



Nebraska History posts materials online for your personal use. Please remember that the contents of *Nebraska History* are copyrighted by the Nebraska State Historical Society (except for materials credited to other institutions). The NSHS retains its copyrights even to materials it posts on the web.

For permission to re-use materials or for photo ordering information, please see:

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/magazine/permission.htm>

Nebraska State Historical Society members receive four issues of *Nebraska History* and four issues of *Nebraska History News* annually. For membership information, see:

<http://nebraskahistory.org/admin/members/index.htm>

Article Title: Minutes of Vigilance Committee, Florence, Nebraska, May 29-July 30, 1857

Full Citation: Charles W Shull, "Minutes of Vigilance Committee, Florence, Nebraska, May 29-July 30, 1857," *Nebraska History* 58 (1977): 73-87.

URL of article: <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH1977Vigilance.pdf>

Date: 1/15/2014

Article Summary: While there does not seem to be a clear, compelling explanation for the creation of a vigilance committee in Florence, the author discusses possible explanations for its existence and presents the 14 pages of the minutes.

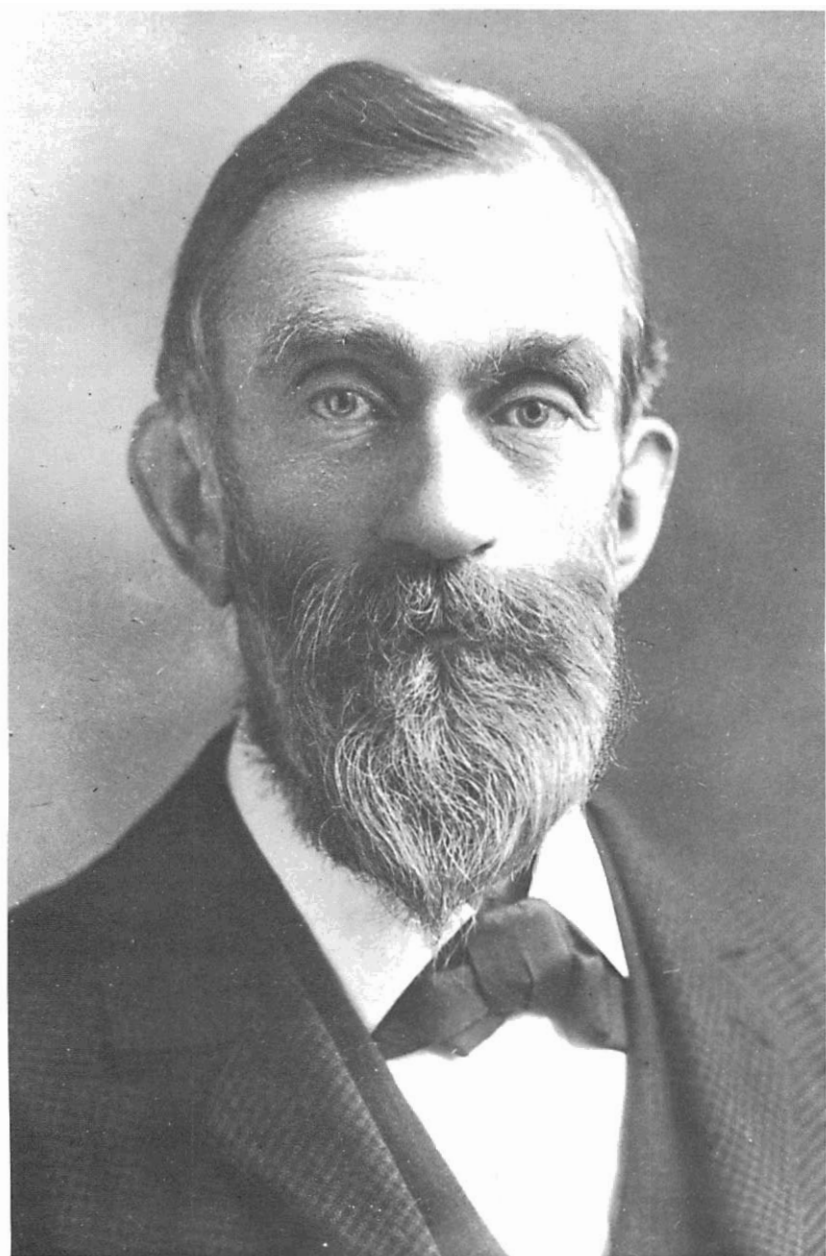
Cataloging Information:

Names: Henry Martyn Pomeroy, Augustus Pomeroy, Susan Lincoln Pomeroy, Ira I Fenn, Mrs Everett Kelley, Margaret Crawford Hawley, Florence Pomeroy Raab, Margaret Pomeroy, Frances M Mills, James C Mitchell, O B Selden, G H McLean, Mr Lamson, Mr Forgey, Mr Riordan, J E North, W J Graham, Dr Harsh, Mr Thorington, Mr D Downs, W M Seaton, R W Steele, W I Graham, J E North, Mr Hooper, Mr Patrick, Mr Thompson, Thomas Keeler, James Kinsley, James A Jones, Captain Kennedy, W J Baugh, A J Smith, Edward Goodrich, Alex Hunter, L R Butler, Mr Keeler, G H McLean, George Howe, A Graeter, W M Seaton, Hugh McCort, E P Brewster, Samuel Forgey, H S Rummels, H D Franklin

The lists of names included in the minutes are included here, as the attendance of every meeting was recorded within the minutes. Please search the original text of the article for such names.

Keywords: Dr Jackson's Glenn Haven water cure; Florence Vigilance Committee; *Lacon Home Journal*; "An Old stager"; "John Singleton Copley"

Photographs / Images: Henry Martyn Pomeroy, 1899; Mormon carts, northeast corner of 14th and Douglas, Omaha, about 1860; Florence, Nebraska Territory, 1858



*Henry Martyn Pomeroy, February 1, 1899, San Francisco, California.
(Courtesy of California State Library.)*

MINUTES OF VIGILANCE COMMITTEE, FLORENCE, NEBRASKA, MAY 29-JULY 30, 1857

Edited by Charles W. Shull

Florence, Nebraska, has ceased to exist independently. By annexation it has become part of its much larger counterpart, Omaha. Situated in northeastern Douglas County, Florence had the distinction of being the site of the first white settlement within that county. As early as January, 1846, the Mormons fleeing across Iowa from riot and disaster at Nauvoo, Illinois, crossed the wide Missouri River and began a settlement at the site of Florence, which they called their Winter Quarters.

The period of prominence, or notoriety, of Winter Quarters came substantially to an end within two or three years—by the advent of the 1850's. Resettlement on a more permanent basis was yet to come. A new or second settlement came in 1853. By 1856 there was a rush of people to and through Florence, westward bound. Life was hectic as in all boom towns like Florence. Seeking to rival or outdo Omaha, striving to live down its questionable reputation as the Winter Quarters of the out-of-favor Mormons, suffering all the woes of a frontier town in territory torn by fury and furor over the Kansas-Nebraska bills, life must indeed have been wild, contentious, and tense in the newly created town of Florence.¹

There does not seem to be a clear, compelling explanation for the creation of a vigilance committee in Florence.² This should not imply its creation to be an act of folly. Conditions were turbulent and changing. Action seemed to be demanded. What is curious is that a vigilance committee as such was brought into existence. As phenomena of American community life, vigilance committees have occurred most frequently in either of two

periods and peculiarly in places with somewhat similar circumstances: in California in the 1850's immediately after the gold rush of the Forty-niners; and in Montana in the late 1860's and early 1870's following the gold strikes there. Florence, Nebraska, was certainly not the center of a gold mining area, and the establishment of the Florence Vigilance Committee occurs in an interval between the periods of utilization of vigilance committees to preserve law and order.

Pertinent is the story of the minutes themselves and their preservation. These minutes were found in a large, bound volume meant primarily for measuring accounts, 7 inches by 11 inches. There is no separate title for the minutes. The frontispiece of the book states simply, "H. M. Pomeroy, Florence, Nebraska, Ty." Originally the date was given as May, 1857. The minutes fill only 14 pages of this large volume and cover the period from May 29 to July 30, 1857. Who was the keeper of these minutes, Henry M. Pomeroy? Son of the Reverend Augustus Pomeroy, Sr., and Susan Lincoln Pomeroy, Henry Pomeroy was born in Gallipolis, Ohio, on April 1, 1830. His father, an ordained Presbyterian pastor and evangelist, traveled widely and lived in many places. In 1836, Pomeroy, his wife, and relatives settled in Lacon, Illinois, after purchasing half of the Lacon township. About half the colony were inter-married. Ira I. Fenn, a relative by marriage, was a lawyer for the colony, Pomeroy was the clergyman, and Fenn and Howe formed a partnership to build a general store in 1836. An academy to educate the 60 to 70 children was founded in 1837, and both Henry and his half brother, Augustus, Jr., were pupils. While Henry was in Lacon, he worked after school as a clerk in his relatives' store.

In 1839 Henry's father Augustus Pomeroy and his family returned to Ohio. Pomeroy states in the frontispiece of the family Bible (now in possession of his granddaughter, Mrs. Everett Kelley) that the Bible was given to him by his father in Piqua, Ohio, in 1840. One mystery revealed by the Bible's family records is that Mrs. Pomeroy and at least Henry returned to Lacon in 1844. Mrs. Pomeroy then died in Lacon, though apparently the family did not resettle there. Henry's father next married Margaret Crawford Hawley in Rochester, New York, in 1845. According to Pomeroy's daughters, Florence and Margaret, the family lived in New York state thereafter.

Henry contracted tuberculosis, then most often called consumption, and in July, 1853, took Dr. Jackson's Glenn Haven water cure, possibly near Albany, New York. He stayed there six months and became an advocate of natural foods and naturopathic methods of treatment of illness. However, he continued frail, was always thin, and because of his small stature—5 feet, 3 inches—he found physical labor difficult.

In 1857 he settled in the Middle West, presumably for his health. It is not clear why Pomeroy chose Florence or how he supported himself while a resident there. He was at the organizational meeting of the Florence Vigilance Committee, and, presumably, was named secretary, because he was hardly lusty enough to be an avenging fury. He tutored children of a wealthy farmer in 1858-1859.

In 1859 his father, though poor, somehow found the money to send him on a trip to California, hoping he would recover from tuberculosis. His diary states that his father sent him \$70; and his overland journey diary—in the same volume as the vigilance committee minutes—mentions other letters, which presumably also included gifts of money.

Traveling from place to place, particularly in the pioneer West, proved to his liking. In 1871 he met his future wife, Frances M. Mills, in Denver, where they were both selling books. He stayed for a while in Adrian, Michigan, the home town of his wife, but he soon returned to selling books and to bartering in western towns.

Pomeroy evidently felt he had an important document in his account of the overland journey because he was so careful to indicate the road conditions, the weather, and the availability of grass for the animals. The journal may have influenced his thinking and viewpoint. He thereafter wrote for the *Lacon Home Journal*, a weekly newspaper, using the pen names of "An Old Stager" and "John Singleton Copley," a well-known artist of the Revolutionary War period. When Pomeroy died in Oakland, California, in 1916, his diary was given to his daughters, Florence Pomeroy Raab and Margaret Pomeroy. During their lifetimes it rested, wrapped in brown paper, in a storage trunk in Florence Raab's possession. Upon his daughter's death, it was inherited by Mrs. Everett Kelley,³ Pomeroy's granddaughter, who deposited it with the California State Historical Library. The Nebraska State Historical Collection has a xeroxed copy of the

diary, including the minutes of the Florence Vigilance Committee, which are being published here for the first time, edited for clarity only.—Charles W. Shull.

MINUTES OF THE VIGILANCE COMMITTEE FLORENCE, NEBRASKA

May 29, 1857

A number of the citizens of Florence having convened together for the purpose of considering the best means to be adopted which shall insure the best good of the community in which we live and enlarge unanimously adopted this compact, to wit. We whose names are here enrolled do promise and agree to act as the Vigilance Committee for the city of Florence, the object of which is the promotion of the peace and happiness of the community at large, and we promise to obey the summons of the Captain, and any and all things for the promotion of the general welfare of the Country [the persons signing each signed with his own signature].⁴

James C. Mitchell
O. B. Selden
G. H. McLean
H. M. Pomeroy
A. B. Dawkins
A. Graeter, Jr.
Jas. E. North
T. B. Selden
D. G. Selden
Hugh McCort
Alexr. Hunter
L. R. Butler
W. J. Baugh
Geo. F. Kennedy
Samuel Forgey
Rich. C. H. See
Jas. M. Pyper
Nelson Libby

Horace May
A. J. Smith
Chas. C. Cunningham
George G. Vansant
George Driver
A. J. Arnold
John A. Hall
Ed Goodrich
James Gaston
Charles Burdick
J. H. Dudley
J. M. Mentzer
Geo. Howe
Henry G. Rummels
Henry D. Franklin
Freeling Frenner
Charles Goodrich

On motion Jas. C. Mitchell Esq. was chosen Captain of the Vigilance Committee, O. B. Selden First Lieutenant, G. H.

McLean Second Lieutenant. On motion adjourned to meet on call.

H. M. Pomeroy
Secretary

James C. Mitchell
Captain

Florence, June 10, 1857

Committee met as per notice given. The following persons being present were admitted as members by general consent and enrolled their names accordingly. Viz.

Levi Harsh
John H. Thorington
Richard H. See
George Driver
George F. Kennedy

W. I. Baugh
Jas. E. North
Nelson Libby
Geo. Sinclair

The following persons were then proposed for membership and admitted without dissent. Viz.

B. V. Springer
I. M. Kimball
T. B. Selden
A. J. Smith
John H. Brackin
A. F. Heath
A. B. Malcolm
A. B. Dawkins
Charles L. Fawcett

Charles Burdick
Hugh McCourt
A. C. Piper
Saml. Alling
L. R. Butler
B. P. Knight
Jas. M. Pyper
——— Lamson
A. J. Arnold

In alphabetical order:

H. Davis
A. B. Dawkins
M. D. Downs
R. W. Downs
George Driver
J. H. Dudley
Charles L. Fawcett
Samuel Forgey
Henry D. Franklin
Alexander Hunter
George F. Kennedy
J. M. Kimball

Freeling Freaner [Freiner]
James Gaston
Charles Goodrich
Ed Goodrich
A. Graeter [Grater]
W. J. Graham [Dr.]
John Levi Harsh
A. F. Heath
George Howe
H. C. Reardon
R. W. Roberts
H. S. Rummels

B. P. Knight
 [?] Lamson
 Nelson Libby
 A. B. Malcolm
 Horace May
 Hugh McCort [McCourt]
 G. H. McLean
 J. M. Mentzer
 James C. Mitchell
 James E. North
 M. D. Rapp

Richard H. See
 D. G. Selden
 O. B. Selden
 T. B. Selden
 George Sinclair
 A. J. Smith
 S. P. Sperry
 B. V. Springer
 R. W. Steele
 John H. Thorington
 George Vansant [Van Zant]

Of whom Thirteen of the last names are not yet enrolled as members, having not been present at any meeting of the committee. Viz.

B. V. Springer
 J. M. Kimball
 T. B. Selden
 Saml. Alling
 B. P. Knight
 A. B. Dawkins
 C. L. Fawcett

Charles Burdick
 Hugh McCourt
 A. C. Piper
 J. H. Brackin
 James M. Pyper
 ———— Lamson

There are now 30 members enrolled belonging to the Vigilance Committee.⁵

June 10, Contind. Wednesday Eve.

A matter was brot before the meeting of two individuals having committed outrage and trespass on the property and person of Mr. Lamson. On motion of Mr. Forgey a committee consisting of Messers. O. B. Selden, Thorington & Graeter was appointed to go and bring in the said offenders and also Mr. Lamson the complainant. After a short absence the com[mittee] returned with Mr. H. Leary in custody, not finding the other offenders nor Mr. Lamson. Mr. Leary was then questioned as to his conduct in the affair charged upon him, and after hearing his story, Captain Mitchell gave him some most wholesome, and fatherly exhortation. Wherupon the offender expressing sorrow for what he had done, seeming to be penitent, & promising good behavior, in future, and this being moreover his first offence, he was bidden to depart in peace.



Mormon carts, northeast corner of 14th and Douglas Streets, Omaha, about 1860.

Complaint being made against the various drinking Saloons in the City, on motion of Mr. Riordan, a committee was appointed consisting of Messrs Riordan, Kennedy & P. C. Chapman to call upon the keepers of said Saloons and inform them that they must keep quiet and orderly houses. And if the same is not done to report to the Vigilance Committee. The first named committee was also requested to seek the other offender, who was known as Dutch Charley, and administer such advice as would be likely to prove salutary. On motion, the Captain was instructed to appoint two Doorkeepers for each meeting of the Committee. On motion, it was agreed that the Committee should meet once a week for the present in Mr. Allings new store upstairs, on thursday evenings. Messrs. J. E. North & W. J. Graham, were appointed doorkeepers, for the next meeting on the 18th June '57. On motion the meeting ajourned to meet Thursday evening.

June 18th 1857.
H. M. Pomeroy, Sec.

Thursday Evening, June 18th, 1857.

Committee met Pursuant to ajournment. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Up to this time no secretary had been chosen, but H. M. Pomeroy had acted as such. On motion H. M. Pomeroy was elected Secretary. Captain Mitchell being absent Lieutenant O. B. Selden took the chair in his stead.

On motion of Dr. Harsh, resolved that but one member hereafter be voted in at a time. The following names were then offered for membership and duly elected. Viz.

J. H. Dudley
Geo. Van Zant
C. C. Cunningham
M. D. Downs
Frelin Freiner

J. B. Crow
John L. Harsh
Horace May
R. W. Downs
R. W. Roberts
R. W. Steele

The doorkeepers being both absent A. Graeter was appointed Protom. On motion of Mr. Thorington resolved that no more members be admitted tonight.

The case of Mr. D. Downs Vs W. M. Seaton was then brot up. Mr. Downs the complainant being called on, made his statement. The charge against Seaton was, having struck Downs a severe blow with a spade. Messrs. O. W. Crain and L. P. Sperry were then heard as witnesses. Mr. Seaton then made his statement and acknowledged the charge against him to be correct. He said that he was angry when he struck Downs because Downs had struck his dog. On motion of Mr. Forgey the parties Downs and Seaton were requested to withdraw from the meeting for a short time. After the merits of the case had been discussed pro & con at considerable length, on motion of R. W. Steele, Resolved that Mr. Seaton the offender receive ten lashes upon his bare back and pay Mr. Downs (50) fifty Dollars.

On motion of Dr. Harsh the vote was then reconsidered. After much discussion, on motion of R. W. Steele the original motion was again carried by a large majority, against opposition from a few members. Mr. Seaton was then required to sign three promissory notes, one for \$17 Doll[ar]s, due 20 days from date one for \$(17) dolls, Seventeen Dollars due in 40 days from date & one for \$16, dolls due 60 days from date.

The Secretary was then instructed, on motion, to keep said notes until further notice, in his hands. R. W. Steele was then appointed by the Chief to execute sentence of whipping on Mr. Seaton, against which he remonstrated and was excused by vote of Committee. On motion, Seaton was then blindfolded. The punishment (10) ten stripes was then administered. On motion, Resolved that the proceedings of this meeting be kept entirely secret. Messrs W. I. Graham & J. E. North having been absent,

were appointed door keepers again, to serve at the next meeting. On motion ajourned to meet next thursday evening June 25th 1857.

H. M. Pomeroy, Secretary.

Sunday Evening, June 28th, 1857

Vigilance Committee met by call of the Captain. The occasion of meeting, being a riot, which had occurred at the upper part of town. Messrs. Hooper, Patrick and Thompson, were arrested and brot before the committee, for having taken part in said riot. After a full hearing of their case they were thoroughly admonished by the Captain and dismissed. Messrs Thos. Keeler & Jas. Kinsley were also arrested on charge of having participated in the riot and also of carr[y]ing sling shots and threatening to use the same. Jas. A. Jones was also called, as a witness. No evidence appearing against Keeler and Kinsley as to having carried sling shots, and after receiving good advice from the Chief, were also discharged. On motion of Mr. Forgey the following Resolution was unanimously adopted. Viz.

Resolved, that all Saloon Keepers and all others who sell liquor, shall keep their Bars closed on the Sabbath and shall neither sell nor give away any liquor on that day, Also, neither to sell or give away any liquor at any time to anyone who is drunk or to any habitual drunkard, from and after notice given. The Secretary was then instructed to furnish a copy of the above resolution to all liquor sellers in the City, at an early day. Mr. Vanzant was appointed Doorkeeper, for next meeting insted of W. J. Graham who was excused by the Captain, so that J. E. North & Geo VanZant will be doorkeepers for the next meeting. On motion ajourned to meet next Thursday Eve at 8 1/4 oclk P.M.

H. M. Pomeroy, Secretary

Florence, Thursday Eve., July 2d, 1857

Committee pursuant to ajournment Captain Mitchell in the Chair. The minutes of last meeting were read and approved. The following persons were then proposed and duly elected members of the Florence Vigilance Committee. All enrolled their names thus becoming full members, with the exception of one who was not present, Mr. Mentzer. Viz.

J. M. Mentzer
John A. Hall
Ed. Goodrich

James Gaston
Charles Burdick

Some remarks were then offered by Captain Kennedy, as to the effect of resolution passed at last meeting relative to Saloon Keepers was having on that portion of the community. There was good evidence of some wincing at the requirements of said resolution. The matter was freely discussed by various members and the Chief, and finally a motion offered was unanimously carried to carry out whatever laws the Committee had enacted to the very letter. On motion of A. J. Smith a committee of three were appointed, consisting of himself, Capt. Kennedy & W. J. Baugh to wait upon Mr. M. Solleder and inform him of the determination of the Vigilance Committee. Edward Goodrich & Alex Hunter were appointed Doorkeepers for the next meeting. On motion Capt. Kennedy ajourned to meet next Thursday evening, July the 9th, 1857.

H. M. Pomeroy, Secretary

Florence, Thursday Eve, July 9th, 1857

Vigilance Committee met, Capt. Mitchell in the chair. Minutes of last meeting were read & approved. Geo Howe was then proposed for membership and elected, & being present enrolled his name and became a member of the Committee. A communication was then read by the Secretary, from M. Solleder, Esq. complaining of the conduct of one Thos. Patton towards him. It being known that said Patton was absent from town, on motion of O. B. Selden, the communication was laid upon the table until the return of Mr. Patton shall be ascertained. Another communication was also read from Mr Solleder praying the Vigilance Committee to allow him to sell liquor on the sabbath excepting the hours from 9 o'clk a.m. to 12 [a.]m. After the expression of various minds & some discussion as to the last communication, on motion it was laid on the table.

Mr. L. R. Butler then said, he had understood, that old Mr. Keeler had been appropriating some of his wood, but as he was able then to present no positive evidence that such was the case, a committee of three consisting of Messrs G. H. McLean, Geo. Howe & A. Graeter was appointed to investigate the matter & report at the next meeting.

O. B. Selden, Esq. then offered a plea in behalf of Mr. W. M. Seaton who desired him to ask the Com[mittee] to release him from the payment of two notes one for \$16.00 & one for \$17.00, which Seaton had given in favor of M. D. Downs at the insistence

of the Com. as a punishment for striking Downs. After the matter was fully discussed, on motion of G. H. McLean, the secretary was instructed to give up the said notes to Mr. Seaton, and the Committee to assume the responsibility of satisfying Mr Downs as to such action on their part. Captain Mitchell then admonished, Hugh McCort Esq. for having been engaged in the riot which occurred at Lucas Store one week ago last Sunday night,—Mr. McCort offered an apology to the Com. which, on motion of Captain Kennedy, was accepted and McCort again to be considered a member in good standing in the Com. On motion of Geo. Howe a fine of 25 cents was voted to be imposed upon all members who shall be absent when the roll shall be called at any regular meeting of the company and any doorkeeper who is absent shall be fined 50 cents for each absence, in all cases unless a *good* excuse can be given for the same.

On motion of G. H. McLean Geo Howe was chosen collector & treasurer E. P. Brewster & Saml Forgey were appointed doorkeepers for the next meeting. On motion adjourned to meet next Thursday evening July 16th, 1857.

H. M. Pomeroy, Sec.

Thursday Eve. July 16th, 1857

Com[mittee] met & Captain Mitchell & both Lieutenants being absent Mr. Bracken was called to the Chair. The minutes of last meeting were read & approved. The Roll was then called and the following members were absent. Viz.

Jas. C. Mitchell
O. B. Selden
G. H. McLean
A. B. Dawkins
T. B. Selden
D. G. Selden
L. R. Butler
W. J. Graham
W. J. Baugh
Geo. F. Kennedy
E. P. Brewster
H. Davis
H. C. Riorden

S. P. Davis
Levi Harsh
J. H. Thorington
Geo. Sinclair
A. J. Smith
A. F. Heath
A. B. Malcolm
J. B. Crow
A. J. Arnold
J. M. Kimball
R. W. Roberts
L. P. Sperry
R. H. Steele

J. M. Mentzer
J. H. Dudley
Saml. Alling

Jas. Gaston
Charles Burdick
Geo. Howe

H. S. Rummels & H. D. Franklin were then admitted as members.

The Committee on the case of old Mr. Keeler, were called on for a report. Their chairman being absent they did not report & were continued for one week. Mr Howe asked to be excused from the Committee which was granted on motion & F. Friener appointed to take his place. On motion of Jas. North the constitution was read. On motion of Geo. Howe 8. o'clk was the hour chosen for meetings of the Committee to begin hereafter. Horace May & T. B. Selden were appointed Doorkeepers for the next meeting. On motion adjourned to meet next Thursday evening at 8. o'clk.

H. M. Pomeroy, Sec.

Thursday Evening, July 23d, 1857

Committee met, Capt. Mitchell in the Chair. Upon the Roll being called the following members were absent. Viz.

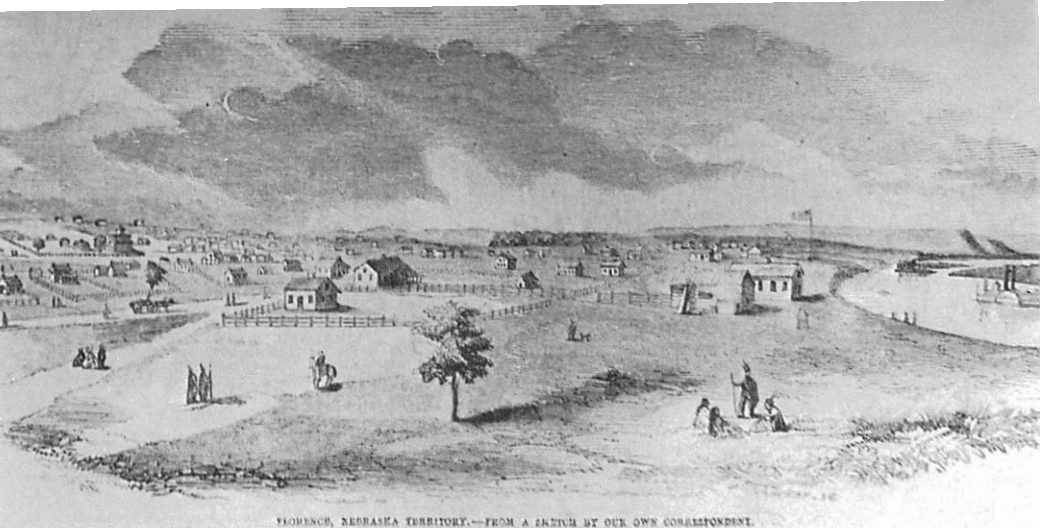
A. Grater
Jas North
W. J. Baugh
Geo. F. Kennedy
Saml Forgey
W. J. Graham
A. J. Smith
A. B. Malcolm
J. B. Crow
Jas. Gaston
J. H. Dudley
Saml. Alling
C. Cunningham

H. C. Riordan
Charles Goodrich
Levi Harsh
R. H. See
Geo. Driver
A. F. Heath
Geo. Sinclair
J. M. Kimball
R. W. Steele
John A. Hall
J. M. Mentzer
H. D. Franklin
G. H. McLean

On motion the following members, who were absent at roll call, at last meeting were excused from paying the fine, any excuse being sufficient for the occasion. To Wit

J. C. Mitchell
O. B. Selden
T. B. Selden

A. F. Heath
A. J. Arnold
R. W. Roberts



Florence, Nebraska Territory. From July 3, 1858, Leslie's Illustrated Weekly.

D. G. Selden
L. R. Butler
E. P. Brewster
H. Davis
S. B. Davis

L. P. Sperry
C. Burdick
Geo. Howe
J. H. Thorington

The minutes of last meeting were read & approved. On motion of A. B. Selden Resolved that the Roll be called hereafter at precisely 1/4 past 8. o'clk & that the roll be the test of attendance, invariably. The report of the committee on the case of Mr. Keeler being called for, they reported, having done *nothing*. On motion said committee was discharged & a new one appointed, consisting of Messrs Thorington Arnold & Burdick, to report next week. On motion of Geo. Howe, Resolved that our meetings hereafter be held monthly and that a sub committee of 12 be appointed to take charge of all matters pertaining to the interests of the committee at large, with power to call a special meeting whenever they deem it necessary.

On motion of Mr. Roberts, the matter contained in the last resolution was refered to a committee of three, consisting of Messrs Roberts Howe & Brewster, to report upon it at next meeting. On motion of Geo. Howe a committee of three was chosen, Messrs Howe, Steele and Pomeroy to revise the constitution, & byelaws and report at next meeting. D. G. Selden & L. R. Butler were appointed Doorkeepers for next meeting. On motion ajourned to meet next Thursday evening at 8. o'clk.

H. M. Pomeroy, Sec.

Thursday Evening, July 30th, 1857

Committee met, & Roll called. The following members were absent, Viz.

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| J. C. Mitchell | G. H. McLean |
| A. Graeter | Alexd. Hunter |
| L. R. Butler | W. J. Baugh |
| Geo. F. Kennedy | E. P. Brewster |
| W. J. Graham | H. Davis |
| H. C. Riordan | Levi Harsh |
| John H. Thorington | R. H. See |
| Geo. Driver | Geo. Sinclair |
| A. J. Smith | A. F. Heath |
| A. B. Malcolm | J. H. Brackin |
| J. M. Kimball | J. B. Crow |
| Horace May | Jas. Gaston |
| J. H. Dudley | Charles Burdick |
| Geo. Howe | J. M. Mentzer |
| Saml. Alling | H. J. Rummels |
| H. D. Franklin | C. C. Cunningham |
| M. D. Rapp | |

Of the above Messrs Mitchell Harsh & Brewster Pd. their fine.

The following members were then excused by vote for past absence, Viz.

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Jas. North | Saml. Forgey |
| W. J. Graham | Jas. Gaston |
| Charles Goodrich | John A. Hall |
| G. H. McLean | |

The report of Messrs Roberts Howe & Brewster was then read & adopted & the com[mittee] discharged. The report of the com. on the case of Mr. Keeler was then read and with a slight amendment accepted & com. discharged. On motion the report was laid on the table. Com. on revision of the constitution & byelaws had no report to make and was contind until next meeting. The case of Messrs Downs & Seaton was then brot before the meeting by A.B. Selden Esq. Mr Downs spoke & thot he ought to have the full am't \$50 which Seaton was fined for striking him. After considerable discussion as to the merits of the case the Committee on motion was released from any further

responsibility in the matter. Messrs Brewster & Riordan were appointed doorkeepers for next meeting. On motion ajourned to meet next thursday evening.

H. M. Pomeroy, Sec.

NOTES

1. Donald F. Danker, "The Nebraska Winter Quarter Company and Florence," *Nebraska History*, XXXVII (Lincoln: March, 1956), 27-50.

2. A. T. Andreas, ed., *History of the State of Nebraska* (Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1882), I, 809-10; Arthur C. Wakely, *Omaha: The Gate City and Douglas County Nebraska* (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1917), I, 416-18; Irving Stone, *Men to Match my Mountains* (Garden City: Doubleday & Co., 1952), 95-98.

3. The assistance and courtesy of Mrs. Everett Kelley, Paradise, California, granddaughter of Henry M. Pomeroy and owner of these Minutes in manuscript, is gratefully acknowledged. She has also supplied biographical information about Pomeroy.

4. On the first page of the Minutes opposite the signatures of members of the committee are these words: "The deeds of this society have ended & their acts are cancelled."

5. Residents of Florence who were not members of the committee included O. W. Crain, D. Downs, Mr. Hooper, James A. Jones, "Old Mr." Keeler, Thomas Keller, James Kinsley, Mr. Patrick, Thomas Patton, W. M. Seaton, M. Solleder (saloonkeeper), L. P. Sperry, and Mr. Thompson.