

Cedar Township

Location:

Second tier, fourth from west, below Beaver
South, between Ravenna and Sweetwater
Organized in 1874

Features:

Farmland, rolling hills

Waterways:

Two major streams flowing north to empty into the South Loup
Cedar Creek – East part of township about 1 1/2 mile in.
First settlements alone or near it
Other in west about mile then 1/2 mile in, some early settlement there.

Towns:

Majors – in Sec. 15 – community, Parts not grouped close enough for a town

Church:

United Presbyterian, organized in Dec. 1882. Church built in 1887.
Membership reached 100. Some moved to Poole, others moved away,
decreased to 30 in 1915. Pastor served both Majors and Poole churches.
1915 regular services ceased, building used as community center.
Sold and moved to Kearney to be a home.

Cemeteries:

Majors Cemetery, Sec. 15, estab. April 1887. Land given for church and cemetery
St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Sec. 35, estab. 1910.
five miles south & three miles east of Pleasanton.
Private burial ground in Section 8. St. Peters family
One son – murdered
One young man accidentally shot
Child
Decker – moved to Majors cemetery

School:

Dist 20 – est. 1874; Mrs. Carpenter first teacher
Two 3-month sessions @ \$10 a month
1876 build sod schoolhouse

Post office:

Est. 1879; did not submit a name so P O Dept. assigned name Majors in honor of
Col. Thomas J. Majors of Nemaha County, a senator.

Tax Assessment – 1877:

Real Estate

Treichler & UP railroad

Personal property

15 assessed, 9 had dogs

Miller had 2 mules, not all of others had horses, no oxen
Almost everyone had cattle, 1-10 head
Carpenter had herd of 31 sheep
Half had 1-3 pigs

Settlement –

1872 –

Mr. West and Mr. Houston came and looked around
James Treichler & family and father-in-law, Mr. Dance, moved in

1873 - Early spring –

John Davis & wife, E W Carpenter family, and Joseph White family came

West & Houston returned, filed on their land, arranged for Carpenter to break 5 acres of sod on each claim. Started for home in Ohio

Sunday, April 13 – John Davis left for Grand Island for supplies

Blizzard – lasted Sun & Mon.

John caught but made it to Grand Island

Mrs. Davis - froze

West & Houston, 3 days in Grand Island, never heard from again

Five other families arrived

Three moved on

Two stayed – Mason Alexander Young & Samuel Higgins

1874 – Dry year, grasshoppers

Five more families arrived

One moved on

John Dance went back to Iowa

Four stayed - A. St. Peter, John McCool, Henry Luce, & James E. Miller.

1875 – good crops. Dry?

1876 – Grasshoppers again, no crops

James Treichler family returned to Iowa after grasshoppers ruined their crop

1877 - Excellent crops & high prices

May have been families moving in, but no new claims filed

1878 – good crops

Four new claims filed

One moved on

Three stayed – Wm Tillson, James Mapes, & C. H. George

1879 – good crops

Ten new families arrived and filed claims

One left

Rest stayed - A. & J. Barker, Wm. Bigsby, George Duncan, T. Hunnegbun [Thos. Hutchinson, in census], D. McCool [John McCool in census], J. M. Shields, A. J. Stover, Gus A. Tuppan.

1880-1890 – No crop failures - Explains rapid settlement of Buffalo County & Nebraska

April 5, 1890 - HUB

Cedar Township has organized a prohibition league with thirty-five members. They say they will come within a few of making a clean sweep of that township.

More about the early settlers

People – S. J. Houston & E. West – Selected their land in 1872, went back to Ohio.

Returned in spring 1873 to file on their claims, hired Carpenter to break sod, went to Grand Island to return home, kept there 3 days by a blizzard, never heard from again.

John Davis – Lived in dugout, walked to Grand Island for supplies, wife to spend night with Carpenters who lived about a mile south. Blizzard, she went to bed for warmth, roof fell in but ridgepole protected the bed, she crawled out instead of staying in bed, found frozen, buried on homestead, burial site lost

James M. Treichler - Born in Ohio 1845; Civil War vet; went to Cedar Co. IA; married Mary Emma Dance. Came to Cedar Twp in 1872; stayed four years; left in later summer 1876,.

J. Dance – Treichler's father-in-law, Came in 1873, Left after the grasshoppers in summer 1874

Mason Alexander Young – Born 1842, Zanesville, OH; Civil War vet; went to Cedar County, IA; came to Cedar Twp in Apr. 1873; friend of Joseph Clayton [possibly cousins]. Elected supervisor for Cedar Twp. Six children – John, Anna, Zettie, Rosa Annie (Amy), [8 yr space] Charles, Frank

Joseph Clayton – Born 1844; when mother (Margaret Young) died in 1850 lived with Thomas Alexander family for 8 years. Civil War vet; went to Ohio, then Iowa, then to Cedar Twp in spring 1873. Married Rosey Ewer in 1879; three children – Raymond, Mary May & Ernest. Died 1926, Rosey died 1913; buried at Majors along with Raymond (1906) and a son of Ernest's

E. W.(Eleazer) Carpenter – Born in New Hampshire in 1827; went to New York and then to Wisconsin. Married Emily Plummer; seven children - John, Stephen, Hulda, Cyril, Marion, Miranda, Lydia. Civil War vet. Started west in fall 1872, came to Gibbon; stayed while looking for a location; went to Cedar Twp in spring 1873. Barely

settled before blizzard. [In mid-40's when he came to Buffalo Co.] Justice of Peace 11 years; first postmaster 1879 until 1907 when it was closed. 1889, Co. Supervisor from Cedar Township. E W died in 1903 at age 78; Mrs. Carpenter (Emily) died in 1907 at age 76; both in Majors Cemetery.

Samuel Higgins – Born in Maine in 1811; In 20's when he left home and traveled around to see where he wanted to live. Ended up in Wisconsin when it was still a territory. Did not serve in Civil War because of his age. Came to Gibbon in Nov. 1872 and built shanty for family while he looked around. Homesteaded and also took a timber claim in Cedar Twp. Had a dugout at first. In blizzard his cow smothered in snow but calf was dug out four days later alive but hungry. Married twice, nine children in 1st marriage, two in second.

Census 1860 – Cassville, Wisconsin

Higgins, Saml – [age covered by ink blot]. B Maine
Adeline – 37, b New York [Matilda Hatcher]
James W – 14, b Iowa
Albert W – 9, b Wisconsin
Octavia W – 7, b Wisconsin
Lucinda W – 6, b Wisconsin
Pricilla W – 3, b Wisconsin
Nancy W – 1, b Wisconsin
Davis, Ersee – 3, b New York

Carrow, Mary - 25, washer woman

Peter - 8
Louis - 5
Charles - 3
Angelice - 5/12
Ewer, Ellen - 30, domestic, born England
Ruel – 30, miner
Nicholas - 12
Mary E. - 7
Angeline - 5
Clara - 3
Rosalie – 1

Census 1870 – Cassville, Wisconsin

Higgins, Ellen – 40, keeping house, born England
Ewer, Angeline – 15
Clarra – 13
Rosalie – 11
Alce – 10
Higgins, Samuel – 3

Cassville, Wisconsin – located between high bluff and Mississippi River, farthest south community in the state. Lead mining

1870 Census – Linn Township, Cedar County, Iowa, village of Mechanicsville

Treichler, Abraham – 55, farmer

Margaret – 50, keeping house

James – 26, farmer

Samuel – 25, farmer

Oliver – 20

Daniel – 18

Marion – 16

William – 14

John – 11

Harvey – 6

Young, Alexander – 24, farmer

Jennie – 22

John – 1

Dance, John – 46, farmer

Harriet – 51, keeping house

Mary – 18

Franklin – 12

Cedar County, Iowa – Located just northeast of Iowa City. Cedar River goes southeast through Cedar Rapids and then cuts through the southwest part of Cedar County.

Census 1880 – Cedar Twp (Schneider Twp.), Buffalo Co., Nebr

Higgins, Samuel – 69

Ellen [Ewer]– 50 – died 1897, buried in Majors Cemetery, alone

Samson – 12

Ellen Wamsley Ewer – born 1828 or 9 in England; came to US about 1840 to Wisconsin.

Married Ruel Ewer in 1851; lived in Cassville. 4 or 5 children.

In 1860 they were living with her sister Mary Carrow

Ruel died in Civil War in 1863

Married Samuel Higgins in 1865

Ellen and children came to Cedar Twp where she filed claim to 160 under War Widows Act and 4 40-acre timber claims for the children

J. E. Miller – took abandoned homesteads of West and Houston

1880 Cedar Township families

Barker, Adel
Barker, Jam ?
Barker, Peleg
Bigsby, Wm
Carpenter, E. W.
Carpenter, J. W.
Clayton, Joe
Cool, David
Decker, John
Duncan, George
Flemming, H. G. W.
George, C. H.
Gormley, John
Hays, James
Hidel, Gus
Higgins, Samuel
Hutchinson, Thos.
Luce, Henry
Mapes. Jas.
Mathesen, Claus
McCool, John
Miller. Jos E
Pool, A. H.
Postman, C. W.
Shaults, S. F.
St. Peter, A.
St. Peter, John
Stark, W
Stover, A.
Tappen, Gus
Tillson, Wm.
Tollefson. Emil
Waters, Henry
White, Joseph
Young, M. A.
Young, Wm