Article Title: Robert W Furnas, “Nebraska Press Recollections,” and the Oldest Newspaper Controversy


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Article Summary: Robert W Furnas’ publication Nebraska Press Recollections, a state press history completed in 1874, endeavored to provide dates of establishment, suspension, and change of ownership of Nebraska newspapers that existed at the time and/or prior to 1874. While largely accurate, it failed to mention the Nebraska Herald of Nemaha. A 42-year feud ensued regarding which was the oldest continuously published paper in the state: the Nebraska Advertiser [Brownville] or the Nebraska City News.

Cataloging Information:


Names of Publications: Nebraska Press Recollections; Nebraska Palladium; Nebraska Advertiser [Brownville]; Nebraska Farmer; Daily State Journal [Lincoln]; Nebraska State Journal [Lincoln]; Nebraska City News; Omaha Herald; The People’s Paper [Humboldt]; Rocky Mountain News [Denver]; Nebraska Herald [Plattsburgh]; Beatrice Express; Nebraska Herald [Nemaha]; Daily Nebraska Press [Nebraska City]; Omaha Nebraskan; Brownville and Nemaha County; Nebraska City Weekly News; Nebraska City Times; Nebraska City Daily Times; Nebraska Chronicle [Nebraska City]; Dakota City Mail; Omaha Republican; Lincoln Blade; Calvert Courier; Nemaha County Journal; The Granger [Auburn]; Nemaha County Herald; Nebraska City News-Press

Keywords: Second Nebraska Volunteer Cavalry; Union Indian regiment; Nebraska State Historical Society; Nebraska press; Illinois Editorial Association; Nebraska Press Association

Photographs / Images: Robert W Furnas; masthead Nebraska Palladium, 1854; Thomas Morton; J Sterling Morton; Nebraska Advertiser masthead 1874; William Caffery; George W Fairbrother; Weekly News masthead 1874
In 1874 Robert W. Furnas, one of Nebraska's most tireless and enthusiastic promoters, was struggling through a single term as state governor. A grasshopper invasion and subsequent economic problems made the year a disappointing one for him politically, but he drew satisfaction from other accomplishments, including the publication of a brief history of Nebraska journalism entitled "Nebraska Press Recollections," for which he had been gathering information for at least four years.

Although only twenty years had passed since Nebraska Territory's first newspaper, the *Nebraska Palladium*, was issued at Bellevue, newspaper activity had exploded since then, and Furnas's "Recollections" indicate the breadth and intensity of that activity—as well as an ongoing dispute over which of Nebraska's newspapers was the oldest continuously published.\(^1\)

Furnas's reputation as a journalist was impressive. By the time he arrived in Brownville from Ohio in 1856 at the age of thirty-two, he had already worked as a printer, editor, and publisher. Shortly after arriving he and Dr. John McPherson established the four-page *Nebraska Advertiser* at Brownville. The first issue appeared on June 7, 1856.\(^2\)

Furnas continued to edit the *Advertiser* until the Civil War changed the course of his life. In 1862 he was appointed colonel of a Union Indian regiment and served in southern Kansas and Indian Territory, and in 1863 he led the Second Nebraska Volunteer Cavalry. Furnas

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turned the Advertiser and the Nebraska Farmer, an agricultural periodical he had founded in 1859, over to Thomas R. Fisher and Theodore C. Hacker. He and Fisher were listed as proprietors until July 1863; Furnas did not return to the Advertiser until the beginning of 1870, and he retired as editor at the end of that year.3

Furnas was aware that he lived in a critical time for gathering territorial and early state history, and in 1878 he helped organize the modern Nebraska State Historical Society (actually the third state historical organization established. He served as its president until 1890 and then again from 1904 to 1905. He also served as editor of the Society’s first bound volume, published in 1885.4

At least as early as 1870 Furnas began to collect information on the history of the Nebraska press. On August 25 of that year a group of Nebraska newspapermen met in Lincoln to form a state press organization. Officers were elected, the constitution and bylaws of the Illinois Editorial Association were adopted, and Furnas was invited to speak at the next meeting. He subsequently began to collect information for “a detailed history of every newspaper now in existence, or that has ever existed in the Territory or State.” A form letter from Furnas dated October 15, 1870, asked individual Nebraska newspapermen to “furnish me at your earliest convenience such information, relative to your paper.”

The modern Nebraska Press Association was organized in February 1873, and the group delegated Furnas to write a state press history. “Nebraska Press Recollections” was completed in January 1874, less than a year later. Furnas wrote J. Sterling Morton on January 28 that he had completed the paper (forty-seven penciled pages) only the night before and stressed his concern with accuracy: “Really feel as [if] I must read proof.” He wrote again to Morton on February 3, “I will ... publish here where I can read proof carefully.”5

Furnas’s history of the Nebraska press was published serially April 23 and 24 in the Daily State Journal of Lincoln, and April 24 and May 1 in the weekly Nebraska State Journal. “Nebraska Press Recollections” was condensed from Furnas’s notes and personal observations as well as from the data submitted by state newspaper editors in response to his requests for information. He submitted it to the State Journal at the request of Journal editor Charles H. Gere, also NPA president. “In compliance with your request,” wrote Furnas to Gere, “I have condensed information and recollections of the Press in Nebraska, collected and in my possession, and submit for publication as you desire.”

“Recollections” consisted largely of the dates of establishment, suspension, and change of ownership of Nebraska newspapers that existed at the time of or prior to its publication in 1874, and included the names of proprietors, publishers, and editors. The large number of dates and names justified Furnas’s concern with proofreading. He admitted that much was “from personal recollection, and doubtless is not perfect as to minutiae.” Furnas stated further that newspapers about which he knew little were springing up almost weekly, and even of such established papers as the Nebraska City News, he remarked, “I have not been able to obtain exact [beginning] date and details, although often promised.” He concluded his efforts with the hope that the publication of “Recollections” would “lead to full and complete reports and correction of errors.”6

“Recollections” also included a few of Furnas’s own brief reminiscences and anecdotes, including memories of an 1856 stagecoach trip through the Missouri Valley with Dan W. Carpenter of the Omaha Herald and a brief description of eccentric Sylvester Franklin Wilson and The People’s Paper of Humboldt. Particularly interesting is his admission that in 1859, just three years after he had settled in Brownville, he had planned to relocate to the new goldfields on Cherry Creek in present-day Colorado. However, when he learned that William N. Byers of Omaha had already purchased equipment of the defunct Bellevue Gazette and left for Denver to establish a newspaper (which became the Rocky Mountain News), Furnas “abandoned [arrangements to move] because of the ‘claim’ being ‘jumped.’”7

“Recollections” was reprinted in whole or in part by several southeastern Nebraska newspapers, including the Nebraska City News (May 16, 23, 30), the Nebraska Herald at Plattsmouth (April 30, May 7, 14), and the Beatrice Express (May 14). There were minor variations in spelling and punctuation. The News omitted several introductory paragraphs that appeared in the State Journal; the Nebraska Herald reprinted from the Journal without change. The Beatrice Express published only a small portion.

The Nebraska Advertiser, with which Furnas had launched his newspaper career in Nebraska in 1856 and with which he was still closely identified, did not reprint. Advertiser editor George W. Fairbrother Sr. thought “Recollections” was interesting, but was indignant that Furnas had not mentioned Fairbrother’s Nebraska Herald, established with Theodore Hacker in November 1859 at Nemaha (then Nemaha City). Fairbrother and Hacker owned and published the Advertiser in 1874. This must have been
Territory, a controversy over which published in 1874 was the Democratic paper was the oldest—particularly the News, arisen within twenty years after the first oldest continuous newspaper. II

A Nebraska City contemporary of the highlighted a controversy that had newspapers were established in Nebraska published. And Furnas's history further remarked on July 12, 1858, that as the oldest weekly in the state, it was contemplating establishing a daily.

The News's chief rival for the oldest continuous newspaper honor was the Nebraska Advertiser, dating from 1856. The dispute is reflected in a national newspaper directory for 1870, which identified the Advertiser at Brownville under Furnas as "the oldest paper in the State." Similarly, the Nebraska City News under William M. Hicklin, publisher, and J. Sterling Morton, editor, was the "oldest paper in either Kansas or Nebraska." Th

The Nebraska City News of May 16, 23, and 30, 1874, reprinted "Nebraska Press Recollections" serially—with some additions and corrections. Editor H. A. Reid prefaced Furnas's history on May 16 with praise for the governor's commendable industry and perseverance and conceded the report "seems to be in the main very accurate." However, the News made a few additions and corrections (most of which related to the oldest newspaper controversy) "on the authority of our old original printer, Thomas Morton." Specifically it disputed Furnas's claim that the Nebraska City fire of May 12, 1860, and the brief absorption of the News by the Nebraska City Times in 1870 had caused the News to lose issues, and therefore disqualified it as the state's oldest continuously published newspaper.

In April 1855 Thomas Morton (left) and J. Sterling Morton (they were not related) took over the Nebraska City News, also first published in 1854. Its issues were numbered from the defunct Palladium, whose equipment and the subscription list they acquired, and they considered it the state's oldest continuous newspaper. NSHS-P853-1557; Thomas W. Tipton, Forty Years of Nebraska at Home and in Congress, Nebraska State Historical Society, 1902, opp. 24

one of Furnas's most embarrassing omissions. Although both men were mentioned elsewhere in "Recollections" (Hacker as one of 'two old 'Stand-bys' of the Advertiser'), Fairbrother still demanded, "Now Gov., didn't you entirely forget the Herald?"

Despite a few such inaccuracies, "Recollections" is still of interest as an overview of territorial and state newspapers more than 125 years ago. A Nebraska City contemporary of the News, the Daily Nebraska Press, called it a concise and nearly accurate account; the Beatrice Express noted that much in "Recollections" had never before been published. And Furnas's history further highlighted a controversy that had arisen within twenty years after the first newspapers were established in Nebraska Territory, a controversy over which paper was the oldest—particularly the oldest continuous newspaper.

The oldest Nebraska newspaper being published in 1874 was the Democratic Nebraska City News (until 1858 the Nebraska News). It was first published at Sidney, Iowa, in the autumn of 1854 and then moved across the Missouri River to Nebraska City, where the November 14 and succeeding issues were printed. After J. Sterling Morton and Thomas Morton (they were not related) took control of it in April 1855, they numbered succeeding issues from the defunct Nebraska Palladium at Bellevue. Thomas Morton, who had been printer for the Palladium, obtained printing equipment and a subscription list. Thus the News saw itself as the state's oldest continuous newspaper and the successor to the Palladium. Keenly conscious of its age, the News remarked on July 12, 1858, that as the oldest weekly in the state, it was contemplating establishing a daily.

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When Furnas's "Recollections" was published in 1874, the Nebraska Advertiser was chief rival to the News for oldest continuous newspaper status, and made that claim on its banner. It dated from 1856, two years later than the News; but Furnas did not consider the News a continuation of the Palladium, and contended it had lost its continuity through a brief consolidation with the Nebraska City Times.

Nebraska Advertiser, Apr. 30, 1874 (digitally enhanced microfilm Image)

had predated the News and that the "Omaha Nebraskan" was also in actual running order before the type and material of the News was brought over from Sidney [Iowa]. The indignant Advertiser editorial ignored the News's claim of descent from the Palladium and the beginning date of the Nebraskan—January 1855. Significantly, the Advertiser did not claim the oldest paper title for itself.

It was not until June 23, 1870, that Furnas added "Oldest Newspaper in the State" to "Established 1856" on the front page of the Advertiser after the consolidation of the Nebraska City News with the Times earlier that month. "Since the death of the News," remarked the Nebraska Herald on the same day, "the Brownville Advertiser takes position as senior newspaper of the State."

Furnas's assertion in "Recollections" that the Nebraska Advertiser was the state's oldest continuous newspaper provoked an indignant response from Nebraska's other oldest paper. The crux of the News rebuttal in May 1874 to Furnas's claim was Reid and Thomas Morton's insistence that their paper's weekly edition had been published regularly in both 1860 and 1870. The Nebraska City Weekly News, they asserted, "has never missed an issue since November, 1854, notwithstanding the office was once totally destroyed by fire.

Reid and Thomas Morton were correct in asserting that the May 12 fire did not interrupt the weekly Nebraska City News. The May 19 issue following the fire noted:

By the kindness of our friends of the Brownville Advertiser establishment we are enabled to continue issuing the Nebraska City News. We shall be obliged to print our paper in Brownville for a couple of issues yet, when we hope to have our splendid new office fully prepared.

Thomas Morton had already left for the East to buy new type and equipment. The Advertiser in a report of the Nebraska City fire on May 17, 1860, noted that "until new material arrives, their paper [the News] will probably be printed at Brownville." Thomas Morton again referred to this arrangement with the Advertiser in the News on May 20, 1874, after "Recollections" had appeared in print. Morton as soon as possible equipped a new News printing plant in Nebraska City, and on June 16, 1860, the News appeared with an altered typography.

A more difficult problem for Reid and Thomas Morton was the brief period following the purchase of the News by the new Nebraska City Times in June of 1870. The Times was established in April of that year by a faction of Democrats opposing J. Sterling Morton. Thomas Morton and Reid maintained (in correcting Furnas's assertion that the News lost its identity after purchase by the Times), that "the Times was printed entirely with the material of the News office, and its weekly edition was published as the Nebraska City Times and News—hence there was no actual suspension of the News at all."

The Nebraska City Daily Times of June 9, 1870, the first issue of the Times following its consolidation with the News, was numbered as a continuation of the Daily Times, begun in April, not as a continuation of the News. Other indications of a clear break between the News and Times were a "Valedictory," by former News publisher William M.
Hicklin, who "quits, he is not in the paper business any longer, he bids his friends adieu"; and a "Valediction" by editor J. Sterling Morton. "The ancient News passes to rest, perhaps forever," Morton wrote. "Let it be remembered that it lived not in vain, because it had both enemies and friends." References to the Times from other newspapers also distinguish clearly between the News and Times. The Republican Nebraska Herald at Plattsmouth, edited by Hiram D. Hathaway, on April 28, 1870, noted the receipt of a copy of the newly founded Times and commented, "It was about the time the Democrats of Nebraska City did something to throw off the chains that [J. Sterling] Morton had them bound with." The Daily Nebraska Press of Nebraska City reported on June 8 that the Times (after consolidation with the News) would be published by a joint stock company consisting of thirty-six men and firms. Dr. John Blue, a newcomer to Nebraska City from Missouri, was to be editor-in-chief of the paper, with Thomas McLaughry to serve as associate editor and business manager and J. Dan Lauer to be local editor.24

On June 16 the Herald published several brief articles dealing with the consolidation of the Times and the News. One, reprinted from the Republican Nebraska Chronicle at Nebraska City, was entitled "The News Squelched." The Herald concluded, "The 'oldest paper in the world' has gone dead—the Nebraska City News is no more. Hicklin says it 'could not keep up with the Times!'"25

The Times daily was suspended in November 1870, after the excitement generated by the recent state election had subsided, but the weekly edition continued. In December 1870 Thomas Morton bought the weekly Times, and the January 7, 1871, issue carried the earlier name of Nebraska City News. Dr. Blue was retained as editor. The News in its first issue following the name change, that of January 7, 1871, said, "It is the oldest, most widely-read, and frequently quoted periodical in Southern Nebraska," and several weeks later on January 28 added its claim to the masthead.26

Subsequent Nebraska historians differed on the subject. Nemaha County physician, journalist, and local historian Dr. Andrew S. Holladay called the Nebraska Advertiser the oldest newspaper in the state in 1876 as did Alfred T. Andreas in 1882. Despite J. Sterling Morton's close association with the News, the Morton-Watkins multi-volume history of the state, published between 1906 and 1913, conceded that the News could not be said to be the oldest continuous newspaper in Nebraska:

The Nebraska Advertiser, . . . is said to be the oldest continuous publication in Nebraska, an honor which would belong to the Nebraska City News but for a slight break in 1870 when the News, for a time, lost its identity in the Times.

Despite this concession, Morton-Watkins, when discussing the territorial press in 1856, labeled the Nebraska City News as one of Nebraska Territory's "very aggressive political journals"—and the Advertiser only as "industriously newsy." It also pointed out that the News had always been at Nebraska City, whereas the Advertiser had been moved several times within Nemaha County.27

Albert Watkins in 1917, about five years after the Advertiser was suspended, said that the Nebraska City News had been published from 1854 until that date with the exception of "the time . . . when it was merged into the Times, of Nebraska City, . . . and therefore may be fairly called the oldest newspaper in the state." However, Addison E. Sheldon in his 1921 "History of the Nebraska Press" stated that the territorial press had no living survivor "having continuity of publication under one name," a probable reference to the Nebraska City News and Times.28

The publication of "Recollections" and of the Nebraska City News's response focused southeastern Nebraska's attention on the oldest continuous newspaper argument. A article in the News on May 30, 1874, entitled "That 'Oldest Paper,' Again," included not only Morton's and Reid's further explanations of their earlier corrections of Furnas, but reprints from other newspapers on the controversy. The Dakota City Mail sidestepped the question of whether the News or Advertiser was the oldest continuously published paper by nominating a new candidate: the Omaha Republican. The News supported the Advertiser's subsequent dismissal of the Republican as the oldest paper, but then attacked the Advertiser's claim to be that oldest paper. The Lincoln Blade, edited by William Caffrey, associated with the Advertiser from July 1871 to January 1874, predictably supported the Advertiser. Caffrey charged that the News "winked out or lost its identity with the Morning Times, and several months elapsed without an issue of the News. Also, after the fire the News lost issues." The Beatrice Express chided:

Why doesn't the "oldest paper" in Nebraska give us a rest on the subject of its age? We mean the Nebraska City News. If it were settled which is the oldest sheet—the News or the Brownville Advertiser—there would be a little more room for occasional reference on the part of the most ancient contestant to the fact of its accouchment and after struggles in life; but that is an open question, and hence it isn't delicate for either one of the two "oldest papers" to flout the other for its lack of enterprise in having been born a month too late.29

The News responded by repeating former claims of the regularity of the weekly edition:

In 1870 the Daily News "winked out," as Caffrey says; but the Weekly News did not. It was issued awhile as the Times and News, being printed entirely and only on the News office types and press.30

The News concluded by citing Thomas Morton: "Mr. Morton set the first types [for the Palladium] that were ever put up within the boundary lines of Nebraska, . . . and our statement of facts is made on his authority." A parting blast was aimed by the News at Caffrey, accused of initiating in the Advertiser "a standing line at the head of its columns,
The two rival towns of Calvert, as station Auburn, hoping that together they could combine in 1882 under a new name, accomplish what neither could do on the Burlington Railroad, and nearby Sheridan, on the Missouri Pacific, 1873 he officiated as chairman at a preliminary meeting of the Nebraska Press Association in Lincoln, and attended a subsequent meeting in February that adopted a constitution and bylaws. He left the Advertiser in January of 1874, and in April published the first issue of the Lincoln Blade, a Republican daily. 32

Caffrey supported the Advertiser's longevity claims in both the Advertiser and the Blade. When he became editor of the Advertiser in 1871, he retained “Oldest Newspaper in the State” on the front page, begun more than a year before under Furnas; and began his salutatory “as editor of this, the oldest paper in the State.” In December of 1872, he again declared the Nebraska Advertiser to be Nebraska’s oldest paper, “having been born in 1856 and never changed name or missed an issue since.” 33

In January 1874 Caffrey sold his share in the Advertiser to George W. Fairbrother, Sr. A former territorial and state legislator. Fairbrother carried on the paper’s tradition of strong, politically active owners and editors. In early 1882 Fairbrother moved the paper from Brownville to Calvert (platted only the year before), where it was consolidated with the Calvert Courier of his son, George W. Fairbrother, Jr. 34

The removal of the Advertiser accompanied an ongoing effort to move the Nemaha County seat from Brownville to a more central location in the county. The two rival towns of Calvert, a station on the Burlington Railroad, and nearby Sheridan, on the Missouri Pacific, combined in 1882 under a new name, Auburn, hoping that together they could accomplish what neither could do alone—secure the county seat from Brownville. Nemaha County voters in February of 1883 did vote to make Auburn the county seat, although the county courthouse at Brownville remained in use until 1885. 35

In November 1882 the Advertiser was consolidated with the Nemaha County Journal, established only the month before in Auburn, to form the Nemaha County Journal and Nebraska Advertiser under H. J. F. Wert and Benjamin F. Sanders. Wert and Sanders numbered the first issue (that of November 18, 1882) as Volume 1, Number 4, of the Journal and Volume 27, Number 22, of the Advertiser. The partnership between Wert and Sanders was dissolved at the end of 1882; in January of 1883 Sanders alone had charge of the paper. 36

In 1874 George W. Fairbrother bought Caffrey’s share of the Advertiser and, a few years later, moved it to Calvert, which soon consolidated with rival town Sheridan to become Auburn. The Advertiser consolidated with the Nemaha County Journal to form the Nemaha County Journal and Nebraska Advertiser under H. F. J. Wert and Benjamin F. Sanders. Nebraska State Historical Society files of succeeding issues for the next twelve years, from 1883 to 1895, are incomplete. 37 William W. Sanders, brother of B. F., acquired the Nemaha County Journal and Nebraska Advertiser, in September 1884. W. W. Sanders later restored the name Nebraska Advertiser, and in 1887 moved it from Auburn, the county seat, to the town of Nemaha, about five miles south of Brownville. In 1889 he consolidated it with the Nemaha Times, which he had previously owned. 38

Although “Oldest Paper in the State” had disappeared from the front page of the Advertiser after it merged with the Nemaha County Journal in 1882, the claim was not abandoned. W. W. Sanders, a long-time resident of Nemaha County and former partner of Furnas in a nursery
After several attempts to re-establish the *Advertiser* failed, the forty-year feud ended, leaving the News's masthead claim "Oldest Paper in Nebraska," uncontested. In 1925 the News merged with the *Nebraska Daily Press*, and today's *Nebraska City News-Press* now carries oldest paper honors. Nebraska City Weekly News, June 20, 1874 (digitally enhanced microfilm image)

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business, continued through the years to support the *Advertiser* as the state's oldest continuous paper. In 1904, twenty years after his purchase of the paper in 1884, he reiterated: "The *Advertiser* is the oldest paper of the state of continuous publication." In 1906 on the occasion of the *Advertiser*’s fiftieth anniversary, Sanders noted that he had been associated with the paper for nearly twenty-two years, longer than any other one man during the period of its existence. 39

Furnas upheld the *Nebraska Advertiser*’s claim until his death July 1, 1905. In a January 1904 speech to the Nebraska Press Association in Lincoln, Furnas reminisced about his arrival in Brownville from Ohio more than forty years before, noting that "the paper that I established then is published yet in Nemaha City, and is the oldest continuously published paper in the state." Similarly, in a tribute to Dr. John McPherson (who had first induced Furnas to come to Nebraska Territory and helped him establish the newspaper in Brownville), Furnas stated, "The paper, Nebraska *Advertiser*, . . . has been regularly and continuously published from that date to the present, being the oldest continuously published paper in Nebraska." 40

The *Nebraska Advertiser* survived the death of its founder, Furnas, in 1905, and the departure of its longest serving editor, W. W. Sanders, in 1909, by only a half dozen years or so. Joseph A. Worrall, a well-known Nebraska tramp printer, had arrived at the *Advertiser* office in August 1908 and stayed on as editor, publisher, printer, and general manager of the *Advertiser* for the next four months while Sanders was ill and unable to work. Following another bout of illness in June 1909, Sanders leased the *Advertiser*, probably to R. W. Hawkins, and moved to Garretson, South Dakota. The paper was suspended a month or so later when Hawkins left for Oklahoma. 41

Sporadic attempts were made to reestablish the *Advertiser*. The *Lincoln Star* reported in early 1910 that the *Advertiser*, still identified as the "oldest paper in Nebraska," had been "revived by Mr. Shields, an experienced newspaperman." Joseph Worrall returned to act as editor from April 1910 until the end of that year. E. S. Galloway replaced him as editor from January 1, 1911, until the *Advertiser* was suspended in September. 42

In April of 1912 *The Granger* in neighboring Auburn reported that the *Advertiser* would be "started up again" (by a Mr. Humphrey and son, according to the *Nemaha County Herald*). But a brief notice on June 18 concerning the recent visit to Nemaha of Furnas's old associate on the *Advertiser*, Theodore C. Hacker, indicated that the paper was probably gone for good. Hacker came from Red Cloud "on his annual visit to look after the graves of father, mother and wife in Nemaha cemetery. As he passed up the street his eyes rested on the sign 'The Advertiser,' and he had to heave a sarcastic sigh." Perhaps "sorrowful" might have been a more
fitting word than "sarcastic." The death of the Advertiser ended the forty-year feud between Nebraska's two oldest newspapers. The dispute was important, at least to the disputants, in 1874 and still forms an interesting historical footnote. Many of the Advertiser's friends at last conceded the issue. Lewis E. Lyanna, an early business partner of Furnas, recalled in June of 1912 that "for a long time [the Advertiser] claimed to be [the] oldest paper in Nebraska, but . . . a Nebraska City paper is older." In November 1925, the News merged with the Nebraska Daily Press, to form the antecedent of today's Nebraska City News-Press, which now has the oldest paper honor.14

Notes
1 Vol. I, No. 1 of the Nebraska Palladium (shortly afterward the Nebraska Palladium and Platte Valley Advocate) appeared on July 15, 1854. It was actually printed across the Missouri River from Bellevue in St. Mary, Iowa, until November of that year. J. Sterling Morton and Albert Watkins, Illustrated History of Nebraska (Lincoln: Western Publishing and Engraving Company, 1913) 2:337–40. A weekly military journal published at Fort Atkinson preceded the establishment of Nebraska Territory by nearly thirty years.
6 Riedesel, Press Association, 8; Robert W. Furnas to J. Sterling Morton, Jan. 28, Feb. 3, 1874, J. Sterling Morton Papers, MS455, NSHS. The assertion by Furnas that he had been delegated by the NPA to write a state press history "something over a year since" appeared in an introductory paragraph to "Recollections" in the Nebraska State Journal.
7 Transcript from State Journal in Henry Allen Brainerd Papers, MS455, NSHS. Brainerd, History, 1:4; Riedesel, Press Association, 7–8.
10 "Recollections," Robert W. Furnas, May 16, 1874. Succeeding quotations from "Recollections" are from the News rather than the State Journal in order to include bracketed material found only in the News.
11 Woods, Press of Nemaha County, 41; "Recollections," Nebraska City News. Fairbrother's diatribe against Furnas for omission of his Nebraska Herald (not the Nebraska Herald established at Plattsburg by H. D. Hathaway in 1865) appeared in the Apr. 30, 1874, issue of the Nebraska Advertiser. Fairbrother was mentioned in "Recollections" as the current editor of the Advertiser and as cofounder of the Tecumseh Chieftain in 1869. Hacker was noted for his association with the Advertiser, beginning in 1862.
12 Daily Nebraska Press (Nebraska City), Apr. 30, 1874; Beatrice Express, May 14, 1874.
15 "Recollections," Nebraska City News.
18 Robert W. Furnas, Brownville and Nemaha County in 1859 (Brownville, R. W. Furnas, 1859); Nebraska Advertiser, Apr. 28, 1859, quoted in Morton-Watkins, History, 2:371.
19 Nebraska Advertiser, July 19, 1862. Albert Watkins in 1917 gave the beginning date of the Nebraskan as January 17, 1855. Watkins, "Fifty Years."
20 Furnas served as editor of the Advertiser from Jan. 6, 1870, to the end of the year, when he retired from the paper. Woods, Press of Nemaha County, 7; Nebraska Herald (Plattsburg), June 23, 1870. All subsequent references to the Nebraska Herald are to the Plattsburg paper.
21 "Recollections," Nebraska City News.
23 "Recollections," Nebraska City News. The Nebraska City Times did occupy the News offices after the consolidation, according to the Nebraska State Journal, June 24, 1870, and the Nebraska Herald, June 16, 1870. However, no issue of the weekly Times survives to verify the name.
24 Nebraska City Daily Times, June 9, 1870. This is the only issue of the Times in NSHS collections. Hicklin bought the News from Thomas Morton in November 1869 (with Morton staying on as foreman of the composing room) but disposed of the property the following June to the Times. Dale, Otoe County Pioneers, 5:1216, 7:1857, Nebraska Herald, Nov. 11, 1869; Nebraska City News, Dec. 29, 1870.
25 Nebraska Herald, Apr. 28, 1870; Morton-Watkins, History, 2:365; Dale, Otoe County Pioneers, 4:1147–49. The Daily Nebraska Press, June 8, 1870, also reported the officers of the Times company: president: S. H. Callhoun; vice-president, James Thorn; secretary, J. Dan Lauer; treasurer, William E. Dillon.
26 Nebraska Herald, June 16, 1870.
27 Ibid., Nov. 24, 1870; Nebraska Chronicle (Nebraska City), Nov. 16, 1870. "The Nebraska City Times has changed hands, and that old typographical warrior, Thomas Morton, is again in possession." Nebraska Herald, Dec. 29, 1870, reprinted from the Nebraska City Chronicle; Nebraska City News, Jan. 7, 28, 1871. See also Morton-Watkins, 2:345 n. 1.
28 Andrew S. Holladay, "History of Nemaha County," Nemaha County Granger (Brownville), July 14, 21, 1876; Andreas, History of Nebraska, 1482; Morton-Watkins, History, 1:288, 2:360. See also Morton-Watkins, 2:344–45, for a discussion of the News and Times.
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36 "That 'Oldest Paper' Again," *Nebraska City News*. November 18, 1854, p. 3. The last page of the Nov. 18, 1854, issue of the *Paladium* included a column with this head: This is the FIRST COLUMN of reading matter set in the Territory of Nebraska. This day put in type on the first day of the Territory of Nebraska. This day put in type on the first day of the Territory of Nebraska.

37 According to *The Fremont Weekly Herald*, July 7, 1883, the paper may have been briefly suspended. NSHS newspaper files also include a single copy of the *Auburn Daily Advertiser*, dated Dec. 26, 1885. Proprietors were Knapp, Peck, and Thomson; the editor was George R. Peck. The paper carried no volume or number.

38 W. W. Sanders, "Fifty Years Ago," *Nebraska Advertiser*, June 1, 1906; Eunice Haskins, "Pioneer Newspaper Days in Nebraska Recalled by W. W. Sanders" (Auburn, 1910), 41-42.

39 Sanders in "Fifty Years Ago" also mentions (Albert) Dillon & (J. D.) Croan as "tramp printers" and recalled that he had once conducted papers at Syracuse (Syracuse Herald, 1886-98) and at Nemaha (almost certainly the *Advertiser*). See also *Nemaha County Herald* (Auburn), May 22, 1931; Dale, *Otoe County Pioneers*, 10:2848; "Editors of Nebraska, 1854-1930," Brainerd Papers, MS455, NSHS.

40 The Granger, Apr. 19, Dec. 27, 1910, Jan. 3, Jan. 31, Sept. 19, 1911; *Lincoln Daily Star*, Feb. 1, 1910. E. S. Galloway was a southeastern Nebraska newspaperman for thirty-two years, many of them on the *Nemaha County Herald*. See also *Nemaha County Herald* (Auburn), Oct. 25, 1959.

41 The Granger, Apr. 23, June 18, 1912; *Nemaha County Herald*, Apr. 19, 1912. Woods in his "Press of Nemaha County," 8-9, 53, reported that the *Advertiser* was consolidated with the *Nemaha County Herald* at Auburn sometime in 1912. If so, the name was not continued.