



Colonial Manor, Geneva's new home for senior citizens.

east of Highway 81. It was built at a cost of approximately \$300,000 and financing of the building was arranged by the Geneva banks.

It is an attractive brick-faced structure with a pentagonal area in the center which houses the office, nurse's station, nurse's utility room, dining room, living room, personal care room, physical therapy room, and kitchen. Four wings extend from the pentagon; three of these are residence wings with space for 69 guests. The fourth wing is a maintenance wing. There are three "drive-in" showers, a whirlpool bath, and two island tubs for the residents.

Construction began in the summer of 1966 and open house was held on May 28, 1967. About 25 employees are needed to operate the home, of which Mr. Bernard Correll is the manager.

Cemetery Association

Shortly after the location and establishment of Geneva as the county seat, the inhabitants formed a cemetery association, but it apparently kept no records and filed no plat of the burying grounds with the county clerk. So no information is now available, although the ground was used for burials.

A meeting was held at the courthouse on July 14, 1877, after a notice had been published for three weeks in the local weekly paper, the *Review*, to organize a Geneva Cemetery Association. At this meeting, J. A. Dempster was temporary chairman, and V. A. Jones, secretary. It was first moved and carried that they do away with all proceedings of the earlier so-called Cemetery Association and organize anew. The following trustees were then elected: C. M. Northrup, C. H. Bane, F. Heiderstadt, S. B. Camp, and J. A. Dempster; and the following residents of the county in attendance were enrolled as members: J. T. Platt, J. D. Hamilton, H. Stewart, J. A. Dempster, R. B. Likes, D. H. Goodrich, C. M. Northrup, S. Burr, S. B. Camp, J. B. Lewis, C. H. Bane, George Selby, F. Heiderstadt, M. M. Neeves, D. Warner, V. A. Jones, and W. V. Fifield.



One of first graves in the Geneva cemetery—William H. Ray, died July 30, 1875.

The trustees were instructed to purchase from the County Agricultural Society not to exceed 20 acres. For this purpose, Mr. F. Heiderstadt was to solicit subscriptions for lots in the new cemetery at \$5 per lot. V. A. Jones was employed to lay out the lots at 25 cents per lot, which he did on the 16th, 17th and 18th of July, 1877. It was moved and carried that all persons holding receipts in the old association be allowed first choice of lots in the new.

Thus was organized the present Cemetery Association. Later, there was received from the old association \$6.68. Mr. Heiderstadt reported on his solicitation of subscriptions, and for 20 acres off the east end of the land of the Agricultural Society, the new association paid the Agricultural Society \$55.16, and the State of Nebraska, \$144.50, a total of \$199.66.

The association then proceeded to function in routine manner until the year 1913. In April, 1913, the First Baptist Church of Geneva, having sold their church property in Geneva, submitted to the president and trustees of the association the following proposition: "1. To donate and place in Trust for the Permanent Care and Improvement of the Cemetery the sum of \$2,000 conditioned that the Association donate \$1,000 and lot owners and others interested donate \$3,000, making a total of \$6,000 to be put in trust, the income to be used for the Permanent Care of said Cemetery." In October, 1913, the association donated \$1,000. The lot owners donated, at \$50 per lot, the sum of \$3,170, and thus the Permanent Care Fund was established with \$6,170 in the fund. Since that date the fund has been increased by gifts and by the payment into the fund of one-half the price of lots sold after that date. On April 1, 1956, the Permanent Care Fund amounted to \$40,688.06. After 1913, with the above start, others gave sums in trust for special purposes on special lots, and these trusts now amount to over \$4,000. So the year 1913 marks the beginning of the present financial structure of the Association.

Since that date the association has operated in regular routine manner, but now it will have to expand and enlarge its platted area.

—Guy A. Hamilton, Secretary (dated March 11, 1957)

ORGANIZATIONS

Throughout the years various groups have organized. Many are still strong in numbers and goals; some have dissolved, perhaps for lack of interest or because their purposes were fulfilled. It is impossible to obtain a history of all organizations that have had a part in the development of the city and surrounding territory, but the following clippings from the city's newspapers suggest many.

1876: *I.O. of G.T.* (Independent Order of Good Templars) was organized May 8, 1876, with 15 members. George Bigelow was Worthy Chief and E. B. Brown, Worthy Secretary. (At one time the organization had a membership of 150 but by 1882 had decreased to 40.)

1879: Lovers of music met at the courthouse to organize a permanent musical association. M. M. Neeves was elected chairman. Twenty members joined. Quarterly dues for men were 25 cents; ladies' dues were free. Professor Ballou was music instructor.

1879: *G.A.R.* (Grand Army of the Republic). Department Commander, Adjutant General Wood, of Omaha, completed the organization of a Post of the Grand Army of the Republic at this place last Tuesday night. The following named officers were elected and installed: Post Com'd, M. D. Williams; S.V.G., W. J. Carrier, Jr.; S.V.C., C. H. Bane; Adj't., G. P. Wintersteen; Surg., G. R. Hart; Chap., M. L. Spear; O. D., G. W. Stultz; O. G., S. Harbaugh; O. M., R. M. Hazlett; Searg't M., J. A. Dempster.

Those who signed the roll and have not been mustered are requested to be present at the next regular meeting, which will be held at the courthouse, Thursday evening next. Soldiers, please turn out; let us remember old ties, and make this organization socially a benefit.

All honorably discharged Union soldiers are cordially invited to join us.

1881: The *Geneva Woman Suffrage Association* meets Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, September 7, with Mrs. Belle G. Bigelow. Ladies and gentlemen are cordially invited to attend. Gentlemen are entitled to all privileges of the society, excepting eligibility to office.

1882: Company G, First Regiment of *National Guard*, was organized in the summer of 1881 and was first known as the Independent Rifles, but in the spring of 1882 it was transferred to the National Guard. In reviewing the company on July 3, 1882, the Inspector General pronounced it one of the best drilled in the state. Lieutenant N. S. Oliver, an experienced tactician, is drill master. The chief officers are George P. Wintersteen, captain; N. S. Oliver, first lieutenant; W. S. Crawford, second lieutenant.

1890: August. The *Vigilant Society* of Geneva, Madison, Fairmont, and West Blue Townships met at Fairmont, more than 100 determined farmers being present. The object of the society was to put a stop to horse stealing. The officers were: president, George W. Jackson; vice-president, M. Rodgers; secretary, F. F. Robbins; treasurer, William Searles.

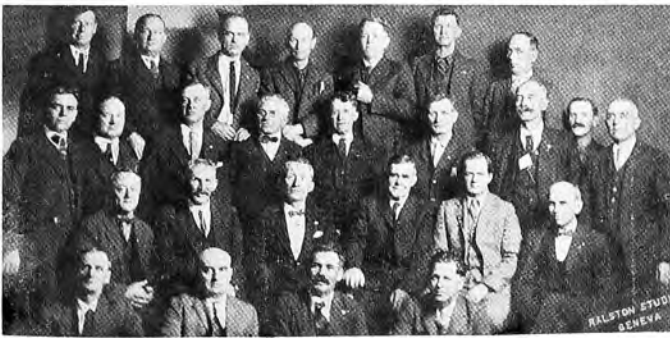


Photo from Geneva State Bank

Spanish American War Veterans. Reunion of Company G, First Nebraska Infantry (February 4, 1925). *Bottom row:* left to right: Charles Higginbotham, Ed Spafford, Henning Jacobson, Dr. L. H. Warner. *Second row:* Elwood Bender, Burton Fisher, W. J. Merrill, George H. Nelson, A. E. Holt, Dr. M. M. Akin. *Third row:* E. E. Placek, Harry Shumaker, Oscar Harvey, Charles Smrha, E. E. Moody, Ed Marsh, Ed Ogden, Shelley Heckman, Dr. J. M. Stewart. *Top row:* Carl Propst, George Ray, Art Hannes, Sylvester Eaton, Art Smith, Ward Roberts, Harry Hannes.

1896: February. *Swine Breeders* of the county met at the courthouse on Thursday, February 13, 1896, to organize the "Fillmore County Swine Breeders' Association." Elected the following officers for one year: President, B. F. Benedict; secretary, S. F. Antes; treasurer, G. A. Walker; directors, George E. Finley, S. Logsdon, and W. J. Hildreth. Those who enrolled as members of the temporary organization: B. F. Benedict, G. A. Walker, J. E. Fancher, George E. Finley, J. R. Scholfield, J. R. Darrow, B. C. Kenyon, Ralph Pardue, E. M. Finley, E. W. Sprout, R. A. Matteson, and W. A. Thompson of Geneva; Jacob Pflug of Exeter; Joseph Roesler, Anton Roesler of Sawyer; O. L. Skinner, C. Crocker, E. A. Tomlin, of Martland; Samuel Logsdon, Shickley; E. E. Wheeler, C. G. Sheppard, Watson Weldon of Strang; B. C. Thompson, Burrese; George Jenkins, S. F. Antes, Fairmont; John Olson, Ong.

1896: *Nebraska National Guard*, Co. G, First Infantry, Geneva, January 10, 1896. "At the regular meeting of the company last evening it was decided to hold a special meeting of the company on next Thursday evening, January 16, 1896, at the armory in commemoration of the return of the company from the Sioux Indian war of 1890 and 1891. A cordial invitation is extended to all members of the company and their ladies as well as all veterans of that campaign who are not now members of the company. It is desired that all members wear their uniforms and all who possess Indian War badges wear them also.—C. D. Jensen, Second Lt. and Chr. Com."

1896: The *Geneva Gun Club* elected the following officers: President, C. E. Summers; secretary, W. L. Spear; treasurer, W. P. McCall; managers, D. I. Guthrie, C. G. Buehrer, and G. F. Beeson.



Photo from Rex Shaner

Geneva Gun Club trap shoot winners in 1967—Bill Watmore, Robert Cellar, and Cy Howells.

1896: The Geneva *A.O.U.W.* (Ancient Order of United Workmen) elected the following officers: Master Workman, Ed Yates; foreman, R. D. Phillips; overseer, O. D. Wilson; recorder, S. B. Camp.

1897: *Geneva Lodge No. 18*, subordinate lodge of the Business Men's Fraternity, was organized by the supreme president. The following were officers: president, J. B. Sixton; vice-president, A. W. Shickley; secretary, Joe Rosenstein; treasurer, Dr. W. T. Smith; guide, Dr. W. E. Propst.

1897: The members of the *Cosmopolitan Club* of Geneva gave a banquet in honor of Charles A. Thorpe, famous jockey, who was home for a short stay. The menu was elaborate, including lake trout, veni-

son, quail, chicken, roast veal, and loin of beef. Dick Low Lee, Geneva's Chinese laundry-man, was the chef.

1897: A mass meeting to discuss the raising of sugar beets was held at the courthouse. A. H. Steven presided and James Rodgers acted as secretary. A committee was appointed to draft a constitution for an association of beet growers.

1900: A local lodge of the *Banker's Union of the World* was organized in Geneva. The officers were: president, Dr. George Mozee; vice-president, Dr. A. J. Kauffman; secretary, Dr. W. T. Smith; overseer, A. R. Scott; treasurer, Mrs. Mary Held.

1902: A group of farmers met at the courthouse and formed a stock association. The following officers were elected: president, H. R. Deming; vice-president, B. F. Benedict; secretary, James Rodgers; treasurer, I. N. Trask. Eli Redfern was elected stock buyer.

1904: The *Y.M.C.A.* (Young Men's Christian Association) boys did not hold a meeting Monday evening because of the Fraternity Temple fire. The athletic goods that had been ordered for use in the temple room that the boys had arranged to rent are piled in a window at Picard Pharmacy awaiting disposition.

1905: April. The *Geneva Boys' Anti-Cigarette League* gave a very interesting patriotic program at the Methodist Church under direction of Mrs. A. D. Curtiss last Friday evening.

1905: *Bee Keepers* met and organized a group to be known as the Fillmore County Bee Keepers' Association. Members were F. B. Donisthorpe, Lee Huston, F. N. Ayres, W. R. Hitch, L. L. Fisher, J. H. Morgan, Charles Stoldorf, H. C. Smith, Carl Yates, Henry Heiderstadt, J. B. Miller, V. A. Benway, E. G. Hall, G. H. Meyers, W. J. Pierce, R. A. Matteson, L. Chestnut and C. F. Bordner. Officers elected were: R. A. Matteson, president; J. H. Morgan, secretary; committee on constitution and by-laws, J. H. Morgan, F. N. Ayres, and F. B. Donisthorpe.

1905: The *Fillmore County Boys' Agricultural Association* and the *Girls' Domestic Science Association* were organized in Geneva under the auspices of County Superintendent Henry Vauck.

1907: March. A local aerie of the *Order of Eagles* was organized in Geneva with more than 100 members.

1912: The *Geneva Commercial Club* sponsored a public meeting to consider means to secure consolidation of the two local telephone systems.

1916: The Geneva *W.C.T.U.* (Women's Christian Temperance Union) elected the following officers: president, Mrs. Grace Flory; first vice-president, Mrs. T. T. Hill; second vice-president, Mrs. J. T. Limback; recording secretary, Mrs. Anna Ertel; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. E. Beeson; treasurer, Anna Wernimont.

1917: The *Fillmore County Hog Cholera Association* was organized at the courthouse to assist in the eradication of cholera.

1918: Farmers from the various townships met at the courthouse to organize a county farm bureau, now the extension service. L. Chestnut was elected temporary chairman and C. J. Watson temporary secretary.

1918: In response to a call by the *Fillmore County Threshermen's Association*, 77 men gathered at the courthouse to perfect an organization. The sowing of grain was also discussed.

1922: February. About 75 men met at the courthouse to discuss the advisability of organizing a co-operative grain marketing company. A temporary organization was formed with John P. Davis as chairman and J. H. Morgan as secretary.

1922: March. Members of the *Geneva Epworth League* gave the play, "Mary Jane's Pa," at the city auditorium.

1933: The Fillmore County young men selected for government reforestation work were sent to Fort Crook. This work was later changed to the *C.C.C.* (Civilian Conservation Corps).

1933: July. A temporary organization was formed to put the government wheat allotment program into effect.

1934: April. The county *F.E.R.A.* (Federal Emergency Relief Association) staff was organized to handle the federal relief work in the county.

1935: The *Fillmore County Old Age Pension Board* held its first meeting. The members were R. A. Matteson, Geneva; Henry Jensen, Exeter; E. W. McFarland, Ohioa; Tom Fitzgerald, Grafton; and Albert Thornton, Shickley.

1942: The *Geneva Community Club* organized a "housing bureau" with headquarters in the city auditorium. Bert Lynn was in charge of the offices, which helped find housing for people coming to Geneva to work on the air base.

1948: Several Geneva organizations co-operated to organize a summer recreation program for grade-school-age youngsters. Principal M. L. Christensen was selected to direct the program.

American Legion

After the end of World War I, several local veterans met at the Geneva courthouse to form an American Legion post, which was at first called Fillmore Post No. 68. A few years later the name was changed to Sloan-Bolton Post No. 68 in memory of Frank Blaine Sloan and Clarence J. Bolton.

The charter was granted on September 13, 1919. Commander at that time was Donald D. Donovan. The charter members were M. Francis Hourigan, Thomas E. Ashton, Arthur A. Weis, William P. Schneider, Walter Weis, Andrew



Photo from Nebraska Signal
 Geneva Legion Baseball Team (1960). Standing, left to right: Ron Kleinschmidt, Rod Schoenholz, Jim Weiss, Jim Everts, Ken Lefever, Dick Nelson, Dick Newman, Fred Lapcheska, Bob Nunns, Bob Higel, Jerry Parks, Duane Schrock. Kneeling: Jim Joe, Dick Everts, Dennis Bumgarner, Dan Stengel, Larry Lichti, Larry Bornschlegl, Gary Suhr (bat boy).

N. Schaf, Charles Edmond Rock, William Aldrup, Robert B. Waring, Eric Johnson, Frank F. Fiedler, William T. Saul, Clay Thomas, Donald D. Donovan, and Roscoe H. Mohrman.

The meetings were at first held in various buildings in town. Following the end of World War II, the Legion purchased a large brick building on Main Street, formerly known as the Economy Paint Mills. After extensive remodeling, it was dedicated on July 4, 1947.

The Legion sponsors a Geneva High School junior to Cornhusker Boys' State each spring; assists several other organizations in presenting a summer recreation program for boys and girls; sponsors a Legion Junior Baseball Team; sponsors Boys' and Girls' County Government Day; and presents a Certificate of Distinguished Achievement each year to an eighth-grade boy and girl.

The officers in 1966-67 were: Charles Massoth, commander; Henry Reinsch, vice-commander; Mervin Leonard, adjutant; Melvin Ralston, finance officer; Willard Mussman, service officer; and Wilson Miller, chaplain.

Legion Auxiliary

The Sloan-Bolton Post No. 68 was organized in the spring of 1920. The first meeting was held in the City Auditorium on August 19, 1920. Mrs. J. K. Waring was elected the first president; Mrs. R. P. Wilson, vice-president; Regene Rock, secretary; and Mrs. Cora Smith, treasurer. Mrs. Rock, Mrs. Gilmore, and Mrs. Barker were the Executive Committee. Dues were fixed at 25 cents for National, 50 cents for State, and 25 cents for Local.



Photo from Geneva Photo Co.
 American Legion Auxiliary (1967). Seated, left to right: Mrs. Bert Lynn, Mrs. Armin Ackerman, Mrs. Ralph Gipson, JoAnn Placek. Back row: Mrs. Porter Sloan, Mrs. Henry Steinacher, Mrs. Wilson Miller, Mrs. Marcella Placek, Mrs. Henry Reinsch, Mrs. Harry Carlson, Mrs. George DuBois.

Charter members were Mrs. Matthew Rock, Mrs. William Baroch, Mrs. Fred Kenny, Mrs. J. K. Waring, Mrs. Sarah E. Wilson, Mrs. Cora M. Smith, Mrs. Cynthia M. Hill, Mrs. Cora Ashton, Mrs. Emma P. Sloan, Mrs. Lillian Sloan, Mrs. Hannah Gilmore, Mrs. Mary Parris, and Regene M. Rock, all from Geneva, Nebraska.

The Auxiliary is kept busy throughout the year with many activities. They give a \$50 donation to the park recreation fund. They send a check and make gifts for the Veterans' Gift Shop in Lincoln and also at Christmas time make four Tarlton Men which are filled with cigarettes, cards, socks, and other small items. They sponsor a girl to the Girls' State each year, make close to 100 wreaths for the veterans on Decoration Day, sell poppies in the spring for the veterans, give a check to the "Yanks who gave" at Christmas time, and give Hallowe'en parties for one or two grades of the public school. They have a "Little Red Schoolhouse" to donate to at each meeting, which collects money for nurses' scholarships; there is usually one girl from the local high school eligible for nursing scholarships. They serve lunches for the monthly square dances. They send cards to all who are ill, or in time of death (for immediate members, they send flowers). They give \$2 to each new baby born to a member of the Auxiliary. Each spring the Legion Auxiliary gives an annual birthday dinner for the Legion; that in March, 1968, was its 48th such dinner.

The following have served as presidents of the organization:

Mrs. J. K. Waring	Blanche Kroll	Mrs. Agnes Baroch
Mrs. Cora Smith	Mina Churchill	Lillian (Mrs. Porter) Sloan
Mrs. Percy Bedford	Margaret Johnson	Marjorie (Mrs. Henry) Reinsch
Mrs. Catherine Schuelzky	Muriel Pearson	Mrs. Henry Steinacher
Mrs. Naomi Lockard	Dona Jean Brower	Mrs. Armon Ackerman
Mrs. Emma Crawford	Lois Weis	Louise (Mrs. Ralph) Gipson
Mildred Howell	Phyllis Walker	
Mary Parris	Marcella Placek	
Vera Waring	Ann (Mrs. W. E.) McDonald	

Beta Sigma Phi

The Geneva Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi was organized on Founder's Day, April 30, 1947, with 8 charter members, one transfer from Colorado Upsilon, the director and sponsor present. Beta Sigma Phi is a nonacademic organization. Its aims and activities are social, cultural, and educational. Meetings are held twice monthly.



Photo from Mrs. Edith Elder
 Beta Sigma Phi—first initiation group in 1947. Back row, left to right: Dorothy Allgood, Marjorie Yates, Margaret Fahlberg, Edna Tucker (sponsor), Evelyn Lauber, Shirley Isley, Mary Becker, Helen O'Brien, Dorothy Hofferber, Ann Jirkovsky, Mrs. Elder (director). Seated on floor: Mary McPeck, Betty Caton, Camilla Reinsch, Patty Kline.

The first 9 members were: Mary Hoarty Becker, Shirley Isley Larkin, Margaret Fahlberg, Mary McPeck, Helen O'Brien Jennett, Evelyn Lauber, Ann Jirkovsky McDonald, Betty Caton Bumgarner, and Camilla Reinsch Rosener.

Mrs. Edith Elder and Mrs. Edna Dennis Tucker were made director and sponsor of Beta Sigma Phi in 1947. Mrs. Blanche Rosenau was director for one year. In 1952 Mrs. Tucker was made an honorary member and Miss Mae Matson was made sponsor; she still remains the same. Mrs. Elder was director until 1957 when she also was made an honorary

member. Mrs. Elder became director again in 1958 and remains in that role (1967).

Space prevents our listing all members since our founding, but our presidents have been these: 1947-48, Margaret Fahlberg; 1948-49, Shirley Isley Larkin; 1949-50, Erma Burch and Helen O'Brien Jennett; 1950-51, Evelyn Lauber; 1951-52, Ann Jirkovsky McDonald; 1952-53, Erma Burch; 1953-54, Mary McPeck; 1954-55, Doris Weis; 1955-56, Norma Jean Babst; 1956-57, Shirley Asslen; 1957-58, Shirley Hughes; 1958-59, Carolyn Bernasek; 1959-60, Rosemarie O'Brien; 1960-61, Barbara Abker; 1961-62, Phyllis Steffens; 1962-63, Lorene Hofferber; 1963-64, Sharon Barbur; 1964-65, Doris Weis; 1965-67, Mary McCarthy; 1967-68, Rosemarie Thurin.

In June, 1956 all girls that had been in Beta Sigma Phi four years or more formed an Exemplar Chapter, Xi Alpha Gamma. The group, limited to 12, listed the following members in 1967; Norma Babst, Sharon Barbur, Erma Burch, Dorothy Eich, Lorene Hofferber, Helen Hromadka, Mary McCarthy, Ann McDonald, Mary McPeck, Phyllis Stephens, Rosemarie Thurin, Doris Weis, Mrs. Elder (*director*), and Mae Matson (*sponsor*).

The funds we raise from our different projects have gone to help redecorate the hospital, to the Brownie and Cub Scouts, and for books for the library. We were always on call to Mrs. Bobbitt of Roselawn Nursing Home. We give yearly to the March of Dimes, Red Cross, Cancer and Heart funds. Our organization has chapters in every state of the Union and in foreign countries. —Mrs. William Eich

Boy Scouts

It is difficult to secure a complete official record of the history of Boy Scout Troop No. 175, of Geneva; but a report of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, New Brunswick, N.J., shows the following records of various troop organizations in Geneva:

Troop 1: Organized by a group of citizens, September, 1913; dropped September, 1914.

Troop 1: Geneva Community Club organized a troop May, 1917; dropped May, 1922.

Troop 1 (185): Organized by the Geneva public schools December, 1925; dropped December, 1931.

Troop 162: Organized by Geneva Methodist Episcopal Church April, 1936; dropped April, 1937.

Troop 175: Organized by Geneva Community Club and

American Legion, December, 1935; dropped December, 1942.

Troop 175: Organized by Geneva Community Club March, 1944; dropped March, 1948.

Howard Boyd, director of registration of the National Council, in a letter dated June 17, 1966, stated: "The present troop, 175 of Geneva, was first registered in May, 1949, under the sponsorship of the Geneva Community Club. It remained active until May, 1950, after which it lapsed for five months. Your troop has had unbroken registration since that date and is now in its 17th year."

Cornhusker Council records in Lincoln indicate the troop was chartered in December, 1935, sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Geneva. Dr. Edward W. Day, pastor of the church, signed the application. J. R. Freeman was listed as scoutmaster with Charles G. McEachran as assistant. Other members of the committee were Sterling Harris, J. W. Hammond, Charles J. Crew, and Edward W. Day.

Scoutmasters

According to personal recollection of the writer and information recalled by others, Rev. B. A. Warren of the First Congregational Church of Geneva probably started the first troop in Geneva in September, 1913. He served as scoutmaster then and through the World War I years, although the charter probably was dropped between 1915 and 1917.

Chris Peterson, Geneva produce station operator, led the troop during the 1917-1922 years with others assisting. Recalled are Len J. Davis, Milford Carlson, LaVerle Peterson, Charles Jeremiah, and J. C. Swinbank.

R. W. Kretsinger, superintendent of schools at Geneva from 1924 to 1927, was responsible for re-activating a Scout troop in 1924, the charter being dated and issued December, 1925. He also served as scoutmaster.

Superintendent Kretsinger was followed by several high-school executives and teachers. Included were David Bize, Howard W. Hamilton, Coral Dubry, and others who assisted.

For several years in the thirties the troop was unsponsored but regular Scouting activities were carried out. Howard Hamilton was succeeded by Clyde Propst, who devoted much time and energy to the troop during several years.

Others serving as scoutmasters during the intervening years are not listed but the following names are recalled: Ben D. Fussell, Fred Waltemade, George Brown, Hugh Wilkins, Elmer Sprague, Marion Ridpath, Marion Harrington, and Floyd Richardson.

The current scoutmaster is Cliff Adcock. The troop is now sponsored by the Geneva Lions Club and seems to be on a sound basis.

Meeting Places

Through the years the Boy Scouts have met wherever they could find space, including the Congregational Church school rooms, the Methodist Church basement, a basement room under the Odd Fellows building, two or three empty buildings in the business district, Firemen's Hall, the high-school gymnasium, the second floor of the building now occupied by the Schults shoe repair shop, a cave in north Geneva that has long since been filled in but which was located just west of the Rex Shaner home, the Legion Hall, the library basement, and possibly other places utilized for short periods.

Several attempts have been made to provide separate and permanent quarters for the Scouts. One was the cabin built on Turkey Creek in 1936, located 2 miles N and 1½ miles E of Geneva. It was used briefly but was destroyed by a mysterious fire the following year.

Following World War II, a building was moved from the Fairmont Air Base to the lots just east of the present pump-house on North 8th St. It was remodeled and used for a time but it was never completed. Troop inactivity caused the building to deteriorate and it was later demolished.

The current drive by the Geneva Lions Club to erect a building in the city park promises to meet a long-felt need. Wendell Lauber, as president of the club, during 1966 spear-



Photo from Guy Brown, Jr.

Boy Scout Troop No 175—January, 1938. Back row, left to right: James Barbur, Dr. Edward W. Day, Earl Wilkins, Guy Brown, Sr., Alva Fulton, Harry McKibben, Robert Bailey, Russell Hershey, Paul Emery, Sterling Harris, Charles Crew. Second row, left to right: Guy Brown, Jr., John Brower, Eugene Elward, William W. Wilkins, Charles Hourigan, John Edgcombe, Leonard Kelly, Vaughn Fulton, David Bertram, John Bixby, George Pickerell, Jr., George Brown. Third row, left to right: Harry Johnson, Jr., Truman Clark, Jr., Eugene Archer, Calvin McKibben, Clyde Propst (*scoutmaster*), Keith Hershey, Hugh F. Wilkins, James Barbur, Jr., Charles Kroll. Front row, left to right: Jack Adams, James Biba, Howard McBeth, Wallace Swanson, Robert Earl Wilkins, Francis Churchill, Bob Myers.

headed the drive to get the building started. It was completed and dedicated in mid-1967. The building is also used by other organizations, including the Girl Scouts, and also for the public.

Eagle Scouts

It has been impossible to secure a complete list of all Geneva Boy Scouts who have attained the rank of Eagle Scout, but the following are among those who have done so: Norman Sothan, Elmer Sprague, Jr., Hugh Campbell Wilkins, Paul Weis, Tom Weis, James Hammond, Quinton Friesen, and Larry Heath. —Howard W. Hamilton

Chamber of Commerce

On November 20, 1914, businessmen of the city met in the Commercial Club room in the Citizens Bank Building, with J. A. Harris in the chair. The revised constitution was read and was then signed by the following persons:

J. A. Harris, C. C. Spangler, W. H. Stewart, Newton Hitch, Fred Picard, J. L. Limback, N. E. Thomas, F. L. Beck, Charles H. Sloan, C. G. Hrubesky, A. E. Holt, F. O. Edgecombe, F. H. Hitch, J. Delaney, F. A. Montgomery, R. H. Holbrook, W. H. Sissler, H. E. Stowell, L. F. Johnson, C. B. Reeve, N. H. Blakely, F. S. Bailey, F. R. Dana, F. H. Camp, W. C. Peterson, and A. Koehler.



Courtesy Nebraska Signal

Geneva Chamber of Commerce honoring 96th birthday (in September, 1964) of William Manning (who opened a bakery in 1901). Some of his long-time friends and fellow Chamber members are (left to right): Ben Koehler, Tyler Edgecombe, Guy Brown, Sr., William Manning, Earl Wilkins, Mrs. Edith Elder (in jewelry business in Geneva 49 years), Wayne Winchell.

F. O. Edgecombe was nominated and unanimously elected president of the association. From a slate of eight names, four were elected directors: F. Picard, A. Koehler, L. F. Johnson, and J. A. Harris. C. C. Spangler was appointed secretary by the board of directors at \$10 per month.

Meetings have been held in the Geneva Hotel, cafes, the Geneva Community Club House, the Fire Hall, and the V. F. W. Hall.

The officers in 1966-67 were: president, Milford Scarlett; vice-president, Clyde Lambert; secretary and treasurer, Charlene Brower; directors, Walter O'Neal, Orville Ellison, Leon Walker, Hugh Wilkins, and Joe Adamson.

The Business Men's Club was known as the Geneva Community Club for a number of years, but in 1951 it voted to join the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, and it now goes under the name of the Geneva Chamber of Commerce.

The purpose of the Chamber of Commerce is to promote a better community in which to live, to help with 4-H work, to sponsor a recreational program for the children during the summer months, and to stimulate better business for the merchants. A large Christmas program of decorating the streets and courthouse and an Easter program for the children of the trade territory are annual projects.

Past presidents: 1915, Frank O. Edgecombe; 1916, W. R. Fulton; 1917, Ed J. Pierce; 1918, Dr. L. H. Werner; 1919, Fred Picard, Sr.; 1920, Frank W. Smith; 1921, H. P. Wilson; 1922, R. A. Matteson; 1923, L. C. Laun; 1924, G. R. Borland; 1925, Guy A. Hamilton; 1926, W. L. Chenoweth; 1927, John Koehler; 1928, Harry McKibbin; 1929, Harry

Vanier; 1930, Ben Koehler; 1931, Dr. Joseph Bixby; 1932, Guy Brown, Sr., L. O. Swails; 1933, Dr. J. Q. Adams; 1934, A. B. Cope; 1935, George Koehler; 1936, Chan Hrubesky; 1937, Earl H. Wilkins; 1938, Charles McEachran, Paul Curtiss; 1939, J. W. Hammond; 1940, Charles Grothe; 1941, C. N. Humphrey; 1942, Sterling Harris; 1943, H. B. Simon; 1944, Carl E. Schneider; 1945, Mervin Bedford; 1946, Tyler Edgecombe; 1947, John C. Gewacke; 1948, Howard W. Hamilton, Frank Friesen; 1949, Elmer Purdy; 1950, Vaughn Fulton; 1951, Howard W. Hamilton; 1952, Frank A. Martin; 1953, Hugh Wilkins; 1954, Wesley Lechtenberger; 1955, Howard T. Hershey; 1956, John R. Friesen; 1957, Ray Bull; 1958, K. O. Nelson; 1959, Ralph Reemts; 1960, Joe Bixby; 1961, John Edgecombe; 1962, John Baumfalk and Ralph Gipson; 1963, Wallace Swanson; 1964, Phil Kline and Jim Brumbaugh; 1965, Joe Adamson; 1966, Milford Scarlett.

Past secretaries: 1915-16, G. S. Spangler; 1917-19, F. H. Hitch; 1920-35, Tyler Edgecombe; 1936, Charles McEachran; 1937-39, Wesley Ogg; 1940-46, Guy A. Hamilton; 1947-63, Wayne Winchell; 1964-68, Charlene (Mrs. John) Brower.

Circle 8 Square Dance Club

On August 3, 1953, 12 couples organized the Circle 8 Square Dance Club, with Ray Ainsworth, president; Mrs. Reno Weis, secretary; and Mrs. Clyde Jacobsen, treasurer. The organization was founded for the purpose of family recreation. A constitution and by-laws were made, and a membership limit of 200 was set—members to be admitted only after application had been approved by the executive board. When parents have membership, the children may also attend the club dances. The use of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited; violation results in forfeiture of membership. The officers consist of a president, secretary, treasurer, board of directors, and entertainment committee.



Photo from James Barbur

Circle 8 Square Dance Club starting the Hospital Memorial fund in 1955. Left to right: John Bixby, Dr. V. S. Lynn, James Barbur, president of Circle 8; Mr. Barbur is presenting a check to members of the Board of Directors.

Although the club's primary purpose is to promote family fellowship, it has benefit dances throughout the year and the net proceeds are given to various groups such as March of Dimes, Heart Fund, and the local baseball treasury. In May, 1955, the club was the first donor to the Memorial Hospital fund set up in 1952.

Presidents and secretaries of the club have been:

	Presidents	Secretaries
1953-54	Ray Ainsworth	Mrs. Reno Weis
1954-55	James B. Barbur	Mrs. John Brooke
1955-56	Virgil Clinkenbeard	Mrs. Howard Miller
1956-57	Ed Newman	Mrs. Ben Koehler
1957-58	Charles Grothe	Mrs. Bernard Weis
1958-59	Ben Koehler	Mrs. Fred Slepicka
1959-60	Fred Slepicka	Mrs. James Barbur

Daughters of Union Veterans

Barbara Frietchie Tent, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865, was organized in Geneva on July 18, 1921, by Department President Georgia Priestly of Fremont. The following names were on the charter: Martha

Walker, Pearl Walker, Rose Wells, Stella Gilmore, Clara Thomas, Elizabeth Ford, Ethel Ford, Gladys Anderson, Beulah Wells, Mary McKibben, Elsie Laurine, and Hannah Gilmore.

The first officers were: president, Elsie Laurine; senior vice, Hannah Gilmore; junior vice, Mary McKibben; chaplain, Elizabeth Ford; treasurer, Clara Thomas; patriotic instructor, Martha Walker; secretary, Stella Gilmore.

We hold membership in the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies and in the Women's Patriotic Conference on National Defense. Through our legislative committees and the National Defense Committee, we keep in close touch with the pulse of the nation and in tune to the needs of proper patriotic sentiment.

We are alert to the courage and vision of our fathers when they opened the doors to our organization, that nothing will admit you excepting the noble heritage of being a direct lineal descendant of honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, or marines who served their country for the Union between 1861 and 1865.

At present (1967) our Tent has 5 members. Our oldest member now is Mary Kreachbaum.

It was the pleasure of our District, with Mrs. Hannah Gilmore as president, to aid in the 100th birthday celebration of Georgia Compher Hart, which occurred just a few months before her death (Dec. 18, 1952). She was the oldest member in our organization in the United States. She was the mother of Joy Hart Case.



Photo from Mrs. Hannah Gilmore
Mrs. Georgia Compher Hart

We were at first associated with the Hastings Tent in District No. 5, but after other Tents relinquished their charters, Hastings was placed in District No. 4 farther west and we were placed in District No. 1 with Tents to the east and northeast.

Past presidents of our Tent are Hannah Gilmore, Mary McKibben of California, Minnie Carson of Fairmont, Joy Hart Case, Clarice Tice of Clay Center, Elizabeth Crawford, Janet Kreachbaum, Dollie Ellis, Alma Myers of Greeley, Colorado, Edith Ridpath, who is also our present (1967) president, Josie Hamilton, and Margaret Battle, both deceased.

The object of the Daughters of Union Veterans is to perpetuate the memories of our fathers and of their loyalty to the Union, and to keep alive the history of their heroic struggle for the maintenance of our free government. We spread widely the teachings of patriotism.

Our Tent has been favored with offices in our State Department. In 1935 we held three offices: president, Hannah Gilmore; secretary, Joy Hart Case; patriotic instructor, Josie Hamilton. In 1954 we had three: chaplain, Edith Ridpath; treasurer, Hannah Gilmore; press correspondent, Joy Hart Case. Joy held this office a number of times. She was national aide in 1934 and she and Department President Hannah Gilmore attended the national convention at Rochester, New York. The convention president was Mrs. Dorothy



Photo from Mrs. Hannah Gilmore
Daughters of Union Veterans and Women's Relief Corps (1933). Front row, left to right: Unidentified, Nannie Wilkins, Minnie Carson, Clarice Loghry Tice, Hannah Gilmore, Mrs. Frank Battles, Joy Case, Josie Hamilton, Mrs. Ed McKibben. Middle row: Unidentified, Mrs. H. Sheldon, Mrs. Stulz, Mrs. D. Kreachbaum, Mrs. Tom Shires. Back row: Dr. Leonard Warner, Ethel Loghry Nicewander, Mary Kreachbaum, Elsie Bender Fisher, Mary Burt, unidentified, Mrs. Clara Koehler, rest unidentified.



Photo from Mrs. Hannah Gilmore
G.A.R. Veterans (1933). Back row, left to right: Henry Sheldon, George White, Ralph Stowell, T. T. Hill, A. H. Steven. Front row: T. J. Bender, David Kreachbaum, Frank E. Andrews. The fourth man is Ben F. Grant, a son-in-law of Mr. Stowell, not a veteran.

Houghton of Wichita, Kansas, formerly of Lincoln.

We hold a picnic each summer. In our earlier years members of the G.A.R. and W.R.C. gave us the pleasure of having them with us.

Our duty is to inculcate a love of country and patriotism and to promote equal rights and universal liberty.

—Hannah Gilmore

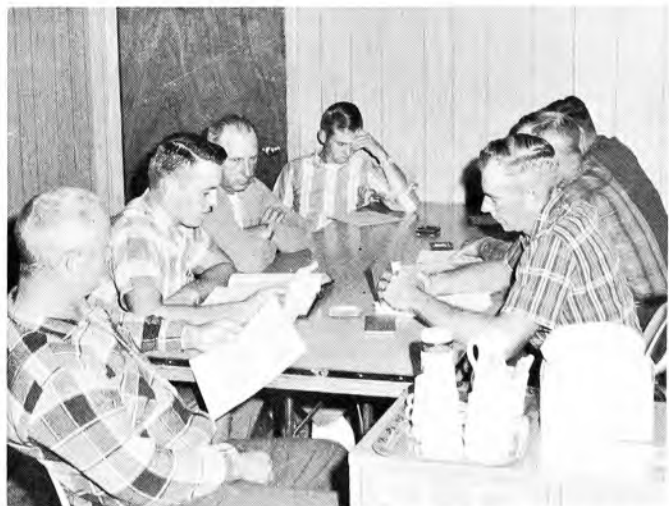


Photo from Fillmore County Farm Bureau
A board meeting of the Farm Bureau, September 26, 1967. Left to right around table: Clair Christiancy, Jr.; Vaden Myers, secretary; Rodger Christiancy; Ronald Tatro; George Nelson; Vorus Myers; Richard Janing, president.

Farm Bureau

Farm Bureau first began in Fillmore County in approximately the late 1930's. At first it was a group of interested farmers meeting together, as units, in homes or schoolhouses. They discussed farmers' problems, legislation, and various issues of the day. In these early days, fertilizer and seed corn were sold.

Farm Bureau then was organized on a county basis about 1955. Insurance services were added over the state in 1948. While Farm Bureau has been inactive in the county at times, in 1967 it is a strong organization with a membership of 327 farm and town families. Today the services include all types of insurance, tires and batteries, and animal health supplies. The county office is in Geneva.

The Fillmore County Farm Bureau Women's Group has had a program the past few years of placing books in the school libraries of the county. In 1966, books were placed in seven schools. They also sponsor some contests for the young people of Farm Bureau families. An annual picnic, a Christmas party, and other meetings of interest are held at intervals during the year.

Farm Bureau is the oldest and largest farm organization in the county. Past presidents are Wayne Steiger, Calvin Serr, Bob Yates, Karl Brinkman, John Pittard, Stuart Grattopp, Rodger Christiancy, and Vorus Myers. The president in 1967 is Richard Janing.

Fillmore County Fair

The May 16, 1872, issue of the *Bulletin*, published the constitution and by-laws of the Fillmore Agricultural Society. The article stated that during the preceding winter interest had been shown and a committee had been chosen to draw up the constitution and by-laws and meet to organize in March. On the appointed day a severe storm kept from the meeting the man who had the prospective constitution and by-laws. Three of the committee of five being present, it was moved to draft a constitution as nearly like the adopted one as possible. This action later caused much dissatisfaction, so the elected president, Judge Blain, called a meeting and a committee of seven was appointed to meet with the officers elected to form the constitution and by-laws that were published.

Apparently because of lack of interest, little progress was made until the early summer of 1875, when a newly organized Fillmore County Agricultural Society board of directors filed a petition with the county supervisors asking assistance in the purchase of permanent grounds for the society. They purchased 80 acres, the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 36, T7, R3W, as the permanent fair grounds.

This society was organized during a period of adversity. Grasshoppers had descended upon the county and destroyed nearly everything that was edible. Yet a small band of courageous men met together to form a society to promote the agriculture of Fillmore County. The first officers were C. H. Bane, president; J. J. Jensen, secretary; H. T. Hager, W. P. Friend, J. E. Cramer, and C. A. Warner, directors.

It is almost unbelievable that a group of men would have the faith in the future exhibited by this group under conditions existing at that time. Yet, when we consider their other manifestations of faith in the future of the community, we know their actions in organizing an agricultural society were typical of their actions in other fields.

Good times followed bad times, not once but often. The faint-hearted abandoned the new country; the hardy remained to carry out the purposes of the first settlers.

Throughout the years, good and bad, the Fillmore Agricultural Society carried on. Sometimes its resources were small; sometimes they were exhausted. At times it seemed that the organization was doomed and it seemed unlikely that another county fair would be held.

The records show, however, that as spring came and crops promised a better prospect for the new year there came talk of another fair and the next fair was always held. The next fair always was to be the largest and the best. Sometimes it was, but often weather, hard times, or failure of



Photo from Geneva State Bank
County Fair Midway in the early 1900's.

events to come off as planned caused disappointment.

Those who were active in promoting the Fillmore County Fair over the years were clearly optimists by nature. Usually they served at great personal sacrifice of time and money for an organization that became part of their lives.

We learn much from reading the annual reports of past presidents of the society. First came pride or disappointment in the number and quality of agricultural exhibits. Then came pride or disappointment in the quality of entertainment furnished fair patrons. Always came elation or dejection at the size of the attending crowds.

As officers of the association have changed during its history, so has the fair itself changed. Changing methods of farming, methods of travel, and forms of entertainment, all have caused the county fair to change with them.

Whereas people once came by horse and buggy, now they come by automobile. Whereas they once came for the entire day, now they come for separate sessions, returning home between programs. Whereas once a bicycle race, a baby contest, or a horse race was considered the ultimate in entertainment, now patrons expect a thrill show, spectacular acts, fine music—or just anything new and different.

Some lament the passing of the time when exhibitors brought large assortments of fruit, dairy products, fancy work, baking, and other household arts. Many lament the absence of fine horses, poultry, and cattle. But here again change has produced different types of exhibits.

The emphasis now is upon youth, as exemplified by 4-H Club activities and the work of the county's schools. Little need be said about the accomplishments of these groups, but many may need to be reminded that they are the backbone of today's county fair.

The Fillmore County Fair, like most successful county fairs, represents a compromise between the old and the new. Undue emphasis upon either the ultra-modern or the ultra-conservative probably would mark the end of such fairs.

The county fair board always has the task of pleasing the average person and in so doing aims to please the most people, always keeping in mind that the main purpose of a fair is to attract county residents to the fair grounds to see what has been done to promote agriculture in the county.

Despite changing times and the shifts in emphasis of the county fair, one thing has remained constant through the years. That is the urge of people of the county to go where others will. The average person still looks forward to fair time. It is something he probably can't explain.

The county fair has been an annual event since 1875, but the first record available appears in the *Geneva Review* for October 1, 1879:

"Fillmore County's 5th Annual Fair. The Grandest County Exhibition ever held in the State.

"Our county fair held last week was indeed a success far surpassing our hopes. The weather though dry was otherwise pleasant, and by noon of the first day—Wednesday—articles for exhibition began to come in and continue to arrive until evening of the second day. Up to noon of the second day the astonishing number of 509 entries were made up to the hour for closing entry books, and the attendance on that day was estimated at 4,000. The third and last day was the day of days and the attendance was estimated on that day to be from 5,000 to 6,000 people. The horse, cattle, and swine show, in respect to thorough breds, is as good as can be shown in the state, as their pedigrees, and records at our state fairs will prove."

Since the society was organized, three Agricultural Buildings have been constructed. The second hall, with 3,600 square feet of floor space, was erected in 1890; the old building was rearranged for a speed stable. In 1925, the present "Anniversary Hall" was built at a cost of \$15,000. This building, with two stories and a basement, is 90' long and 60' wide. The new building was dedicated the first day of the fair on September 15, 1925. The cornerstone was laid by the Masonic Grand Lodge.

Starting in 1909, the Fillmore County Fair Board has found it necessary to build three new grandstands. According to the records of the board, a new amphitheater was built in 1909, another in 1919, and a third in 1939. On the first two occasions the old structures were dismantled, much of the old material being used to build larger structures to accommodate the growing crowds. President Weis stated in the 1919 annual report, "During the year we have completed the grandstand at a cost of \$1,158.35 and now have one of the best amphitheaters of any county in the state." It was a modern building, 36' wide and 144' long. This structure, with additions and improvements, served the fair crowds until the disastrous fire of September 15, 1938.



Photo from Geneva State Bank

Judges stand on quarter stretch, early 1900's.

Fifteen minutes after a capacity crowd had filled the grandstand, a blaze broke out in a concession under the seats. Bystanders calmly watched a concessionaire nonchalantly attempt to beat out the fire. Suddenly a gasoline stove exploded, showering flames over the dry timber in the structure. Within seconds, it seemed the entire grandstand was in flames. Fortunately, no lives were lost, but there was considerable damage to personal property of concessionaires.

The fair completed its annual showing that year without a grandstand. The following year the present grandstand without a roof was erected, the association spending \$1,738.83 for material, labor being furnished by W.P.A. Later the roof was added and the boxes rebuilt.

In 1910, the cattle, hog, and horse barns were moved from the south and east sides of the grounds to the present location south of the speed barns and rebuilt and enlarged. In 1921, the cattle and hog barns were again rebuilt and enlarged.

In 1921, connection was made with the city sewer plant and modern rest rooms were installed.

The most recent improvements on the fair grounds have been the construction of the two steel quonset buildings by John Wilkins Construction Co., erected in 1956 to replace the barns demolished by a severe windstorm early that same year. Because of growing interest in 4-H livestock projects, more space was needed to exhibit these animals at the fair, and so, in 1959, another shelter was built (constructed by Courtesy Construction of Geneva). All these three buildings were constructed with the financial aid of Ak-Sar-Ben grants.

Following is a list of presidents and secretaries that served the Fillmore County Association throughout the years. Since the fair board records prior to 1900 have become misplaced, the list of officers before 1900 is incomplete. Those available have been compiled from the newspaper files.

Year	President	Secretary
1872	Judge Blain	
1873	David Lee	A. W. Chase
1874		
1875	C. H. Bane	J. J. Jensen

Year	President	Secretary
1876		
1877		
1878	M. M. Neeves	
1879	J. J. Jensen	
1880		
1881		
1882	J. F. Coulter	
1883	C. B. Darrow	V. A. Jones
1884		
1885	J. J. Jensen	E. J. Scott
1886		
1887		
1888		
1889	J. J. Jensen	
1890		
1891	J. Jensen	J. D. Hamilton
1892	J. Jensen	
1893	F. H. Briggs	
1894	F. H. Briggs	W. H. Cooksey
1895	F. H. Briggs	
1896	A. H. Steven	J. D. Hamilton
1897		
1898		
1899	H. R. Deming	F. M. Flory
1900	Lee Huston	F. M. Flory
1901		F. M. Flory
1902		J. D. Hamilton
1903		C. H. Burnett
1904		J. D. Hamilton
1905	Mark Butler	H. P. Wilson
1906	B. B. Ogg	H. P. Wilson
1907	B. B. Ogg	H. P. Wilson
1908-15	Jacob Weis	H. P. Wilson
1916-22	Jacob Weis	S. E. Ralsten
1923-28	Jacob Weis	Clay Thomas
1929-31	A. A. Russell	Clay Thomas
1932-33	A. A. Russell	Lee W. Thompson
1934-38	A. A. Russell	Charles McEachran
1939	A. A. Russell	Wesley Ogg
1940-41	A. A. Russell	Howard W. Hamilton
1942-45	A. A. Russell	Elizabeth Drake
1946	Guy Case	Elizabeth Drake
1947-49	Guy Case	Howard Hamilton
1950-54	John Koehler	Howard Hamilton
1955-56	Kenneth Shaner	Sylvester Weis
1957-59	Kenneth Heisey	Sylvester Weis
1960-63	Herman Weber	Sylvester Weis
1964-66	John Wilkins	Sylvester Weis
1967	John Wilkins	Charles Brabec

Bert A. Lynn holds the record of service for length of time served in one office—34 years as treasurer of the Fillmore County Agricultural Society. He was elected to this office in 1920.

4-H Clubs

Little did the handful of rural school teachers and county superintendents of over a half century ago, who tried to make their courses of study fit into the home life of their students, visualize the huge 4-H program of today. Some of them, however, maintained their singleness of purpose as state and national leaders in making it possible for thousands of farm boys and girls to appreciate the dignity of rural living through a national junior program, which grew into 4-H clubs.

A growing tide of farm sentiment for better living and improved methods of raising crops and livestock during the early years of the new century gave impetus to the efforts of these forward-looking educators. It was expressed in corn contests and, for girls, in home economics projects. Many rural educators of a half-century or more ago rebelled at the cut-and-dried textbooks and courses of study that were being handed down by city-trained educators. They found little that would appeal to the boy and girl on the farm and began searching for corrective measures. One of the first of these in this area to put the welfare of boys and girls above such things as courses of study, buildings, equipment, or books was E. C. Bishop. In applying this philosophy to his teaching in the Middle Creek district school in Seward County, Nebraska, in 1894, he launched a career that was to be of service to both Nebraska and Iowa youth.

Mr. Bishop made his greatest contribution to Nebraska boys and girls as assistant state superintendent of schools. His outstanding work with corn clubs and home projects as



Photos from Nebraska Signal
Four-H boys and girls at the annual Achievement Day program at the City Auditorium, October 29, 1959. The occasion also saw the crowning of the 4-H King and Queen. *Top panel: First row, left to right: Johnny Kubicek, Richard Ellison, Virginia Peterson, Gayle Unash, Cheryl Hennessey, Francis Lefler. Second row: Ronnie Perkins, Mike Johnson, Marlene Tracy, Bobby Bettger, Nancy Ellison, Glenda Meyer, Barbara Budler. Third row: Joan Novak, Lavonne Lichti, Nancy Anderson, Kathy Hesse, Eldon Swails, Frank Schultz, Frances Ogden. Bottom panel: First row, left to right: Lowell Anderson, Louis Lichti, Larry Budler, Kenneth Lefever, Ray Lee Wells, King; Elaine Guthrie, Queen; Carolyn Budler, Zona Salmen, Patty Nun. Second row: Wayne Simmons, Rodger Anderson, Marvin Real, Charles Dondlinger, Louis Becker, Jeanette Kritner, Lois Anderson, and Judy Miller.*

county superintendent of York County, prompted J. L. McBrien, who was elected state superintendent in 1904, to bring the young educator to Lincoln. He was asked to put on a program for the whole state patterned on his county activities. Several hundred boys in 65 counties enrolled in the junior corn club in Nebraska during 1905. For girls, a cooking project was also outlined.

Those who completed their work and made reports were invited to take part in the first state junior corn show held at the Agricultural College in December, 1905.

During this session, the first state-wide boys' and girls' organizations were formed—the Nebraska Boys' Agricultural Association and the Girls' Domestic Science Association. They elected officers, approved a constitution and by-laws, and outlined a full program for rural youth of the state.

At this meeting Hugh Garrett of Geneva was elected secretary for the boys' club and Eva Bolton of Geneva secretary for the girls. Mabel Wythers, now Mrs. Henry Foster of Geneva, was the secretary to E. C. Bishop.

Slowly but surely the farm boys' and girls' club idea was welded into a nation-wide organization which became officially known as the 4-H Club in 1918.

Since that time many 4-H clubs have been organized and hundreds of Fillmore County 4-H youth have enjoyed and received much benefit from being 4-H members.

During these years many Fillmore County men and women have served as 4-H leaders. As of 1967, Don Kimbrough had the distinction of having served the longest time as a 4-H leader—20 years.

The following have served as County Agents: J. L. Thomas, 1918-1921; Lee W. Thompson, 1921-1935; Paige L. Hall, 1935-1941; I. E. Lindstrom, 1941-1960; Elbert Lowenstein, 1960-1965; Richard Mohrman, 1965-present.

In 1966, 47 organized 4-H Clubs were active in Fillmore County.

—Mrs. Melvin Anderson

Girl Scouts

Girl Scouting was first organized in the county at Geneva on July 15, 1935, through the efforts of Mrs. Robert B. Waring, Mrs. Charles Crew, and Miss Delia Fisher. Twenty girls were enrolled in two age groups or troops.

Troop No. 1, whose members were Roma Biba, Lurene Fulton, Blanche Kroll, Betty Jean Lynn, Corene McKibben,

Laverne Ogg, Frances Simon, and Lila Waring, was led by Mrs. Charles Crew, captain.

Troop No. 2, whose members were Dorothy Bertram, Betty Crew, Margaret Anne Corbitt, Marylyn Heath, Marion Kroll, Phyllis Most, Helen Most, Donna Mae McKibben, Helen Nahrgang, Katherine Sloan, Jean Ward, and Mary Waring, was led by Miss Delia Fisher, captain.

In 1939, Troop No. 3 was organized for younger girls, with Miss Delia Fisher as captain and Miss Phyllis McKibben as lieutenant, Mrs. Robert Waring taking over leadership of Troop 2. Members of Troop 3 were Mary Adams, Carol Bender, Eloise Bender, Rosemary Biegler, Genevieve Elward, Gladys Grothe, Mary Kelley, Patty Kline, Carol Kroll, Marilyn Lynn, Doris Merrill, Patty Murrell, Ethel Most, Colleen McDonald, Dixie Beth Winchell, and Corene Woodhead.



Photo from Miss Delia Fisher

Girl Scout Troop No. 3 in camp at Horkey's Park, Crete, in 1939. *Front row, left to right: Virginia Thomas, Carol Bender, Doris Merrill, Mary Adams, Mary Kelly, Colleen McDonald, Genevieve Elward, Patty Kline. Back row: Marilyn Lynn, Corene Woodhead, Eloise Bender, Gladys Grothe, Ethel Most, Carol Kroll, Patty Murrell, Dixie Beth Winchell, Rosemary Biegler. Seated in front: Delia Fisher (captain).*

In addition to the knowledge and skills acquired in earning Second and First Class ranks and proficiency badges, many point-to-point hikes, cookouts, and overnight camps were enjoyed, with week-camps at Horkey's Park at Crete in 1937, 1938, 1939, and 1940, and a 10-day trip through Rocky Mountain National Park in 1941.

Assisting as examiners during this early period of Scouting were the following: Homemaker, Miss Pearl Brown and Mrs. Victoria Day; Health and Nursing, Mrs. Blanche Rosenau; Child Nurse, Mrs. Rosella Ward; Hostess, Mrs. H. C. Walker; Life Saver and Swimming, G. Joy and R. H. Hagelin; Scholarship, H. B. Simon, Anna Kyker, Creola Wythers, Vera Ebmeier, and Jeanette McNamara; Star Finder, Mrs. Grace Wilkins; Nature, Mrs. Harry Campbell; and Craftsman, Miss Mae Matson.

Interest in Girl Scouting has varied in intensity; but some time before 1948, Mrs. Ray Holroyd had a troop, and the group was active from 1948 to 1952 under the leadership of Mrs. V. S. Lynn and Mrs. Rex Shaner. Another slight lapse of interest ended with a revival in late 1950, with Mrs. Shaner and Mrs. George Cruse as troop leaders. At the present time (1967) there are 120 girls between the ages of 7 and 15 enrolled in Girl Scout work—54 Brownies, 40 Junior Girl Scouts, and 26 Seniors and Cadettes. A total of 29 adults preside as troop leaders and troop committee members.

The Grange

In Nebraska, county agricultural associations were organized as early as the territorial period. The most important factor in rural life during the 70's, however, was a new school of social reform which was at work. The great popular movement destined to affect profoundly our political and social history through many years was the Grange, or Patrons of Husbandry. Although this organization, founded in 1867, was national in scope, it was supported most effectively in the frontier and

post-frontier regions.

The reason for the great strength of the Grange on the frontier was largely the strained financial circumstances of the pioneers. To the pressures caused by natural hazards such as drouth, hail, and blizzards were added the exactions of often unfair—indeed, often gouging—railroad freight rates, mortgage-holders, and the great centralized grain and cattle markets.

The Grange brought the isolated farmers together, welding them into a strong unit with bargaining power, and in a short time made them a force to be reckoned with. One of its principal achievements was in forcing railroad legislation into the constitution, and so giving the state some control over rates, keeping them in line with prices paid to the farmers. It also advocated a "pay as you go" policy, educating its members to save a sum before purchasing, thus enabling them to save considerable amounts in interest.

The regular meetings of the Grange brought the people together 12 or more times a year. New friendships were formed and old ones strengthened, and the discussion of the common problems of their vocation gave them courage and made for progress.

What was originally conceived as a co-operative designed for the particular needs of farmers has evolved into an organization concerned with diversified community problems.

Several Granges were founded in Fillmore County townships in 1873 and 1874. There are few if any records of the achievements of individual groups; but it is interesting to note who the early Grangers were, and where. The Granges of those years were the following (listed in the order of their organization):

Geneva Grange No. 316 (Sept. 7, 1873): C. H. Bane, master; V. A. Jones, secretary, and wife; W. T. Barnett, H. R. Leming, David Lee, L. Rockwell, John Jensen, and wives; W. P. Renshaw, C. A. Warner, S. R. Bane, John A. Dempster, J. A. Blain, and Miss Hannah Lemming.

Union Grange No. 317 (Belle Prairie Township; Sept. 8, 1873): H. P. Jones, master, and wife; W. M. De La Meter, secretary; J. H. Ward, A. Talbot, T. Matson, B. F. Cheesman, P. H. Williams, E. G. Beals, P. Trenary, E. Phillips, and wives; I. H. Stone, S. Holderness, George Matson, Simeon Albro, Robert Shields, William Bell, H. K. Stickney, J. H. Burwell, I. Metcalf, I. Rakestraw, S. Wilcox, and Mrs. Hester De La Meter.

Liberty Grange No. 318 (Exeter; Sept. 8, 1873): J. F. Shirley, S. O. Hubbard, J. S. Beardsley, John Lindon, Willard Logan, John Watson, S. C. Oaks, M. F. Burge, Thomas Clark, and wives; F. M. Shirley, H. Marshall, Peter Youngers, C. S. Jordan, Mathew Youngers, John Kelley, Thomas Nugent, S. P. Morris, and Elias Bean.

Hamilton Grange No. 329 (Oct. 15, 1873): E. K. Cobb, master; E. K. Fisher, secretary; I. E. Allen, W. F. Bradley, S. A. Orr, J. D. Hamilton, and wives; J. S. Brown, J. F. McNee, James C. Keeler, John Williams, S. N. Chambers, T. E. Stickle, Mrs. Lucy Cobb, and Mrs. Huldah Fisher.

Madison Grange (Dec. 6, 1873): Oliver P. Chapman, master; Joseph Thompson, secretary; Edwin Place, Jake Hiskey, Oliver P. Chapman, Sr., Thomas Wheeler, Frank Andrews, Patrick Murphy, Alexander McCarty, Henry Sheldon, Alfred Keller, Calvin A. Songster, Stephen Singleton, Chester Stephens, Charles C. Fouts, Charles Hole, Lewis Butterbaugh, Alfred Corp, Robert C. Williams—and numerous wives.

Exeter Grange No. 356 (about Dec. 1, 1873): Samuel E. Root, master; Warren Woodard, secretary; Orson Hager, John Dayton, Lemuel T. Mead, Willard D. Paine, John P. Drummond, John T. Borland, Daniel L. Russell, Job Hathaway, N. S. Babcock, Benjamin F. Stillely, and Thomas B. Farmer.

Prairie Flower Grange No. 359 (Glengary Township; Dec. 6, 1873): Isaac F. Scott, master; George Tyson, secretary, and wife; Francis Story, John T. Lippencott, H. W. Brown, Thomas Gilroy, G. W. Gesell, Robert Folden, Warner Folden, Moses Taylor, Gerry Lippencott, Benjamin F. Bothwell—and wives.

Eureka Grange No. 368 (Franklin Township—Ohioa and Walnut Creek; Dec. 24, 1873): Thomas E. Barnett, master; Cyrus McPherson, secretary; T. F. Snow, H. McLaughlin, Morris Thomas, David Hadley, A. M. Johnston, Levi Baldwin, William Baldwin, William H. Garrison, E. V. Garrison, Thomas Hughes, Peter Garrison, George W. Morley, W. J. Medlar, Joseph Taylor, William Case, and Martin Walker.

Bryant Grange (Jan. 24, 1874): J. H. Springer, master, and wife; Samuel Teter, Andrew Williams, Elijah Shephard, W. C. Rizer, Elisha White, Edward Randall, John W. Price, Enoch A. Woodbridge, James W. Cassel, and wives; J. W. Ireland, William Keeler, George Leash, George M. Hoag, William McBeth, Lewellan R. Hoag, Nels Anderson, Genoa Chambers, H. F. Smith, and John C. Hunter.

Stanton Grange (Jan. 26, 1874): W. B. Gray, master (address:

Belle Prairie); C. A. St. John, secretary, and wife; Henry J. Davis, Daniel Axtell, Adam Wilson, H. Beach, James O. Merryman, and wives; John H. Lincoln, D. B. Lincoln, William H. Sherwood, J. M. Wilson, William Zim, Mrs. C. P. Stone, and Miss Sarah Stone.

Chelsea Grange No. 436 (Feb. 3, 1874): Cyrus Macy, master; Thomas F. Whitzel, secretary; Benjamin F. Ryman, Austin C. Shackelford, Mathew Young, Daniel Miller, Isaac Croley, John Raines, and wives; John Lawrence, P. K. Folden, Walter Churchill, David Warner, William Shackelford, W. D. Gage, Daniel R. Miller, George W. Miller, Walter Mullikin, James Swayze, Miss S. J. Bruce, Miss Emma Zerba, and Miss L. W. Andrew.

Grafton Grange No. 449 (Feb. 7, 1874): Joseph S. Le Hew, master, and wife; Joseph Tatro, Daniel Angell, Xerxes Cole, Daniel W. Besack, Norton W. Stannard, Deloss Angell, Jasper Culow, and wives; George Tatro, Orin Angell, and Lemuel L. Evans.

Momence Grange No. 467 (Turkey Creek; Feb. 16, 1874): Giles S. Thomas, master; John Merryman, secretary, and wife; George W. Smith, Marcellus Morgan, Rudolph B. Campbell, George W. De Wolf, George Robinson, D. W. McClurg, Clinton L. Spear, W. H. Combs, and wives; James C. Howard, Samuel H. Wheeler, W. H. Wild, T. F. Combs, Hans Koch, and Mrs. Henry Combs.

Belle Prairie Grange No. 531 (March 13, 1874): James F. Arnold, Josiah Shephard, Alexander McKinney, W. J. Donohoo, Eli Shultz, J. O. Chase, James Vasburgh, Edward Hickey, Peter Eggenberger, Ralph W. Stowell, and wives; John Taylor, A. W. Rex, and John Shaffer.

The Nebraska Granges went into a number of co-operative business enterprises; but these failed, partly because of inadequate management, partly because of the general agricultural depression. "With the failure of its economic enterprises," writes one recent historian, "the Grange generally went into a decline; after 1875 hardly any local Granges were organized; after 1876 the order rapidly declined in Nebraska"¹—and, naturally, in Fillmore County as well. Later, many of the former Grangers and other farmers joined the newer Union Alliance and the Farmers' Alliance. But "by 1876 the Grange had achieved one of its major political objectives, and that, too, may have contributed to its decline"—the constitutional provision for the regulation of railroad rates—so that its efforts were by no means wasted. The Grange at its peak had a membership of about 800,000. Today (1967) it still has more than 620,000 members, in some 7,000 local Granges.

Geneva Community Grange

One of the youngest organizations in Geneva is the Geneva Community Grange No. 403. On the evening of February 19, 1952, 26 farmers and their wives gathered in the I.O.O.F. Hall in Geneva. The Friend (Nebraska) Grange wished to organize a new Grange as a community service project. Thus the first Grange in Geneva came into being.

Of the present 88 Grangers, 34 are charter members. They are: Mr. and Mrs. Clair Christiancy, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Orville Dunkin, Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Jacobsen, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Lefever, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. William Novak, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nunns, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Norman Ogden, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Peterson, Mr. and Mrs.



Photo from Darrel Hughes

Officers of Geneva Community Grange No. 403 in 1955. Back row, left to right: Mrs. John Nun, Warren Lefever, Don Tatro, Mrs. Keith Tatro, Mrs. Orville Dunkin, Herbert Nichols, Keith Tatro, Duane Tatro, Guy Brown, Jr. Front row: Mrs. Frank Koahler, Mrs. Charles Miller, Wendell Christiancy, Darrel Hughes, Mrs. Guy Brown, Jr., Dean Richards, Mrs. Warren Lefever.

¹ James C. Olson, *History of Nebraska* (University of Nebraska Press, 1966), p. 178.

Cecil Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Jess Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Tatro, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Tatro, Mr. and Mrs. William Watmore, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Alvah Ward. The Grange has added new members each year.

Each year, the State and National Granges sponsor community service contests. In 1954, our Grange, entering for the first time, placed third in the state. In this year, we made a health survey of the entire county, the results of which have been discussed at several medical conventions. A Grange at Sutton was also organized in 1954.

The year 1955 proved to be one of our most rewarding and exciting ones. Members worked hard all year on community service projects, and in October our Grange was informed that we had placed first in the state contest and would receive two \$100 bonds and a plaque. All state winners were eligible for the national award of \$10,000. We soon learned that we were among the top 10 Granges of the nation and would be visited by five judges. On October 26, the Grange women prepared a luncheon to be served at the Congregational Church and a delegation of members met the judges at the Fairmont Air Base. Among our guests were the State Master, a few state officers, representatives of Geneva organizations, radio and TV men, and many Fillmore residents who had been very helpful in carrying out our projects. After the luncheon, the project chairmen told how each project had been begun, what had been accomplished, and the merits of each project.

A few of our outstanding projects in 1955 were: Sponsored day at the Fillmore County Fair; F.F.A. hog project; 20 blind road corners eliminated; and preparations for the publication of a county history. During this year, members worked 3,343 hours and traveled a total of 9,605 miles in community service work.

Although our Grange placed only fifth in the 1955 national contest and won only \$1,000 in prize money, we felt that the year had been a dramatically successful one. The mere fact that our Grange had served its county so well as to attract nation-wide attention was enough.

In 1955, the Geneva Grange quartet won the honor of "Nebraska Grange Quartet," went on to the national contest in Cleveland, Ohio, and won fourth place. The members of this quartet were Mr. and Mrs. Guy Brown, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Johnson. In 1957, the Nebraska State Grange announced a "couple of the year": Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Hughes. Two members have had the distinction of being officers in the Nebraska State Grange: Mrs. Warren Lefever, Ceres (1954), and Guy Brown, Jr., executive committee (1958-61).

Past masters of the Geneva Grange include: Donald Tatro (1952-53), Warren Lefever (1953-54), Darrel Hughes (1954-55), Charles Miller (1955-56), Guy Brown, Jr. (1956-57), Dean Richards (1957-58), Donald Moravec (1958-59), Herbert Nichols (1959-60), William Watmore (1960-61), Richard Nunns (1962-63), Oscar Nelson (1963-64), Wilson Miller (1964-65), Sheldon Johnson (1965-66), and Charles Miller (1966-67).

Some of the Grange's 1967 projects included final steps toward the publication of the Fillmore County History; erecting a Nativity scene for Christmas in the Courthouse yard; sponsoring the 4-H Coronation at the county fair; sponsoring two 4-H youths to the Conservation Camp at Halsey; providing Christmas packages for residents of rest homes in the county; and providing a covered wagon and oxen for Centennial parades. (The wagon was built by Grangers and the oxen were grown by Granger William Novak.)

—Data from Grange members



Courtesy Nebraska Signal

Geneva Junior Chamber of Commerce members presenting a kiln to the Pleasant Day school (1964). Left to right: George Volkmer, Cliff Oliver, Mrs. Ernest Heinrichs (teacher of the school), Clem Gergen, Wayne Reinsch, Charles Pearson, Tom Blevins, Leroy Hulse.

Home Demonstration Council

The Agricultural Extension Service was set up in Fillmore County in 1918. There is no record of activities until 1921, when an advisory council or committee of volunteer leaders helped to plan and direct a county-wide network of project clubs. That was the beginning of the Home Demonstration Council.

The purpose of the council, as stated in its constitution, is to serve as an advisory board for the Home Agent; to develop, strengthen, and correlate all interests aimed at advancement of home and community life in the county; to develop leadership and initiative among women; and to formulate and develop home demonstration programs for the project clubs and the 4-H clubs. The council is composed of present and past county chairmen, group chairmen of the seven training centers, two women on the county extension board, and a representative of the 4-H committee.

The Geneva Township Club was the first one organized in Fillmore County. Through the years, many women's project clubs have been organized; at present there are 32 project clubs in the county.

The women who have served as Home Agents in Fillmore County have been the following: Edna Pegler (1921-23), Edith McCone (1924-25), Lena Hauke (1926-27), Mary Runnalls (1930-34), Irene Goodhue (1934-37), Florence Emmett (1937-40), Agnes Arthaud (1940-50), Mabel Cooper (1950-53), Donna Tinkham (1953-56), and Mrs. Ardis Bates (1957 to the present.)

—Mrs. Melvin (DeVee) Anderson

Ku Klux Klan

A Geneva citizen provided the following account of the brief existence of the Ku Klux Klan:

The local Klan was organized about 1925 and included many leading citizens during the years from 1925 through 1928. Membership increased greatly during these years, but the quality of the new members was not equal to the original members.

After 1929 most of the original members dropped out and the Klan began to fall apart. In 1928, however, the local Klan entertained a large group from York who came by special train. A big parade was the outstanding event of the evening.

During 1930 the local Klan ceased to exist. During the



Photo from Mrs. Pete Kelch

Knights of Pythias Lodge of Geneva (about 1890). Bottom row, left to right: Charley Summers, Orlie Beals, Frank Burke. Second row: Fred Williams, L. G. Cobb, Walt Spear, Issac Ashton. Third row: George Green, Ed Dempster, Jesse Walker, Sam Light. Fourth row: W. H. Cooksey, E. Sandrock, Robert Sloan, Will Waite. Fifth row: Robert Turner, W. T. Mozee, Jere Donovan. Top row: Dan Haskins, H. C. Brunner, J. M. Noyse, G. E. Sorrick, Will Shickley.

earlier years of its organization, the Klan performed many charitable acts, including the distribution of food packages to the poor of the community.

While the Klan did no spectacular good things in the community, neither did it do any harm. The Klan, as Geneva and neighboring areas knew it, was not the same type of organization as the South has known it to be during the 1950's and 1960's.

There was a Woman's Auxiliary to the Klan during the time it was active.

Lions Club

In the summer of 1944, a representative of Lions International, "Stu" Holcomb, came to Geneva to see if business and professional men were interested in forming a Lions Club. The club has six basic objectives: (1) To form a body of men representative of the business and professional interests of the city and to promote a closer business and social union among them; (2) To encourage participation in concerns of commercial, civic, and industrial betterment; (3) To uphold the principles of good government; (4) To aid in furthering the interests of its members and to bring about better understanding among men; (5) To teach that organization, co-operation, and reciprocity are better than rivalry, strife, and destructive competition; (6) To encourage application of high ethical standards in business, and to try, by exchange of methods and ideas, to increase all-round efficiency.

The first meeting was held on August 23 at the Geneva Hotel. On charter night, held October 18, 1944, the following became charter members: Glen E. Felix, Dr. J. Q. Adams, Mervin V. Bedford, Dr. C. G. Delfs, James B. Barbur, Lawrence Doud, Ralph E. Reemts, David Engel, Charles Grothe, Sterling Harris, Harry Helton, K. C. Brinkman, J. W. Hammond, Harry A. Hulse, George Koehler, Ivar Lindstrom, Orval McDonald, W. E. Newell, Elmer Sprague, Waldo Schupbach, Joe Uhlig, Harry Vanier, C. M. Humphrey, and Duane Sams.

The first officers were: Mervin Bedford, president; James Barbur, 1st vice-president; Elmer Sprague, 2nd vice-president; Dr. C. G. Delfs, 3rd vice-president; Glen E. Felix, secretary-treasurer; Waverly Hammond, lion tamer; W. E. Newell, tail twister.

As a service club, the Lions Club has been specially interested in aiding the blind. It has provided glasses for needy children and paid medical bills for eye treatment.

Other useful activities have included: Donating \$500 to the Geneva General Hospital for a sterilizer; donating \$75 each summer to the boys' and girls' playground program; financing the polio shot program; sending annually two Boy Scouts to the Boy Scout Camp in New Mexico; financing a fish pond north of Geneva, on the



Photo from Geneva Photo Co.
Lions Club members in new building (1967).



Photo from Geneva Photo Co.
Lions Club Building, constructed in 1967.

Porter Sloan land, and planting all the evergreen trees around this tract; planting trees at the County Fair grounds; purchasing materials and donating many hours of labor when various organizations helped remodel the Geneva General Hospital; sponsoring and producing a successful home-talent play in 1948; sponsoring and promoting the 1957 Agricultural Conservation Book for Fillmore County; paying the expenses for sending a boy and a girl to the state Boys' and Girls' County Government Programs; taking an annual blanket donation at local basketball games for the March of Dimes; furnishing ticket takers and gatekeepers at home football games; conducting several trapshoots; and taking an active part in promoting a new hospital for Fillmore County.

At the present time, the club meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 P.M. at the V.F.W. Hall in Geneva. The club has 44 members and a limited membership of 44.

Past presidents of the Geneva Lions Club have been: Mervin V. Bedford (1944-45), James Barbur (1945-46), Elmer Sprague (1946-47), J. W. Hammond (1947-48), C. M. Humphrey (1948-49), Howard Hershey (1949-50), I. E. Lindstrom (1950-51), Karl Brinkman (1951-52), Paul Farmer (1952-53), Robert Cellar (1953-54), Harry Helton (1954-55), Glen E. Felix (1955-56), Judson Cumberland (1956-57), Vaughn Fulton (1957-58), Ray Cellar (1958-59), Wallace Swanson (1959-60), Sherman F. Ashby (1960-61), John R. Bixby (1961-62), Dr. Charles Ashby (1962-63), Joe Adamson (1963-64), Willard Foster (1964-65), Wendell Lauber (1965-66), Claiton Lauber (1966-67), and Louis Issler (1967-68).

In 1966-67, the Lions Club erected a \$16,000 building in the City Park, dedicated to all Scouts, with a shelter house at the back of the building to allow for its being used by two groups at the same time. The building is available for community functions except when in use by Boy or Girl Scouts.

—Data from Willard Foster

Masonic Lodge

Dispensation was granted a group of Masons in Geneva, Nebraska, by Grand Master Rolland H. Oakley, to organize a probationary lodge. The first meeting under the dispensation (a term used to denote the status of a lodge before being officially instituted by the Grand Lodge) was held December 2, 1879, with the following officers:

Julius E. Spear, worshipful master; J. E. Cramer, senior warden; Sherwood Burr, junior warden; H. L. Smith, treasurer; G. P. Wintersteen, secretary; J. M. Fisher, senior deacon; B. F. Benedict, junior deacon; Mark Butler, senior steward; C. A. Warner, junior steward; and M. D. Williams, tyler.

The charter was granted to Geneva Lodge No. 79, Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons (A.F. & A.M.) on June 23, 1880. The first meeting held under the charter was October 11, 1880, with the following charter members: Benjamin F. Benedict, William H. Blain, Calvin B. Darrow, William Harrold, Edward D. Place, Hiram L. Smith, Charles A. Warner, Sherwood Burr, Mark Butler, Joseph M. Fisher, Warren C. Massey, Walter C. Scott, Julius E. Spear, George P. Wintersteen.

The following men were the first officers: Joseph M. Fisher, worshipful master; Hiram L. Smith, senior warden; Sherwood Burr, junior warden; Julius E. Spear, treasurer; Warren C. Massey, secre-



Courtesy Nebraska Signal
Guy Brown, Sr., being presented the Jordan Medal by Masonic Lodge No. 79 (1967). Left to right: George Brown, Tyler Edgecombe, Lee Harrold, Henry Foster, Guy Brown, Jr., Jim Biba, Earl Wilkins; Guy Brown, Sr., in wheelchair.

tary; Benjamin F. Benedict, senior deacon; George P. Wintersteen, junior deacon; Mark Butler and Charles Warner, stewards; William H. Blain, chaplain; and William Harrold, tiler.

In 1882 the membership was 34. Hesperian Lodge of Shickley, Nebraska, transferred its membership to Geneva Lodge in 1906. In former years there were also Masonic lodges at Ohioa, Grafton, and Exeter.

The Temple Craft Association erected a Masonic Temple on the third floor of the building located at what is now known as the northeast corner of 9th and G Sts. in 1890. This floor of the building was bought for the lodge by a Mason brother, Hiram Smith. That temple was razed by a conflagration February 13, 1910. The present temple was erected on the same site. This place has also been used by the Geneva Chapter 180 of the Eastern Star since that order was established.

Cornerstones laid by the Masonic order, in Geneva, were those of Trinity Church (October 8, 1890), the county courthouse (July 6, 1893), and the City Auditorium (April 27, 1915).

It is customary to award a bronze Jordan Medal to the oldest living members of each local Masonic lodge. This medal was first presented in 1953 to Walferd C. Peterson, who had become a Master Mason on March 15, 1890. After his death in 1955, it was presented to William Manning on August 30, 1955. Mr. Manning had become a Master Mason on April 26, 1890, at Kinsley, Kansas, later transferring to the Geneva chapter. On October 7, 1958, the lodge presented Mr. Manning a Masonic apron honoring his 68 years of Masonry. He was awarded the Gold Jordan Medal on September 7, 1961. He passed away January 23, 1966. The present holder of the bronze Jordan Medal is Clarence McCartney (deceased May 16, 1967).

Fifty-year pins are given to members with that length of membership. At the end of 1967, holders of these pins were William A. Biba, Claude J. Kimbrough, Bert A. Lynn, Robert Hill, Ben Mozee, Clarence McCartney, Horace D. Mathewson, John A. Fischer, and Earl H. Wilkins.

The Geneva lodge has enjoyed a steady growth over the years. Its 1967 membership was 170, of whom 85 were nonresident members. Having philanthropic as well as fraternal purposes, the lodge makes regular contributions to the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children at Fremont, the Boys' Home in Omaha, and the Old People's Home at Plattsmouth, as well as to other worthy charities. The Centennial year of Masonry in Nebraska was 1957.

The officers of the Geneva lodge in 1967 were: Leslie M. Newman, worshipful master; Joseph Adamson, senior warden; Vernon A. Wortman, junior warden; John R. Bixby, treasurer; Henry Foster, secretary; Everett Renken, senior deacon; Doyle Lade, junior deacon; David A. Portwood, chaplain; Robert J. Cellar, marshal; Melvin Kuska, senior steward; Ben D. Fussell, junior steward; and Edward Newman, tiler.

Order of the Eastern Star

The Eastern Star is auxiliary to the Masonic Lodge, open to wives, daughters, mothers, widows, or sisters of Master Masons. It is a service organization for the care and relief of widows and orphans. Nationally, the order co-operates with the Shriners in their program of aid for crippled children. The local chapter contributes to the Nebraska Masonic Home for Old People at Plattsmouth and to the Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children at Fremont.

Geneva Chapter No. 180 of the O.E.S. was chartered May 4, 1904, with 45 charter members and with Anna Matteson as worthy matron, Hiram L. Smith as worthy patron, and Minnie Roberts as associate matron. Other charter members were:

Emma J. Benedict, B. F. Benedict, Mary Bennett, Joseph Bixby, J. C. Bortner, Mary Bortner, C. H. Burnett, Maude Butler, R. A. Case, Elizabeth and Laura B. Donisthorpe, E. F. Elmore, Lora Harrold, R. M. Hazlett, Bertha Heald, Lee Huston, Lou Huston, Rosetta Lemmon, Richard Matteson, W. E. Purviance, G. B. Roberts, Lottie Rodgers, Austin Shackelford, Delma and Ina Shackelford, Franklin and Ida Skipton, Emma Sloan, H. L. Smith, Ella Stephenson, J. W. Stephenson, A. H. and Maude Steven, Ella West, Joe West, John W. Yates, Lura Yates, Bertha, Elnora, and Matthew Young, and Marilla Youngers.

The Geneva chapter celebrated its 60th anniversary in 1964. Fifty-year members who have been honored by the local Eastern Star have been Jessie Bearnes, Alta Brown, Guy Brown, Sr., Pearl Brown, Guy Case, Bertha Crawford, Nell Huston, Lettie Ingles, Minnie Nelson, Linnie Propst, Allie Richeson, Maude Stringfield, Mabel Trobaugh, Susie Ward, Minnie Warner, Alice Watmore, Neva Weidman, and Nannie Wilkins.

Members who were past Grand Chapter officers were Richard A. Matteson, grand sentinel; Minnie Warner, grand electa, 1915; and Anna C. Biba, grand electa, 1939.

The officers in 1967 were: Betty Bumgarner, worthy matron; Mervell Bumgarner, worthy patron; Sharon Barbur, associate matron; Charles Barbur, associate patron; Ethel Hall, secretary; Irene Merrill, treasurer; Edna Schneider, conductress; Mary Portwood, chaplain; Kathryn Miller, marshal; Wynona Petersen, organist; Linda Leam-

ing, Ada; Esther Turek, Ruth; Neva Kassik, Esther; Esther Janing, Martha; Donna Brumbaugh, electa; Rhea Randall, warden; Mary Kassik, sentinel.

Through the 63 years of its existence, the local chapter has initiated or affiliated 623 members. There are 195 members at the present time (1967). Chapter meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Masonic Hall on the NE corner of 9th and G Sts. The past matrons are organized into a club that meets once a month.

—Ethel Hall

Modern Woodmen

Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal benefit society, with head camp located at Rock Island, Illinois, chartered Geneva Camp No. 558 in 1888. Charter members were C. J. Barnett, O. A. Beals, J. C. Clark, J. D. Carson, D. H. Caldwell, J. R. Darrow, J. H. Dempster, F. M. Flory, G. R. Green, J. S. Houchin, F. G. Limback, J. F. Morrill, J. McFadden, J. H. Phelps, C. S. Robinson, C. S. Rathbun, F. J. Stephenson, H. Sheldon, S. W. Thompson, T. S. Williams, and F. A. Williams.

In later years the camps at Martland and Burress consolidated with the Geneva camp. Over the years, Modern Woodmen paid its beneficiaries, through the Geneva camp, more than \$150,000.00. Richard A. Smith, Sr., was the last consul of Geneva's camp, which is now inactive.

—Gerald Walton

Mothers' Club

The Geneva Mothers' Club is the oldest organized club in Geneva and probably in the county. Although the earliest records have long since been lost, it is an established fact that the club was organized shortly after the turn of the century. A group of ladies, under the leadership of the late Mrs. John K. Waring, banded themselves together for the purposes of friendship, self-culture, mutual assistance, and becoming better mothers and more efficient homemakers. Available records, which date back to 1913, show that it was then an independent club. The membership in 1914 numbered 30; Mrs. Waring was president and Mrs. Bates was secretary.

The members took turns in presenting some topic of interest to the club. One meeting a year presented a special program devoted to the pioneer mothers of the community, who were invited guests.

In or about 1919, the Mothers' Club, with two or three other recently organized clubs, joined the State Federation of Woman's Clubs and became a department of the Woman's Club. New names appeared on the roll in the next 10 years as others began to take up the task started by those who had resigned, moved elsewhere, or passed away.

One of the most interesting meetings during that time occurred on May 7, 1925, when pioneer mothers were honored at the W. C. Peterson home. The honorees were: Mrs. C. A. Warner, Mrs. William Bell, Mrs. J. H. Robinson (the oldest pioneer present), Mrs. T. T. Hill, Mrs. J. F. McCartney, Mrs. J. W. Williams, Mrs. Theodore Voightlander, Mrs. A. J. Brown, Mrs. Melissa Goad, Mrs. J. N. Spivey, Mrs. T. F. Combs, and Mrs. D. B. Lincoln. All offered reminiscences of the hardships of pioneer days, ranging from prairie fires, rattlesnakes in their homes, dust storms, and grasshoppers to that major topic, the Blizzard of 1888.



Photo from Mrs. Orval McDonald

Mothers' Club (1939). Front row, left to right: Augusta Rischling, Anna McDonald, Beryl Grothe, Blanche Winchell, Mrs. John Waring, Anna Biba, Thelma Hamilton. Back row: Maurine Brinkman, Faye Montgomery, Anna Brower, Gertrude Dudley (hidden), Kathryn Biegler, Marie Bassett, Eileen Shaner, Lily Hampton, Rose Hammond.

In June, 1929, the Mothers' Department voted to withdraw from the General Club. In October, 1930, at the home of Mrs. Edgar Foster, the club decided to take up extension work. Miss Mary Runnalls, home agent, was present at that meeting and explained the year's extension projects. The first project leaders were Mrs. J. K. Waring and Mrs. Lloyd Wythers.

The club is now a closed group consisting of 20 active members, one of whom, Mrs. W. A. Biba, has been a member for 41 years. Three others have been members for more than 37 years. They are Mrs. Fred Merrill, Mrs. Ed Rischling, and Mrs. Orval McDonald. Two others who have been members for 34 years are Mrs. Wayne Winchell and Mrs. Tom Brower.

In earlier years, the Mothers' Club held receptions in the early fall for Geneva teachers. The club now meets on the first Thursday of every month at the home of some one of the members.

Past presidents of the club have been the following: Mrs. Nellie Youngers (1913-14), Mrs. J. E. Waring (1915-16), Mrs. Pearl Burns (1917-18), Mrs. W. C. Peterson (1919), Mrs. Limback (1924), Mrs. Clarence Cellar (1925), Mrs. I. McCashland (1926), Mrs. W. A. Biba (1927), Mrs. W. A. Bean (1928), Mrs. Phelps (1929), Mrs. Clarence Shaw (1930), Mrs. Rulea (1931), Mrs. Bernice Chesnut (1932), Mrs. Orval McDonald (1933-34), Mrs. Fred Bassett (1935), Mrs. Fred Merrill (1936), Mrs. Bill Minich (1937), Mrs. Elvin Montgomery (1938), Mrs. Ralph Biegler (1939), Mrs. W. A. Biba (1940), Mrs. Ed Rischling (1941), Mrs. Tom Brower (1942), Mrs. Wayne Winchell (1943), Mrs. Lillie Hampton (1944), Mrs. Myra Most (1945), Mrs. Lucy Dudley (1946), Mrs. Chester Dudley (1947), Mrs. Bill Newell (1948), Mrs. I. Lindstrom (1949), Mrs. Robert Kiester (1950), Mrs. Reno Weis (1951), Mrs. Robert Nichols (1952), Mrs. Orval McDonald (1953), Mrs. Ben Fussell (1954), Mrs. Alvan Heath (1955), Mrs. Gerald Mattock (1956), Mrs. A. E. Holmes (1957), Mrs. Robert Jezek (1958), Mrs. Lew Jezek (1959), Mrs. K. O. Nelson (1960), Mrs. John Fahlberg (1961), Mrs. William E. McDonald (1962), Mrs. Lowell Heath (1963), Mrs. Wesley McMullen (1964), Mrs. Reno Weis (1965), and Mrs. Royal Eugene Anderson (1966).

The officers of the club in 1967 were Mrs. Wallace Swanson, president; Mrs. Robert Deterding, vice-president; Mrs. Clyde Lambert, secretary; and Mrs. Augusta Rischling, treasurer.

—Data from Anna McDonald

Odd Fellows

Geneva Lodge No. 65, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was founded on March 27, 1877, in a white frame building on the north side of the west block. That building is no longer standing. It was later moved to the top floor of the present Geneva State Bank Building, which in 1904 was destroyed by fire, so that all records up to that time were lost.

It was organized with 11 charter members—J. D. Hamilton, J. A. Dempster, B. F. Ryman, F. R. Stone, H. R. Deming, J. Shepherd, Samuel Walz, R. B. Campbell, S. Hanabaugh, G. A. Lynn, and J. H. Ward. J. D. Hamilton was the first Noble Grand and B. F. Ryman was Worthy Secretary. By 1882, the lodge had 50 members.

The hall in the Geneva State Bank Building was rebuilt and the lodge continued to meet there for several years, paying as their rent the roof upkeep. This, however, was a bigger expense than planned and so they decided to make a change.

The building which the I.O.O.F. lodge now occupies was purchased April 26, 1920, for \$6,000, a sum loaned to the lodge by Mrs. A. J. Beals. The furniture from the old building was brought to the new home and is still in use. In 1947, the lodge hall was extensively



Photo from Geneva Photo Co. I.O.O.F. members honoring the 88th birthday of Charles Pittard (March 9, 1967), long-time member of the lodge. The men just beyond him are Leonard Carlson, William Lauenstein, and Don Ward. The man behind him is Cliff Cramer.

remodeled, gas heat was installed, and regalia rooms and a modern kitchen were provided, making it one of the nicest lodge halls in the state. The first floor has always been rented commercially. The basement is rented out for business purposes.

The lodge has managed to pay off all mortgages and is entirely free of debt at the present time.

We have had the honor of at least two of our members serving as officers of the Grand Lodge. In 1949-1950, Fred Merrill was Grand Instructor and in 1956 Ronald Elznic served as Grand Outside Guardian.

One of our principal activities is contributing to our Home at York, Nebraska, which is maintained for the care and protection of the orphans, the old, and the feeble of our organization. Other projects of the order are giving to such worthy causes as the Polio Fund, the Red Cross, and kindred needs.

Through the years, the order has grown, with some fluctuations, from a membership of 50 in 1882 to 116 in 1967. The officers of the Geneva lodge in 1967 were Friedhold Ulmer, noble grand; Glen Fussell, vice-grand; Cliff Cramer, secretary; and Ronald Elznic, treasurer.

—Mrs. Irene Merrill

Rebekah Lodge

The Rebekah Lodge was founded as a social organization, an auxiliary of the Odd Fellows Lodge. Membership is open to wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters of Odd Fellows, as well as to Odd Fellows themselves.

Silver Link Rebekah Lodge was instituted at Geneva on April 30, 1880, with 16 charter members: Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Beals, W. J. Carrin, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Dempster, Walter



Photo from I.O.O.F. Hall

I.O.O.F. Float in 1914. Mrs. Harry (Hattie) Warner as Rebekah at the well, on a float made and driven by Harry Warner, is indicative of the activities carried on by the Odd Fellows early in the 20th century. Odd Fellows sponsored picnics were held often and attracted large crowds. Every picnic had a parade and competition was keen.



Photo from I.O.O.F. Hall

The Degree Staff of the Silver Link Rebekah Lodge in 1950 was invited to portray the Rebekah Degree at the Nebraska Assembly in Hastings. Back row, left to right: Mrs. Phyllis Heath, Mrs. Emma Marie Johnson, Sheldon Johnson, Mrs. Mary Johnson, Mrs. Amolia Kimbrough, Mrs. Marguerite Miller. Front row: Miss Mae Matson, Mrs. Muriel Pearson, Mrs. Anna Brower, Mrs. Irene Merrill, Mrs. Alice Fussell, Mrs. Gertrude Dudley, Mrs. LaVerne Nixon.

Fifield, M. M. Neeves, J. W. Purell, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Putnam, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Putnam, J. Shepherd, C. L. Smith, and Mrs. J. W. Walters.

In 1904 the lodge room and all early records were destroyed by fire, and so we have no records of the first officers.

The organization is and always has been very active in Geneva. They meet on the first and third Mondays of each month at the Odd Fellows building, which the Odd Fellows kindly provide, rent free, for their sister organization. The Rebekahs have tried to compensate for this courtesy by helping in every worth-while project which the Odd Fellows undertake.

In 1948, the Rebekahs helped the Odd Fellows in remodeling the Odd Fellows Hall and kitchen, making a modern and beautiful meeting place. In 1956, the lodge room was supplied with wall-to-wall carpeting and chrome chairs. The Rebekahs furnished a substantial amount for this project. We are proud of our hall, which, although small, is second to none in Nebraska in appearance.

Silver Link Rebekah Lodge is proud of the fact that in October, 1950, our lodge was asked to present the initiatory work at the State Assembly at Hastings. This we did with a seven-member degree staff and took with us 28 candidates, all from Geneva, to be initiated into the Rebekah degree.

Fifty-year jewels have been awarded to Mrs. Joy Case, Mrs. Bertha Trask Crawford, Mrs. Vinetta Eaton, Esther Axtell, and Mae Matson. Mrs. Eaton also received the Decoration of Chivalry of the order in 1956.

We also have an active Past Noble Grand Club that meets on the second Friday of each month at the members' homes.

Past Noble Grands of the order are as follows: Bertha Trask Crawford, Joy Case, Vinetta Eaton, Belle Brown, Mae Matson, Emma Snodgrass, Emma Bertram, Annis Anderson, Nannie Wilkins, Mollie Bumgarner, Buryl Cumberland, Susie Ogg, Irene Merrill, Marie Bassett, Augusta Rischling, Anna Brower, Clara Olsen, Elizabeth Drake, Teresa Jones, Bessie Fussell, Muriel Pearson, Lucy Dudley, Floy McCashland, Velma Lauber, Gertrude Dudley, Dorothy Heath-erington, Alyce Fussell, Erma Gross, Berniece Minnert, Frances Linder, Phyllis Heath, LaVerne Nixon, Helen Hofferber, Belle Barnett, Elveda Elznic, Ida Marie Kinder, Elizabeth Decker, Lottie Van Sant, Henrietta Isley, Dorothy Nichols, Kathleen Richards, Lucille Bull, Irene Ellison, Edna Garrett, Nellie Fiedler, Lois Hlina, Anna Brower, Romona Watmore, and Shirley Ward.

—Mrs. Irene Merrill

P. E. O.

The P.E.O. Sisterhood was 26 years old when Chapter O of Geneva was organized on May 2, 1895. Present at this meeting to become the charter members were Mrs. Mary Breton, Miss Mattie Cox, Mrs. Fanny L. Elmore, Mrs. Hattie

M. Edgecombe, Mrs. Luella McKelvey, Mrs. Adde Sexton, and Mrs. Blanche Stewart. Meetings have been held regularly since that time.

The purpose of the P.E.O. Sisterhood is educational and philanthropic as well as social. An educational loan fund of national and international proportions is available to worthy girls. So far, three girls—Mildred Berger and Neva Bishop of Geneva and Beverly Trapp of Shickley—have applied for and received this assistance.

P.E.O. International Peace Scholarships, which attract outstanding foreign girls to America to study, promote better understanding and peaceful relations among nations.

The national sisterhood owns and maintains several P.E.O. homes for aged members; the Nebraska home is at Beatrice. It also owns and maintains Cottey Junior College in Nevada, Missouri. Two Geneva girls have attended Cottey College: Shirley Nunns (Bornschlegl) and Jeanette Kritner (Franklin).

Chapter O was hostess to the state convention held in Geneva in 1902. Miss Hattie A. Little of Geneva served as state president in 1906 and 1907 and was secretary of the Supreme Chapter from 1911 to 1914.

Nine members have been honored by the chapter for 50 years of membership: Hattie M. Edgecombe, Clara Koehler, Laura V. Donisthorpe, Louise Gibbons, Joy Case, Grace Kettridge, Ethel Corbitt, Vera Waring, and Edith Elder.

The following members have served as president of Chapter O since its organization:

1895-97	Hattie M. Edgecombe	1932-33	Ethel Corbitt
1897-98	Adde Sexton	1933-34	Vera Waring
1898-99	Virginia McGrew	1934-35	Blanche Rosenau
1899-00	Martha Skinkle	1935-36	Lillian Sloan
1900-01	Eva E. Hines	1936-37	Virginia Koehler
1901-02	Emma Porter Sloan	1937-38	Maude Stringfield
1902-03	Clara Koehler	1938-39	Esther Sloan
1903-04	Kate Koehler	1939-40	Marieta Kerl
1904-05	Alma Williams	1940-41	Faye Curtiss
1905-06	Laura V. Donisthorpe	1941-42	Edith Elder
1906-07	Hattie A. Little	1942-43	Edith Elder
1907-08	Addie Smith	1943-44	Minnie Brice
1908-09	May Skinkle	1944-45	Emma Renken
1909-10	Sarah King	1945-46	Nina Ralston
1910-11	Ella Waring	1946-47	Vesta Harris and Nina Ralston
1911-12	Pearl Woods		
1912-13	Maude Fiegenbaum	1947-48	Faye Curtiss
1913-14	Elnora Hadsell	1948-49	Helen Biba
1914-15	Grace Donisthorpe	1949-50	Angela Humphrey
1915-16	Joy Hart	1950-51	Evalyn Koehler
1916-17	Clara Koehler	1951-52	Ruth Ann Hrubesky
1917-18	Hattie A. Little	1952-53	Louise Picard
1918-19	Hattie M. Edgecombe	1953-54	Jean Ashby
1919-20	Laura Bates	1954-55	Dorothy Gewacke
1920-21	Adeline J. Allen	1955-56	Evalyn Foster
1921-22	Laura V. Donisthorpe	1956-57	Susanne Brinkman
1922-23	Edith Elder	1957-58	Gwendolyn Kritner
1923-24	Emma Sloan	1958-59	Anna Biba
1924-25	Marguerite Davis	1959-60	Barbara Wilkins
1925-26	Bertha Dempster	1960-62	Margaret Fahlberg
1926-27	Allie Richeson	1962-63	Minette Nelson
1927-28	Isabel Bixby	1963-64	Dorothy Brooke
1928-29	Pearl Burns	1964-65	Helen Lynn
1929-30	Grace Wilkins	1965-66	Norma Lauber
1930-31	Florence Devoe	1966-67	Kathryn Ashby
1931-32	Florence Devoe	1967-68	Evelyn Lauber

—Faye Curtiss Hadsell

Parent-Teacher Association

The Geneva P.T.A. was organized November 15, 1950. The first officers were: Dale Otte, president; Mrs. LaGrande Shaw, first vice-president; Mrs. Helen Crawford, second vice-president; Mrs. Woodrow Kinder, secretary; Hugh Wilkins, treasurer.

Presidents of the group from 1955 onward were: Mrs. Robert Cellar (1955-56), Hugh Wilkins (1956-57), Mrs. Raymond Peterson (1957-58), Mrs. L. C. Shaw (1958-59), George Hull (1959-60), Mrs. Robert Casper (1960-61), Mrs. Raymon Gough (1961-62), Paul Caton (1962-63), Wendell Lauber (1963-64), and J. R. Stewart (1964-65).

During its 15-year existence, membership in the group varied from 50 to 100 persons. It was disbanded in 1965.

Among the accomplishments of the P.T.A.: 50 folding chairs were purchased for gym; Halloween parties have been sponsored with co-operation of other local organizations; coffees between parents and teachers to promote better understanding have been held yearly; and books have been purchased for the grade-school libraries. Many interesting and educational speakers and films have been presented by the P.T.A.

Rotary Club

The Geneva Rotary Club, the newest of our city organizations, was organized in 1958 and received its charter on November 11, 1958, under the sponsorship of the Hebron club. The club started with a membership of 24. The first



Photo from Mrs. Charles Picard

P.E.O. in 1915. Top row, left to right: Joy Hart (Mrs. Guy Case), Hattie Edgecombe (Mrs. F. O. Edgecombe), Laura Bolton, Hattie Little, Mrs. Isabel Bixby, Grace Donisthorpe (Mrs. Kettridge), Clara Koehler (Mrs. B. Koehler). Second row: Laura Donisthorpe (Mrs. F. B. Donisthorpe), Grace Huston (Mrs. Hugh Hadsell), Nellie Williams, Bertha Dempster (Mrs. Ed Dempster), Maud Fiegenbaum (Mrs. W. E.), Mrs. M. V. King, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. M. V. Hadsell. Front row: Jessie Bearnese, Cassie (Mrs. Frank) Huston, Ella (Mrs. John) Waring, Louise Donisthorpe (Mrs. Frank Gibbons), Miss Harold, Emma (Mrs. Charles H.) Sloan, Ethel Sloan (Mrs. Grady Corbitt, Hattie (Mrs. E.) Elmore, Mrs. Stewart, unidentified. Members not pictured were: Mrs. Daisy Cottle, Miss Helen Edgecombe, Miss Lillian Hrubesky, Miss Ida Hrubesky, Miss Carrie King, Mrs. May Skinkle, and Mrs. Addie Smith.



Courtesy Nebraska Signal

The Rotary Club presented Robert Newman a Perkins Braille typewriter as one of their worthy projects, in 1965. *Left to right:* Ben Fussell, past president; Robert Newman, W. C. Nelson, Community Service chairman; Dr. V. S. Lynn, president.

officers elected were John Gewacke, president; Robert Nichols, vice-president; Hugh F. Wilkins, secretary-treasurer; and John H. Koehler, sergeant-at-arms.

The club meets every Tuesday noon. The weekly dinner is followed by a program designed to further the objects of Rotary. These objects are: (1) To encourage acquaintance as an opportunity for service; (2) to hold high ethical standards in business and profession; (3) to apply the ideal of service to each member's personal life; and (4) to advance international understanding, good will, and peace through world fellowship of men dedicated to the ideal of service. It is not the intention of Rotary to compete in community affairs but to inspire its members to take an active part in the other organizations designed for such activities.

Following is a list of the charter members: John Q. Adams, Earl W. Anderson, Donald F. Best, Orval M. Ellison, John R. Friesen, Ben D. Fussell, Delfs W. Gehrke, Diebold W. Gehrke, John C. Gewacke, Charles A. Grothe, Chester Hayden, Kenneth Heisey, Albert E. Holmes, Robert M. Kiester, Woodrow W. Kinder, John H. Koehler, Lloyd L. London, James McDowell, Oscar E. Nelson, Robert Nichols, Alden B. Sears, Kenneth L. Shaner, Hugh F. Wilkins, and John W. Wilkins.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Samuel J. Marsh Post No. 7102 of the V.F.W. was organized on May 29, 1946, at a meeting held in the Geneva Fire Hall. When it came to selecting a name, it was decided to name the post after the first Fillmore County boy to lose his life in World War II, Samuel J. Marsh. His father, Ed Marsh of Grafton, a Spanish-American War veteran, told a formal meeting of the post that he would be honored to have the post



Photo from V.F.W. Hall

V.F.W. observance in 1961 of 15th anniversary of organization. *Kneeling, left to right:* Merl Archer, Kenneth Heisey, Orval Ellison. *Seated:* Mervell Bumgarner, Don Barney, George Cruse, John Bixby, Paul Becker, Mervin Leonard, Harry Carlson. *Standing:* Francis McPeck, Wayne Lefever, Dick Wagner, Francis Walker, Henry J. Langhorst, Reuben Ackerman, Dale Thole.

named after his son. The name became official, then, at the meeting on October 10, 1946, and the post number, "7102," was added. (The number represents the order in which posts are organized.)

The first elective officers were: Charles H. Miller, commander; Ernest Pavel, senior vice-commander; Louis Kelch, junior vice-commander; Gerald Churchill, quartermaster; Kenneth Heisey, chaplain; Ed Rock, advocate; Wilbur Pearson, post surgeon; Lowell Eich, Eric Johnson, and Ray Willy, trustees.

The first appointive officers were: Dick Wagner, officer of the day; Bernard Rischling, adjutant; Francis Weis, post historian; Dale Thole, guard; Virgil Ostdiek, national color-bearer; Mervin Leonard, post color-bearer; Joe Bixby, patriotic instructor; Fritz Placek, legislative officer; and Harlan Heath, quartermaster sergeant.

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. The first meeting place was the Picard building. In June, 1949, the post moved from there to the basement of the Odd Fellows Hall. After prolonged discussion, the post decided to build its own meeting hall, and paid down \$1,000 on a lot on the N. E. Thomas property on G St. Money raising was started, and the building was soon under construction, much of the labor being donated by members. In December, 1953, came the proud moment when the first meeting was held in the new building. It has since been used extensively by other groups in the community as well as by the post and the V.F.W. Auxiliary. Completion of the building also saw the post membership increase to 200.

In May, 1948, three boys entered the state marble tournament sponsored by the V.F.W.; Glen Johnson, Jr., of Geneva placed second. In August, 1948, the V.F.W. ran a stand at the Fillmore County Fair in the former Farm Bureau building, which was turned over to the organization. The V.F.W. have completely remodeled it and have run the stand every year since taking it over. In September, 1951, the post acquired folding wheel chairs, sun lamps, and crutches, to be used by county residents rent free.

In December, 1950, the members voted to grant life membership in the Samuel J. Marsh Post to Spanish-American War veterans. The members thus honored were Charles Higginbotham and William Merrill, Ed Marsh having been given a life membership previously.

Commanders of the post have been the following: Charles Miller (1947), Francis Walker (1948), Roscoe Heater (1949, 1950), Donald Apley (1951), W. W. Biegert (1952, 1953), Francis Walker (1954), Lumir Slepicka (1955), Francis Reinsch (1956), Leslie Arent (1957), Robert Thomas (1958-59), Floyd Doremus (1959-60), Charles Massoth (1960-61), Lewis Kelch (1961-63), Otis Mattox (1963-64), Clarence Najmon (1964-65), Michael O'Brien (1965-67), and Ted Hedden (1967-69).



Photo from Ervin Weber

Members of the Fillmore County contingent of World War I who left by troop train from Geneva on September 21, 1917. *Top row, left to right:* Albert Gergen, August Piper, Leroy Landgren, Frank Moravec, Charles Baker, Peter Lott, Harry Carlson, Conrad Kleinlein, James Houska, George Becker. *Second row:* Emil Berquist, Ed Stetina, Ivan McCashland, Arthur Akerson, Joe Bors, William Due, James Svec, Mike Schmidt, Arlie Strine, Albert Garey. *Third row:* Glen Jones, Lawrence Farrar, Fred Stofer, Emery Leonard, Wilber Merrill, Clarence Bolton, Frank Novak, Clarence Warren, Earl Babst, Ed Leff. *Fourth row:* Fred Dittmer, Frank Bernasek, Henry Garland, Robert Wilkerson, Ervin Weber, Victor Solberg, Stephen Kovanda, Fred Sommer, J. W. Kraul, Harry Bordner.

V.F.W. Auxiliary

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary to Samuel J. Marsh Post No. 7102 was organized June 16, 1947. The meeting date was set for the first Tuesday of each month at 8 P.M.



Courtesy Geneva Photo Co.

V.F.W. Auxiliary (1966).

in the post club rooms in the Picard building north of the Signal office. In 1949, they moved to the basement of the Odd Fellows building, and early in 1954 moved into their own building.

Goldie Tull, department president of Kearney, Veral F. Meyers, department president of Hastings, and Evelyn Harbolt, district senior vice-president of Superior, together with the officers of the Superior Ladies Auxiliary, were present to organize and initiate members. Eighteen were initiated and four others were unable to attend.

Charter members were: Alice C. Price, Hendricka Thole, Nellie Bell, Rose Leonard, Helen Marsh, Ruby Miller, and Augusta Rischling.

The object of this organization is fraternal, patriotic, historical, and educational. The Auxiliary contributes to the maintenance of a home at Eaton Rapids, Michigan, for the benefit of widows and orphans of V.F.W. members. It sponsors the Buddy Poppy sale each year, raises money for various drives such as cancer research, polio, tuberculosis, etc., and contributes time and funds to worth-while community projects.

The first regular meeting of the Auxiliary was held July 14, 1947, with Augusta Rischling as president. Eighteen members were present to receive pins, among whom were: Lottie Van Sant, Hendricka Thole, Evelyn Tomlinson, Marie Bassett, Minnie Clark, Nellie Bell, Anna Belle Mason, Rose Leonard, Eileen Mitchell, Dorothy Rosenquist, Augusta Rischling, and Betty Jean Clark.

Presidents of the V.F.W. Auxiliary have been the following: Augusta Rischling (1947-49), Mildred Miller (1949-50), Augusta Rischling (1950-51), Evelyn Heater (1951-52), Edith Peterson (1952-55), Mabel Ernst (1955-56), Clara McGee (1956-57), Delores Jirkovsky (1957-58), Felicienne (Becker) Neville (1958-59), Edith Peterson (1959-60), Marjorie Doremus (1960-61), Mabel Ernst (1961-63), Alyce Domling (1963-65), Clara Magee (1965-66), and Berneice Willcoxon (1966-67).

The Auxiliary has now (1967) a membership of approximately 78.

Woman's Club

The Geneva Woman's Club developed from the Culture Club which had a limit of 20 members. The Culture Club was



Photo from Lillian Sloan

Woman's Club Initiation (May, 1961). Left to right: Ethel Corbitt, Lillian Sloan, Florence Reinsch, Delia Fisher, Marguerite Lynn, Helen Ewalt, Velma Lauber, Mabel Fox.

organized in September, 1911, and federated with the Nebraska Federation of Woman's Clubs as a Culture Club in December, 1911.

Mrs. Pearl Burns and Mrs. Roe Moore suggested that the club reorganize to allow more women the opportunity to join. Thus, the club reorganized in July, 1919, took the name of Geneva Woman's Club, and opened its membership to all who were interested in woman's club work. There was a total of 144 charter members.

The members of the Culture Club for the year prior to its becoming the Geneva Woman's Club (1918-1919) were: Mrs. Mary Blakely, Mrs. Pearl Burns, Miss Pearl Brown, Mrs. Alta Brown, Mrs. Josephine Bixby, Mrs. Laura Carlson, Mrs. Mildred Cellar, Mrs. Ruby Chenoweth, Mrs. Lou Donisthorpe, Mrs. Sophia Ertel, Miss Josie Hamilton, Mrs. Iva Hansen, Mrs. Bess Hess, Mrs. Lou Huston, Mrs. Roe Moore, Mrs. Cordelia Phillips, Mrs. Minnie Pierce, Mrs. May Reeve, Mrs. Allie Richeson, Mrs. Edith Spangler, Mrs. Ella Stephenson, Miss Cora Stewart, Mrs. Aurilla Ward, Mrs. Minnie Warner, Mrs. Sarah Wilson.

The constitution committee for the new club was: Pearl Burns, Ruby Chenoweth, Rosalie Peterson, Roe Moore, and Cordelia Phillips. The newly organized club had five departments—Mothers', Literary and Art, Nature Study, Book Review, and Music.

The object of this organization is to promote culture in the homes and to assist any movement aiming toward the betterment of social and commercial conditions of the community and to strengthen, by organization, individual and philanthropic measures.

One of the club's most outstanding projects was its sponsorship of the building of the Geneva Club House. This club house was constructed in 1942 at the Geneva City Park under the leadership of the Geneva Woman's Club. They also maintain and operate the building, which is used for a variety of activities.

One of the club's charter members, Mrs. T. B. Moore, has had the honor of serving as vice-president of the Fourth District of the Nebraska Federation of Woman's Clubs from 1923 to 1925; she also served during the next four years as a district board member.

The club presently has only three departments: Book Review, Junior Women, and Literary and Art. In 1967, it had a total of 100 members; all ministers are included as honorary members.

Following is a list of presidents of the club: Mrs. Pearl Burns (1919-21), Mrs. C. S. Stover (1921-23), Mrs. C. B. Nicholson (1923-24), Mrs. G. R. Borland (1924-25), Mrs. L. L. Fisher (1925-27), Mrs. W. E. Fiegenbaum (1927-28), Mrs. T. B. Moore (1928-29), Mrs. C. L. Shaw (1929-30), Mrs. L. S. Devoe (1930-31), Mrs. Howard Hamilton (1931-33), Mrs. Ben Koehler (1933-34), Mrs. L. H. Kerl (1934-36), Mrs. George L. Koehler (1936-38), Mrs. H. A. Rosenau (1938-39), Mrs. H. B. Simon (1939-40), Mrs. J. Bixby (1940-41), Miss Delia Fisher (1941-43), Mrs. William M. Sloan, Mrs. Guy Case (1943-44), Mrs. W. A. Biba (1944-45), Mrs. J. Bixby (1945-46), Mrs. K. C. Brinkman (1946-47), Mrs. J. W. Hammond (1947-48), Mrs. Guy Brown, Sr. (1948-49), Mrs. Clarence Newman (1949-50), Mrs. Bert Lynn (1950-51), Mrs. Robert Kritner (1951-52), Mrs. L. O. Swails (1952-53), Mrs. Bert Lynn (1953-54), Mrs. Clyde Ewart (1954-55), Mrs. Robert Waring (1955-56), Mrs. K. C. Brinkman (1956-57), Mrs. Marvin Asseln (1957-58), Mrs. James B. Barbur (1958-59), Mrs. John L. Sloane, Miss Delia Fisher (1959-60), Miss Delia Fisher (1960-61), Mrs. Porter Sloan (1961-63), Mrs. C. L. Cramer (1963-64), Mrs. Porter Sloan (1964-65), Mrs. Charles Picard (1965-67), and Mrs. Vera Lovegrove (1967-68).

RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT, AND SPORTS

Even though the town and the surrounding territory were developing rapidly, the people seemed always to have time for various activities. The following items, condensed from newspaper accounts, indicate in chronological order the types of entertainment and recreation from year to year.

1879—July: A Fourth of July dance was held at the C. A. Warner farm in Chelsea precinct. Six to eight sets could dance at a time. Music by Messrs. Luke and Miller; F. C. Chamberlain called. Dance and supper—\$1. Dance started at 4 p.m. Floor managers were James Bridgewood, H. S. Heiderstadt, and M. C. Matson.

1883—Home Dramatic Club organized; will give entertainment the first night the new Opera House is ready.

1884—The clerk was ordered to notify the proprietors of the skating rink that a license fee of \$25 per annum would be required hereafter while the same is used as a hall or place of amusement.

January: Mrs. J. B. Finch gave a temperance lecture at the Geneva Opera House. Will Dempster's juvenile band furnished music.

May: Memorial Day was observed county-wide at Fairmont. Geneva had 60 teams and two brass bands in the parade. Grafton sent 30 wagons and a band.

1886—The Fourth was celebrated in grand style in Geneva. Mr. Chapin of Lincoln was the orator of the day.