this county was consolidated with the 2nd Nebraska, and the statement was incorrect.

Since this roster was published sixteen years have passed and many changes have been made. Many of those who wore the blue, and others who wore the gray, have come to make their home in Nemaha county. Others have moved to other parts, while a large number have answered at final roll call.

Having condensed a review of the events in Nemaha county for the past forty years into these pages I now dedicate this volume to the readers of the Granger.

J. H. DUNDAS,

Auburn, Nebraska, June 21, 1902.













