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Article Summary: This article is the first of a series of place names of Nebraska towns, counties, post offices, railroad stations, Pony Express stations, and stage line points. It was the first of the publication published serially and includes place names in Adams through Box Butte Counties.

PERKEY'S NAMES OF NEBRASKA LOCATIONS

By Elton A. Perkey

The following compilation by Elton A. Perkey is the result of thirteen years of research on the origin and meaning of names of Nebraska towns, counties, post offices, railroad stations, Pony Express stations, and stage line points. The listing will be published serially in *Nebraska History*. The current issue includes place names in Adams through Box Butte Counties.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this work is to provide a permanent, accessible listing of every place name in Nebraska, with pertinent data about each. Thirteen years of research have yielded 3,760 place names, hundreds of which no longer exist. Scores lasted a month or two, and others—the “paper-town” names—were only figments of land promoters’ imaginations.

A life-long interest in our state history and in geography, plus nostalgic memories of a Nebraska boyhood and youth, first led me to the study of place names. The hobby grew into an absorbing avocation full of challenges as the search progressed. Although Lilian Fitzpatrick’s book *Nebraska Place Names* was published in 1925 (reprinted, 1960), and the manuscript of Professor J. T. Link, “The Origin of the Place Names of Nebraska,” is dated 1933, I feel that their works were somewhat restricted in content; unfortunately, the materials were never expanded because of the untimely deaths of these scholars. My own work adds to the facts accumulated by them.

These listings record: (1) the peak population of Nebraska towns; (2) the establishment and discontinuance of post offices; (3) the history of early counties; (4) historical notes on towns, hamlets, railroad stations, Pony Express stations and stage line points. It deals with six general name classifications: (1) personal names such as first and surnames of early settlers, railroad officials, postmasters, postmistresses, ranchers, and prominent

men; (2) names derived from natural phenomena, local geographic characteristics, and terms describing localities; (3) names from foreign countries or places within other states of the Union; (4) Indian names; (5) original, hybrid, or coined names; (6) miscellaneous names.

NEBRASKA

On May 30, 1854, President Franklin Pierce signed a bill passed by the Congress of the United States which created the Territory of Nebraska. Nebraska became the thirty-seventh state of the Union by proclamation of President Andrew Johnson on March 1, 1867.

The word Nebraska is derived from the Otoe Indian name of the Platte River: *Nibrathka* (*ni*, water; *brathka*, flat). A variant is *Niprathka*. The "p" and "b" sounds only approximate the actual Indian pronunciation. Often one hears that the source of the word is Omaha Indian: *Ne' brath ke* or *Ne' prath ke*. However, this is again only an approximation and is inconsistent with the fact that the Omaha Indians have no "r" in their language.

ADAMS COUNTY

Created by legislative enactment on February 16, 1867, Adams County was named in honor of John Adams, second president of the United States. County officially acclaimed December, 1871.

Adams City. Probably a proposed town that never went beyond the platting and recording stage. Its prospective location is unknown.

Assumption. Near Juniata, it was named by the Catholic Church for the Assumption of the Blessed Mary church. A parochial school was constructed first and used for services while the church was being built. A general store operated by Matt Scholl opposite the church was built in 1899. Still an active community, Assumption was first settled by Germans.

Ayr. Peak population (1880), 275. Post office established December 20, 1878. Named in honor of Dr. Ayr of Iowa, a director of the Burlington and Missouri railroad at the time of the building of the railroad. The village was platted in September of 1878 by the South Platte Town Company and was incorporated in May, 1883. Ayr Junction is north of town at the meeting of two railroad branches. Crystal Lake Resort lies one mile north of town.

Ayr Junction. A station and junction for two branches of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad were located here.

Blaine. A former elevator siding probably named for James G. Blaine, statesman and presidential candidate at the time of its founding by Burlington railroad officials. Located southeast of Hastings.

Brennans. A former elevator siding for the St. Joseph and Grand Island railroad, the town was named in honor of Thomas Brennans, a farmer living near the elevator at the time. Located southeast of Hastings.

Brickton. Six and one half miles south of Hastings on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, Brickton was named for the C.H. Paul Brick Manufacturers, formed by a group of Hastings businessmen in 1886. Houses were built for thirty to forty employees and their families.

Bridgeton. Post office established December 20, 1878; discontinued April 23, 1879. The source of the name of this former post office has not yet been ascertained, but it was probably named for a certain bridge.

Deans. Located between Pauline and Ayr, this former elevator siding on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad may have been named for one of these landowners: James M. Dean, James K. Dean, or Lucien Dean.

Farmers. Located north of Hastings, this former railroad station on the St. Joseph and Grand Island railroad was so called because area farmers built an elevator here in 1879.

Ferrens. A siding on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, Ferrens is located near Hastings and was probably named for a local settler or railroad official.

Flickville. A former elevator siding named by Burlington railroad officials for homesteader Joseph Flick, Flickville was located east of Hastings near the Clay County boundary.

Galnes. Origin of the name of this siding of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad located near Hastings, has not been learned.

Gilson. Post office established August 20, 1871, but moved to Ayr with the coming of the railroad on December 20, 1878. Gilson had a flour mill on the Little Blue River. Named by Postmaster Bigger R. Scott for his former home, Gilson, Illinois.

Halloran. Station and former elevator siding named for its builder, Mike Halloran, in 1874 by Burlington railroad officials. Located east of Hastings.

Hansen. Peak population (1880), 120. Post office established December 19, 1879; discontinued 1955. Mail served from Hastings. Village named for a Mr. Hansen of St. Joseph, Missouri, a civil engineer employed by the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad; and platted by A. B. Ideson and J. J. Wemple in 1879 on ground purchased from Charles and William Haines. S. J. Loucks built a hotel, the Hansen House.

Hastings. Peak Population (1970), 23,233. Post office established September 19, 1872. Colonel D. T. Hastings of the Grand Island and St. Joseph railroad was instrumental in bringing the railroad to Hastings and inspired its name. The town was platted in 1872 on the homestead of Walter Micklen, whose land lay at the junction of two railroads. Incorporated April 2, 1874. A colony of Englishmen soon afterward settled the surrounding land. Hastings displaced Juniata as the county seat after a bitter election in 1878.

Hayland. Peak population (1910), 33. Post office established January 31, 1914; discontinued 1943. Hay shipped from this former Union Pacific railroad siding inspired its name.

Hazel Dell. Post office established April 7, 1879; discontinued February 21, 1889. The name of this former post office and community reminded residents of the hazel bushes which grew near the one-time home of Mrs. A. A. White. German settlers first located in the vicinity.

Holstein. Peak population (1910), 323. Post office established April 23, 1888. Town platted July 22, 1887, on coming of the Kansas City and Omaha railroad, and incorporated June 6, 1889. Named in honor of Schleswig-Holstein, northern Germany, the original home of early settlers. The town also attracted Danish settlers.

Ingleside. Means fireside, but local tradition maintains that its meaning is beauty or a thing of beauty. The Hastings State Hospital, sometimes called Ingleside, was established in 1888. Its fine brick buildings and beautifully landscaped grounds lie two miles west of Hastings. The town is now part of Hastings.

Inland. Post office established May 2, 1872; moved in 1878 to Clay County. Platted by South Platte Town Company, Inland was moved after the development of Hastings.

Jeffers. A railroad siding or junction on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, the Missouri Pacific, and the Union Pacific railroads. Located near Hastings, it was probably named for William Martin Jeffers, former president of the Union Pacific railroad.

Juniata. Peak population (1880), 550. Post office established December 26, 1871. S. L. Brass and A. H. Bowen located a colony from Michigan here in 1871 and 1872. Town platted by South Platte Town Company in November, 1871, and incorporated June 15, 1880. Named for the Juniata River in Pennsylvania, Juniata vied with Kingston for county seat after a December 12, 1871 election; it was displaced by Hastings in 1877. Flour mill established in 1874.

Kenesaw. Peak population (1910), 657. Post office established December 5, 1872. Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia, battle site of the Civil War, inspired the name. Early

settlers were from Virginia. Town-site platted by South Platte Land Company in June, 1872; incorporated in 1884. Kenesaw at one time had two flour mills.

Kingston. Post office established March 12, 1872; moved to Pauline July 10, 1888. Named in honor of George King on whose land the post office was located, Kingston vied with Juniata in the county seat election of December 12, 1871. It was moved to Pauline with the coming of the railroad.

Leroy. Post office established February 4, 1889; discontinued January 22, 1902. Once known as a pleasure resort for Hastings residents. Named by A. H. Stone for his son Leroy. The station was later moved to Pauline.

Level. A Union Pacific station and former elevator siding, it was probably named for its level location.

Little Blue. Post office established March 7, 1873; discontinued March 4, 1879. Its location on the Little Blue River inspired the name.

Ludlow. Post office established January 2, 1880; moved to Clay County March 30, 1887. Named to honor Ludlow Huff, on whose premises the post office was located.

Martinsville. Post office established August 29, 1870; discontinued May 5, 1873. Named for George Martin, first postmaster.

Mayflower. Post office established July 9, 1877; discontinued May 5, 1896. Named for the historic ship that brought the Pilgrims to America, Mayflower was located on the farm of John Burling 6 miles northwest of Holstein.

Millington. Post office established August 17, 1877; discontinued February 1, 1881. Named for a mill built on the Little Blue River by John Dyer and two nephews, Eldridge and True Dyer.

Moritz. This former station and elevator siding on the Missouri Pacific railroad was named for Charles Moritz, manager of elevators in the county.

Morseville. Post office established July 9, 1877; discontinued July 24, 1889. Probably named for Charles F. Morse, an early settler.

Murlel. Former elevator siding located on the Missouri Pacific railroad south of Hastings. Origin of the name has not yet been learned.

Newmarch. Former elevator siding was located on the Union Pacific railroad northwest of Hastings. Origin of the name has not been ascertained.

North Blue. Post office established June 3, 1872; discontinued November 29, 1876. Named for its location on the north branch of the Blue River.

Pauline. Peak population (1900), 175. Post office name changed from Kingston July 10, 1888. Named in honor of Pauline S. Ragan, wife of John M. Ragan, attorney for the Burlington railroad, of Hastings. Town platted in 1887 on farm of James B. McCleery.

Prosser. Peak population (1900), 175. Post office established June 29, 1888. Named in honor of T. J. Prosser, construction superintendent of the Missouri Pacific railroad building into Prosser, its terminus. Town incorporated August 13, 1907; declined after discontinuance of railroad in 1940's.

Rosedale. Post office established May 4, 1877; discontinued January 17, 1881. Named for the wild roses growing in the area.

Roseland. Peak population (1890), 250. Post office established August 19, 1875. Platted April 20, 1887, and named by B. F. Evans, the first postmaster, for wild roses growing in the vicinity.

Sand Hill. Station No. 11 in Nebraska of the Pony Express, the name refers to the difficult sandy wagon road which called for double teaming. Located 1 1/2 miles south of Kenesaw, it was sometimes called "Summit Station Water Hole." One authority termed it the most lonesome place in Nebraska.

Silver Lake. Post office established February 27, 1873; discontinued May 16, 1887. This former post office was named by Rufus Daily for a clear lake having a silver look.

Sodtown. May have been the former name of Mayflower or of another site nearby before Mayflower was established as a post office.

Spencer Park. Origin of the name of this railroad siding on the Union Pacific railroad has not been ascertained.

Sportville. Post office established September 3, 1884; discontinued April 2, 1887. The first postmaster, Peter Volte, named Sportville for a popular baseball team.

Stroemer. Post office established August 4, 1900; discontinued January 22, 1902. A former post office and railroad siding, Stroemer was named to honor Dirk H. Stroemer, an early settler who purchased railroad land.

Thirty-Two Mile Creek. Pony Express Station No. 10 in Nebraska, it was located six miles southeast of Hastings. Sometimes called Dinner Station I.O.O.F.E. Pony Express. A long, one-story building operated by George Comstock, it was abandoned after the 1864 Indian raids.

Wanda. Origin of the name Wanda, probably a proposed town that never got beyond the platting and recording stage in Wanda Township, has not yet been ascertained.

ANTELOPE COUNTY

Organized by legislative enactment June 15, 1871, after a bill approved March 1, 1871 for its establishment, was introduced by Leander Gerrard of Platte County. Gerrard and others shot an antelope for food while on the trail of Indians. Recalling the incident, he suggested Antelope for the county name.

Antelope. Post office established April 25, 1872; name changed to Clearwater July 22, 1881. Named for the county; located near site of antelope-killing incident.

Barbor. Post office established May 14, 1887; discontinued April 27, 1890. Origin of the name has not been ascertained.

Beemer. Post office established April 16, 1884; name changed to Vickory August 4, 1884. Origin of the name has not been learned.

Brunswick. Peak population (1930), 362. Post office name changed from Clear Spring August 15, 1890. Named for Brunswick, Germany (world center for sugar beet seed), by Henry Nagle, settler who grew beets from imported seed.

Burnett. Post office established January 20, 1880; name changed to Tilden and office moved to Madison County, April 8, 1887. Named to honor a Mr. Burnett, first superintendent of the Sioux City and Pacific railroad, now the Chicago North Western.

Chicago. Post office established April 17, 1888; discontinued July 13, 1888. Named for Chicago, Illinois.

Clear Spring. Post office established December 16, 1877; name changed to Brunswick August 15, 1890. Named for the springs on Clearwater Creek. Office located at home of J. A. Douglas.

Clearwater. Peak population (1940), 568. Post office name changed from Antelope July 22, 1881. Town takes its name from the creek on which it is located.

Clyde. Post office established February 20, 1874; discontinued April 5, 1876. Origin of the name has not been ascertained.

Copenhagen. The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad named this railroad station and elevator siding for Copenhagen, Denmark. Many area settlers formerly lived in Denmark.

Cyrus. Post office established August 4, 1882; discontinued April 6, 1883. Named in honor of Cyrus Grant, first postmaster.

Elgin. Peak population (1930), 917. Post office established May 18, 1887. Named for Elgin, Illinois, and platted by Western Town Lot Company. Farmer William Eggleston desired a post office in his home and asked, as postmaster, that it be named in his honor but was refused. Postmaster E. Gailey of Oakdale picked from the Illinois post office guide Elgin, and it was accepted by the post office department.

Frenchtown. Peak population (1890), 100. Post office established April 25, 1872; discontinued May 31, 1890. Named for the French settlers who located here.

Gillespie. Post office established January 30, 1872; discontinued August 31, 1874. Named in honor of James M. Gillespie, first postmaster, who had the office in his grocery.

Glenalpine. Post office established May 25, 1882; discontinued February 16, 1905. Formerly located in a hilly, picturesque locality, near the headwaters of a branch of the Verdigris River. First settlement made here in 1876.

Glenaro. Post office established February 7, 1877; discontinued April 4, 1878. Origin of the name has not been learned.

Glendale. Post office established May 28, 1887; discontinued November 30, 1888. Name signifies a narrow, secluded valley.

Griffith. Post office established May 27, 1887; discontinued 1888. Named in honor of Isaac Griffith, first postmaster.

Hering's Mill was named for Julius Hering, native of Germany who located a mill on the headwaters of the Verdigris, 4½ miles northeast of present-day Orchard. The mill continued until 1929; it served a large area and had a high reputation for the quality of flour and meal.

Hord Siding. This railroad siding was probably an elevator site on the Chicago and North Western railroad. May have been named for a Mr. Hord, who had a chain of elevators in Nebraska.

Jessup. Post office established June 16, 1877; discontinued March 15, 1905. Probably named in honor of Iowa State Senator Elias Jessup of Hardin County.

Mars. Located partly in Antelope County, while the post office was in Knox County. (See note on Knox County.)

Mentorville. Post office established June 30, 1882; discontinued March 11, 1903. Name origin has not been ascertained.

Neligh. Peak population (1950), 1822. Post office established June 3, 1873. Named in honor of early settler John D. Neligh of West Point, who bought the land on which the town is located. William B. Lambert suggested the name. Surveyed and platted by Niels Larsen, Cuming County surveyor. United States Land Office located here in the 1870's. Flour mills erected on the Elkhorn River in 1874. Neligh won county seat in election with Oakdale in 1883.

Oakdale. Peak population (1920), 707. Post office name changed from Twin Grove August 23, 1872. Located on the south bank of Cedar Creek and named for the presence of oak timber along the stream. Platted by J. G. Taylor, Oakdale was made the first county seat in 1872, and lost to Neligh in 1883. A cattle and grain shipping center in the 1880's and the headquarters for several freighting outfits.

Ogden. Post office established January 15, 1875; moved to Madison County April 8, 1878. Probably named for a local settler or for Ogden, Utah.

Orchard. Peak population (1910), 532. Post office established July 1, 1881. Named by D.L. Cramer, first postmaster, for an extensive apple orchard set out in the vicinity.

Royal. Peak population (1910), 250. Post office name changed from Savage July 15, 1881. Name changed from Savage to Royal to honor Royal Thayer, prominent Nebraskan.

Ryedale. Post office established August 27, 1886; discontinued May 13, 1887. Origin of the name has not been learned.

St. Clair. Post office established August 20, 1877; discontinued January 23, 1904. Named in honor of George St. Clair, who made the first pre-emption claim in Antelope County.

Savage. Post office established October 29, 1880; name changed to Royal July 15, 1881. Named for a Sioux City, Iowa, physician, who promised to build a school in any town named for him along the railroad. Mr. Bear, a local minister, objected to his Sunday School being called the Savage Sunday School, and since Dr. Savage didn't fulfill his agreement, the town changed the name to Royal.

Strickland. Post office established July 14, 1880; discontinued September 1, 1881. Probably named for a local settler.

Swan. Post office established January 11, 1886; discontinued August 20, 1886. Probably named in honor of Thomas Swan, first postmaster.

Twin Grove. Post office established May 9, 1871; named for two similar groups of trees, it became Oakdale August 23, 1872.

Vickory. Post office name changed from Beemer August 4, 1884; discontinued October 7, 1890. Named in honor of William Vickory, first postmaster.

Vilas. Locality probably named for Vilas, Michigan.

Vim. Post office established January 7, 1886; discontinued December 31, 1912. Named for the energy, spirit, and vigor of the settlers.

Willowdale. Post office established October 28, 1874; discontinued March 31, 1904. Named for its site on Willow Creek. Post office was located at the store of E. W. Waterman.

ARTHUR COUNTY

Named in honor of President Chester A. Arthur, 1881-1885. Approved by an act of the Legislature March 31, 1887. Created from part of McPherson County, but events leading to county formation were unsuccessful until June 7, 1913. County then recognized by Governor John H. Morehead and the Legislature.

Arthur. Peak population (1960), 165. Post office established January 31, 1914. Named for the county, and made county seat at time of county formation. Some people lived in tents during the building of the town in 1913. First courthouse in a shack; permanent courthouse, erected August 21, 1914, said to be the smallest in the United States—26 x 28 foot frame building now used as museum. New courthouse erected December 30, 1961.

Braden. Post office established November 6, 1915; rescinded June 23, 1916. Honors Alfred Braden, an early settler, and his daughter, Mrs. Rhoda E. Twidwell, first postmistress.

Bucktail. Peak population (1940), 20. Post office name changed from Cullinan, June 29, 1916. Made rural station of Paxton, Keith County, in 1960. Named for deer and antelope in the vicinity. Buckingham, former name of Mrs. Bert Wakeman, was recommended to the U.S. Post Office Department which considered it impractical, and Bucktail was selected. Town formerly called Cullinan, but after removal 5 miles east on Bucktail Lake, was given present name.

Calora. Post office established August 19, 1912; discontinued 1953. The postmaster and his wife, Carl and Aura Crouse, wanted this office called Carloura, a combination of their first names. The post office department coined the name Calora.

Carman. Post office established March 11, 1916; discontinued 1947. Named in honor of the Reverend M.B. Carman, a Methodist minister.

Clenard. Post office established November 6, 1915, rescinded June 23, 1916. Name unrevealed, but thought to be a local resident's first or last name. The office was never really in operation. Postmaster was Otis B. McLaughlin.

Collins. Post office established June 30, 1909, discontinued March 30, 1929. Collins was one of three names suggested by citizens and selected by P.O. Department. One of the former postmasters was Charles J. Collins. Post office located in a sod house.

Cullinan. Post office established March 11, 1916. Name changed to Bucktail after removal 5 miles east, June 29, 1916. Office named in honor of George F. and Harry Cullinan, ranchers and mercantile store owners. George later became the first Arthur County clerk.

Edward. Post office established May 1, 1915, when moved from Garden County; discontinued June 30, 1919. Named in honor of Edward Fiesterman; Susan Fiesterman was first postmistress.

Fora. Post office established December 27, 1915; discontinued 1933. Named for the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Brotherton. William Brotherton was first postmaster.

Glenrose. Post office established December 28, 1906; discontinued February 28, 1925. Named by C.E. Phillips, local resident, for the wild roses in a nearby valley.

Hillside. Post office established March 5, 1908; discontinued 1934. Named by its first postmistress, Lillie M. Grimshaw, for its location on the side of a hill.

Lena. Post office established April 25, 1891; discontinued 1961. Oldest post office in Arthur County. One source says the office named for Mrs. Lena Fellows, postmistress, but U.S. Post Office records do not list her. Another source says office was named for Miss Lena Keyes, first school teacher in the vicinity.

Melrose. Post office established June 10, 1916; discontinued 1939. Named for the abundance of roses in the vicinity by Mrs. Nettie Hart, first postmistress.

Read. Post office established April 13, 1908; discontinued September 1, 1916. Named to honor Henry B. Read, one of the early ranchmen. Office probably located in a store.

Rice. Post office moved February 7, 1910 from Keith County; discontinued 1933. Named in honor of Dr. Clinton S. Rice, an early settler in this part of the state.

Velma. Post office established May 4, 1917 when moved from Garden County; discontinued 1943. Named to honor the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Redlinger, Henry Redlinger was first postmaster while office was in Garden County.

Willett. Post office established October 28, 1914; discontinued May 31, 1930. Named for Willett, New York, former home of Charles F. Rose, first postmaster. Office located in his store.

Zella. Post office established here June 1, 1915 when moved from Keith County; discontinued July 31, 1920. Named for the first postmaster's wife, Mrs. Edmund Stone.

BANNER COUNTY

Created by legislative enactment November 6, 1888. Previously part of Cheyenne County, it was named by enthusiastic citizens who wished to make it the "banner county" of the state. G. L. Shumway, deputy secretary of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, helped promote the idea.

Ashford. Census not available. Post office established October, 1887; discontinued July 24, 1902. Former town named for William Ashford, who located on Pumpkin Creek in 1885 on the stage road. Named first county seat of Banner County on January 25, 1889, it lost an election to Harrisburg for county seat on May 22, 1889.

Banner. Census not available. Post office established May 15, 1888; discontinued April 6, 1894. Former town named for the county by a Mr. Robinson and Ebenezer Wells, first postmaster. Banner vied with Freeport, Ashford, and Harrisburg in the county seat election of May 22, 1889.

Bighorn. Post office established April 26, 1912; discontinued August 6, 1914. Mrs. Hope Brown, postmistress and proprietor of the Bighorn Ranch near Table Mountain and Bighorn Mountain, and the state Grangers living in this area recorded the presence of bighorn sheep, which inspired the name.

Centropolis. Post office name changed from Randall February 1, 1889; changed to Harrisburg May 29, 1889. Called Centropolis because it was in the center of the county. Probably named by a Mr. Schooley, who owned the town site, or by his nephew, C. H. Randall.

Clyde. Post office established September 28, 1888; discontinued May 1, 1895. Office probably named for local resident. First postmaster was William Lowman.

Epworth. Post office established January 25, 1906; discontinued October 15, 1918. Probably a Methodist community which used the name Epworth in youth meetings. Possibly named by Erastus and Elizabeth Cox who had the post office.

Flowerfield. Post office established May 15, 1912; discontinued 1937. Former post office located on high table land which at the time of its settlement in the 1880's was covered with wild flowers. A homesteader chose the name, which was approved by the U.S. Post Office Department.

Freeport. Peak population (1890), 10. Post office established August 6, 1887; discontinued July 31, 1911. Elisha M. Cowen, first postmaster, named this former town for Freeport, Illinois, his former home.

Gary. Post office established June 22, 1897; discontinued October 31, 1921. Named to honor James A. Gary, postmaster general in President William McKinley's Cabinet. Post office established by William Reep, first postmaster.

Harrisburg. Peak population (1920), 140. Post office name changed from Centropolis May 29, 1889. Named for Harrisburg, Pennsylvania by C. A. Schooley, early settler from Pennsylvania. Harrisburg won county seat in election over Ashford, Freeport, and Banner May 22, 1889. Centropolis was just south of Harrisburg. C. H. Randall had town

platted on his land just north of his uncle's (C. A. Schooley) place. H. R. Stevens drew plans for the courthouse. Harrisburg, once declining because of droughts and economic setbacks, today promises a comeback; it is in an oil-producing region.

Heath. Post office established January 25, 1890; discontinued December 21, 1917. Derives its name from an early Scotch settler named McLatchky.

Hull. Peak population (1890), 15. Post office established February 26, 1887; discontinued 1930. Former hamlet named for Postmaster Albert B. Hull, an early settler who had a store with the post office.

Kirk. Post office established August 27, 1890; discontinued May 15, 1929. Former post office named for an early settler, A. O. Kirk. His wife was the first postmistress.

Livingston. Post office established June 23, 1886; discontinued October 30, 1890. Named in honor of Lee D. Livingston, ranchman, whose wife Margaretta was the first postmistress. First post office in Banner County.

Loralne. Post office established May 16, 1888; discontinued May 18, 1895. Named for the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Edwards. He was the first postmaster and an early ranchman.

Myra. Post office established June 15, 1895; discontinued March 16, 1896. Origin of the name has not been learned. First postmaster was William Wisroth.

Randall. Post office established February 26, 1887. Name changed to Centropolis February 1, 1889. Former office named for C. H. Randall, who owned the site and later became congressman from Los Angeles County, California.

Rhold. Post office established May 9, 1888; rescinded June 1, 1888. Origin of the name has not been ascertained.

Van. Post office established February 27, 1907; discontinued May 15, 1912. Named in honor of Thomas A. VanPelt, the first postmaster, whose office was established at his ranch home. Mr. VanPelt later served as treasurer of Banner County.

Vinlon. Post office established March 17, 1899; rescinded May 24, 1899. Origin of the name has not been ascertained.

BLAINE COUNTY

Boundaries were defined by an act of the Legislature approved March 5, 1885. The county was named in honor of James G. Blaine (1830-1893), American statesman and 1884 presidential candidate.

Blaine. The locality never had a post office but was named for the county. Located 3½ miles west of Brewster, it had a short existence.

Blaine Center never had a post office but was located 1½ miles west of Brewster. Vied for county seat with Ladora and Brewster in November 23, 1886, election.

Brewster. Peak population (1930), 287. Post office established September 18, 1884. Town possibly named for early pioneer and Civil War veteran, George Washington Brewster, who came from Oakland, Nebraska, and erected several buildings, including a large hotel. A Republican, he was responsible for the county being named Blaine. A newspaper editor with interest in the town's progress, he boomed Brewster for the state capital because of its central location. Another source reports that the town was named for Elder Brewster of Mayflower fame. Brewster and Blaine Center lost a county seat election on November 6, 1886, with Ladora, which retained the county seat until another election in November, 1887. In January, 1888, Brewster became the permanent county seat. Most of the buildings in Ladora were dismantled and moved here. Town incorporated, 1947.

Cooper. Post office established January 26, 1906; discontinued February 15, 1914. Named in honor of Gilbert Cooper, first postmaster, on whose premises the post office was established.

Dunning. Peak population (1910), 450. Post office established June 10, 1887. Named in honor of R.A. and Sam Dunning, brothers. Platted by Lincoln Land Company after railroad built through here. Community of Lena, a short distance away, discontinued.

Edbell. The Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad built and named this former railroad station for Ed W. Bell, master carpenter of the Alliance Division of the line.

Edith. Post office established January 26, 1885, discontinued 1919. Named for Edith Valley, which in turn was named for Edith Randolph, daughter of a resident minister.

Frank. Post office established May 13, 1907; discontinued January 31, 1920. Named for Frank Thompson in whose residence post office was established. His wife was first postmistress.

Giles. Post office established January 8, 1896. Moved to Brown County February 9, 1907. Named in honor of George Giles, early settler and Civil War veteran.

Goldville. Post office established April 23, 1906; discontinued June 17, 1913. Named in honor of W. H. Gould, whose wife was first postmistress. The U.S. Post Office Department omitted the "u" in the name.

Hawley. Post office established June 14, 1880; discontinued December 29, 1884. Named for a Mrs. Northup, first postmistress, whose maiden name was Holley. An error by the U.S. Post Office Department caused the name to be called Hawley.

Kaiser. Post office established May 3, 1906; rescinded August 6, 1906. Named in honor of Louis Kaiser, first postmaster.

Ladora. Post office established June 10, 1884; discontinued and moved to Brewster September 18, 1884. Former county seat probably named for Ladora, Iowa, by E. W. Rankin. Made county seat November 23, 1886, Ladora lost it in election with Brewster in January, 1888. After the election, townspeople either moved their buildings to Brewster or tore them down.

Lena. Located near Dunning, but was moved to Custer County after Dunning was founded and railroad established.

Linscott. Post office established November 30, 1887; discontinued November 14, 1921. Named in honor of two brothers, John H. and Charles Linscott, by Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad officials.

Lucy. Post office established January 18, 1905; discontinued June 15, 1915. Named for the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Martin. Mrs. Martin was first postmistress.

Pritchard. Post office established April 26, 1905; discontinued January 15, 1914. Probably named for Laura E. Pritchard, first postmistress.

Purdum. Peak population (1940) 36. Post office moved from Thomas County March 24, 1884. Named either in honor of John Purdum, early settler, or George F. Purdum.

Rankin. Post office established March 21, 1908; discontinued September 14, 1912. Named in honor of E. W. Rankin, early settler.

Scheding. Post office established August 31, 1907; discontinued November 30, 1919. Named in honor of a Mr. Scheding, German Lutheran minister. Also known as German Valley.

Valley Ridge. Community located near Dunning. Probably named for topographic characteristic.

BOONE COUNTY

Named in honor of Daniel Boone, noted hunter and Kentucky pioneer. Organized by legislative enactment March 28, 1871.

Akron. Peak population (1900), 27. Post office established February 2, 1881; discontinued November 21, 1905. Present railroad siding and former hamlet named by U.S. Post Office Department, probably for Akron, Ohio.

Albion. Peak population (1940), 2,268. Post office name changed from Hammond July 3, 1883. Named for Albion, Michigan. County seat located here February 25, 1873. Town platted by first postmaster, Loran Clark, on his land and surveyed by George W. Newberry.

Arden. Post office established June 15, 1881. Moved to Wheeler County May 15, 1918. Probably named for the English forest of Arden.

Beaver. Post office established March 28, 1870. Name changed to Waterville February 2, 1874. Named for its location on Beaver Creek, known for the presence of beaver.

Boone. Peak population (1930), 126. Post office established January 28, 1872. Town named for the county by M. E. Stevens.

Bradish. Peak population (1910 and 1930), 53. Post office established January 11, 1888; discontinued 1945. Site of this former town chosen by man from Chicago, Illinois. Town platted by Pioneer Town Site Company in 1888. Named in honor of George Bradish, engineer in charge of railroad construction.

Cedar Rapids. Peak population (1930), 740. Post office name changed from Dayton July 7, 1882. Named by Adam Smith who platted town on the Cedar River with the construction of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad.

Closter. Post office established February 21, 1880; discontinued January 31, 1917. Named in honor of Henry Closter, who owned the homestead on which the post office was established.

Coon Prairie. Post office established January 31, 1876; discontinued April 6, 1888. Named by Kettler Fumme for Coon Prairie, Wisconsin, where some of the original settlers had resided.

Dahlburg. Post office established February 20, 1895; discontinued August 27, 1898. Probably named for a local settler.

Dayton. Post office established August 17, 1873. Name changed to Cedar Rapids July 7, 1882. Probably named for Dayton, Ohio.

Denison. Post office established May 31, 1890; discontinued March 2, 1901. Origin of the name of this former post office has not been learned. Cities in Iowa and Texas and a college in Ohio are called Denison.

Dublin. Post office established February 11, 1874. Name changed to Primrose February 21, 1903. Irish immigrants who settled here named the town for the capital of Ireland.

Garner. Post office established February 15, 1881. Name changed to Ira June 25, 1890. Named to honor John S. Garner, first postmaster.

Hammond. Post office established December 1, 1871. Name changed to Albion July 3, 1873. Named in honor of John Hammond, early pioneer of Boone County.

Hardy. Probably named for a local settler. Formerly situated near Albion.

Ira. Post office name changed from Garner June 25, 1890; discontinued July 9, 1892. Origin of the name has not been learned.

Loran. Named for Loran Clark, early county settler; changed to Loretto to avoid confusion with another post office with similar name.

Loretto. Peak population (1930), 126. Post office established July 21, 1888. See note on Loran above.

Mauston. Post office established February 16, 1876; discontinued November 30, 1887. Probably named for ex-resident of Mauston, Wisconsin.

Mosside. Post office established June 10, 1880; discontinued November 30, 1887. Origin of the name is unknown.

Myra. Former locality probably named for a wife or daughter of a local settler.

Neoma. Post office established May 31, 1878; discontinued February 1, 1892. Origin of the name has not been learned. First postmaster was Hiram Snider.

Oadlund. Former locality probably named for a local settler or for a place in Sweden.

Olnes. Post office established March 15, 1881; discontinued October 29, 1902. Probably named for the pioneer family of Lars Olnes.

Oxford. Post office established January 8, 1874; discontinued February 15, 1881. Probably named for Oxford University in England or for Oxford, Ohio.

Petersburg. Peak population (1940), 657. Post office established September 20, 1887. Platted by the Pioneer Town Site Company and named in honor of John Peters, who owned the land on which the town is located.

Primrose. Peak population (1930), 210. Post office name changed from Dublin February 21, 1903. Platted on land belonging to David Primrose and named in his honor.

Raeville. Peak population (1960), 100. Post office established January 8, 1874. Believed to have been named for two Rae brothers.

Roselma. Post office established April 6, 1875; discontinued April 6, 1896. Named for the daughter of Mrs. Marion Davis, first postmistress.

Saint Edward. Peak population (1930), 1,029. Post office name changed from Waterville October 5, 1877. Named in honor of Edward Serrels, a Catholic priest who was prominent at Notre Dame University, Indiana. In 1871 A. T. Coquillard of South Bend, Indiana, acquired the land on which the town now stands. He deeded it to the Saint Edward Land and Emigration Company in 1876 and opened the tracts for sale.

Sandalla. Post office established August 21, 1883; discontinued August 2, 1901. Name is probably Swedish in origin.

Waterville. Post office name changed from Beaver February 2, 1874. Name changed to Saint Edward October 5, 1877. Probably named for the stream on which it is located.

BOX BUTTE COUNTY

Formed from southern part of Dawes County by vote on November 2, 1886. The county was named for a large box-shaped or rectangular butte located about 6 miles north of Alliance.

Afton. Post office established September 10, 1906; discontinued May 31, 1907. Probably named for a local settler or inspired by Robert Burns' famous poem, "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton."

Alliance. Peak population (1950), 7891. Post office established February 23, 1888. Superintendent G. W. Holdrege of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad named Alliance. He chose it because it was a single word, different from any other town in the state, and because it would be near the top of an alphabetical list of names. The citizens accepted the name and the town was platted by the Lincoln Land Company. Another source says the town was named for Alliance, Ohio. Alliance was made county seat after a March, 1899, election contest with Hemingford. A.U.S. Land Office was located here in the 1890's. Alliance is division headquarters for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad.

Berea. Peak population (1960), 75. Post office established October 30, 1889; discontinued September 24, 1926; mail served from Alliance. Named by early settlers for their former home of Berea, Ohio.

Birdsell. Railroad station named after J. C. Birdsell, popular division superintendent of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad.

Blackroot. Post office established September 15, 1916; discontinued February 28, 1919. Probably named for an herbaceous plant found in the pine barren regions of the Southern states.

Box Butte. Post office established April 10, 1885. Name changed to Marple April 25, 1905. Named for the county of Box Butte.

Buchanan. Renamed Nonpareil by newspaper editor Eugene Heath after a post office was established in 1886.

Burbank. Post office established August 12, 1889. Name changed to Burns July 23, 1900. Origin of the name has not been learned.

Burns. Census not available. Post office name changed from Burbank July 23, 1900; discontinued July 31, 1912. Former hamlet probably named in honor of Jack Burns, the postmaster.

Canton. Peak population (1910), 30. Post office moved from Sioux County December 28, 1891; moved to Sioux County March 10, 1920. Former hamlet probably named for Canton, Ohio.

Carlyle. Post office established January 20, 1886. Moved to Hemingford September 20, 1887. Probably named in honor of Thomas Carlyle, a Scottish essayist-historian. Post office was located at the homestead of postmaster Frederick W. Milck. Located 4 miles east of Hemingford.

Carpenter. Post office established November 13, 1889; discontinued November 30, 1900. Probably named in honor of Dennis Carpenter, first postmaster.

Corbin. Post office established December 13, 1880; discontinued September 12, 1889. Probably named in honor of General Henry Corbin, whom Robert Gregg, the postmaster, admired.

Dorsey. Former station on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad probably named in honor of Nebraska Congressman George W. E. Dorsey from the 3rd District.

Fleming. Post office established April 28, 1887; discontinued October 30, 1889. Origin of the name has not been learned.

Fowling. Post office established October 13, 1920; discontinued 1934. Named for a friend of Nels Peterson.

Girard. Station on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad probably named for Girard, Ohio.

Grand Lake. Name proposed for Alliance, but postal authorities thought it might be confused with Grand Island, Nebraska.

Gregg. Post office established February 21, 1890; discontinued August 11, 1893. Named in honor of Robert Gregg, first postmaster.

Hashman. Post office established September 10, 1906; discontinued January 31, 1913. Named in honor of Alvin Hashman, first postmaster.

Hemingford. Peak population (1930), 1,025. Post office established September 20, 1887. Named for Hemmingford, Ontario, Canada, by former resident Joseph Hare. Post office department omitted one "m" in the name. Hemmingford won county seat election with Nonpareil in 1891 and then lost to Alliance in 1899.

Kelley. Post office established May 1, 1888; discontinued July 7, 1888. Origin of the name has not been learned.

Lawn. Peak population (1890), 10. Post office moved from Dawes County August 20, 1886; discontinued April 22, 1907. Origin of the name of this former hamlet, first called Sodville, has not been learned.

Letan. Station on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad near the Morrill County line.

Libby. Post office established January 18, 1888; discontinued September 6, 1894. Probably named in honor of Samuel Libby, first postmaster.

Mallinda. Post office established February 21, 1890. Moved to Sioux County June 16, 1910. First postmaster was Oren Shafter. One source says the place was named for Shafter's mother and another that it was named for his wife.

Marple. Post office name changed from Box Butte April 25, 1905. Moved to Sheridan County August 23, 1908. One source says town named for a man who owned a skinning station. Another source says it was named for W. W. Marple of Beatrice, who opened a cream station here.

Nonpareil. Peak population (1890), 50. Post office established July 10, 1886; discontinued 1947. Former town and present station on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad named by Eugene Heath for nonpareil or 6-point size of type (1/12th of an inch), used for his newspaper. Nonpareil was made county seat on formation of the county, then lost the county seat in election with Hemmingford in 1891. Called Buchanan before a post office was established.

Nye. Station named by officials of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad.

Quiz. Former station on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. Name probably chosen for brevity.

Reed. Post office established July 12, 1887; discontinued February 23, 1888. Probably named for Delbert S. Reed, one of the first county commissioners.

Sodville. Name mentioned for the Lawn post office.

Willey. Post office established March 27, 1895; discontinued July 14, 1900. Named in honor of George E. Willey, first postmaster.

Yale. Former station on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad named by railway officials for the shortness of name.