



A ROUND OF APPLAUSE to members and friends for the response to the request for donations to fund a land purchase and the subsequent building of a historical museum for SW Lancaster County. Lincoln does have a State Museum but there is no Lancaster County museum. The village of Hickman is pursuing plans to establish a Heritage Center for SE Lancaster County and Waverly has a site in NE Lancaster County. Unfortunately, unlike other museums in Nebraska, this county does not offer financial backing. And so it is up to residents of the area to carry the ball. As we progress we will be looking for outside sources of revenue in the way of grants and corporate donations. Again, thanks for your support and if you are not a member of DCHS consider joining so that you can have an input in planning this project.

For a listing of the donors through June 10, please go to page 2.

NEWS ITEM-It has just been determined that the "Silent Auction" last Saturday June 14 raised over \$900.

DISTRICT #38 REUNION

Come join us for the District 38 reunion (Burd and Middle Creek School) on June 29 beginning at 2:00 p.m. and dinner at 5:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 2244 NW 126th St. Reserve your place by June 20 for the meal for \$10 per person. Reminisce and see some people you haven't talked to or seen for a long time. Dale Nobbman's 235 page history book of District 38 will be available for \$18 if confirmation is received.

Please contact Burdette Piening at [402-475-0632](tel:402-475-0632) or JoAnn Boshart at [402-474-2801](tel:402-474-2801) for more information.

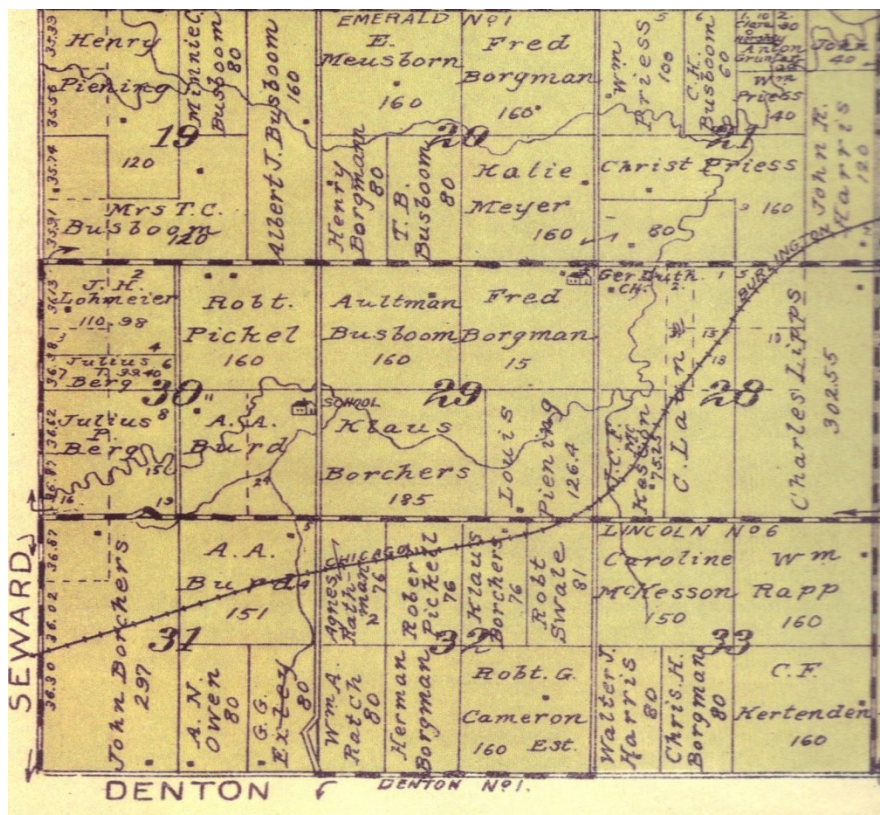
Burd School was started in 1870 and was ½ mile in between West "O" and West "A" on SW 126th in Section 30-10-5 (Middle Creek precinct). The building at that time was also used as a Methodist church on Sunday mornings and marriages for the community. The school burned down in 1981 and was replaced in 1982 ½ mile between SW 126th and SW 140th on West "A" in Section 32-10-5 and was called Middle Creek School. This school consolidated with Milford School District in 2004 and sold in 2006.

In 1946, Theo Berg started a Fifty Year Club with two objectives in mind. The first was to perpetuate the memory and keep fresh the idea that it was in this little school building that the first foundations for the later lives of its pupils were laid. The second objective is based on the knowledge that nothing is more valuable than friendship, and that there is a need to perpetuate the friendships that are made while in school.

I would say these objectives still hold true today.

Submitted by Burdette Piening

Map - 1921



HISTORICAL MUSEUM FOR SW LANCASTER COUNTY - DONORS

Mildred Turnwall/Edith Wilson Estate	Corrinne Splichal
Charles Wilson	Patrick and Ellen Beans
Virgil and Carolyn Helget	Janice Wittstruck
Ed and Bonnie Borgman	Duane and Jeanette Palmer
Susy Moore	Alvia Troutt
Gayle Beals	Art and Carolyn Reddish
Burdette and Virginia Piening	Jim and Jane Michel
Ike and Diane Donn	Roberta Spitz
Jim, Chris Culp & Susy Culp Moore	Dorothy Pillard
Robert and Janet Seidell	Donald and Esther Pester
Sherill Hutchison	Janet Meinke
Lloyd Preiss	LaVonne and Jean Uffelman
Mark Surmann	Mary Hoover
Donna Boyden	John and Marilyn Wedberg
Twyla Lidolph	William Soucie
Virginia Thomas	Elmer Kunz
Cynthia and Bruce Roggenkamp	Bill and Linda Bryant (Voice News)
James and Kristi Bertrand	John and Daneda Heppner
Richard Gray Jr.	Bill and Joyce Plautz
Eunice Cernohlavek	Kathie O'Brien
Marilyn Giles	Gary and Cheryl Lee
David and Cindy Cochran	Robert and Linda Rahorst
Edward and Irene Patak	James Helter
Evelyn Placky	James and Pam Zilly
Don and Yvonne Shoemaker	Terry Orme
Marvin and Sue Williams	John Hylan
Nancy Fiedler	Anne and David Frye
Robert Drevo	Julie and Bruce Melichar
Randy Sanks	Clyde Burgess Sr,
Rachel Hamilton	Clyde Burgess Jr.
Bill and Diane Edwards	Harold Bishop
Eileen Rosekrans	Twila Bishop
Jim and Gladys Meyer	Peter and Jane Reinkordt
John and Barbard Hetcko	James and Carolyn Nelson
Troy and Arlene Lawson	Mrs. Joseph Honvlez
Jane Knudsen	Dave and Luana Petsche
Mrs. Joe Benes	

EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

July 22--Joan Buhmann will interview Mavis Reller about the Reller family and area history at the Martell Fellowship Hall at 7 pm with a social hour preceding.

August 26--Jerry Penry will do a program on Railroads of Lancaster County at 7 pm with a social hour at 6 pm. The Penry family are new residents of Denton.

Sept 23--Bob Kinghorn will call a square dance at 7 pm with the usual social hour at 6pm.

Oct 23--Doug Novak's presentation will be on the bygone village of Camden. Usual times

Nov 25--Potluck dinner at noon.

SHINE UP YOUR DANCING SHOES

As part of our ongoing fundraising efforts, we have scheduled a dance on **Oct 19 from 4 to 8 pm at Tabor Hall in Saline county**. More information will be in the next issue in September.

HERE ARE SOME PROGRAMS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

We started off in March with a "Tea" instead of a regular meeting. Luana Petsche was the chair and with others pitching in, we had a delightful "tea". Have had some requests to do another one next year. Susan McLain was a "Victorian Lady" for the day and was quite entertaining as well as informative. Jim and Jane Michel were ready to pour the tea. And LaVina Vagts, Lorie Thayer, Cathy Sullivan and Elaine Thayer were dressed in vintage clothes for the occasion.



In April we had a "not a garage sale, garage sale'. It was quite successful, bringing into our museum fund a total of around \$1000. Thanks to all that worked and those that brought sale items (like Gladys Meyer's lighthouse collection) and those who shopped (like Darnelle Braunsroth that found some bears too cute to pass up)



Then our May presentation was one by our member, Mark Awakuni Swetland, who with his grandchildren showed us how to erect a tipi. His presentation on Indian culture and customs was very interesting.



COUNTY POLITICS IN DENTON IN 1905

The following is taken from the Lincoln Evening News in 1905. It was of particular interest to me because the writer of the first letter was probably my great grandfather, Jeremiah U. Sullivan. However this picture of the depot taken in about 1925 certainly does not show a visible sidewalk or perhaps it is simply covered with mud.



USE OF COUNTY'S LUMBER IN VILLAGE OF DENTON

The following characteristic letter has been received by The News by someone signing himself J. Sullivan, relating to the disposition of county lumber. Mr. Sullivan charges that the county commissioners have been giving away county material to politicians and the farmers of Centerville precinct, who have been returning contraband lumber have had a bad example set before them.

At the court house it is believed that J. Sullivan is Jerry Sullivan, road overseer near Denton. Mr. Sullivan's communication is as follows:

Lincoln Ne, Nov 21--Dear Sirs: A few days ago you had a letter in The News about the Centerville farmers returning the county lumber that they had been using. That is right and proper. It shows the farmers have some conscience, but I have failed to notice that the commissioners conscience is touched. They are hounding the farmers to return lumber and giving it to politicians. Out at Denton every crossing and a good deal of the sidewalk is made from new bridge lumber that the taxpayers have provided for bridges and culverts. One sidewalk runs all the way from the depot to Mr. Miller's private sidewalk around his house.. This lumber was put down with the consent of commissioners, and how can you blame farmers for using county material with this object lesson before their eyes? Why should the people of Denton have sidewalks provided for them and the rest of the taxpayers walk in mud? Denton people pay very little taxes, in fact some of them boast they don't pay any so I think it is time for the commissioners to pay their contribution to the conscience fund. If they will not do that it is time to elect men who will serve the taxpayers instead of a few men who happen to belong to the happy smile and handshakers' union.

J. SULLIVAN

The county commissioners denied emphatically this morning, when shown the letter, that they had authorized politicians or private individuals to use county lumber for sidewalks or for any purpose whatever. "Denton is not an incorporated village," said Commissioner Mosely, "and for crossings I presume the right to use county lumber cannot be questioned, but not for sidewalks. I have understood that there is one block of street running from the Burlington station to the post office which was built from county material. I have seen the walk and it looks like the real stuff.. I know that crossings have been laid recently with bridge lumber. The matter will be investigated".

Commissioner Kinyon appears to differ with this associate. "I question the right of Denton authorities to make use of county lumber for crossings unless it is necessary to place a culvert there," said he. "If water bothers, then I favor the move, otherwise I do not".

"I have never used any county lumber for sidewalks, either in front of my place of business in Denton or my residence," asserted County Assessor Miller, who the writer hints as having walks down constructed of county material. "I bought the lumber for every walk I ever put down. There is a block of sidewalks reaching from the passenger station of the Burlington road which is constructed of county stuff. It was laid several years ago, but I do not remember who did the job. County lumber is being used and has been for some time for street or road crossing, but I know of no sidewalk but the one named which was not put down at the expense of the taxpayer. You see, Denton not being incorporated, the poll tax that is raised there--and it is considerable--goes in the county road fund: the village does not get a dollar of it for improvements. I have known of property owners placing crossings at their own expense here and there because they got tired of waiting for the county to do the job".

(Continued on next page.)

SIMPLY SAWED WOOD AND BUILT THEIR SIDEWALKS (November 23, 1905)

County Assessor Miller writes a chapter on the topic of sidewalks built from county lumber in the village of Denton. In response to the letter from Mr. Sullivan. It follows:

Lincoln Nov 23---In the article last evening entitled, "Use of County's Lumber in the Village of Denton." there seems to be a disposition to throw me into the limelight. Mr. Sullivan did not intimate I had a sidewalk made of County lumber. he said "one sidewalk runs all the way from the depot to Mr. Miller's private sidewalk around his house". I built my sidewalk in front of my residence and place of business some years ago and it was the first walk down. He is calling attention to the walk that connects this walk with the depot.

The B. and M. constructed one hundred feet of this with their own material. The connecting link was put down by voluntary labor and is constructed of material that belonged to Lancaster County or C.G. Sheeley. I don't know which. I presume to the county. Lancaster county's lumber is for the purpose of making the highways passable. Denton is not incorporated. We have no authorities except the county commissioners.

The property of all classes in what now constitutes the village of Denton is assessed at \$10,810. The road and bridge tax on this amount to \$36.75: the poll tax amounts to \$30: total \$66.75.

i do not know of any part of this being spent in the village of Denton. The village streets are public highways. It is the commissioners business and duty to see that the highways are made and kept passable. If it requires lumber to do this, an order for its use is entirely proper. The overseer of highways, when asked, said "See the Commissioners". The commissioners said, "See the overseer, it is his business". The streets were impassable for foot passengers. The citizens took the lumber and put in the crossings and the piece of sidewalk in question.

They quit talking and sawed wood. They got what they asked for.

I am constrained to think the commissioners knew it was done. It was proper they should. When the people are willing to pay their taxes for the general good and then make a voluntary effort to improve their immediate neighborhood for the welfare of the public, it is good public policy on the part of the commissioners to meet them half way.

The value of the walk in question is about one-third of the road and bridge tax for 1905 on the village property. All Nebraska has a right to walk on it. it is a part of the highway. It is not a private snap. I helped to lay the crossing near Lancaster Avenue at Second street. it is of county lumber. It is a proper crossing to maintain at public expense. and if the commissioners did not give an order for the lumber, they should have done so.

Respectfully, **J.R.C Miller**

CHANGED (November 25, 1905)

Once Men Were Satisfied With a Few Planks, Now They Want Many

Harry Abbott, marriage license clerk in the office of Judge Waters has been reading the little discussions in The News started by Road Supervisor Jerry Sullivan over the use of county bridge lumber in Denton, and he is much interested.

Twenty five years ago, Mr. Abbott was Road Supervisor in Denton precinct, which included the hamlet of the same name.

"Conditions are different now" said he. "When I held the job it was my custom to give each of the boys who worked out their poll tax a couple of the old planks that were taken out of the bridge. The increased demand is probably due to prosperous times---people must have more lumber at present that they once called for. I think that Joe Miller has become a little excited over the letter of Mr. Sullivan, but he can take care of himself. He slings good English when he signs his name to a newspaper article. This reminds me that people are getting mighty particular lately. Years ago a citizen could pass by a place of another, see county bridge lumber in a corn crib or a pig pen and resolve to get on the inside himself. But conditions are different. he can't wait till overnight before he drops a little note to the papers telling them that John Smith or Bill Jones has been guilty of making a touchdown on the county".

"I have seen that bit of walk running from the Burlington passenger station to the post office and I can swear that it is county lumber. But what if it is? Ain't Denton part of Lancaster county? Of course it is, man. Denton pays enough taxes into the county road fund to entitle her to have asphalt walks built over ever foot of the town limits, free".

Here Mr. Abbott became reminiscent. "Denton is having a boom now. The population of the town has doubled in the last two years. and if it continues to increase, it will be able to put on metropolitan airs some day. Johnny Gross has gone into the hotel business there and realizing the place has a future, calls his public feeder, the hotel Kizer der Grosse. Johnny runs this place on the German and American plan, and is hot stuff with the traveling public".

(Continued on next page.)

(Continued from previous page.)

"But to come back to this bridge lumber agitation. Why shouldn't the farmers and Dentonites have the old material for corn cribs, hog pens, barn floors and sidewalks? If it was the common law twenty five years ago, custom should tolerate it in the future. I have an idea that Jerry Sullivan would look the other way if he saw bridge plank going in the direction of some citizen of the village or precinct. I have only one kick coming, and that each fellow will give up the idea that he ought to have the entire bridge.'

"It has always been considered proper when high water landed a bridge on the land of some citizen for the latter to claim the lumber under the right of eminent domain. No one roars over the matter, because he is hoping that a freshet will be likewise unkind to him."

"Do you happen to know" asked Mr. Abbott, again digressing, "that Denton precinct has a number of settlers who were employed on the Hoosac tunnel in Massachusetts. It is a fact, and accounts for the get-there qualities of the population. These fellows came and settled on the big hills, farmers down in the lowland made sport of the Yankees because they roosted high, but they were used to overcoming difficulties on the rocky slopes of the east. Just as good crops are grown there now as on the lower floor and I am told that each farmer has so much money that he lays awake nights wondering where he will bury it until he gets to town and puts it in the bank or in another farm".

DENTON SOLDIER WRITES HOME

(Editor's note: In a recent issue of the newsletter we had an article which included a bio of Bartholomew (Bob) Shea. In doing some research I ran across this article in The Lincoln Star dated Dec 24, 1942. I thought it was worth printing.)

LINCOLN SOLDIER HOPES FOR BETTER WORLD AT WAR'S END

A letter vividly describing the inner thoughts of a soldier away from home at Christmas time was received this week from Staff Sgt/ B/ Robert Shea, of headquarters company Seventh corps at Jacksonville, Fla, to his parents , Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Shea of 812 G. Street.

"It will never be a real Christmas until this world is at peace," writes Sgt. Shea, recalling a happier Christmas in 1941, when he and some buddies were at Fort Ord, California. He adds, "A war lingers only a few short years and it is not always the lucky ones who go home. I have not yet faced a barrage of steel nor the cold of the sea, but have tried to find out just what I was or would be fighting for in the future."



He concludes that it is to secure a world of righteousness, governed according to the spirit of Jesus of Nazareth, born 1942 years ago at Bethlehem, for which man must fight but adds that selfishness and greed must not be allowed to enter into post-war settlements. To fight and then return to a sordid and selfish environment would, he argues, be not much better than death itself.

Sgt. Shea enlisted in December , 1940. He was previously with the Nebraska National Guard. He graduated from Lincoln High School and had intended to enter the University of Nebraska. (Note: He graduated from Denton High in 1939)

BITS AND PIECES FROM ELAINE OSTERMAN THAYER ABOUT RECENT ISSUE ITEMS:

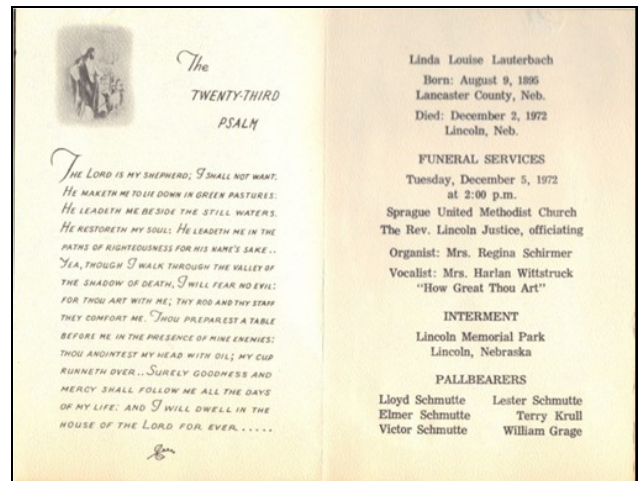
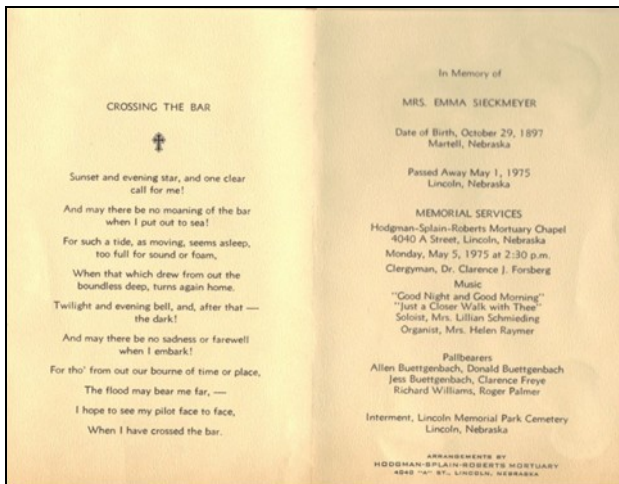
When Mr. John Gannon Sr. died in 1932 they kept him at home in the casket until after Easter (it was during Lent). Neighbors went one night and played cards all night, four of them and my Dad was one of them.

When Marjorie Wilson, the nine year old daughter of George and Grace Beam Wilson died, I (Elaine) saw her in the casket and she was wearing a pink dress. (Editor's note: In a conversation with Marjorie's twin sister, DCHS member Mildred Wilson Turnwall, she remembers the pink dress vividly as very pretty since this was in the 1930's and everyday clothes were very utilitarian.)

DCHS SCRAPBOOK

We are indebted to **Darlene Rosekrans Scheffert** for her donation to DCHS of a scrapbook that was made by the late Ralph and Amelia Drake. This scrapbook contains a number of funeral cards from the Martell/Sprague area. To view many more of these, please go to

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nelancas



OBITUARIES

Dennis Odvody, age 69 of Pleasant Dale passed away March 27th. His parents were Norman and Grace Horky Odvody.

Vincent Sullivan, age 74 passed away April 6th. His parents were John and Mary Miller Sullivan. Gladys Meyer, DCHS member is his first cousin.

Erdene Burgess, age 90 died April 7th. She was the wife of Clyde Burgess Sr. and they have been DCHS members for many years.

Melvin A Bice, age 88 died April 10th. He served in the US Navy in WW2. Marvin, Merlyn and Marty Bice, all DCHS members are nephews. Melvin was from the Yankee Hill area.

Jean W. Oelling, age 85 passed away April 13th. She was the widow of Frederick Oelling who graduated from Rokeby Hi. She is survived by two children and their families.

Dustin D. Reynolds, age 36 passed away April 15th. Dustin grew up in Denton. His paternal grandparents are Don and Millie Reynolds who reside in Denton.

Robert Mullendore, age 66 of Cheney died May 13th. Two sons and a daughter and their families survive. His wife who also survives is the daughter of Irvin and Marie Nohavec Sullivan.

Lawrence E. Roesler, age 83 died May 19th. He and his late wife Evelyn were DCHS members for several years. Evelyn died May 7th, 2013. Her maiden name was Horak from Berks, Ne.

Leland (Lee) Sittler died May 28th. He was 89. His wife Camille passed away Dec 7, 2006. Lee and Camille operated Lee's Offsale for many years on Van Dorn St. in the Yankee Hill area.

Edward Kodejs, age 93 of Danville, Va. passed away there on June 5. He was the son of Joseph Kodejs and Emma Daniel. His sister who survives is DCHS member Sylvia Pecka.



MEMORIAL DAY IN DENTON

Legion Post #355 held a service at Sunnyside Cemetery to honor veterans who are buried there. The veteran list includes: Harry Burgess, Jack Giles, William Osterman, James Schroeder, Melvin Giles, Frederick Herpolsheimer, James Juricek, Chris Juricek, Don DeHaas, Tunis Safford, James Smith, Ravil Smith, Cynthia Mehaffey, James Stransky, Leon Kraus, Clarence Honvlez, Richard Spellman, Vincent (Bill) Fraas, Eunice Johnson, Truman Waugh, Alfred Tryon, Michael Pierce, James B. Sullivan, Richard Egger, Donald Baughman, Robert J.B. Haase, Raymond Sullivan, Harold Berryman, Kenneth Thayer, Leonard Hill, Joseph Beard, Richard Hamilton. There is a memorial stone for Clarence Haase who was killed at Pearl Harbor.



Please contact Marilyn Giles at 402-797-2050 if there are veterans that we have missed.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

New items have been put on the website with more pictures etc to come.

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nedchs

Check it out.



Denton Community Historical Society

PO Box 405

Denton, NE 68339