

Q59

The History of Palmyra.

By Tracy Minnery.

It hardly seems possible that Palmyra was once a prairie covered with high prairie grass. But we know it is so as we have heard many of the old settlers tell about how a man could ride horseback through the grass and not be seen, and how the deers, wolves and many other wild animals roamed at will through it.

Later fields of corn and wheat, gardens and log cabins, began to appear scattered sparsely over the country.

The early settlers were not afraid of the Indians as the most of them were friendly and it was not an uncommon sight to see them travel single file through the prairie with tent poles fastened to the side of the ponies they rode.

But the people at one time heard a rumor that the Indians were on the war path. On coming in Palmyra's deviation. But it was a false rumor and the people began to rest easy again.

The mail was brought to Mr. J. R. McKee's farm by the stage coach on where Ed. McKee now lives.

The famous Oregon trail is five miles north of Palmyra and is still in use.

Then Mr. Taggart a man interested in the development of the country gave to the people a site for a town, and asked that it be called Palmyra for his home town of Palmyra New York. Also setting apart one square block for a park, which was named after him, "Taggart Park", and the three cornered lots were to be

given to the churches and schools. They are the lots where the Methodist and Presbyterian churches stand, also where Sweet's bank stands. The one back of Jones and two by Leonard Nash's residence.

If these lots were not used by the schools and churches they were to go back to the Taggart heirs.

There were four of the lots that were given back to the heirs.

Among the things which were a hinderance to the growth of the town were the two years in which the grasshoppers were so thick that when they flew in swarms they darkened the sky so that the sun was invisible. These were the years of eighteen hundred and seventy four, and eighteen hundred and seventy seven. The first year being the worst, as they entirely

destroyed the cross. And a terrible prairie fire in the year of eighteen hundred and seventy one swept through this country, and in ^{the year} of eighteen hundred and ninety nine, october second, the same day the cow kicked the lantern over in Chicago the entire east side of main street of Palmyra was burned.

In eighteen hundred and seventy one the Burlington laid a railroad which went through from Nebraska city to Lincoln. Lammie Ryan took the first train over the line and was a familiar figure on this line for many years.

J. C. Moore and W. E. Hill among Palmyra's early settlers put in a dam and built a grist mill, which was indeed a help to the town.

Among the first settlers

of Palmyra were Taggarts, Oakleys, McKees, Merwins, Wetherhogs, Wallens, Luffs and Thomsons. The place where John Wall now lives was the first homestead in this part of the country. Mr Oakley had the first dry goods store and John Perry was one of the first men to have a general store, he also bought ear corn from the farmers.

The town also consisted of the star drug store, Debow owned the blacksmith shop, Page the furniture store, John Day was the first shoe maker and Garnet was the proprietor of the first hotel.

The first Minister of the Baptist church was Mr Taggart. The old Catholic church is now in use by Mr Nash for an implement shop and the first Methodist church is the residence where Harry

Hall now lives.

The first doctor in Palmyra was Dr. White and the second doctor Palmyra boasted of was a Dr. Fashley.

The first local telephone was installed in 1904 and the long distance telephone a few years before the local was established.

A thing which Palmyra can be proud of is the library. The first one was in nineteen hundred and two in the basement of the old town hall on the corner between where the two blacksmith shops now stand. They had borrowed furniture and the books were arranged on shelves around the wall. This was destroyed by fire in the year of nineteen hundred thirteen December the twenty fourth.

They then bought books for

another library which was above the old drug store and it was also destroyed by fire with many other buildings including the odd fellows hall. - The place where Sweet's garage now stands this fire occurred December ninth nineteen hundred and fourteen. The Woman's Club who had the library then decided to build a fire proof building which they still have.

The Palmyra Amctary was first south of town but was later moved to its present location and is now being taken care of by the Amctary Association.

The first school stood on the present location of Chas. Sweet's tank. But was destroyed by fire and was then built on its present location.

By Lucy Minney.

Long Manney.

Synister Theme.
Jan. 7 1935.

This was written as a Semester Theme

By Inez Elizabeth Minney

January 7, 1925

As told to her by Mrs Lem (?) Merwin

This typed copy from the original which was hand written was made June 2, 1975
By Inez Minney Walters

THE HISTORY OF PALMYRA NEBRASKA

It hardly seems possible that Palmyra was once a prairie covered with high prairie grass. But we know it is so as we have heard many of the old settlers tell about how a man could ride horseback through the grass and not be seen, and how the deers, wolves and many other wild animals roamed at will through it.

Later fields of corn and wheat, gardens and log cabins, began to appear, scattered sparsely over the country.

The early settlers were not afraid of the Indians as the most of them were friendly and it was not an uncommon sight to see them travel single file through the prairie with tent poles fastened to the side of the ponies they rode.

But the people at one time heard a rumor that the Indians were on the war path, and coming in Palmyra's direction. But it was a false rumor and the people began to rest easy again.

The mail was brought to Mr. J.R. McKee's farm by the stage coach on where Ed. McKees now lives. (added: In 1925 the Ed McKees lived 1/4 miles west and 1/4 mile south of the west edge of the town, About 100 yards off the old Bennet road.)

The famous Oregon Trail is five miles north of Palmyra and is still in use.

Then Mr. Taggart a man interested in the development of the country gave to the people a site for a town, and asked that it be called Palmyra for his home town of Palmyra N.Y.. Also setting apart one square block for a park, which was named after him, "Taggart Park" and the three cornered lots were to be given to the churches and schools. They are the lots where the Methodist and Presbyterian churches stand, also where Sweets bank stands.

The one back of Jones and two by the Leonard Nash's residence. (added: the two lots east of the house). If these lots were not used by the schools and churches they were to go back to the taggart heirs. There were four of the lots that were given back to the heirs.

Among the things which were a hinderance to the growth of the town were the two years in which the grasshoppers were so thick that when they flew in swarms they darkened the sky, so that the sun was invisible. These were the years of eighteen hundred and seventy four, and eighteen hundred and seventy seven. The first year being the worst, as they entirely destroyed the crops. A terrible prairie fire in the year of eighteen hundred and seventy one swept through this country, and in the year eighteen hundred and ninety nine, October second, the same day the cow kicked the lantern over in Chicago the entire east side of main street of Palmyra was burned.

In eighteen hundred and seventy one the Burlington laid a railroad which went through from Nebraska City to Lincoln. Tommie Ryon took the first train over the line and was a familiar figure on this line for many years.

J.O. Moore and W.E.. Hill, among Palmyra's early settlers put in a dam and built a grist mill, which was indeed a help to the town. (added; It was my understanding at the time that the old mill and dam had been on the west side of the road which went south out of town. Approximately 1/8 to 1/4 mile west from the road.)

Among the first settlers of Palmyra were the Taggarts, Oakleys, McKees, Merwins, Wetherhogs, Wallens, Luffs, and Thomsons, The place where John Wall now lives was the first homestead in this part of the country. Mr Oakley had the first dry goods store and John Perry was one of the first men to have a General store, he also bought ear corn from the farmers.

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