

Article about high schools

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PAGES OF HISTORY All Nebraska High Schools - Past and Present Public and Private 1854 - 1994

One thousand high schools once existed in the state of Nebraska. Only about 350 are still open. PAGES OF HISTORY is the title of a book being prepared through the volunteer efforts of hundreds of Nebraskans in order to preserve the history of our high schools. Every high school, past and present, public and private, for which data is available, will receive a separate "Page of History" in this book.

The book is being published by the newly formed Nebraska High School Historical Society as a non-profit project. It is the inspiration of Lawrence Murphy, an attorney in Lincoln who attended the now-closed Sunflower High School in the Scottsbluff area. He has contacted persons in every county of the state to enlist the volunteers who are collecting the histories which will be included in this book.

Mardi Anderson has agreed to collect the information needed about high schools in Buffalo County. As a preview, because of its genealogical interest and value, we have included here the names of as many of the first graduates, and where the high school has closed, the last graduates, of the high schools in Buffalo county which have been found in the records so far.

Amherst

The Amherst High School had 10 grades beginning in 1909. The other two grades were added to the high school in 1924. The first 10th grade class graduated in 1911. The first 12th grade graduated in 1925. They were:

Fred Barth	Martha (Marsh) Kenny
Doyle Edwards	Steve Owen
Mabel (Edwards) Robertson	Flossie Rumbeck
Floyd Gardner	Neta (Schnoor) Plischke
Maud (Harmony) Steinhauser	Zelora Wenner
Frank Kenny	Irene (Wuehler) Owen

Denman

In 1914 the Denman school added the 9th grade. The 10th grade was added two years later and in 1917 Denman became an 11-grade high school. We do not have information yet about the first 10th or 11th grade classes to graduate from Denman High School. The last 11th grade class graduated in 1924. They were:

Bob Ramsey
Irvin "Shorty" Sorensen
Josie Woodman
Vera Ramsey

Denman High School continued as a 10-grade school until 1946. In that year the last 10th grade class to graduate consisted of:

Iola Blue
Charlotte Weber
Jack Roush

Elm Creek

The Elm Creek High School started grades 9 and 10 about 1887. Grade 11 was added in 1910, and grade 12 was added in 1913. The first 10th grade graduates in 1895 were:

Elva Jones
Vida Boyd

The first 12th grade graduates in 1914 were:

Mary Holmes	Sylvia Neidigh
Mona Houghton	Zella Ray
Jessie Jones	Hazel Schrack

Gibbon

The high school at Gibbon began in 1884. Their first graduating class in 1886 included:

Emma Davis	Sue Morrow
Nettie Morrow	Rosa Ogilvie

Hartman

Hartman became a 10 grade high school in 1924. The other two grades were never added. The first graduates from the Hartman 10th grade in 1925 were:

Felva Walker	Alyce Anspach
Grace Walker	Julia Gilming

Kearney

From 1881 through 1894 Kearney High School consisted of three classes, "junior", "middle", and "senior". The fourth class was added in 1895.

The first graduating class to complete the three-year high school course in 1884 were:

Sara Tupman Conner	Florence Alberta Wilson
Mary Augusta Crissman	Grace Aurora Jackson
Lydia Ellen Mitchell	Luella Augusta Pingree

Kearney Military Academy

This school originally opened as the Platte Collegiate Institute of Higher Learning in 1892. The class of 1895 is the first graduating class on which information has been found. Those graduating from the Commercial Course in 1895 were:

Fred Goodell
Fred Salsbury
Charles Tripp

Those graduating from the Normal Course in 1895 were:

Grace Brown	George Frey
Frederick Graves	George Bates

As the Kearney Military Academy, this school graduated its last class in 1923. They were:

Orville Bradley of Fullerton, Nebraska
Lloyd Clinton Berry of Anselmo, Nebraska
David Correll Fletcher of Buffalo, Illinois
Greene Berry Hastings of Hamilton, Illinois
Frank Breese Smith of Gordon, Nebraska
Harry Yelverton Steele of Denver, Colorado

Pleasanton

Pleasanton became a 10-grade high school in 1912 but did not expand to 12 grades until 1922. The first graduates of the 10-grade high school, in 1913, were:

Anna Grammer Geisler
Bertha Reese
Walter Reese

The first graduates from the 12th grade at Pleasanton High School in 1923 were:

Harvey Grammer	Isabelle Eaton Phillips
Earl Eaton	Alfred Hadwiger
Minnie Lammers Beckman	Eletha Swearingen
Bernice Zbinden Hoffman	Cloris Hansberry

Miller

Miller added the 10th grade in 1893. Two persons graduated but we do not have their names, nor do we have the date when the other two grades were added to the high school.

Miller's last high school class graduated in 1958. They were:

Barbara Clark	Jim Milligan
Duard Harnagel	Charles Parish
Barbara Albrecht	Gary Fedderson

Odessa

At this point we have no information on the beginning of Odessa High School. However, we do know that the last class graduated in 1958. They were:

Marilyn Crowell	Gary Skiles
Myrtle Crowell	Roger Johnston
Hazel Swartwood	

Poole

Poole High School graduated it's first class in 1913. They were:

Amy M. Jergensen
Pearl E. Whitcomb
Mary McConnell

The last class graduated from Poole High School in 1944. They were:

Ruby Cords
Lila Behrandt
Howard "Duane" Zeller

Ravenna

Ravenna High School opened in 1887. The first class graduated in 1893. There was one person in the class: Ella Pool. The first boy graduated from Ravenna High School in 1898. That was Jerry Hlava.

Riverdale

Grades 9-10 were added to the Riverdale school in 1911. Grade 11 was added in 1918, and grade 12 was added the following year. The first 12th grade graduating class consisted of:

Frank Dennis
Grace Hart Novak
Blanche Zollers Jones

The last high school class graduated from Riverdale in 1958. They were:

Glen Schnoor	Lorraine Loeffelholz
Francis Miller	Gerald Hibbard
Wilma McAuliff	Phyllis Iosty

Shelton

The first class to graduate from Shelton High School walked across the stage of the Opera House in Shelton in May, 1890. They were:

Jessie Cassidy	Ursula Waters
Edith Childs	Cary Moore
Della Wyman	Maude Lamberson
Lulu McCreary	Stewart Sammons
Ida Stockwell	Albert Fisher
Nora Scott	Clyde Stebbins
May Beugier	

St. Michael

St. Michael had a 10-grade high school. No information has been found yet for its beginning or on its first graduating class. The last class graduated in 1945 and consisted of one person: Barbara Berlin.

Watertown

Watertown also had a 10-grade high school beginning in 1913. The first class graduated in 1914. They were:

Ruth Swift	Lloyd Whitesel
Rose Harris	Albert Osborn

The last class graduated in 1927 but no information has been found yet on who they were.

The goal is to have this book published after the first of the year, 1993 (a year from now). After publication, the price of the book will be \$69.00 including sales tax, handling and shipping. Advance orders will cost \$49.00. If you are interested in ordering one of these books, please contact Mardi Anderson, Rt. 6, Box 423, Kearney, 68847, or call 237-7339.