

New Year's Eve

1890 – A dance at the Midway Hotel

When you drive along the streets take the right hand side. Be sure you do so.

Temperatures were at 0 and there were many young people ice skating on Kearney Lake.

1891

“A fair crowd attended the mask ball at the Model [opera house at 2110 Ave B, originally a skating rink] last night, and the costumes were varied and fantastic.”

Mr. and Mrs. Mandeville entertained a number of young friends Wednesday evening at the Midway. A delightful evening was spent.

There was a dance at The Tower,[Kearney Country Club] home of W. C. Tillson, beautiful home. Attended by various young people and some leaders in Kearney society. On the evening of Jan. 2 there was a pound social at the G.A.R. hall. Everyone was to bring a pound of something which would be distributed.

Weather was cold with strong winds.

“Masons on the cotton mill were expected to resume work this afternoon. (Jan. 2)
The cotton mill contractor, M. C. Cummins, has not been heard from further than he is on road, but he is expected daily now.” (Jan. 2)

“The cracker factory whistle resumed its tooting this morning, and operations were resumed.”(Jan. 2)

“Oatmeal mill bids fair to follow the paper mill, and be blown away piecemeal before it gets to running. The gale of Wednesday night [New Years Eve] took off the engine room, at the oatmeal mill, and landed it some twenty feet away. Then the brick walls were blown in, leaving the corners only standing. The damage will be considerable.”
(Jan. 2)

1893

Temperature during the day 40 degrees, dry and clear.

“A Brilliant Social Event”

A German [type of dance] given by Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Downing. Hundreds of burning candles in clusters of holly added to the elegance of the home. Elegant refreshments.

Guests included the leading business men in Kearney and their wives.

[R. L. Downing & John Bartlett started Kearney Flour Mill and elevator. Not the Downing that donated their home to Kearney women's club. One of promoters of Kearney Canal in 1882. A stockholder in the Midway Brick Co. which became Mannix Brick Co.]

1894

Ice on Kearney Lake was 10” thick

Flour and fuel was distributed to needy families on New Year's Day. They found 40 families, about the usual number for that time of year.

Grandma McBride died last evening [Jan. 1] [Lydia McBride, in Iowa in 1860 w/ husband Charles, Melvina & Mary; 1890 at 1715 Ave E]

Died of Old Age

Grandma McBride, the old lady who fell out of bed a few days ago as mentioned in the Hub at the time, died at her home last evening, aged 87 years, 6 months, 6 days. The funeral services will be held from Trinity M. E. church tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock conducted by Rev. Cook. The deceased was born in New York state, but has lived in this city several years, She has been confined to her bed for some time past and at last died from old age.

[Hub Jan 2, 1894]

1895

Temperature 10 in morning, up to 40 in afternoon.

Skating on Kearney Lake

Coal and bread to be distributed to the needy

Social activity in the Midway City – a revival during the holiday season

New Year's Day activities of outdoor and healthy nature – made possible by mild weather.

Ice at Kearney Lake in fine condition, attracted crowds

Bicyclists and carriage parties

The Buffalo Club [a social organization of the city's prominent business men] celebrated its first year with a gathering of businessmen

Mrs Ray and her daughters entertained about 40 young people at their home on New Year's Day Eve. A high-five party with prizes

New Year's Eve "watch party" by Miss Minnie Norris of West Kearney. A small party drove out there in the moonlight (8 guests)

Annual ball of Wide Awake Hose co. at city hall, probably New Year's Eve

Finch sisters entertained several friends at a card party New Year's Day Eve

Company A held its annual ball at the Armory with orchestra and dancing.

Polished dance floor "aided every variety of terpsichorean [turp'-si-kə-rē'an] effort the friends of the militiamen undertook" [Terpsichore (turp-sik'ə-rē') in Greek mythology, the muse of dancing]

1896 - New Year's Day was on a Wednesday

Two boys skating on Kearney Lake fell in.

Snow flurries

Mrs. Calkins entertained on New Years Eve. Danced the new year in. Guests included mostly young single men and women. At least 30 attended.

[E C Calkins – Attorney, Kearney businessman in furniture store business, state senator, died in 1912]

W. C. T. U. New Year Dinner

Given at their rooms. About 100 present. After the meal the tables were removed from the dining room and there was a program. Songs and speeches directed by Rev. Trueblood. Judge Newel, 94 last Sept., spoke. Hannah Holt, 87, oldest lady present, sang 3 songs. A 6-year old girl stood on a chair and sang a lengthy song.

The Delsarte class [female] at the Up to Date college held a New Year's Day afternoon reception with cocoa, coffee, and wafers. In the evening there was a dance in the business room.

Company A had a dance at the Armory New Years Day evening. Fair crowd but not larger possibly because of Fireman's ball a week ago.

Mr. & Mrs. L. N. Mowry, East Lawn, entertained friends at New Year's party in evening.

1897 – New Year's Day was on a Friday

Sunday sermon title at Presbyterian church – The Religion of the future, what will it be?
Methodist – Taking Stock
Baptist – Go Forward

Young people gathered at Clark residence, played whist for a couple hours, had dinner and watched the new year in.

'96-'97 Fireman's Fair was held at the Armory. Large group on New Year's Eve.

New Year's Eve party at home of Mrs. C. E. Calkins. Assembled at 9 pm. Piano and violin music. Dancing in parlor, whist in library, luncheon in kitchen which became a dining room. Welcomed in new year with a western quadrille, and evening ended with a Virginia reel.

“New Year's Dinner

Fine Entertainment Given By he Ladies of the W. C. T. U. at the Hospital

150 at the dinner but there was plenty of food. What was left over went to poor families. There was singing by Mr. & Mrs. M A Brown, a talk by a minister who then provided more music with his wife. Then there was a prayer in Swedish given by a minister for the benefit of a Swedish lady living at the hospital

On Friday evening Mr. & Mrs. Russell of the Platte Institute gave a party for their students and friends. The large commercial room was used for dancing. Maud Marston attended both affairs. She and Ed Finch led the Grand March which opened this ball.

1899 - New Year's Day on Sunday

Old peoples dinner Saturday at WCTU hospital was success.

Members of the 3rd Nebr. Regiment at Camp Onward at Savannah, GA, packed up and shipped out right at midnight.

1900

WCTU dinner at the hospital for the old people of the city to be Jan. 2

Weather on Jan. 1 a “little boisterous and breezy”

First annual ball of Wide Awake Hose Co. No. 2 to be that night

Mrs. Maze entertained her Sunday School class of boys for a New Year’s Day dinner.

“The Kearney Flouring Mill ushered in the new year with a full head of steam and a vigorous blowing of the steam whistle. Residents thereabout thought that Gabriel had come.”

1901 – New Year’s Day on Tuesday

Ice harvest had begun

All county officers worked on New Year’s Day

Members of the Methodist church held a watch meeting to see in the new year

The Wide Awake Hose Co. No. 2 held a successful ball New Years night

Boys at Industrial School got a special New Years day dinner

Mr. & Mrs. J L Tout entertained both Monday (4 couples) & Tuesday nights (11 people) in their hotel rooms at the Midway Hotel with cards and refreshments.

1902 – New Year’s Day on Wednesday

Large turnout for the masked ball on New Year’s Eve

WCTU’s dinner for the old folks was held at City Hall and a great success

1903 – New Year’s Day on Thursday

More gold in the US treasury than ever before – \$615,319,367. Four times Bank of England or Germany, 1 ½ times France and double Russia

New Years Eve contest in tournament between five couples at the Miller Alley. Two teams of five each with the couples split.

A barrel of bottled beer was left outside the depot building Thursday evening by an employee of F. M. Greene for shipment on the K&BH. The depot agent was not told so it was not brought in. It was not there Friday morning. Mr. Greene at least wants the empty barrel back.

“A Feast for the Old Folks

Dinner at the City Hall New Years, a Grand One.

One of the most joyous one of the numerous New Years events, was the old folks dinner , given at the city hall by the members of the W. C. T. U.”

Large number attended, seemed to have a good time. Sang songs, told of past experiences told by everyone. Lots of food.

A new years night social event was held by the 19th Century club beginning at 7:30 and lasting until 10:30. There was a musical program with various vocal, violin and piano numbers. Refreshments of a bowl of fruit punch, coffee and sandwiches were served.

Masquerade ball at the Armory New Years night. Floor in excellent condition for dancing, just enough attending so it was not over crowded. Costumes varied from elaborate to grotesque ands ludicrous.

1904 – New Year’s Day on Friday

Old folks dinner at WCTU hospital on New Years day, an enjoyable occasion as usual

Old folks dinner at WCTU hospital on New Years day, an enjoyable occasion as usual

1905 – New Year’s Day on Sunday

[paper on Tue, Jan. 3]

“Annual Dinner of Kearney Old People

A Highly Enjoyable Event Takes Place on Saturday.

The annual reunion of the old people of Kearney took place last Saturday at the W. C. T. U. hospital under the supervision of Mother Nancy Hull.”

Food and serviced contributed by ladies of WCTU. After dinner there was a program – singing by the audience, prayer, recitations by young girls, and a drill exercise, a duet, three speeches by local people and one by a lady from Methodist Hospital in Omaha. Then two more musical numbers, a closing prayer and benediction by Moses Sydenham, Oldest pioneer settler of central and western Nebraska.

Large attendance, both men and women.

City Council declared that boys and young men loitering in the hall when dances are held at the City Hall building will have to leave the building. They are bothering the young ladies who attend the dances.

19th Century Club had their annual New Years eve reception Saturday night. The hall was decorated with potted plants and in pink and green. Orchestra music and two vocal numbers. Refreshments served during the evening. Regret expressed that larger attendance of members and their friends was prevented due to numerous social events of holiday week.

Monday night dance at Armory given by band boys.