

# Cherry Creek Township

## First settlers –

1876--E. Locke.

1878--A. Kyne, G. M. Hankins, R. J. Hodson.

1879--A. J. Hodson, J. D. Mathews, M. Kyne, E. J. Varney.

## 1880 Census, Gardner Township

Hankins, G. M., wife Martha, son age 2 born in Iowa, daughter age 1 born in Nebr.

Hankins, Wilber, wife, two sons ages 4 and 1, one daughter age 2. Youngest son born in Nebr., other two in Iowa

Hudson, Richard, 40, from England

Kyne, Anthony, Bridget, & two sons, ages 1 & 2, both born in Nebr. Anthony is buried in the Ravenna cemetery

Kyne, Michael, Mary and baby daughter born in March and now 3 months old. Both adults were ill with “ague” on 29 June when the census taker visited them. [**Ague:** A fever (such as from malaria) that is marked by paroxysms of chills, fever, and sweating recurring regular intervals. Also a fit of shivering, a chill. Hence, ague can refer to both chills and fevers.]

Varney, Egbert, born in New York

Varney, James, wife and 11 year old daughter, also from New York

## St. Michael –

- **Saint Michael.** Established by the Lincoln Land Company in 1886. An Irishman named Mike Kyne owned the land on which the town is located and he told the company he would sell it to them cheap if they would name the town Saint Michael. Mr. Kyne was a homestead settler in the vicinity in 1879 and now resides in Ravenna, Nebraska.

## Kyne Family –

The Anthony Kyne family were charter members of the first Catholic Church established in Ravenna; there being none in St. Michael. The Kyne home on the west edge of the village was operated as a hotel for a time.

Mary Elizabeth Kyne O'Connor, sister of Michael and Anthony, came to the area in 1884 with her husband, Michael O'Connor, and six children. They located south of the Anthony Kyne farm, one mile from the village when it was established. Through pre-

emption, a homestead, a tree claim and purchase, O'Connor came to own much of the pasture land south of the village. Michael O'Connor became St. Michael's first postmaster and also served as mayor for many years.

Sheep raising was the largest industry in the area at the time. The meadow lands along the South Platte [Loup?] River were ideal for this activity and were much like the home land of the Kynes and O'Connors. Later, cattle raising was predominant. The village of St. Michael was a shipping point on the railroad for livestock, alfalfa hay and grain over the years.

Precinct Officers elected in 1890 –

Assessor, Max Schlund, St. Michael

Clerk, S. Urwiller, Nantasket

Treasurer, J. C. Bruckner, Nantasket

Justice of Peace,

    G. M. Hawkins, Nantasket;

    Chas. Karp, St. Michael;

Constable, L. L. Hile, St. Michael

Road Overseers:

    district 29, R. J. Hodson, St. Michael;

    district 67, Frank Havlik, Nantasket.

Roads –

Highway 2

Genealogy Request – for a family who had lived at St. Michael where the husband worked for the railroad.

Sources –

Bassett, Samuel, *History of Buffalo County*, 1916, page 113

*Kearney Daily Hub*, Nov. 12, 1890

Fitzpatrick, Lillian, *Nebraska Place-Names*, 1925

“Roots of Buffalo County: The Irish – Part II”, *Buffalo Tales*, Vol. 6, No. 5, May 1983

1880 Federal Census, Buffalo County

Location of Kyne homesteads.

Master File info

    Kyne, Anthony & James

    Hankins, GM

    Locke, E

    Ho(u)dson, AJ & RJ

    Varney, EJ

    Luce

St. Michael folder