

Information on Gibbon High School

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[Questions and answers specifically requested for the book. Questions were underlined in the original file so I'm guessing from memory.]

1. Name of School - Gibbon High School
2. County and District Number - Buffalo County Dist. #2
3. Location - Block 15, O.T. Gibbon and Lots 8 & 9 of Trews Addition in Gibbon (all one piece of property) 1019 Second, Gibbon, NE 68840
4. Years of operation - 1871 as a grade school; 1884 [added high school?]; (still open)
5. School colors - Blue and white
6. School Mascot - Buffalo
7. School Song -
8. Year of first graduating class - 1886
Number in class - 4
Names of members first graduating class - Rosa Ogilvie, Nettie Morrow, Emma Davis, Sue Morrow
9. Year last class graduated - 1991
Number in class - 32
Names of members last graduating class -
10. Sports championships -
11. First school board members - Christopher Putnam, Director; Aaron Ward, Director; and F. S. Trew, Treasurer. The first building committee members were L. D. George, Aaron Ward and D. P. Ashburn
12. Famous Graduates - Roscoe Thatcher, class of 1891, became President of Amhurst College, Amhurst, MA.
Bernice Scott, class of 1929, is mother of Pat Schroeder, Congresswoman from CO.
Forrest S. Peterson, class of 1939, became an Admiral in the U. S. Navy.
Clark A. Fulmer, who was teacher/principal in the 1890's, became chancellor of Nebraska Wesleyan University.
- 13.

The founding colony, the Gibbon Homestead Colony, arrived at the future site of Gibbon on April 7, 1871. On April 22, 1871, a meeting of the citizens assessed themselves \$1000.00 to establish a school. This was illegal, as none of the citizens had been in Nebraska long enough to be citizens. But they did it anyway.

School was begun on June 26, 1871 for six weeks in a 12' x 16' wing of the first house built in Gibbon. The teacher, Mrs. Frank Chamberlain, was paid \$35.00 per month.

Gibbon was the first county seat of Buffalo County. However, shortly after a brick two-story courthouse was erected, the county seat was moved to Kearney. "Following the removal of the county seat to Kearney, there was established in 1875 in the former courthouse building, an academic department of the Gibbon schools....In all the territory of central and western Nebraska (at this time) there was not a high school nor a school where the educational advantages offered were much above the present eighth grade in our common schools, thus it was that the academic advantages of this school made it possible for the students from a large territory to prepare themselves as teachers in the common schools, and students came from a long distance to attend this school." (from "Trail Dust to Star Dust" a history of Gibbon by Mable Vohland)

During 1875 and 1876 Professor Campbell was in charge of this school which was also known as Gibbon Academy.

The September 27, 1877 Central Nebraska Press newspaper carried the following notice by the Gibbon School Board: "The Fall term of the Gibbon Nebraska High School commences October 1st, 1877. Professor Mallalieu, a graduate from Dickenson College, Pennsylvania, has been employed as principal. The tuition will be for common English branches, \$3.50; for higher English branches and including Latin, Greek and German \$4.50. Bookkeeping will be charged extra. Board and lodging can be had for \$3.00 per week. Rooms can be secured for those desiring to board themselves. The professor and family will occupy rooms in the building. There will be rooms besides for six or eight lady students who can board with the family. No gentlemen students will be allowed to room in the building. For further particulars, address James Ogelvie, Gibbon, Nebr." Professor Mallalieu stayed for three years.

The Gibbon School District built their own high school building in 1880. The former Courthouse building was used as a private college for a short time. In the 1890's it was sold to the Gibbon School District. They tried to make a permanent commercial college, failed, tore it down in 1908 and built a new high school on its foundation the following year using some of the brick salvaged from the old building. This building was used until 1964 when it was torn down and the new high school was built on the same site. The old high school building, built in 1880, was being used as the I.O.O.F. Hall in the late 1970's.