

[Originally described as 5 miles east of Kearney Junction, now 2 ½ miles east of Kearney, just east of the airport road, on the south side of the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks.]

Andreas' History of the State of Nebraska

BUFFALO COUNTY

Produced by [LeRoy Eaton](#).

Part 4: Kearney Junction (cont.): [Criminal](#) | [Bank Failure](#)
[Religious](#) | [Lodges and Societies](#) | [The Press](#) | [Education](#)
[Business Interests](#) | [Buda \(Kearney Station\)](#).

BUDA (KEARNEY STATION).

This is a station on the Union Pacific Railroad, located about five miles east of Kearney Junction. A town was laid out here on the completion of the railroad, in 1866, and called Kearney Station. Fort Kearney, on the opposite side of the Platte River, was then a military post, and this was the point for the receipt of supplies. When the town was first laid out considerable effort was made to build up a town of importance. It is said that the town had at one time a population of nearly 600. This population, however, was of a temporary character, if, indeed, there ever were so many residents. The town site was located on the old Fort Kearney Military Reservation, a tract of land ten miles square, a small portion only of which was in Buffalo County. This fact soon tended to its nearly complete abandonment, as a town, as no title to the land could be procured, and they were liable at any time to be compelled by the United States Government to vacate the land. Some years after, however, in 1877, this reservation was opened up to actual settlers and is now covered with well improved farms.

After its first rapid growth and decline, Kearney Station, or Buda, as it is now called, cannot be said to have been but a little more than a mere supply station for the fort. At the time of the founding of the towns of Gibbon and Kearney Junction, in the years 1871, and 1872, respectively, this, though the only town in the county, was but small.

Kearney Station, the oldest, and, for many years, the only town in the county, and once the county seat, has now entirely disappeared, and the old railroad depot alone remains to mark the place that was, in the early history of the county, a town of considerable importance. Several years ago the name of the station was changed to Shelby, and afterward to Buda, by which name it is now known.

History of Buffalo County and Its People VOLUME I by Samuel Clay Bassett

p. 101

School district No. 11 was organized October 1, 1872, official notice being given John Blanchard, and the first meeting held at the home of Mr. Blanchard. Lloyd D. Forehand was chosen director.

Buffalo Tales, Vol. 14, No. 2, February, 1991

D. WORT

Grain Dealer, Former Mayor

by Emma Jane Wilder

Grandfather had started in the grain business in a small way back in 1880. When he completed his term as Deputy Sheriff, he turned his attention to that business, starting in 1890 in Pleasanton, "with two scoop shovels and a \$500 note in the bank."

D. and his brother, R. B. Wort, finally completed the building of their new elevator in Pleasanton, and on December 10, 1897 had it running and shipping grain. In 1899 when he ran for a second term as Sheriff, he was defeated. It was after that defeat that he entered the grain business at Buda. Eventually he owned, or had an interest in, six elevators: at Eddyville, Watertown, Pleasanton, Buda, Amherst and Poole.

Buffalo Tales, Vol. 14, No. 3, March, 1991

JOHN REDDY

Pioneer Railroader and Farmer

by Rhonda O'Brien and Margaret Tunks

[ca1871-1876] John Reddy's territory on the railroad was from the east edge of Gibbon to Kearney Station (Buda). During bad weather John would walk the entire nine miles of rail, up and back, looking for washouts or loose track.

Buffalo Tales, Vol. 17, No. 3, May-June, 1994

REMINISCENCES OF RALPH M. GRIMES

At the time of his [Grimes] arrival in Kearney [1872] the Burlington railroad owned all of the ground south of the railroad tracks, and was disposing of its town lots as rapidly as possible. The Union Pacific had no depot and none of its trains made a stop at Kearney. The Burlington erected a depot upon its present site, and it was the intention of the two railroads to make Mr. Grimes their joint agent, but when the Burlington learned that he previously has been with the Union Pacific, different arrangements were made.

J.N. Keller was at that time agent for the Union Pacific at Buda, and as a result of the arrangement made, the Buda office was closed and Mr. Keller was sent to Kearney, where he occupied the north half of the Burlington depot as agent for the Union Pacific, while Mr. Grimes occupied the south half of the depot as agent for the Burlington.

Buffalo Tales, Vol. 19, No. 4, July - August, 1996

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF CHURCHES
IN BUFFALO COUNTY**

Part II

by Alice Shaneyfelt Howell

A Presbyterian congregation in Sweetwater met as early as 1889 but a church was not built until July of 1903. Lutheran congregations in the area included the Sweetwater community in 1883 and later years, but their church buildings were rural and outside Buffalo County. A Presbyterian Church was also established in Buda around 1907 to 1909. It was located next to the general store for several years and eventually the building was moved to southeast Kearney.

Buffalo Tales, Vol. 1, No. 8, August, 1978

EARLY POST OFFICES IN BUFFALO COUNTY

by Alice Shaney Howell

When the Union Pacific became the carrier of mail, post offices were established along the railroad; the first was at **Kearney Station**, near present Buda, December 3, 1868. Although a busy railroad station carrying passengers to and from Fort Kearny, it did not develop into a community center and the post office there was short-lived, closing March 17, 1869.

Buffalo Tales, Vol. 6, No. 4, April, 1983

ROOTS OF BUFFALO COUNTY: THE IRISH - Part I

by Margaret Stines Nielsen

Walsh was elected county commissioner in 1874. At this time, Kearney boosters were campaigning to have the county seat moved to their booming town. Previously county business had been conducted at Wood River Center, Kearney Station (Buda) and Gibbon where a courthouse was built in 1872. In a last ditch effort to keep the county seat, Gibbon supporters suggested that the county be divided, with the western border just west of Kearney. This would place Gibbon nearer to the geographical center of the county. Walsh went on record against this suggestion, although the location of the county seat at Kearney might lead to a depreciation in the value of his property.

Buffalo Tales, Volume 1, No. 5, May, 1978

RAILROADS IN BUFFALO COUNTY

by Alice Howell

The early stations on the Union Pacific route in Buffalo County were Shelton, Gibbon Switch, Kearney Station (near present day Buda, the least distant for passengers bound for Fort Kearny), Stevenson's Siding, Crowellton (present day Odessa), and Elm Creek.

KEARNEY 100 YEARS AGO

PART I

by Mardi Anderson

1898

Mr. Wort moved his family into Kearney, sold his business interests in the northern part of the county, and with the purchase of the elevator at Buda, operated a grain business.

The Ludden Family

by Margaret Stines Nielsen

John was also the outside contact man for the Chamber of Commerce, attending meetings and going to Grange affairs on horseback. At that time Buda School became the first 4-H horse and colt club in the nation.

THE FIRST INHABITANTS

by Ella Doggett Hostetler

Introduction

Soon he was appointed section foreman where the town of Kearney now is. It was five miles west of what was Kearney Station, now Buda.

Kearney Station was the railroad supply depot for Fort Kearney which was situated four miles directly south and on the south bank of the Platte River in Kearney County. It seems to have been the plan of promoters to build a city at Kearney Station, but their dream faded away when it was discovered no clear title could be given to land or lots there as it was within the boundary of the military district known as the Fort Kearney Reservation, which was ten miles square, so all plans were abandoned for making even a town of it. The few buildings that had been erected were moved away and nothing was left late in 1866 except a rude station and section house. Eleven years later Fort Kearney was abandoned and the military tract of land opened to actual settlers, but it was too late to benefit the city of dreams.

The Union Pacific Railroad was completed as far west as Kearney Station in August 1866, and the work was pushed rapidly forward by great "gangs" of workmen. In October of that year the Slatterys were living on the railroad five miles farther west.

THE DAYTON EMIGRATION ASSOCIATION

Compiled by Alice Shaneyfelt Howell

I spent two days at Kearney, one the sabbath, upon which I preached, and on the other I looked at the lands upon which the Dayton Emigration Association are settling. The two townships in which this colony is located lie on both sides of the railroad, and west and north of Kearney Station (present day Buda) and close to it. These lands extend toward the river, which with its

high banks will afford, at a small expense, water power sufficient for small grist mills; and the soil is of first-rate quality.

Mona J Houser 1998-2003 for [Buffalo County NENGenWeb Project](#)

Towns and Post Offices, Past and Present, **Buffalo County, Nebraska**

- **Buda***, post office about 5 miles east of Kearney on the U.P. R.R., replaced Shelby in 1878.
- **Shelby**, post office established in 1876, became Buda in 1878.

Nebraska STATE GAZETTEER, Business Directory

Omaha: J. M. Wolfe & Co., Publisher, 509-510 Paxton Block 1890. Entered according to Act of Congress in the year of 1890, by M. M. Wolfe & Co, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.

Buda, a station on the U.P. Ry., in the southern part of Buffalo county, five miles east of Kearney, the county seat. Population, 25.

Gasdell J C, agl implts.

Hubbell J, justice.

Leonard T, blacksmith.

Sammon W C, sta agt, postmaster.

Fitzpatrick, Lilian L., *Nebraska Place-Names*, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1960, page 24.

Buda. On August 1, 1886, [1866] the Union Pacific railroad was completed to this point and a station was established. This station was named Kearney on account of its proximity to Fort Kearney. In 1872 the name was changed to Shelby because of its similarity to Kearney Junction, a town five miles distant. Later a station in the eastern part of the county was named Shelton and, because there was confusion of freight shipments, the town of Shelby again changed its name. This time, according to local tradition, it “was called Buda after an old religious center,” but more probably either directly or indirectly after Buda, now part of Budapest, Hungary.

[sources used for this book included Andreas, Bassett, Cram-Township and Railroad map of Nebraska 1883, and various books about Nebraska]

From the Archives file on Dist. 11, Buda School

1995 *Hub* article:

In 1900 Buda had a grocery, church, grain elevator, and school

From phone calls 1-7-2004 about current Buda

Big Flag Farm Supply Fertilizer Supply – secretary:

They used to be a Co-op [thus the sign on the office building]

Located between the house on the east and Solomon Dehydrating silos on the west. Platte Valley Feeders, which has a feed yard north of the highway [about 3 ½ miles] stores corn in the Solomon silos.

Heartland Sandblasting is located in the Buda Corn and Storage building.

Select Sprayers is located at the east end of Buda. [Their address is on Imperial Road, the road that runs along the east side of Buda] They sell herbicide sprayers. [see pictures of several lined up south of their building]

Northwest Electric is located in the same building. Fed Ex uses the smaller blue warehouse. At this time all homes are occupied except the white one on the south side of the road across from their office.

Shawn at Northwest Electric: Repairs electric motors of all sizes

From Archives Master File

Semiweekly Kearney Hub, Sept. 13, 1894, p3, col 3

Flag Celebration in Center

School district number 11 in Center township will have a flag-raising celebration on Monday, September 17, at which time a forty-foot flag-pole will be raised and a spick and span new flag flung to the breeze. An appropriate program of exercises will be observed and speeches made by Norris Brown and W. L. Hand. The public generally is invited to attend and especially the schools of Center township. It will be a great day, and at the close "Old Glory" will float over one more school house as an inspiration to the rising generation.

(Sept 20, 1894 p4, col 5 reported on the event)

From the Archives file on Dist. 11, Buda School

The items in the file are newspaper clippings, Bonds #3 and #4 for \$425 each which were issued in 1873 for the construction and furnishing of a school building, and an 8x10 photo of the school with a label on the back saying it was taken after 1919.

Following is a summary based on those newspaper articles and bonds:

Buda School, District 11 was organized in 1872 and closed in 1959 when it consolidated with Center School, District 28.

Timeline of events –

1872 – District 11 organized

1873 – Four bonds @ \$425 each (\$1700) were issued in June for building and furnishing a school. Funds for repayment were to be raised by taxing the residents of the district.

1876 – Bond #3 was paid off

1877 – Bond #4 was paid off

Hub article in 1995 includes a picture of the "original building built in 1872. It was destroyed by fire in 1918 or 1919."

Hub “Like it Was” photo of Buda School shows a rather large building described as the one that burned in 1918 or 1919. This is the same building as the 8zx10 photo in the file.

1919 – Both articles agree classes were held in a barn while the new building was being built. Described in one place as being split level which probably means a shallow basement. Basement had two restrooms, lunchroom and shop for the boys. First floor was one large classroom with a divider which could be lowered. The high school classes (9-11) were taught on the second floor

1941-2 – Last year for high school classes

1959 – Dist. 11 merged with Center School #28

Building had various uses after the school closed as it deteriorated. It served as a family home and as a place to raise dogs before being purchased for the purpose of renovating into five apartments

1995 - Present Building – Five apartments

Basement – Two 1-bedroom apartments

Main floor – Two 2-bedroom apartments

Second floor – One efficiency apartment

Buda – an outline

1. Location

2. Oldest “town” – Military reservation – opened in 1877, too late

3. Post office UP mail contract, Kearney Station first, 12-3-1868, closed 3-17-1869

4. County seat – County business conducted here & at Wood River Center before Gibbon

5. Junction with Burlington

D. N. Smith claimed land south of UP

UP would not stop in Kearney

Stopped at Kearney Station instead until land issue was settled

Burlington built depot, supposed to have joint agent, Ralph Grimes

Grimes former UP agent so Kearney Station agent came here

Two agents shared depot for a while

6. Name – Kearney Station until 1872 or 1876, confused with Kearney Junction

Shelby until 1878, but confused with Shelton

Buda in 1878 – maybe after an old religious center but probably BUDApest, Hungary

7. 1890 – Pop. 25, agricultural implement dealer, a justice of the peace, a blacksmith, and the station agent who was also the postmaster.

8. D Wort – 1899 grain elevator after losing election as sheriff

9. 1900 – grocery, church, grain elevator, school.

10. Presbyterian Church – 1907-9 Later moved building to southeast Kearney

11. Buda School, Dist. 11 - Mile east of Buda. Organized in 1871. Bonds issued for building in 1873

Estimate 1894 new bigger building. Flag raising in Sept. 40’ pole “spick and span new flag flung to the breeze”. Program of exercises and speeches by Sen. Norris Brown and W. L. Hand. Hub – a great day and “at the close “Old Glory” will float over one more school house as an inspiration to the rising generation.”

Community center – first 4-H horse and colt club in the nation in 1915

1918 or 1919 building burned. Classes in barn. New building present one.

2 restrooms, lunchroom, shop in basement, one classroom on main floor with divider, high school upstairs.

High school ended with 1941-2 school year. Dist. 11 merged with Center School, Dis. 28 in 1959. Buda building closed.

Private home, raised dogs, remodeled as apartment house – 2 1-bedroom in basement, 2 2-bedrooms on main floor 1 efficiency apartment on 2nd floor

Buda

1. Location
2. Oldest “town”
3. Post Office
4. County seat – County business conducted here & at Wood River Center before Gibbon
5. Junction with Burlington
6. Name changes
7. 1890
8. D Wort –
9. 1900
10. Presbyterian Church
11. Buda School, Dist. 11 -

Estimate 1894 new bigger building.

Community center

1918 or 1919 building burned.

New bigger building .

1941-2 school year.

1959. Buda school closed.

Life after school