

Harrison Township

Land Patents

Bassett - 1879--John Hurse, J. W. Cassell, E. Miles, C. Olmstead, W. N. Wright, A. Woodbridge, Cannute Lee

See map of township for locations of claims

Almost all the land claimed in the top two sections (sec. 1-12)

Not much land claimed in third tier (sec. 13-18) May or may not have had railroad grant land, it's on the border of the 20 miles.

Land in alternate sections claimed in southern three tiers (sec. 19-36)

Alternate sections had been granted to the railroad.

Taylor Township Property Assessment book – 1881

Township included township 11, north three rows of sections and township 12, of ranges 17 and 18

The area in Range 17 became Sartoria Township (T12-R17) and the north half of Scott Township (T11-R17)

School Districts

Dist. 54 – west half of township

Dist. 37 – east half of Harrison & west half of Sartoria

Persons assessed in Districts 54 & 37

Bensack, Franklin – on land homesteaded in sections 3 and 10

Buckley, Drusilla – on land homesteaded in sections 9 and 10

Buckley, William – (no location given)

Cassel, Ralph – (no location given)

Harse, John – on land homesteaded in sections 4, 5 and 8

Moore, Alanso – (on property homesteaded by Joseph Simmons)

Maxwell, A. B. – (no location given)

Mahaffey, Isabel – (no location given)

Olmstead, Charles – (no location given)

Olmstead, J. H. – (John) on ¼ of land homesteaded by Ira Hawks & ¾ of land homesteaded by Albert Page

Stafford, Victor – (no location given)

Smith, Charles – had 16 horses

Wright, William – on property not claimed by land patent

Woodbridge, Enoch – (no location given)

School District 71 (Red Wing)

(BCHS Archive school file for Dist. 71)

Formed in 1883 by consolidating Dist. 37 and 54.

Organizational meeting held at sod hoe of Frank Burge

First school census taken in April 1884 – 79 school age children in 51 families

1886 census – 31 school age children in 15 families

June 1887 – one acre of land leased from Frank Burdick to build a schoolhouse

\$1 per year for as long as a school was on the property

Frame school, 22' x 32', cost \$200, door at east end, 3 windows on each side

Teacher's desk on stage at west end, stove in middle.
Painted white with red shutters – thus the name.
No well at first. Got bucket of water from nearest home ¼ mile away
1916 – building replaced.

[Frank Burdick homesteaded in Section 11 along the Loup River]

Harrison Township Officers – 1890

(Published in the Hub)

Supervisor – J. Harse

Clerk – C. Lockhart

Treas – J. C. McCan

Assessor – J. W. Day

Just. Of Peace – J. Dougherty & J. Jones

Constable – J. Wright

Road Overseers:

Dist. 48 – J. Ries

Dist. 21 – D. R. Wells

All of above of Miller [Miller mailing addresses?]

Probate Records of some who homesteaded

Beavers, Sam –

August 30, 1920 –

Living in Elm Creek, age 84, declared incompetent

Son, Sam Jr., filed for guardianship

Romaine St. John to be in charge of estate

6 children

May 22, 1921 – Died

No real estate

Harse, John –

October 4, 1923 – Died at Pinehurst, Stokes Poges Lane, Slough, England

Widow – Emily S. J. Harse, “now and always a resident of England”

Children:

James – Miller, Neb

Ethel Allen – Blanca Cosilla Co. Colo.

Edward – Adams Co. Neb

Lloyd – Miller, Neb

Emma Crowell – Douglas Co. Neb

Will – signed May 8, 1923

All real and personal property in England and bank account to wife

All property in US to five children

US property:

Custer County – 40 acres

Dawson County – 400 acres

Buffalo County – 2,308 acres in Harrison Township sections 3-8

(Now Zero Herefords South, Inc. 2,378 acres

according to 20004 Farm & Home Plat & Directory)

Valued at \$59,000 at time of death
Valued at \$69,837 when estate was settled in 1924

McCann, James –

September 23, 1916 – declared insane by Lancaster Commissioners of Insanity

October 18, 1916 – Wife, Ida, filed for Guardianship

James at Ingleside

Property – NE ¼ 20-12-18 and SW ¼ 21-12-18

Had received Land Patent for NE ¼ 20-12-18

Marriage Licenses

Buckley, Drucilla –

Husband's name was William

Marriage records for daughters Annie and Ida

1919 Atlas of Buffalo County

Topography:

The South Loup River enters Harrison Township in the northeast corner of Sec. 6, winds east through Sec. 5, 4 & 3 before dropping south to Sec. 10 to continue east through Sec. 11 and 12 where it exits the township.

Several streams empty into the South Loup flowing north through the township. Only two, the Otter and Dry Creek are named. The south edge of the township appears to be a dividing line with the beginning of some streams going south and the others going north to the Loup.

John Harse owns 2,412.93 acres in sections 3-8.

Residents: (200)

Harse, J. [James]] W. Wf. Carrie H.; ch. Ruth E., Margaret E.

P. O. Miller, R. 1.

R. 578.64 ac., sec. 5; R. 320 ac., sec. 8; R. 484.45 ac., sec. 4;

R. 557 ac., sec. 6; R. 312.68 ac., sec. 7;

O. 80 ac., sec. 3. (20.) [years in county]

Owner, John Harse.

Tour of Harrison Township – 2-24-2005

Entered Harrison Township on Highway 183 from Elm Creek through Miller. Aspen Dairy buildings on east side of highway right after entering the township.

Mostly grass land, some bales indicating a hay field. Little corn. Did not see any other tilled crop but corn. Most herds black angus and white faced angus. A Hereford here and there.

Richard Pierce farm on west side of highway 2½ miles from south border of township. More corn around his farm than we saw anywhere else. After another couple of miles Otter Creek course could be seen on east side of highway. (Didn't see any water though.) Some trees along here.

Turned east five miles up from south edge, between sections 4 and 9. Road not straight on the section line because of the Otter. Cut south to half mile line of section 10. Came to Red Wing school house on south side of the road. (see photos in Red Wing, Dist. 71 file) Paint wearing off, window panes gone, bell tower empty, rotting & missing shingles. Looks like it was a very nice building in its day.

Turned south at next intersection, between sections 10 and 11. Came to the Randy Bentley farmstead. A phone call to the county clerk's office earlier in the day had provided the information that he is on the township board but there had been no answer to a phone call. Now we found him and his brother Jerry working fence along the east side of the road just north of his place. We stopped to talk to them for a while and to their father, Les, who came along in a pickup later.

Continuing south a mile and a half, we turned east on 325th Road. At the end of the next mile we found the Grand View church on the north side of the road across from the Norman Day farmstead. (see photos in Township file) The church sits on the west side of this plot of land. It is a simple rectangular building with a small addition built on the back. To the east is a small house. Between the two buildings, toward the back of the lot is a windmill and an outhouse. The buildings are in good repair, freshly painted.

The end of the next mile is the eastern edge of Harrison Township but there is no section road so we continued east another mile into Sartoria Township and turned north on Dakin Road. After almost two miles we came to 355th road and turned back west past the John Eckhout farmstead where the Freighters Hotel at Trails and Rails Museum came from and back into Harrison Township to Cessna Road. Turning north we crossed the South Loup River and came to 370th road which only goes east. We took it hoping to see some remnants of the railroad bed which the Bentleys had told us about but did not. Reaching Comanche Road, the section line between Harrison and Sartoria Townships, we turned north a mile and a half to the Custer/Buffalo County line. There on the east corner of the intersection, in the extreme northwest corner of Sartoria Township is the Black Hill Cemetery. (see photos in Township file). We had to go on up into Custer County before we could find a through road west back to Highway 183. In the process we came across the Basin Lutheran Cemetery. (see photos in Township file)

Coming back south into Buffalo County we passed the site of Milt's store on the county line. There are two residences there now but no store.

Conversation with Jerry, Randy & Les Bentley - 2-24-2005

The conversation covered a variety of topics as I asked them questions about the township, its history, what is there. This is some of the information I learned.

The land north of us appeared to be quite sandy. It is sandy along the South Loup River (which was less than a mile north of where we were. A finger of the sandhills follows river. The soil becomes more clay as one goes south.

Red Wing school closed in 1989. There was an auction and someone bought the building but he did not move it in the allotted 60 days so it reverted to the land owner who has done nothing with it. Les's father attended Red Wing in the old building which was east of the present site, by the river. Children now attend Amherst, Sumner in the S-E-M district, or Ansley depending where the family lives.

Milt's store was located on the highway on the Buffalo County side of the Buffalo/Custer county line. The store was originally built about a mile west along the route of the railroad that was supposed to be built from Pleasanton through Sartoria northwest to Ansley. The roadbed was prepared past Sartoria through Harrison Township on the north side of the Loup. When the railroad did not happen, the store was moved over to what is now Highway 183. When the highway was paved, the store was

in the right-of-way so they had to move a third time. The store was run by Seraphine, who lived to be 100 and never did retire, and her daughter, Virginia.

Elk Creek empties into the Loup from the north, the Otter from the south. They did not know of names for any others.

Telephone conversation with Susan Day Underhill – 2-24-2005

Susan was born and raised in Harrison Township near the Grand View church. This was her church when she was growing up. Vacation Bible School is still held there every summer and there are weekly services throughout the year. There are less than 20 members now. The congregation is Emmanuel Missionary, a very small sect with headquarters in Indiana. There has not been a pastor living in the parsonage next to the church since the 1960's. There is no cemetery by the church.

All four of Susan's grandparents were original settlers in Harrison Township and lived within about two miles of each other.

The Day family came with the Boyds from Indiana. [Although the Boyd's homesteaded and received land patents,] Day purchased land in section 35 from a man who had bought it from the railroad. This was one of the alternate sections which had been granted to the Union Pacific. Day had gone to North Platte first before coming to Buffalo County. While there he worked for Buffalo Bill Cody.

The Daughertys came from Illinois and homesteaded the northeast quarter of Section 22. A Dougherty daughter married a Day son.

The Harvey Keyzers came from Iowa where they had lived across the Missouri River from Nebraska City. The Forresters came with them and settled in Section 26. The Keyzers claimed land in Section 34. Mr. Keyser paid some Indians [a few? \$1?] for the land he had homesteaded. They moved on and he had no trouble with them. After living in a sod house for a time the Keyzers built a wood frame house in the same floor plan as the brick home they had left in Iowa.

The Wells family came to Madison County from Illinois and then came on west to Buffalo County. They homesteaded on the northwest quarter of Section 22 next to the Daughertys. A Wells daughter married a Keyser son.

[Day son – m – Daugherty daughter → son

→ Norman Day, Susan Day, etc.]

[Keyser son (Jack) – m – Wells daughter (Mary) → daughter

It was not unusual for families to come together to settle here such as the Days & Boyds, Keyzers & Forresters. The Judy and Emmet families also came together. The Judys were Swiss. They settled in White (later called Wild) Horse valley.

There were four school districts in Harrison township.

Red Wing

Grand View – near the church. The district closed in the late 1950's and the schoolhouse was moved to Miller and used by Dr. Ruth as her office.

Sand Puppy (the Bentleys had a different name, Mt. Pleasant, I think)

Wild Horse – two miles south of Milt's store and a mile west, across the road from where the Lines live now. (that would put it on the east side of section 18).

