

Geneva Township

Geneva township is T7N, R3W, in Fillmore County.¹ The township takes its name from the county-seat town of Geneva, most of which is included at its southeast corner in Sec. 36, in the geographical center of the county. The town of Geneva is the voting point as well as the principal shopping center for most of the township's inhabitants.

The land in this area is gently rolling, with one stream, Turkey Creek, flowing from west to east across its southern part, mostly through Secs. 30 to 25. This stream is small, slow, lazy, and sometimes dry; it becomes swift and swollen only after melting snows or heavy rains.

Geneva township is bounded on the north by West Blue, on the east by Madison, on the south by Stanton, and on the west by Bennett townships. Its entire southern boundary is marked by Nebraska Highway 41 and its eastern boundary by U. S. 81. The Fairmont-Hebron branch of the Burlington runs from north to south down the middle of Secs. 1 to 36; the Fremont-Superior line of the Northwestern slants in southwesterly in the northern quarter of Sec. 36 and then parallels the Burlington through the town.

That Geneva township has been a progressive one is evidenced by its having connected its rural residents by telephone as early as 1907; and the Geneva Township Club, founded in 1921, became the first organized extension club in the county. All its farm homes are now on year-round roads, and all now have access to electricity. As of 1966, the township contained 66 irrigation wells.

Manleyville

During 1871, when negotiations were pending for the purchase of a portion of the school land in the center of the county for county purposes, A. J. Manley conceived the idea of laying out a town site and getting the county seat located there. He built a large hall, 20' x 60', and offered to donate this to the county should they locate there. This offer was refused, with the result that this hall and a blacksmith shop were the only buildings ever actually erected in Manleyville. A shoe shop and a grocery store were opened up in the hall.

In 1874, the plat of the town site was filed in the office of the county clerk, the location being the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 27. A total of 233 lots were staked out, and a number were sold but never occupied. Trees were planted and streets were laid out. One lone tree now stands as a landmark of the "hoped for" town of Manleyville.



Photo from Mrs. Darrel Hughes
The only evidence of Manleyville, and a landmark used as a guide by pioneers. This tree was destroyed in 1966, making way for R.E.A. power lines.

The hall at Manleyville was once used for a term of court in Fillmore County, and the first homicide case in the county was tried here.

The first homicide occurred in August, 1872, when Orlando Porter shot and killed George A. Day. Porter lived on a farm east of Geneva, and Day, who had a homestead near by but had not yet brought his family West, was boarding with him. Day frequently complained of being too unwell to work and remained at the house.

One day, while Porter was working in the hay field, a neighbor told him that Day had been guilty of criminal intimacy with his

wife. Porter went to the house and, taking his wife on his knee, made her confess the truth of the report. He arose, exclaiming, "He shall die!"

Just at that moment, he saw Day riding up on one of the horses he had loaned him. In anger, he caught up his loaded musket, thrust the muzzle out the window, and fired. Day rolled from the horse, dead.

An inquest was held, and Porter was held for trial on a charge of murder. At the regular term of court in November, held at the Manleyville hall, Porter was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced. He was soon paroled, however, and returned back East.

Mordecai Pangle purchased the ground after the town was disbanded. His son Charles remembered and told about breaking up the ground and plowing into the stakes which had been driven to mark off town lots.

The first term of District Court in Fillmore County was held, earlier in the same year, at the near-by Pangle homestead. In the fall of 1871, William Smith had been arrested for larceny and was confined, awaiting trial, in the Pawnee County jail at great expense. Therefore, upon a request from the county commissioners, Judge O. P. Mason ordered a special term of the District Court to be held on February 28, 1872. The first jury in the county was drawn on February 7, and the first term of court was held at the Pangle homestead. Smith was convicted and sentenced to 60 days in the Otoe County jail.

SCHOOLS

Early in 1872, the first four school districts in Geneva township were organized; a fifth district was added in 1883.

District No. 7 was organized on January 7, 1872. County Superintendent John A. Dempster ordered an organizational meeting at the home of E. R. Spear on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 28, T7N, R3W. The meeting, attended by Girard R. Hart, Ebenezer Milner, E. R. Spear, J. E. Spear, R. B. Spear, and M. S. Spear, elected a board consisting of E. Milner, moderator; G. R. Hart, director; and E. R. Spear, treasurer.

A temporary board-shanty schoolhouse was located on the south side of the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 20. A report of Superintendent Dempster's appeared in the *Nebraska Bulletin*, July 6, 1872.

"June 25, 1872.—Visited the school in District No. 7, taught by Miss Lottie Williams. There were 13 pupils present, of 16 on the list. Good order maintained, and the school in prospect of fair advancement, considering the disadvantage of so small a room, and a poor building. This is Miss Williams' first term, and she succeeds well."



Photo from John Tobiassen
District No. 7 (1908). Front row, left to right: Anna Coleman, Thelma Nachbor, Esther Bordner, Edgar Chesnut, Edwin Wild, Roscoe Coleman, Harry Stoldorf, Wallace Chesnut, George Bordner, Harry Bordner, Harry Coleman. Back row: Ramona Davis, Estella Bordner, Enid Jones, John Tobiassen, Mable Madison, Susie Larson Ogg (teacher), Emma Tobiassen, Mary Davis, Bert Stoldorf, Helen Davis.

¹ Most of the Geneva township material was compiled by Mrs. Vera Lovegrove and Mrs. Darrel Hughes.

At a special meeting of legal voters on April 7, 1873, it was voted to change the schoolhouse site from Sec. 20 to the NW corner of the NW ¼ of Sec. 29, and to build a sod house to be used for a summer school. William Spear, William Bell, and A. J. Long were elected to serve as a building committee for a permanent new schoolhouse. After advertising, the contract was awarded to the lowest bidder, Edward Webb, Jr., who agreed to build and furnish the schoolhouse for \$750 and to have it completed by August 15, 1873—which he did. The temporary schoolhouse, and the rest of the assets—including a pail, a broom, and a window—were sold at auction for \$4.90. Mr. Webb also made up a firebreak around the schoolhouse and banked the building with sod for \$5.75.

At the regular meeting in April, 1879, the following resolution was adopted: "Resolved that action of the school district board of this District No. 7 of Fillmore County, State of Nebraska, in purchasing the five acres of land on which the schoolhouse stands as described in a certain deed from B. & M. Railroad Co. to said district is hereby approved."

The schoolhouse was moved to its final location, the NW corner of Sec. 32, in 1888, to make its location more central in the district. In the school year 1894-1895, there were 47 pupils enrolled. School was discontinued here in 1950, and the building was sold.

It is interesting to note that the following former pupils of District 7 all became the parents of twins: Lloyd Russell, Donn Wagner, George Stoldorf, Edwin Jacobson, and Bernice Biester (Mrs. Robert Kubovec), and Roscoe Burke. Among the earliest residents of the district still residing in it are the Lindes, the Wilds, and the Tobiassens. Also, Mrs. Tom Wagner has the distinction of being the only former teacher still living within the district.

Following is a complete list of the teachers in District 7:

Year	Teacher	Year	Teacher
1872	Lottie Williams	1900-01	Martha Oberkotter
1873	Lura Webb	1901-02	Lora Harrold
1874-75	Carrie E. Harvey	1902-03	Lydia I. Miles
	Elva J. Lewis	1903-04	Mary Stanard (Shoff)
1875-77	J. H. Sager	1904-05	C. H. Merryman
	J. B. Lewis	1905-06	Mrs. M. S. Pate
1877-78	James McElvey	1906-07	Verna Mowry
1878-79	Kate E. Spear	1907-08	Susie Larson
	John Chase	1908-09	Susie Larson (Ogg)
1879-80	J. E. Harris	1909-10	John Curtis
	Aaron Davis	1910-11	Earl Hill
1880-81	Sarah Martin	1911-13	Maude Sherrard
	Mary Hart	1913-15	Mabel Everett
1881-82	E. M. Davis	1915-16	Leta M. Peterson
	J. D. McElvey	1916-17	Emma Renken
1882-83	Mabel Mahan	1917-18	Velma Lauber
	Eva M. Davis	1918-19	Marcella Sullivan (Marson)
1883-84	Flora Armstrong	1919-20	Lorine Griffin
	Eva M. Davis	1920-21	Ethel Love
1884-85	Mrs. L. W. Moore	1921-22	Edith Halsey
	Amy Stephenson	1922-24	Marguerite Hourigan (Swails)
1885-86	E. H. Stephenson	1924-26	Norma Scott
	May H. Henderson	1926-27	Hazel A. Black
1886-87	G. H. Stephens	1927-29	Pearl E. Tysell
	Maud E. Cauffer	1929-30	Audrey B. Henry
1887-88	Erma Stephenson	1930-31	Mrs. Audrey Henry
	Hattie Hoobler	1931-32	Darlene Morris Nichols
1888-89	Edna Murdock	1932-33	Dorothy Dumpert
	Lulu Arrowsmith	1933-37	Irene Gruenhage
1889-90	Alice Bassett	1937-38	Alverda Goesch
1890-91	Mamie Renz	1938-41	Margaret Bobbitt
	Katie Herrfeldt	1941-42	Evelyn Lechtenberger
	Mrs. Katie McDougal	1942-44	Videl Everts Otis
1891-92	A. P. Garrison	1944-45	Ruth Emal
1892-93	Rosa Moze		Mrs. Herbert Nichols
1893-94	Emma Hoobler	1945-49	Mrs. Susie Ogg
1894-95	May Stewart		
1895-97	Lulu Arrowsmith		
1897-99	Silas Thompson		
1899-00	M. P. Ames		School closed

District No. 12 was organized at the request of a majority of the voters within this district on Monday, January 29, 1872, at the home of James Loghry. The schoolhouse is located on the northwest corner of the NE ¼ of Sec. 26; the land was originally given by Ben F. Wolfe.

A description of the schoolhouse in 1872 appears in the records of the county superintendent:

"October 1, P.M., 1872.—Visited school in District No. 12 taught by Mrs. Sada A. Long; 12 pupils present—15 on the list; school progressing well; system of teaching good. This district has erected a fine frame school house 22' x 28' seated with iron seats. Mrs. L's teaching her 27th term."

The *Nebraska Bulletin* (October 19, 1872) elaborated a bit upon this report:

"October 1, Tuesday P.M.—Visited school in District No. 12. taught by Mrs. Sadie A. Long; 12 pupils present—15 on the list; school apparently in a good state of progress. Mrs. L. is veteran teacher of 26 terms, and has not failed to acquire a good system. We are happy to state that this district has erected a fine frame school house

of good size, seated with patent iron seats and furnished with a spacious blackboard. We hope other districts will take pattern."

The present school building is the original one built in 1872. At one time church was held here, and there was a burial ground west of the building. Of the 31 bodies in this burial ground, 30 were removed to various cemeteries when church services were discontinued here. The school has been in continuous operation since its organization.

Mrs. A. J. Brown, an old settler, told of attending Sunday School and church in District 12 schoolhouse, walking three miles every Sunday morning to do so. H. P. Wilson was teaching in District 12 when the blizzard of 1888 came. Only two girls were in school that day, and the night of the blizzard they stayed at the Wolfe home, east of the schoolhouse. During the night the house caught fire and burned to the ground. The two girls and elderly Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe spent the remainder of the night at the home of George Pittard, just across the road north from the Wolfe house. George Pittard was an uncle of Charles Pittard, a long-time resident of the district.

The first teacher in the district was Mrs. Sarah Long, who taught a three-month term for \$18 a month. In 1874, there were in the district 28 children between the ages of 5 and 21, and 19 of these attended school. In 1956, there were only 14 children between these ages, which shows how the population of the district has decreased.



Photo from Cecil Richards

District No. 12 (1913). *First row, front to back:* Fred Fisher, Alice Vavra, Ray Buehrer. *Second row:* Alva Ward, Lloyd Knox, Faye Cole, Jess Richards. *Third row:* Deo Fisher, Bernice Pangle (Burke), Edward James, Cecil Richards. *Fourth row:* Nellie Cole, Glen Richards, Vivian Jewell, Kathy Cole, Mrs. Ben Pangle (teacher).

The teachers who taught in District 12 were the following.

Year	Teacher	Year	Teacher
1872-73	Sarah Long	1897-99	Clara Wickizer
1874-75	Mary E. Webb	1899-1900	Bertha Thomas
	J. B. Lewis		Martha Oberkotter
1875-76	Elva J. Lewis	1900-01	Jennie Plants
	G. W. Plants	1901-02	Clara Wickizer
1876-77	A. D. Stevens	1902-03	Lucinda Warthen
	O. W. Crow		Jessie Clark
1877-78	Emma Bingham	1903-04	Lena Oberkotter
	J. F. Coulter	1904-05	Frances Elliott
1878-79	Dora Kellogg	1905-07	May Deming
	Frank Salisbury	1907-08	Lola Fussell
1879-80	Frank Salisbury	1908-09	Maude Sherrard
	Amelia Partridge	1909-10	Wissie Burke
1880-81	J. B. Sexton	1910-11	Len Davis
	J. H. Sager	1911-12	Anna Renken
1881-82	M. J. Goodrich	1912-13	Elsie Peterson
	Lillie Mason	1913-15	Mrs. Ben Pangle
1882-83	Lon Shunway	1915-16	Roscoe H. Mohrman
	R. M. Logan	1916-17	Harold Heath
1883-84	Ida B. Lee	1917-19	Helen Heath
	R. M. Logan	1919-20	Helen Pittard
1884-85	Mrs. Emma Harrington	1920-21	Ruby Sole
	J. B. Lewis	1921-23	Elsie M. Sole
1885-86	Clara Martin	1923-25	Lillie Lentfer
	Nettie Richardson	1925-26	Marjory G. Glenn
1886-87	Addie Billings	1926-28	Walter Isley
	H. P. Wilson	1928-30	Bernice Ashton
1888-89	Emma Nichols	1930-33	Hazel Robbins
	Ida B. Lee	1933-38	Ruth Lauber
1889-91	Robert Baldwin	1938-39	LaVelle Lundstedt
1891-92	Rose Loafburrow	1939-41	Frances Smith
	O. D. Conwell	1941-42	Jean Stephenson
1892-93	Jess M. Boyd	1942-43	Evelyn Lechtenberger
	Lura A. Stockton	1943-44	Elaine Janda
1893-94	G. W. Phillips	1944-50	Doris Riel
	M. P. Ames	1950-54	Mrs. Giles Hanson
1894-95	M. P. Ames	1954-55	Darlene Schropfer
	Ora Ogg		Wilma Jean Dumpert
1895-96	Tessa Fulton	1955-56	Joan Merryman
	John Witter	1956-60	Mrs. Raymond Hoarty
1896-97	Clara Wickizer		School closed
	S. D. Purviance		

District No. 14 was organized on Tuesday, January 23, 1872, at the residence of Chester Ward. The schoolhouse, which was a board granary, was located on the NE corner of Sec. 8. To give it a more central location, it was later moved to the NE corner of Sec. 18, on ground donated by Ben McCashland.

The first schoolhouse was described in the "Records on Condition of Schools" in the county superintendent's files:

"Tuesday, June 25, 1872 — Visited school in District No. 14 taught by Miss Addie Miles in a board granary. Eight pupils present. Very good system of teaching."

An expanded version of this report, signed by County Superintendent Dempster, was printed in the *Nebraska Bulletin* on July 6, 1872:

"June 25, P.M. — Visited the School in District No. 14 taught by Miss Addie Miles. Eight pupils present, 11 on the list. She has a bright school of small scholars, keeps good order, and has a good method of teaching small children. Her form of asking general questions I consider commendable. School kept in a grainery, small but neat and clean. This is Miss Miles' first term, and she bids fair to attain a good standard of teaching."

By 1873, the granary had been replaced by a more formal building. "January 8, 1873 — Visited school in District No. 14 taught by Mr. Cooley. Six pupils present, 12 on list. System and order rather slack. School taught in new frame house, seated with iron seats."



Photo from Mrs. Amanda Bohlen
District No. 14 (1902). Front row, left to right: Emma Gerken, Hattie McKelvey, Jim McCashland (on horse), Lottie Miller, Ernest Gerken, Zita Hoarty, Marie Griffin, Mervin Griffin, Belle Hall, Attie Wagner (teacher), Mattie Burt, Ethel McCashland, John Burt (on white horse), Frances Elliott, Walter McCashland. Back row: Clarence Elliott, Pete McCashland, Leo Hoarty, Harvey McKelvey, Roy Miller (on white horse), Lee Elliott. Hay stack in background is a pony shed.

Later, the *Bulletin* had another report:

"June 18, 1873 — Visited school in District No. 14 — John Eckley, director; Miss Connie Wright, teacher. Three pupils present; 18 on the list, sorry to see such poor attendance; number studying orthography 15; reading 12; arithmetic 4; geography 2; grammar 2; penmanship 4; recitations poor and order fair. Grade of certificate, 3rd, wages \$17.50 per month. Frame house 19' x 24', 10 feet posted; seated with Eureka; one door for entrance; blackboard 3' x 12'; out buildings needed."

The original schoolhouse was destroyed in the spring of 1943 by fire resulting from an overheated stove. The next school building was made from a house purchased from Henry Lentfer and moved to the schoolhouse plot from the Lentfer farm. Early patrons of this district had many fond memories of spelldowns and literary societies in the long life of the school, which was finally discontinued in 1944.

Miss Addie Miles was the first person to teach in District No. 14. She taught a three-month term for a salary of \$15 a month. In 1874, there were 26 children between the ages of 5 and 21; of these, 24 attended school. It is interesting to note that in 1945 there were just 12 children in this age range, and by 1956 the number had decreased to 6.

The teachers in District 14 (as far as the records show) were the following:

Year	Teacher	Year	Teacher
1872-73	Addie Miles	1881-82	Mary Hammersly
	R. S. Croley		Emma Shafford
1873-74	R. S. Croley	1882-83	Ruth Scovell
	Belle Fisher		Susan M. Davis
1874-75	Belle Fisher	1883-84	Mary Hammersly
	John T. Coulter		Ruth Scoville
1875-76	John T. Coulter	1884-85	Ruth Scoville
	Sarah Coulter		Shadrack Doty
1876-77	E. L. Eckley	1885-86	No record
	G. W. Plants	1886-87	J. R. Boardman
1877-78	Annie S. Gillespie		Anna Jackson
	Elmer Cochran	1887-88	Ida Edwards
1878-79	Annie S. Gillespie		E. E. Klingsman
	J. A. Engelman		Eva Miles
1879-80	Ada M. Bullock	1888-98	No record
	W. B. Richards	1898-1900	Ora Ogg
1880-81	Ada M. Bullock	1900-01	Sarah Egan
	Emma Shafford		Atty Wagner
	C. A. Smith		

Year	Teacher	Year	Teacher
1901-04	No record	1926-27	Hazel Burns
1904-06	Lena Oberkotter	1927-28	Florence Stolzenberg
1906-07	Susie Larson Ogg	1928-29	Ethel Franklin
1907-08	Hattie Kreachbaum	1929-30	Mary Fitzgerald
1908-10	Pearl Swails	1930-31	Margaret Burke
1910-11	Lester Westbrook	1931-34	Rita Griffin
1911-12	Lena Swett	1934-35	Lillie Lentfer
1912-13	Frances Swett	1935-37	Alice Softley
1913-14	Merl Schaf	1937-38	Artice E. Miles
1914-16	Zita Hoarty	1938-40	Mamie Loukota
1916-17	Mary Dick Goodrich	1940-42	Anita Everts
1917-18	Clara Hawkins	1942-44	Wilma Stevens
1918-25	Zita Hoarty		School closed
1925-26	Mabel G. Case		

District No. 18 was founded when, on the request of a majority of voters in the district, the county superintendent notified James Shepherd that a meeting to organize and to elect officers would be held at the residence of Mr. Syas on February 10, 1872. The officers elected were A. D. Fisher, moderator; James Shepherd, director; and W. H. Neal, treasurer.

The ground on which the school was located, the NW corner of Sec. 12, was donated by W. T. Carson. The first schoolhouse was described in the "Records of Condition of Schools" filed in the county superintendent's office:

"October 2, A.M., 1872 — Visited school in District No. 18 taught by Miss Helen Scruby in sod house, small and inconvenient. Ten pupils present; a full attendance. Order, good; system, medium. Miss S's first term."

The *Nebraska Bulletin* had a more extended comment (October 19, 1872):

"Wednesday, October 2, A.M. — Visited school in District No. 18; Miss Helen Scruby, teacher. School taught in sod house, with no benches; not being built for a school house, it is small and inconvenient. Ten pupils present — ten on the list; we were glad to see full attendance. She is not a professional teacher, but is doing very well, this being her first term."

By the following autumn, the schoolhouse situation had been improved. The *Bulletin* printed another report (1873):

"August 29, District No. 18 — James Shepherd, director; Miss Lottie Boch, teacher. New frame school house 16' x 24', ten feet posted, seated with the Eureka. Good blackboard."

Incidentally, 12 Nichols children, the families of Clarence and Edgar Nichols (brothers), and 13 Brower children graduated from the eighth grade in District 18 (commonly known as the "Charter Oak" school). The children of the Clarence Nichols family are Herbert, Francis, Gordon, Wilbur, Donald, and Marian. The children of Edgar Nichols are Robert, Howard, Elvin, Jess, Helen (Mrs. Kenneth Hof-ferber), and Maurice. All of the children of the John A. Brower family (except two who died in infancy) received eight years of education at this school: Effie (Lovejoy), Bessie (Miller), Bonnie (Berger), Henry, Harry, Bertha (Larson), Tom, Florence (Chesnut), Russell, Edna (Garrett), Frank, Mildred (Fisher), and Howard.

Miss Helen Scruby, the first teacher in District 18, taught a three-month term for a monthly salary of \$15. In 1874, there were 25 children between the ages of 5 and 21; of these, 20 attended school. In 1956, there were only 7 children in this age group.



Photo from Zola Fogle
School District No. 18 (about 1906). Standing, left to right: Teacher with white apron, Matilda Heagney; Ethel Brown, Bertha Brower, Stella McDermitt, Fern Terry, Wallace Farrar, Gabriella McCabe, Wayne Ayres, Myrtle Gibbs, Roselle Matteson, Larry Ayres, Jasper Gibbs, Leo Ayres, Tom Brower, Lewis Souba, Emmett McCabe, Guy Gibbs (with pony). Front row: Russell Brower, Frank Souba, Roy Gibbs, Florence Brower, Elva Fogle, Floy Ayres, Marie Ayres, Irene Brown, Edna McCabe.

The teachers in District 18 were the following:

Year	Teacher	Year	Teacher
1872-73	Helen Scruby	1898-99	Hattie Bridgeman
1873-75	Sherwood Burr	1899-1900	Maude Mosier
	Lottie E. Bock	1900-01	Grace Fitzgerald
1875-76	Emma Bingham	1901-02	Agnes Keegan
	James Shepherd	1902-03	Agnes Keegan
1876-77	S. E. Leonard		McNamara
	J. A. Engleman	1903-04	Effie Brower (Lovejoy)
1877-78	B. S. Burr	1904-05	Clara Rose Stines
	J. A. Engleman		Mary B. Stanard
1878-79	Lizzie Curtis	1905-06	Blanche Heald
	Bradley Burr	1906-07	Matilda Heagney
1879-80	Lizzie Curtis	1907-10	Wissie Burke
	Amelia Partridge	1910-11	Vinetta Miller (Eaton)
1880-81	Amelia Partridge	1911-13	Wilber Sherrard
	Susie Fisher	1913-14	Maggie Kelch
	Fannie Sheibley	1914-15	Emma Davis
	George K. Bingham	1915-16	Ada Sheibley
1881-82	Anna Jackson	1916-18	Gabriella McCabe
	F. M. Fisher	1918-19	Bessie Kelch
1882-83	Lucia Wellman		Mrs. Gayle Jones
	C. L. Buck		Lauenstein
1883-84	Mrs. A. L. Richards	1919-20	Tena Renken Ogden
	W. L. Buck	1920-21	Emma Rotter
1884-85	Grace Porter	1921-22	Mrs. H. Gilmore
	C. L. Buck	1922-23	Helen Real
1885-86	Ida B. Lee	1923-25	Walter Hoarty
1886-87	Hattie Dewey	1925-26	Ruth Kendall
	Ella Jackson	1926-27	Rose L. Peterson
1887-88	Anna Ballard	1927-28	Helen M. Peterson
	Mabel Strother	1928-30	Sarah Elliott Frazier
1888-89	May Bennett	1930-33	Leona Cromwell
1889-90	Mamie Heald (Combs)	1933-34	Doris Helvey
1890-91	No record	1934-38	Jeanette McNamara
1891-92	Ray Banta	1938-40	Eleanor Goodrich
1892-93	Ida Chase		Songster
1893-94	No record	1940-41	Evelyn Lechtenberger
1894-95	Ida Walton (Stevens)	1941-43	Lila Gillan
	Lottie Bennett	1943-44	Helen Broman
	(Thompson)	1944-45	Rita Cantrell
1895-96	Cora Owens Jones	1945-47	Mrs. Wilbur Nichols
1896-98	Charlie Bosserman		School closed



Photo from Vera Lovegrove
Reunion of early students of District No. 81, June, 1960. Seated, left to right: Vallia (Stinton) Ewart, Mrs. Faye (Hosack) Bare, Mabelle (Bradley) Coleman, Cecil (Ogg) Dunn. Standing: James Ogg (a first pupil), LeRoy Miles, Thomas Coleman, Chloe Ogg, Charles Pittard.

The teachers in District 81 over the years were the following:

Year	Teacher	Year	Teacher
1884-85	Euna Rhinehart	1912-13	Wayne Sherrard
	Ida B. Lee	1913-15	Clara Diederich
1885-86	No record		Heiderstadt
1886-87	Edwina Arrowsmith	1915-16	Ada Bass
	(Chesnut)	1916-17	Dazel Peterson Camp
1887-88	Lulu Stultz	1917-18	Lois Ainsworth Otis
1888-89	Lulu Arrowsmith	1918-19	Faye Davis Curtiss
1889-90	(?) Gussie Huston	1919-21	Vera Pittard Lovegrove
	Willman	1921-22	E. Marie Clemons
1890-91	(?) Elna Stewart	1922-23	Ethel Love
1891-92	(?) Minnie Burt	1923-25	Arvilla Prefert
1892-93	(?) Anna West	1925-28	Florence Robbins
	No record		Nichols
1893-94	W. Bumgarner	1928-29	Dorothy Christiancy
1894-95	No Bumgarner		Nichols
1895-96	Fannie Goodrich		Helen (Mrs. Rex) Lewis
1896-97	Addie Allen	1929-31	Eileen Murray
1897-98	John Geosh	1931-34	Vivian Hafer Knotts
1898-1900	Sopha Snodgrass	1934-37	Neva Bishop Walters
	(Ertel)	1937-43	Eileen Bordner DuBois
1900-01	Myrtle Hagenbush	1943-46	Lila Lovegrove Bettger
	Nellie Thompson	1946-47	Romona Hlina Watmore
1901-03	Jennie Timmons	1947-48	John Fishel
1903-04	Ed Lane	1948-49	Florence (Mrs. Gleye)
1904-05	Martha Oberkotter		McCaulley
1905-06	S. D. Purviance	1949-53	Closed
	Harry Perry	1953-55	Virginia Moore Otis
1906-07	Frank Adams	1955-57	Mrs. Margaret Plock
1907-08	Lena Oberkotter	1957-58	Joanne Rouch
1908-09	Amelia Oberkotter		Mrs. Shirley Trauger
	Lena Oberkotter		Susan Rouch Perkins
1909-10	Elsie Peterson Pangle	1958-60	Fannie Ogg McCashland
1910-11	Fannie Ogg McCashland		School closed
1911-12	Lorena Lamb		

INDUSTRY

Lauber Seed Company

A private industry located in rural Geneva township is the Lauber Seed Company, established in the fall of 1931 by Herbert E. Lauber, a longtime resident of Fillmore County. The initial business was originating car and truck lot alfalfa and sweet clover seed, which was sold throughout Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska. The first truckload of alfalfa seed was purchased in 1933. The company was one of the pioneers in the sale of alfalfa seed in bushel bags. The Lauber Seed Company first produced hybrid seed corn in Fillmore County in 1938. A processing and drying plant was built near Geneva in 1940. The company shipped a number of carloads of hybrid seed corn to Europe for rehabilitation after World War II. The processing plant—both the building and much stored corn—was destroyed by fire in 1947. Rebuilt, it is now one of the most modern plants in the seed business. The company supplies hybrid seed corn to approximately one hundred dealers in Nebraska and Kansas. The Lauber Seed Company is now operated and managed by Claiton and Wendell Lauber, sons of Herbert.

District No. 81 was founded, on written petition of qualified voters, from lands set aside from Districts 7, 12, 14 and 18. This new district, numbered 81, was organized on December 17, 1883, at the home of J. W. Hart. B. B. Ogg was elected the first director, to serve the term 1883-1884. John Pittard was elected director the following year. He was the grandfather of John Pittard, now residing in the district.

The original building was a little red schoolhouse, 26' long by 18' wide. One winter, 40 pupils were enrolled. Because of its inadequacy, this schoolhouse was sold in 1898, and a church building across the road to the east was purchased and moved onto the school ground. The little red schoolhouse was purchased by Jess McMahon and moved to his farm 1/2 mile N of the school ground, where it is still in use as a granary (the farm is now owned by Mrs. Lila Heath). Looking inside the granary, one can still see the slate composition blackboards with names and initials of former pupils scratched upon them.

The present school building served the dual purpose of school and church for a number of years, as well as being the center of many community activities. Since the founding of the district, school has been in operation here continuously with the exception of four years (1949-1953).

Four generations of the Charles Pittard family attended school here: Charles Pittard; his daughter, Vera Pittard Lovegrove; his granddaughter, Jean Lovegrove Hughes; and his great-grandsons, Douglas and Richard Hughes.



Photo from Mrs. Darrel Hughes
Four generations of the Charles Pittard family attended school at District No. 81. Left to right: Vera (Pittard) Lovegrove, Douglas Hughes, Charles Pittard, Jean (Lovegrove) Hughes, Richard Hughes. (Taken at school picnic in the school's last year, 1960.)

The first teacher in District 81 was Euna Rhinehart, who taught a fall term for a salary of \$28 a month. At the time there were 25 children between the ages of 5 and 21, of whom 15 were boys and 10 were girls. In 1956, there were only 7 in this age group; 6 were boys.



Photos from Claiton Lauber
Shown at left: The original Lauber Seed Farms processing plant (1944; burned in 1947). This was the old Ohioa flour mill, moved to the Lauber farms in 1939. At right: Herbert Lauber, originator of the seed plant.



Courtesy Lauber Seed Farms
Lauber Seed Farms as it appeared in 1965.

MISCELLANEOUS

Roads

All farm homes in the township now have access to graveled roads. The first graveled (county) road through the township was started about 1933 and completed in 1937. The first section to be graveled started at the Fair Ground entrance, then went west for a distance of about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, then north for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the NW corner of Sec. 25, then west for 2 miles to the corner of Sec. 22, and then north to the District 81 schoolhouse. After 1935 the construction of the graveled road was continued north for 4 miles between Secs. 15 and 16, 9 and 10, 3 and 4, and Secs. 33 and 34 of West Blue township, to U. S. Highway 6. This road was so located that it placed all the farm homes in the township within $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of a main road. Since then the rural mail routes have all been graveled, and also fractions of miles, so as to put every home on a graveled road.

Electricity

The first electricity in the township was brought in by the Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Co. (later bought out by Consumers Public Power District) in the fall of 1937. The line followed the first county graveled road. The R.E.A. started building electric lines here in 1950, furnishing electricity to many more eager rural residents.

Irrigation

Irrigation in this township was pioneered by Herbert Lauber; his deep well on Sec. 1, T7, R3W was dug in the spring of 1938. By 1966, a total of 66 wells had been put down. Forty-five of these irrigation systems were installed in the drouth years of 1955 and 1956, and the early spring of 1957.

Telephone

The Citizens Mutual Telephone Co. was organized on November 16, 1907. Its first officers were R. A. Matteson, president; J. C. Bradley, secretary; W. B. Pangle, treasurer. The committee appointed to form by-laws for the organization consisted of J. M. Ware, J. C. Bradley, and W. B. Pangle.

At the second meeting, November 23, 1907, it was voted that the company be called the Big Four Telephone Co., since four lines—the 30, 45, 28, and 29—were to be constructed. Shares in the company were to be sold at \$25 each. The cost of building lines was \$898.38. It was decided to hire labor to build the lines and charge the cost to the company.

The first stockholders were John Oberkotter, A. C. Fogle, L. Chesnut, G. R. Ward, B. Fisher, R. A. Matteson, William Corners, F. Vavra, G. W. Lauber, D. B. Ayres, L. Coleman, H. Q. Seavers, N. McMahon, J. C. Bradley, and W. B. Pangle. The records show that the meeting place of the organization was the District 12 schoolhouse. Over the years, the lines were extended and new shareholders added. The linemen for the company were J. C. Bradley, W. B. Pangle, R. E. Geoury, George Bordner, and Herbert Nichols (who was the last lineman). The company dissolved in 1963.

Geneva Township Club

A group of women, assisted by Mr. J. L. Thomas, then county agent, met at the county courthouse on May 25, 1921, to organize the Geneva Township Club, the first extension club in the county. Charter members were Mrs. W. M. McMahon, Mrs. Link Chesnut, Mrs. Clyde Ewart, Mrs. Harry Ward, Mrs. Charles Pittard, Miss Helen Pittard, Mrs. Henry Fisher, and Miss Mary Oberkotter. Mrs. Harry Ward was elected the first president.



Photo from Mrs. Arthur Larson
Geneva Township Club—taken in 1926 at the home of Mrs. Harry Ward. Back row, left to right: Miss Velma Lauber, Mrs. Robert Fox, Mrs. Mae Bordner, Mrs. Perry Christianity, Mrs. Oscar Peterson, Mrs. Harry Chesnut, Mrs. Raymond Schultz, Mrs. Will Real, Mrs. Jesse Walters, Mrs. Clarence Nichols, Mrs. Homer Acker, Mrs. Cyrus Walker, Mrs. Henry Fisher, Mrs. Herbert Lauber and Claiton. Next row: Mrs. Clyde Ewart, Miss Grace Fox, Mrs. Arthur Larson and Bette, Mrs. Hugh Heath and Dean, Mrs. Thomas Coleman, Mrs. Will Knox, Mrs. Roy Carson, Mrs. Lou Fiedler, Mrs. George Lauber, Mrs. Albert Gergen, Mrs. Link Chesnut, Mrs. Frank Bradley, Mrs. John Burt, Mrs. Curt Ogg. Seated on ground: Mrs. George Ward, Mrs. Charles Pangle and Bethene, Mrs. Tom Wagner and Donn, Mrs. Dave Garrett, baby Jean Burt and Laverne Ogg, Mrs. Harry Ward. Three little boys, center left: Harlan Heath, Charles Miles, and Russell Chesnut. (Person behind Mrs. Pangle not identified.)

The objects of the club are to promote culture in the home, to assist in any movement that will help to improve the community, and to aid any benevolent measures that may be considered desirable. The Project Lessons supplied by the Extension Division of the University of Nebraska are used for study.

The officers in 1967-68 were Mrs. Earl Hennessey, president; Mrs. John Reinsch, vice-president; Mrs. Roy Carson, secretary; and Mrs. Arthur Larson, treasurer. At the present time the club has 25 members.

In 1948, the club organized a Geneva Township Junior Club which now has a membership of 18 young women. This club's first president was Mrs. Raymond Peterson. The present officers are Mrs. Harlan Domeier, president; Mrs. Russell Leaming, vice-president; and Mrs. Everett Renken, secretary and treasurer.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

This church was located in the extreme SW corner of Sec. 18 on ground donated by Henry Bohlen with the understanding that it would revert to him if the church were ever dissolved. The cornerstone of the church was laid in late 1903, and the building was completed in 1904.

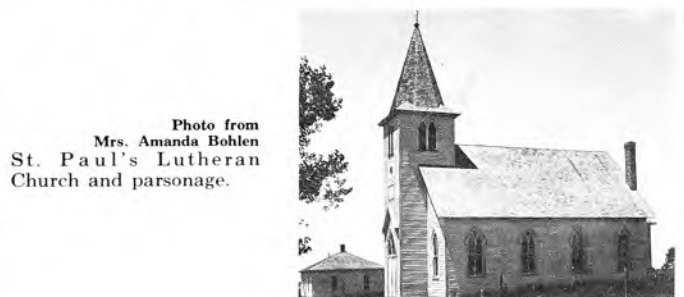


Photo from
Mrs. Amanda Bohlen
St. Paul's Lutheran
Church and parsonage.



Photo from Mrs. Amanda Bohlen
Interior of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

The church closed in 1956, and the building, purchased by Martin Griess, was dismantled in 1959. The parsonage was purchased by the Geneva Golf Club and was moved to the fairgrounds, where it was remodeled for use as a clubhouse. The pews were bought by the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Geneva and are still in use there.

GIRLS' TRAINING SCHOOL

The Nebraska State Industrial School at Kearney at one time cared for both delinquent girls and delinquent boys. In 1892, a separate institution for girls was provided at Geneva, and the 20 girls then at Kearney were moved to the new institution. Mrs. Henry Muhlenberg cooked the first meal for them.

The following paragraph is from the *Semi-Centennial History of Nebraska*, a historical sketch compiled in 1904 by A. E. Sheldon, director of field work for the Nebraska State Historical Society:

"The Nebraska Girls' Industrial School. — This school is located at Geneva. Originally the boys and girls were in the same institution at Kearney, but the work was not satisfactory, and a division was made in March, 1892. The law governing this institution was amended in 1902 so as to provide for the commitment of any girl, who is vagrant or vicious, under the age of 18 years. The present buildings were erected in 1891, at a cost of \$30,000. They are ample for the accommodation of 100 inmates. The institution is not a house of detention, but a school and home for incorrigible girls, where they receive intellectual, industrial, and moral training. About 450 girls (in 1904) have already been trained at this school. The cost of maintaining the school is about \$10,000 per year (in 1904)."



Girls' Industrial School, Geneva, Neb.

Photos from Ora Robbins

Girls' Training School. Left: "Old Main," built in 1891. Right: Main building as later remodeled.

The "Old Main" building was built in 1891 and dedicated by the Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M., Brad D. Slaughter, Grand Master. In June, 1915, another building, the auditorium, was opened for the first time to the public. This building, 48' x 120', is a fireproof structure of reinforced concrete, erected at a cost of \$45,000. The "Old Main" building was replaced by a new school and administration building constructed in 1957, at a cost of \$323,000, and dedicated on February 2, 1958.

In 1918, a new cottage, to house 32 girls and called Fanny Crosby Cottage, was completed. In 1929, a cottage was built for the 29 colored girls then resident, at a cost of \$30,000. This cottage was later used as a receiving cottage. It is now the Boys' Cottage, which houses 12 young boys plus 7 older girls who serve as "big sisters."

Two new cottages, one a receiving cottage for all new girls, with one wing reserved for a hospital unit, were completed by May, 1959. Each of these cottages, which houses about 22 girls apiece, cost about \$120,000. The newest addition to the 50-acre state-owned tract consists of three triplex apartments for employees, completed in the fall of 1964.

Formerly the girls stayed until they had completed high school; some stayed as long as 3 or 4 years. Now, however, the official plan is to get them back to their homes, or placed in foster homes, as rapidly as possible. Some girls are paroled at the end of 6 months, although the average length of stay is from 10 to 14 months.

A biennial report for the period from December 1, 1914, to December, 1916, stated that at the time the girls were divided into three "family groups" as follows: "A"—receiving ward, and girls who needed to be segregated; "B"—the bright, intelligent, normal, and progressive girls; and "C"—children from 3½ to 14 years of age.

The institution has a fully accredited "Class A" school called North High School. In June, 1915, the first graduation exercises were held as 11 girls completed the course of study prescribed for eighth-grade work. In May, 1967, four girls were graduated from the 12th grade and 14 from the eighth grade.

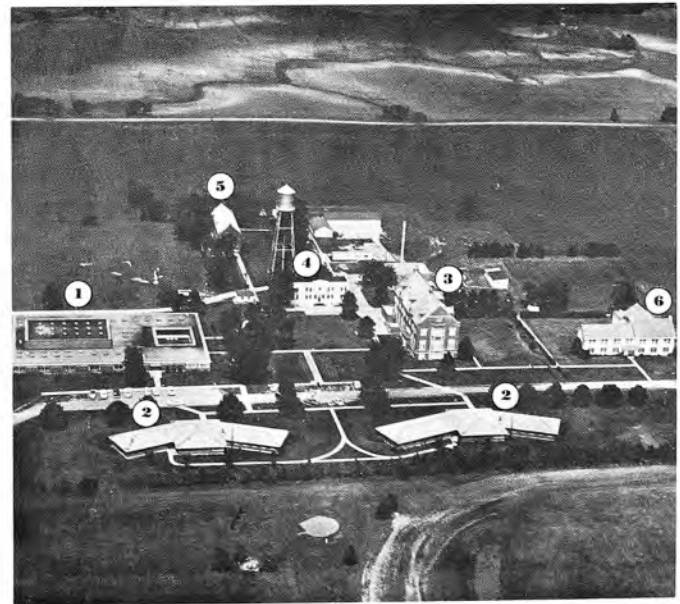
The number of girls enrolled at the Girls' Training School—the name was changed in 1923—has ranged from 196 in 1928 to 83 in 1955. As of the middle of May, 1967, enrollment numbered 106 (94 girls and 12 boys). With the closing of the school year, a number of girls and boys were paroled, leaving 87 enrolled as of May 26, 1967.

The enrollees are committed by the courts as juvenile delinquents; they must be under the age of 18 at the original time of commitment, and must be released on or before their 21st birthday. The Girls' Training School is designed for and directed toward the retention, education, industrial training, and reformation of female juvenile delinquents. The enrollees can receive vocational training in several fields—Cosmetology, Nurse Aid, Warehouse Clerk, and Food Service. All the girls are taught to clean, cook, bake, wash, iron, and sew. Girls who qualify may accept employment by the day in the Geneva area. The girls committed to the school are to be instructed in morality, self-government, and domestic duties.

At the present time (early 1968), the youngest girl is 11 years old and the youngest boy is 9. The school had been exclusively for girls until January, 1967, when 12 young boys under the age of 14 were transferred here from the Boys' School at Kearney.

Superintendents who have served at the school since 1938 are the following:

- July 1, 1938-July 1, 1951 — Mrs. Blanche Clouse
- July 1, 1951-July 1, 1955 — Mrs. Maude Disbrow
- July 1, 1955-February, 1958 — Mrs. Blanche Clouse
- February, 1958-January 8, 1963 — Mrs. Gladys Hart
- January 8, 1963-present — Mr. Donald Best



Courtesy Girls' Training School

- Girls' Training School (prior to 1964).
- 1—School and administration building;
- 2—Cottages built 1959;
- 3—Auditorium (now C-House);
- 4—Laundry Unit (now Farm House);
- 5—H. U. building (formerly Hospital Unit);
- 6—Fanny Crosby Cottage.

Fred H. Camp, son of C. D. Camp, was born in Geneva on August 22, 1874, and was the only Camp who remained in Geneva. He saw the town develop from its tiny beginning and he was one of the few who remembered the erection of every building in town. As a boy he helped make the brick that went into the construction of the first brick business building in town. He watched the railroad tracks laid into town and saw the first train come in.

Soon a Fairgrounds was built and the famous "Sile Camp's Band" was organized. This band was soon known all over the country. Fred was a bugler in Company G of Geneva at the time of the Spanish-American War, but was not allowed to accompany the boys to war because by that time he was a married man. For many years the Camp Band was a feature of every celebration in Geneva. Eleven Camp relatives played in the band. Old-timers well remember the gaudy uniforms and plumed helmets worn by this band. Fred led a band of his own at one time.

Geneva began to grow faster and there was much building being done. J. H. Camp also built an eight-room hotel beside the photograph gallery. Fred Camp hauled the first load of lumber to start the town of Strang, just south of Geneva.

In 1904 some of the Camps went farther west. The Sile Camp family located in Twin Falls, Idaho. The Jim Camp family went to California. C. D. (Stote) Camp and wife and Otis H. Camp and wife went to Salida, Colorado, while Burt Camp and family went to Boise, Idaho. Ross Camp and family went to California. Lena Camp Wheeler and family located in Lincoln, Nebraska. Otis Camp is the only living one of those early-day Camps.

In 1894, Fred married Hattie Elmore of Geneva, daughter of Ed and Mrs. Elmore. Ed was for many years the Northwestern depot agent. To this union were born two children, Mrs. Maybelle E. Booker of Denver, Colorado, and Dr. C. Cass Camp, now deceased. Cass was a dentist, and practiced for 42 years in Davenport, Nebraska.

Fred learned the barber trade early in life in the shop of Beals & Wilkins, under the Citizens Bank building. On February 22, 1895, he opened his own barber shop in a room in the old Geneva State Bank Building. In 1898, he sold his barber shop to Al Severns. Following the sale of his shop, he went into the photographic business with his father, who was Geneva's pioneer photographer. His studio was located at the corner of 8th and G. He later sold the studio to Dewald & Ralston and started in the mercantile business.

Mr. Camp was a member of the city council when the city removed the hitch racks from in front of the courthouse and the farmers threatened to boycott the town. He was also a member when the city removed the old board walks and ordered the laying of brick walks, granted the first electric-light franchise, and granted the second telephone franchise (to the Fillmore County Company). He was a member of the school board (1916-1919) and was for many years a director of the county fair, and secretary of concessions.

Fred often talked about visiting with the Indians who camped on the banks of Turkey Creek in the early days.

There was never anyone more proud of his home town than Fred Camp. During the last few years of his life, he served as night clerk at the Geneva Hotel, where he made his home. He enjoyed visiting with all who stopped at the hotel, always praising Geneva, the place of his birth. He passed away on January 14, 1955. Hattie passed away March 26, 1935.

Fred Camp was one of our few people to have been born in and lived in Geneva all his life.

At the present time, his granddaughter, Mrs. Mary Portwood, and her husband, Dr. David Portwood, and his great-grandchildren are carrying on the good works of Fred and Hattie Camp.

James F. Loghry was born in Steuben County, New York, February 1, 1827, a son of John and Electa (Foster) Loghry. His father was of Irish and his mother of English descent. He farmed with his father until he was 20 years old.



Photo from Deo Fisher
Alexander Fisher, early settler, who came to Nebraska in April, 1876, from Rushville, New York. He homesteaded the W 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 14 and later bought from the railroad the NE 1/4 of Sec. 23 (still in the family).



Camp
Geneva, Neb.

Photo from Miss Delia Fisher
Levi R. Fisher, architect and builder, who put up many of the early brick buildings in Geneva (among them the Union Block, 1887, and the Auditorium, 1915). Note Camp Photographer credit.



Photos from Mrs. Vera Lovegrove
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Loghry, about 1880.

Then his father found him a place to learn the blacksmith trade, at which he worked as a journeyman for two years.

He became acquainted with Lucy A. Cutler, who was teaching a district school in the neighborhood, and they were married January 10, 1850. Lucy was born in Rutland, Vermont, October 6, 1829, to Mr. and Mrs. John H. Cutler, but when less than a year old was taken by her parents to Worcester, Massachusetts, and when she was seven the family moved to Orland, Indiana.

After his marriage, Mr. Loghry opened a blacksmith shop of his own in Branch County, Michigan, where he carried on business for three years. He later moved to the village of Orland, Indiana, where he ran a smithy in partnership with a Mr. Carpenter.

In 1865, during his residence in Orland, he responded to the government's call for more troops to help in putting down the Rebellion and enlisted for one year of the war in Company K, 152nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered in on February 15, 1865. As the war soon closed, he was discharged at Charleston, West Virginia, August 30, 1865, with the rank of corporal. He returned to Indiana and five days later secured another shop and resumed business. Four years later he disposed of his property and started westward, landing in Fillmore County on March 12, 1871.

He filed on a homestead on the SE ¼ of Sec. 24 in Geneva township. He moved up on the homestead November 10, 1875. As soon as he settled on the farm, James built a sod forge, covered his bellows with a canvas, and resumed work in the open air, pounding out drill plowshares for those far and near needing to have work done. He shod their horses and also shod many a horse for the Indians. Here the honest blacksmith with his hammer, sledge, and strong arm, coupled with farming operations, succeeded in making for himself and family a comfortable home, almost within sight of the place where he first unloaded his household goods on coming to the state.

Mr. Loghry was active in community affairs. According to records, the meeting of the Agricultural Society to organize a County Fair was held at his home August 1, 1872. On January 21, 1872, the First Presbyterian Church of Fairmont was organized at the home of James Loghry and was so recorded on July 6, 1872.

He cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont, and was an ardent supporter of the Republican party. He came of a very patriotic and loyal family, in which four of the six sons were among the boys in blue during the Civil War and all of whom lived to return to their homes. He was reared in the Methodist Church, but did not join any church. His wife became a member of the Congregational Church in Geneva.

The Loghrys sold their farm to Vitura A. Bartlett on November 22, 1888, for \$5,000 and moved to a home in Geneva. James again opened up a blacksmith shop, located near where Emery's Cafe is now located. In his later years he moved his shop to his home and carried on his business from there.

To Mr. and Mrs. Loghry were born five children. (1) Helen M. became the wife of Adam Huston, who lived 1¼ miles N of the old homestead; they had seven children: James, who married Lou McCombs; Hugh, who married Viola Roles; Ella (Mrs. Charles Pittard); A. D., who married Nettie Talkington; Hattie (Mrs. Sam Lash); Pearl (Mrs. Prentice Murr); and Frank, who married Dorothy Sole. (2) Leroy P. married Ida Platt and they lived on a farm 2 miles from the old home. (3) Louisa married William H. Garrett, who owned and operated a farm in Madison township; they had eight children: Julia, Dora, Harry, Ada, Nellie, Amy, Hazel, and Pete. (4) Jay married Anna McPherson, and they had two sons, Frank and Clarence. (5) The other child died in infancy.

James Loghry died in Geneva on September 10, 1906, and his wife Lucy passed away in March, 1917, at the age of 87 years.



Photo from Mrs. Reno Weiss

B. C. McCashland family (1893). Mr. McCashland homesteaded the NE ¼ of Sec. 18. *Front row, left to right: James (on father's lap), Benjamin C., Ethel, Mrs. McCashland (Sophia). Back row: Walter, Belle, Frank, Charles, and Clyde.*

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Miles came from Kewanee, Illinois, in May, 1871, and homesteaded the NW ¼ of Sec. 6. The first presidential election in Fillmore County was held at this homestead (changed from an earlier-announced location at Mr. Long's). At this election, 48 votes were cast, all for Ulysses S. Grant.

Mr. Miles was justice of the peace for three years and a county commissioner from 1881 to 1884. A son, Robert Roy Miles, recalled that many times the doctor came to get his mother to go with him, day or night, to aid the sick, and that she dressed many a baby for the first time.

Mr. and Mrs. Miles were the parents of eight children: Charles A., Adelbert, Eva E. (Mrs. George Wills), Drusilla (Mrs. J. M. Combs), Frank F., Grace E. (Mrs. Charles W. Steen), John B., and Robert Roy Miles.



Photo from Nellie Miles Casad

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Miles at Golden Wedding celebration (1911). *Seated on ground: Harold Miles, Ruth Chesnut, Charles Combs, Edith Miles, Gordon Miles, Edgar Chesnut, Nellie Miles, Velda Combs, Wallace Chesnut. Seated, left to right: Lena (Linnert) Miles holding son Floyd; LeRoy Miles; Adelbert Miles; Charles A. Miles; Eva (Miles) Spear; Charles C. Miles; Eva Williams Miles; Birge Miles; Drusilla Miles Combs; Roy Miles. Back row: Juno Chesnut; "Kit" Arrowsmith Chesnut (Mrs. Charles); Harry Chesnut; Dan Spade; Bertha Miles (Mrs. Adelbert); Freil Combs; Lydia Green Miles (Mrs. Charles A.); Mamie Davis; Lydia Longman; Miles Longman; Myra Miles (Mrs. Frank); Mr. and Mrs. George Miles; Eunice Camp Miles (Mrs. Birge); Link Chesnut and wife, "Puss" Arrowsmith Chesnut; last two unidentified.*



Courtesy Nebraska Signal
Sons of Ebenezer Milner, who homesteaded the NW ¼ of Sec. 20. *Seated, left to right: Edward, Nathaniel, Albert. Back row: Clarence, Eugene.*

David Creola Mowry was another early pioneer of Fillmore County. He traced his paternal ancestry back to England. The first Mowrys came to America in 1631, in company with Roger Williams, and were associated with him in his religion and the settling of Providence, Rhode Island. Some Mowrys are to be found there yet, but many found their way westward. David was the ninth descendant. He was born on a farm near Wynette, Bureau County, Illinois. After a public-school education, he attended an academy for two years.

He started west on his 21st birthday (March 1, 1878), and came to Fillmore County, where he had three uncles living near Carleton, and decided to stay. He bought land in Bryant township in 1878. The farm bordered on the Thayer County line. He made several improvements including a pond.

In 1882, he married Lucy M. Brown, daughter of a pioneer family. Two daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Mowry while they lived on this farm: Genevieve (Mrs. John Erikson of Nampa, Idaho) and Verna (Mrs. Tom Wagner of Geneva).

In 1886, Mr. Mowry sold his farm and moved to the new town of Geneva, and started what was called a "screen-door factory" but did all kinds of wood-turning work. He first built a big shop (painted red) just south of the park. While he lived in this shop, his son Cleo was born there. David then built the house where Mrs. Lydia Laun lives now, and one son (James) was born there. Cleo grew to manhood and attended the state university. After graduation he went to Schenectady, New York, as an electrician. There he died two years later. James was an aviator during World War I. James will be remembered as a good athlete in Geneva High School. He passed away in 1959 in Peoria, Illinois.



Photo from Mrs. Tom Wagner
The David C. Mowry screen door and window factory in 1888—just south of Courthouse. The house, still standing, was the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Louis Laun. Left to right: Mrs. D. C. Mowry, Genevieve, Vernie (Mrs. Tom Wagner), Cleo, Mr. D. C. Mowry.

Early-day neighbors of the Mowrys in Geneva were Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Camp; the A. J. Beals; Frank Wight; Will Weed, the Burlington depot agent; Bryant, a lumberman and coal dealer; and the Wards, who had a furniture store and the Ward Opera House, a popular place for all entertainment. Blind Boone, and Blind Tom, Negro pianist, came there. There were hypnotism shows, minstrel shows, and many others. In 1893, Mr. Mowry gave a show called "Fantasticle Fantasima," a sleight-of-hand work.

The "big red shop" was sold in 1890, and the family moved to the north part of Geneva. Five children were born here: Martha, Herbert, Clinton, Thora, and Alice, all now deceased. Martha and Thora were married when they passed away, leaving three children. The Mowry home was then remodeled to accommodate a large family.

Dave Mowry was the first plumber in Geneva. He put in most of the water system for the town and for the Girls' Training School and tarred and painted the standpipe. He later sold his plumbing business to Frank Bentley. He then bought the brick building on the southwest corner of the west business block and did all kinds of tent and awning work, with the help of his son Clinton.

Clinton was the first radio repairman in Geneva. Part of the front of the first floor was a museum where relics of the past were brought. Most of the things were given to Mr. Mowry. The collection grew fast and soon more space was needed. Later, more space was needed for the repair shop and people were told to come and take their relics if they wished, but the museum was to be taken to Hastings and placed in the "House of Yesterday." The building that had housed the museum was burned in 1936.

David Mowry passed away in 1938, and Mrs. Mowry in 1925.



Courtesy Geneva State Bank
View of Mowry Museum on Sept. 27, 1927.

John Brown, father of Mrs. D. C. Mowry, came to Fillmore County in 1873, and bought land joining his brother-in-law, I. E. Allen, in Hamilton township. He brought his daughter Lucy, a girl of 12, with him. Two other children were left in Clinton, Iowa, with relatives.

In the big blizzard of 1873, Mr. Brown's two oxen were smothered to death. Mr. Brown was killed in 1875, struck by lightning while riding a mule. His daughter Lucy then lived mostly with her aunt, Mrs. I. E. Allen.

In a letter written to his parents in the East, Mr. Brown described Fairmont as he saw it in 1873 as having 20 houses, all new since 1871.

—Mrs. Tom Wagner

Bright B. Ogg was born in Sangamon County, Illinois, on January 10, 1850, and was a son of Bright B. and Frances (Thomas) Ogg, who were natives of Kentucky, whence they emigrated to Sangamon county. His father was a carpenter by trade, and in addition to that pursuit carried on farming. Both he and his wife spent their last days in Macoupin County, Illinois.

Upon the home farm in the county of his nativity, Bright B. Ogg spent the days of his boyhood and youth and early became familiar with the duties that fell to the lot of the agriculturist. He was indebted to the public school system for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. From Sangamon he removed to Macoupin County, and after a few years left Illinois for Nebraska; this was in the year 1880. He located in Fillmore County and purchased land in Geneva township, where he bought and sold several farms. For many years Mr. Ogg was extensively engaged in stock dealing—buying, feeding, and shipping—and found this a very profitable source of income.

Mr. Ogg was married in Macoupin County, February 10, 1876, to Ellen Redfern, a native of Kansas, and a daughter of John and Polly (Pritchett) Redfern. They reared a family of seven children, namely: Ora L., James W., C. Claude, Cecil, Chloe, Josie, and Hazel.



Photo from Miss Chloe Ogg
Mr. and Mrs. Bright B. Ogg (1900).

In the fall of 1895, Mr. Ogg became the Populist candidate for the office of county sheriff and was elected by a majority of 173. After serving for two years he was renominated and elected by a majority of 249, a fact indicating his faithful and fearless service and his personal popularity among the law-abiding citizens. He was a Democrat in his early political affiliations, but became a staunch advocate of the Populist party. Socially he was connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Mr. Ogg had a great civic interest and pride, and served many years on the city council. He was also county assessor, county land appraiser, 20 years vice-president or president of the Fillmore County Fair Board, and lastly served as mayor of Geneva. At 75 he retired from public service.

Mr. and Mrs. Ogg celebrated both their 50th and 60th wedding anniversaries. He lived to be 88 years old, and she to 101 years.

—Miss Cleo Ogg

Mordecai Pangle, son of Isaac Glass Pangle, was born in Lima, Ohio, in 1838. He enlisted in the Union Army (6th Ohio Light Artillery) and was mustered out in 1865. He married Rebecca Carpenter in 1869, and they became the parents of 11 children.

In 1871, he came West looking for land. He came from Delphos, Ohio, to Lincoln by train, and then walked to the present farm location (SE ¼ of Sec. 22) and staked a claim. Then he walked to Nebraska City to file his claim, paid \$1 per acre to squatters to relinquish the land, and went back to Ohio. He had to return within six months and live on this land for five years to hold his claim.

In September, 1871, Mr. Pangle drove a team and wagon from Delphos to Chicago. There he purchased a cookstove for \$30, and some lumber. These and their other goods he loaded on a railroad car and came to the end of the line (at Crete), and from Crete he drove to the homestead. While in Chicago, he wrote to his wife and told her to address her letters to Empire, Fillmore County, Nebraska.

Mr. Pangle built a dugout and a barn. When he had lived on the homestead 18 months, his wife and three children came West. By this time the road was built to Fairmont. No one was at the depot to meet her. (Mord had not received her letter telling when she was arriving, as the mail sometimes was not delivered for two weeks.) The railroad agent, who knew the general location of the farm, offered to take her to her new home in his wagon. When she reached the place which she thought might be her husband's farm, she entered the dugout and, recognizing some of the furniture as her own, knew she had arrived. She was so disappointed in the home, and so overwhelmed by the desolation and loneliness of the prairie, that she threw herself down on the bed and cried.

The family lived in the dugout for about a year, until a frame house could be built, which became a permanent home. Mr. Pangle died in 1913, but his widow lived there until her death in February, 1920. A son, Ross, lived there and farmed the place the remainder of the year. Another son, Charles, purchased the farm from the estate and has owned and lived on the place since that time. One interesting fact about the Pangle place is that it has never had an encumbrance of any kind against it; Charles Pangle thought that in this respect it might be unique in Fillmore County history.



Photo from Mrs. Roscoe Pangle

The Mordecai Pangle family in 1892 or 1893 at farm home. *Back row, left to right:* Mrs. Pangle, Benjamin, Susan Pangle Johnston, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Pangle, Josephine, and Bliss J. Two children in front (*twins*): Dorlissa and Roscoe.

John Pittard was born March 14, 1845, at Barrington in Somersetshire, England, to John and Elizabeth Harris Pittard. He came to America in the spring of 1865, landing about the middle of April. His ship came in via the St. Lawrence River and a pilot boat was needed to bring them to shore. The men on the pilot boat told them that Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated.

An uncle, Joe Pittard and wife Sophia, had preceded him to America and settled near Sussex, Wisconsin, so John settled in Waukesha County, Wisconsin. He was married to Helen Bates on November 17, 1877, and they moved to Ludington, Michigan, where he worked as chore boy, caring for the horses of the teamsters in a lumber camp. His wife worked as cook in the camp.

Mr. Pittard came to Nebraska in May, 1879, and settled in the vicinity of Geneva. His wife and infant son, Charles, followed in September, with the Abraham Calkins family, who settled near Friend. At one time the Pittards lived in a sod house 2 miles N of Geneva on the NE ¼ of Sec. 24.

On November 21, 1882, he purchased the S ½ of the NW ¼ of Sec. 27, T7, R3W from the Burlington Railroad. In 1884, he learned that the N ½ of the NW ¼ of Sec. 27 was to be sold October 6. In order to be the first in line to buy the 80, he arose very early on that



Photo from Mrs. Vera Lovegrove
Mr. and Mrs. John Pittard (photos taken in 1918 and 1890, respectively).

morning, walked the 8 miles to Fairmont, and sat on the steps of the railroad agent's home until the agent awakened. He was successful in buying the land.

John built his home on the land in the fall and winter of 1884-85 and moved into it in the spring. Only 20 acres of the farm was ready for tillage when he bought it, so he had much sod to break.

He helped to organize District 81 and his son, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchild, attended school there. One granddaughter taught school there for two years.

John was a staunch Democrat and was always interested in politics and government and kept posted on the happenings of the day.

He and his family lived on the farm until 1920, when he moved to an acreage south of Friend. His son Charles and bride moved onto the farm in February, 1900, and lived there until 1920, with the exception of years 1911 to 1914. During this time Emmet Kinkade rented the farm. During the years 1920-1928, Charles tilled the farm and the hired men and their families lived in the house.

In 1928, the house was remodeled, and Charles's son John A. Pittard and his wife moved onto the farm. John and wife still reside there and are the third generation of Pittards to own this farmstead.

Grandpa John's wife passed away October 16, 1929, but he continued to live at Friend until he became blind. For two years he was cared for by his son, Charles, and wife. He died August 4, 1934, at the age of 89 years.

Samuel Rhinehart was the former owner of the Wagner farm in Sec. 33. Before buying that farm, he had lived at Manleyville, where a town site had been laid out, 1 mile N and 1½ miles W of the present Geneva. The Rhineharts farmed and kept a small hotel, which later burned, at Manleyville. Later, they bought the E ½ of Sec. 33 and moved there. They sold the S ¼ but retained five acres because the hog house was across the half-section line. They planted berry bushes and a large fruit orchard.

The Rhinehart family was quite prominent in the vicinity and later in the Geneva Methodist Church. When one of their daughters was married, Mrs. George Smith, the banker's wife, said of the wedding dinner that she had never seen "so much food at one dinner in all her life."

In 1892, the Rhineharts sold their farm to Henry Wagner and moved to Kansas.

Charles Henry Sloan, son of James W. Sloan and Elizabeth (Magee) Sloan, was born in a log cabin near Monticello, Iowa, May 2, 1863. He spent his early boyhood on a farm in Jones County, Iowa, was educated in rural district schools, and graduated from high school at Monticello. He taught in a rural school until March 1, 1881, when he entered the State Agricultural College at Ames. He completed the four-year course in 3½ years and graduated at 21 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

In the fall of 1884, he was elected superintendent of the Fairmont, Nebraska, High School and taught there for three years. During this time he devoted his evenings to the study of law, and in 1887 was admitted to the bar. From 1887 to 1891, he practiced law in Fairmont, where he was city attorney. He was elected county attorney of Fillmore County in 1891 and moved to Geneva.

On October 1, 1889, he was united in marriage to Emma Margaret Porter of Woodbine, Iowa.

In 1894, he was elected to the State Senate from the district then comprising York and Fillmore counties. While serving in the Senate he introduced the resolution naming Nebraska "The Tree Planters State." He was chairman of the committee which submitted several amendments to the State Constitution, most of which were adopted.



Photo from Porter Sloan
Charles H. Sloan, brothers and sister. Left to right: Robert, William J., Charles H. Standing: Frank W. Inset: Mamie.

He championed constitutional amendments adopted a few years later, which created the state railway commission and led to the reorganization and enlargement of the supreme court. He served in Congress from the old Fourth District from 1911 to 1919, and from 1929 to 1931. He held a seat on the Ways and Means Committee and also served on the Agricultural Committee and was author of legislation for the eradication of tuberculosis in livestock and cholera in hogs.

He was the senior member of the law firm of Sloans, Keenan, & Corbitt, formerly Sloan, Sloan & Burke. He was a member of the District, State and American Bar Associations, and took a deep interest in their meetings.

He was for years associated with his brother, Frank W. Sloan, both in the practice of law and in banking, and was a director of the Geneva State Bank.

In 1935 he was awarded a Master of Science degree in agriculture by Iowa State College at Ames.

Mr. Sloan was a member of the Geneva Masonic and Eastern Star lodges for more than 50 years. He served as Grand Orator in 1898 and as Past Master from 1903 to 1905. He was a member of York Rite and Scottish Rite bodies, and of Sesostris Shrine at Lincoln.

Interested in the welfare and advancement of Geneva and Fillmore County, he took an active part in Community Club projects. He was a member of the Methodist Church and served on its official board. A student of the Bible, he liked to act as a teacher in the Sunday School of the church.

Mr. Sloan loved Nebraska and was convinced that her destined place was among the first. He was a cheerful optimist, a hard worker, a gifted public speaker. During his long public life he delivered many addresses in Nebraska and in many other states. He passed away in Geneva on June 2, 1946.

His wife, Emma P. Sloan, departed this life on October 19, 1946. His son, Frank Blaine Sloan, died in World War I. His other children are Ethel (Mrs. Grady Corbitt) and Charles Porter Sloan, who reside in Geneva, and William McKinley Sloan of Eugene, Oregon. He has six grandchildren, Frank Blaine Sloan of New York; Kathryn Margaret (Mrs. Sherman Ashby) of Geneva; William Marshall Sloan of Grants Pass, Oregon; Sarah Nancy (Mrs. Roger Hannum) of Eugene, Oregon; Charles Windsor Corbitt of San Francisco; and Margaret Anne (Mrs. Harold Higley) of Grand Rapids, Michigan; and 17 great-grandchildren.

—Grady Corbitt

Charles A. Thorpe, widely known in America and Europe by his nickname of "The Honest Jockey," was one of Geneva's most noted sons.¹ Born in 1862, he came as a youth to live with the Ab Tucker family on their horse-breeding farm near Geneva. His riding career was a fabulous one, taking him from county tracks in Geneva and Lincoln to St. Louis and New Orleans, and then to the famed ovals of Austria, France, and England.

He began to ride professionally in 1881 by riding Harry Edwards (owned at Fairmont), for a while Nebraska's most famous race horse. Later he rode Belle K., foaled on the Ab Tucker farm, who, with Charlie in the saddle, defeated the speedy patriarch Harry Edwards. His reputation for honesty, together with his skill, combined to earn him what was, for those days, a substantial fortune. In the year 1892, his services earned him more \$20,000. Between 1901 and 1903 (when he finally retired at 40, a full 10 years later than the normal retirement time of a jockey), he was riding winners for royalty and titled European owners, with 80 to his credit in 1903.

¹ This account of Charlie Thorpe is drawn from Charles H. Sloan's *Frank W. Sloan, Nebraskan* (copyright 1937) and from the *Nebraska Signal's* account of the sale of the house.

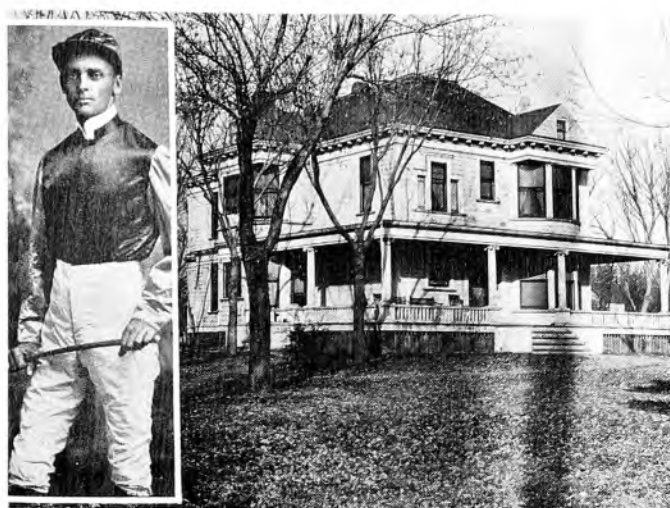


Photo from "Frank W. Sloan," by C. H. Sloan Courtesy Geneva State Bank
Charles A. Thorpe residence. Inset: Charles Thorpe, world-famous jockey.

Thorpe had early married the lovely, kind, and thrifty Alice Bassett of Geneva, recorder in the office of the Fillmore County clerk. While she lived, his earnings were well invested. In 1901, he built in Geneva a two-story, 13-room house, which for some years was the scene of much entertaining of visitors from far and near. After the death of his wife in 1907, his convivial tastes (we may guess, but do not know) apparently contributed to his financial decline. He died in 1916 in Omaha, where he earned a scanty living by tending bars and working as a cleaning man in the buffet of the Omaha Livestock Exchange. He is buried in the Geneva Cemetery.

His mansion later became the hospital of the Geneva Hospital Association, for some time managed by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bender. Auctioned in 1958, to make way for the new Fillmore County Memorial Hospital, it was bought by local farmer Vern Domeier, who used the lumber of the old landmark in the construction of an overhead elevator on his farm.

Berend (Barney) Tobiassen was accompanied to Nebraska by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jurgen Tobiassen and family, who came here from Chapin, Illinois, where they had settled after migrating from Germany to the United States. Barney bought the NE ¼ of Sec. 31 from the Burlington in 1879, when the only tree on the place was a lone cottonwood.

Since there was no shelter, on their arrival they spent the first night on their land under their overturned wagon box, with their horses and mules tied to the running gear. During the night a wind-storm struck and the horses and mules broke loose, but, luckily, did not get very far away.

They started construction of a farm home immediately. The new home was soon the scene of a double wedding, as Mr. and Mrs. Barney



Photo from Ben and Emma Tobiassen
The Tobiassen home in 1888. Left to right: Ben, Mrs. Anna Tobiassen, Lizzie, Mrs. Hilka Tobiassen (grandmother), Anna Tobiassen.

Tobiassen and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Linde were married there. Mrs. Tobiassen was a sister of Mr. Linde and Mrs. Linde was a sister of Mr. Tobiassen.

The Tobiassens had seven children: Anna, Margaret, Benn, Lydia, Carl, Emma, and John W. John farmed the home place for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Lauenstein were also married in this house, Mrs. Lauenstein being a sister of Barney Tobiassen. Also, the two eldest daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Tobiassen were married in the same room in which their parents were married. Anna married John Riel and Margaret married Jacob Schaldecker.

On April 4, 1954, the golden wedding anniversary dinner of Mr. and Mrs. John Riel was served in the family home; and on August 16, 1956, Mr. and Mrs. John Tobiassen celebrated their silver wedding anniversary there.



Photo from John Tobiassen

Early-day threshing rig, with John Tobiassen walking alongside engine.

Henry Wagner was born in Baden, Germany. As a small boy, he was brought to Ohio by his parents, and lived in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. During the Civil War, he and others went ahead of the army building temporary bridges, but he did not serve in the army.

In 1873, Mr. Wagner came to Gage County and bought railroad land, paying \$7 an acre. In 1874, he married Margaret Lowry of Waverly, Ohio; she was born in Ohio, but her parents had come from Dublin, Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Wagner, who had five sons, all born in Gage County, experienced the usual early-day hardships. In 1892, the family moved to Fillmore County, where they had bought the Samuel Rhinehart farm in Sec. 33.



Photo from Mrs. Tom Wagner

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wagner

Their early neighbors were Newton Frank, George Bobbitt, and Jim Bortner on the east, Cash Bumgarner on the south, and Henry Biester on the west. Many others also came and went.

There was a little-used road on the north of the Wagner farm that had three bridges on the half-mile as it crossed and re-crossed Turkey Creek. Finding the bridges expensive to keep up, the county bought a slice of land from the Wagners, thus doing away with two bridges and leaving only one to keep up. The jog in the road is still there.

Henry Wagner passed away in 1919, and Mrs. Wagner in 1931.

Thomas Wagner inherited the farm when his father passed away. Tom and his brother, William, farmed together until William moved to town, after which Tom farmed the place himself. In 1914, Thomas

Wagner married Verna Mowry of Geneva, who had been a school-teacher in Tom's home district (No. 7). To this union were born three sons, Jack, Donn, and Richard.

Mrs. Wagner and her three sons are all graduates of Geneva High School. All three boys were inducted in World War II. Jack was placed in NASA (the space agency) after graduating from the University of Nebraska. Donn was in the artillery, and became a paratrooper, later a parachute rigger. Dick was a bombardier engineer on a plane called "Life." Jack is still in NASA. Donn was in France when the war ended. Richard, who had been in Italy, had completed his 50 missions and was stationed in Florida when the war ended. Donn married Lily Priest of Canton, Texas; Richard married Norma Kohler of Sutton, Nebraska.

Tom Wagner always did general farming. Although retired from active farming, he lived on the home place, farmed by his son Richard, until his death on May 13, 1965. Mrs. Verna Wagner still lives there.

Peter Youngers was born in Pike County, Pennsylvania, on December 25, 1852. When he was seven years old, his parents moved to New York City. He became a street news-boy, selling the *New York Times*, and in his teens drove a coal truck for Barry & Co.



Photo from Mrs. Lionel Henkle
Peter Youngers (about 1900).

In May, 1871, the family came overland in a covered wagon. Peter and his father, Peter Youngers, Sr., took adjoining homesteads in Liberty township 8 miles S of Exeter and planted an orchard of apples, cherries, peaches, and grapes. Prices were high, with flour \$10 a barrel, bacon 30 cents a pound, and poor-grade kerosene 50 cents a gallon. Peter Youngers, Sr., sent to England for clover seed, and in this way clover was introduced in the West.

One of Peter's first jobs when he came West was with a nursery at Crete. He soon became foreman and had charge of setting out trees along the Burlington right-of-way. People used to call this section of the prairie an alkali desert because there was nothing to break the wind and dust. Mr. Youngers persuaded farmers to plant rows of osage orange along the outlines of fields to form windbreaks. Later, most farmers wanted to use all available space and so cut out the trees to enlarge their fields.

Along with farming, Peter, Jr., found it necessary to work with a team on the railroad to obtain provisions for his family. Most of the crew were boys from the East who knew nothing about the West. Mr. Youngers often laughed about one man who admired his "cady" hat [slouch hat] and wanted to swap with him, and so Mr. Youngers was delighted to take the man's cap. A few months later, he could pull the cap over his ears to keep warm while the other man's ears were freezing.

One winter, Peter, Jr., worked at Kearney with a railroad track-laying gang for wages of 25 cents a day. One of the last buffalo hunts took place there at this time, but Peter decided that he needed the 25 cents worse than he needed to go buffalo hunting. There was an army camp at Kearney, and one winter Peter delivered the mail there, and in so doing had to cross the Platte River on horseback.

After making final proof on the homestead, Mr. Youngers went into the nursery business, growing the stock and traveling over the country as a salesman, with books of colored plates showing varieties of fruit. He also carried specimens in bottles. In 1883, he bought a farm 2 miles E of Geneva and put in 20 acres of apples.

Peter Youngers was a highly practical horticulturist. He was a lifelong student of farming problems and did pioneering work in many ways which have now become universal.

"Pete," as he was known to his friends, was a member of the National Nurserymen's Association for about 25 years and never missed a convention; on his retirement, he was made an honorary member. He was elected a member of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture in 1898 and served on its Board of Managers from 1899 to 1906, when he became its president and served two terms. He was also president of the Citizens State Bank in Geneva.

His studies of scientific agriculture made his business a success. While on the state board of managers, he contributed much to its financial stability. He was treasurer of the State Horticultural Society

for many years, and was superintendent of the Horticulture Building at the Omaha Exposition.

He was most widely known for his work with his nursery company. Thousands of orchards were produced from trees propagated and grown there. Probably there is no section of Nebraska which did not feel, directly or indirectly, his influence as a horticulturist.

He was a man who loved life — his home, his family, his friends; and his real business in living was the joy of beautifying his country and, at the same time, making it more prosperous.

Mr. Youngers passed away at his summer camp in Mercer, Wisconsin, on August 15, 1921. In 1929, he was honored as an outstanding nurseryman and a portrait of him was unveiled in the "Hall of Agricultural Achievement" at the university's Agricultural College in Lincoln.

—Nellie Youngers (Mrs. Lionel) Henkle, Westbrook, Connecticut



Photo from John Tobiasen

Filling a trench silo in 1934-1935 on the John Tobiasen farm.

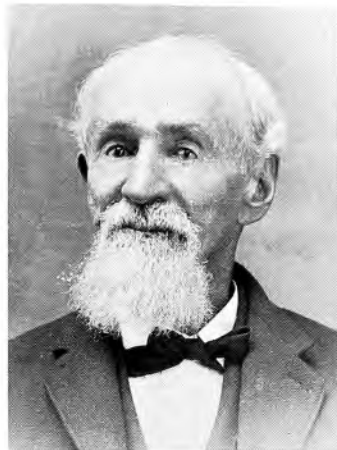
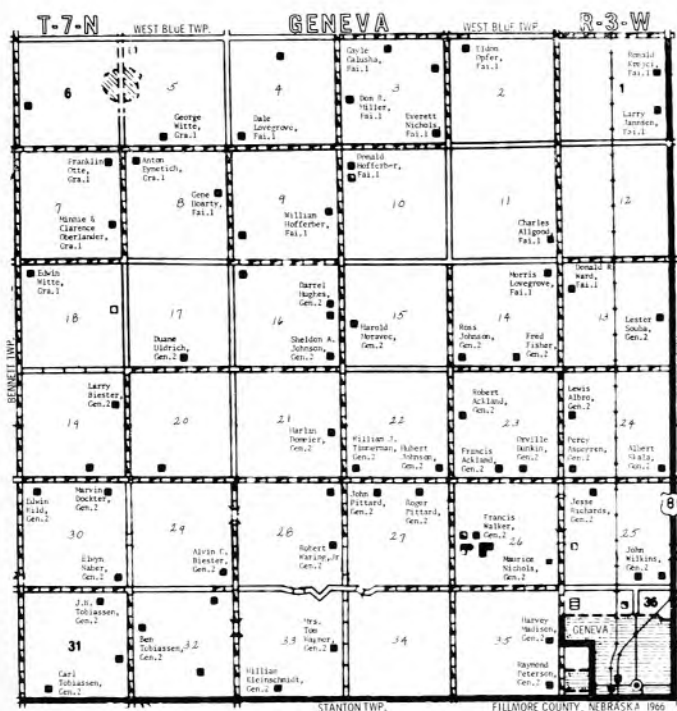


Photo from Miss Agnes Wild

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Wild came from Zelienople, Pennsylvania, in 1871 and homesteaded on the E 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Sec. 30.



Photo from Mrs. Vera Lovegrove

Daniel Van Slyke family. Front row, left to right: Elsie (Billings), Elizabeth, Daniel, Stella (Jewell). Back row: Lydia (Rogers), Guy, Martha (Goodrich). Daniel homesteaded the E 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Sec. 24.



Photo from Mrs. Dorothy Nichols

A tornado cloud as seen in Geneva township in the summer of 1947.