

Research Notes/Buffalo County High Schools

HIGH SCHOOLS IN BUFFALO COUNTY -- Research Notes

1. Source: TALES OF BUFFALO COUNTY, VOL. I

Ravenna: The early Years by Pauline Irwin and Bethyne Hanna. Page 50

"In 1884 a local district was organized, Erastus Smith serving on its board, and a small one-room school opened with Mrs. Alva Adams as teacher. It was replaced in 1887 with a structure costing \$18,000 that housed both the grade and high school. An addition to the building was necessitated a few years later.

The Settlement of Gibbon by Leroy A. Walker. Page 85-86

"On April 22, 1871, the Colonists had a school meeting. They voted to tax themselves \$1,000.00 and build a temporary school. The building was erected, and they had six weeks of school before the fall term. It was an illegal procedure, as none of the members of the Colony had been in the state long enough to be Nebraska citizens, but they did it anyhow.

"It was called School District No. 2, and in 1872 the first permanent school was built. This building is still standing, and is in use as a residence at 519 1st Street in Gibbon. In 1880 the first High School was built. This building, too, is still in use as the I.O.O.F. Hall in Gibbon."

2. Source: TALES OF BUFFALO COUNTY, VOL. II

Bits and Pieces: Locating Kearney Junction by Gene E. Hamaker. Page 10

"School District No. 7 was also organized at the Junction House March 8, 1872.

The Lone Sower: My Life Story, Part II by Adolph Voss. Page 47.

"My four years in Kearney High School were very eventful. I played center on the school's first football team in 1894, coached by Supt. J. E. Morey." (He graduated from Kearney High School in 1898)

Some People and Events in the Early History of Amherst by Margaret Stines Nielsen. Page 82-83

"School District 119, organized in 1893, purchased a small church for a school house with Herman Kapedsky as director.

"The paper [the Amherst FAIRPLAY, first edition on Oct. 6, 1910] also carried a picture of the Amherst School, 'erected in 1908 at a cost of \$4,200'. The first tenth grade classes were held in January of 1909. For a number of years, it remained a tenth grade school; most of those wanting to graduate went to Miller or Kearney."

On March 17, 1928, the school house was burned down as a diversionary tactic by bank robbers.

Early Days of Elm Creek by Alice Shaneyfelt Howell. Page 107

"School District No. 9 was organized on June 10, 1872 and the first school house was built. Josephus Moore was the first teacher, and the school census showed that there were 40 children of school age in the district."

Roots of Buffalo County - The English, Part I by Margaret Stines Nielsen. Page

"In 1880 [F. G.] Keens and Nathan Campbell were empowered by Kearney citizens to offer 330 acres as a site for the 'State Reform School', if it was located in Kearney."

3. Source: TALES OF BUFFALO COUNTY, VOL. III

Kearney High School, 1881-1901 by Alice Shaneyfelt Howell. Page 22 - 23

"Kearney High's first graduation exercises were held on May 29, 1884, at the Presbyterian Church. There were five graduates, all girls...."

"From 1881 to 1895 the Kearney High School course of study comprised three years work. Classes were known as the 'junior class,' the 'middle class,' and the 'senior class.' In 1895 the high school course was raised to four years and there was no graduating class that year...."

"Miss M. I. Stewart was superintendent of schools when the first high school class was graduated in 1884."

The Opera House, Part I by Alice Shaneyfelt Howell. Page 129

"A big affair on June 6, 1890 was the commencement exercises of the first graduating class of Shelton High School held in the opera house...."

(caption by picture of the class) "First graduating class of Shelton High School, 1890. Class members: Jessie Cassidy, Edith Childs, Della Wyman, Lulu McCreary, Ida Stockell, Nora Scott, May Beugier, Ursula Waters, Cary Moore, Maude Lamberson, Stewart Sammons, Albert Fisher, Clyde Stebbins. H. A. Hull, principal."

4. Source: Kearney Centennial Book, 1973. Page 47

"Old Whittier housed both grade school and high school until the Longfellow building was built in 1890. It was then a grade school until it was replaced by new Whittier, erected in 1920-22, and by Kearney Junior High built in 1925. After the junior high was built 'Old Whittier' was extensively remodeled and on January 29, 1929, it was rededicated as a Manual Arts building and continued in that capacity until the department moved with the high school to the new high school building in 1960. It then served in various capacities before being razed in 1969."

"Whittier school was named for James J. Whittier, a member of the school board, but the name had literary connotation of John Greenleaf Whittier and set a trend. All the schools built before 1900, except Kenwood were given the name of then contemporary American authors."

(Caption under picture) "Old Whittier - first building erected on the central campus - 1880."

(Caption under picture, page 49) "Longfellow building was the Kearney High School from its erection in 1890 until 1960 when the new high school building was ready. An addition was added in 1912, and the building was completely remodeled in 1935. It was razed in 1969."

5. Source: WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAMED

á® Èéóôïòù ìæ Èááòîáù- by Mrs. Ella L. Bessie, Jan. 2nd, 1923. Page 34

"In 1879 through the efforts of our senator, John D. Seaman, and representative James A. Davis, Kearney secured her first public building, the State Industrial School. The City gave 300 acres of land for the site. The first building cost \$10,000. Both boys and girls were admitted until 1890. The first superintendent was Dr. G. W. Collins of Falls City."

"á® íáíïòéáó by E. S. Mill. Page 75

"The Riverdale School, District 15, was organized in 1873."

" *Autobiography of Clarence Murch*, by Mrs. William (Ruth) Jordan. Page 180-181

Quoted from autobiography of Clarence Murch, which is quoted in this article: " 'For three years my wife and I were respectively the principal and matron of the Platte Collegiate Institute, located here, three years of hard work and poor pay but boundless experience.'

"The Platte Collegiate Institute School of Higher Education, East Lawn, Kearney, Nebraska was founded in 1891 by the Rt. Rev. Anson R. Graves, D.D. S.T.T., Bishop of the Episcopal Missionary District of the Platte. Mrs. Jordon recalls missionary barrels coming from eastern churches for the school. The area of the Institute is now occupied by St. Lukes Home....

"The school occupied what were described as 'three large and convenient buildings' and one could specialize in any one of the nine departments which ranged from Collegiate Preparatory to Business, Art, or Military.

"Fees were very reasonable by today's standards. Tuition was \$10.00 and board \$20.00 for a ten week term. Rooms were \$5.00 a term and when necessary a \$0.50 additional charge was made for heat. Board, room, tuition and heat for one school year of 40 weeks was only \$120.00 when the payment was made in advance.

"The second year, 147 pupils were enrolled. Many were day students who rode to and from school on an electric streetcar, a system which covered the city at that time. In addition to being principal, Clarence Murch taught Higher English and Literature. Marcia Murch was both art instructor and matron.

"The Platte Collegiate Institute was in operation from 1891-1894 after which it became a military preparatory school. None of the three original buildings remain.

" *Notes from the Central Nebraska Press*, Kearney, September 27, 1877. Page 195

"[Thomas Mallalieu] was appointed principal of Gibbon Academy. The Academy was established in 1875. Professor Campbell was in charge for two years. My father was there three years 1877-78-79.

"Notes from the Central Nebraska Press, Kearney, September 27, 1877. The Fall term of the Gibbon Nebraska High School commences October 1st, 1877. Professor Mallalieu, a graduate from Dickenson College, Pennsylvania, had 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 gentleman students will be allowed to room in the building. For further particulars, address James Ogelvie, Gibbon, Nebr.

C. E. Brayton
J. H. Davis
James Ogelvie
School Board

" *Notes from the Central Nebraska Press*, Kearney, September 27, 1877. {no author listed} Page 209 and 211

At the time Whittier was built "The board of school directors was composed of the following persons: John H. Rowe, James J. Whittier, Joseph Black, Samuel L. Savidge, and John B. Seaman."

Among the teachers at Whittier in the 1880's was "...Mr. M. F. Miller (First Supt.);..."

"The Kearney schools graduated their first high school class, students in 'Old Whittier', in 1884....There were five girls in the class, Sara Tupman Conner, Mary Augusta Crissman, Lydia Ellen Mitchell, Florence Alberta Wilson, Grace Aurora Jackson, Luella Augusta Pingree. Graduation exercises were held at the Presbyterian Church, May 29th, 1884. The program included...Address to Class by Sup't M. F. Miller; Presentation of Diplomas, by Pres. J. Black;... "Despite the considerable 'Pomp and Circumstance' of the 1884 graduation exercises, the course of study comprised only three years work, but in 1895 the course was raised to four years and there was no class that year. Since then the school has regularly graduated a class each year."

æ® ÅÉáóòèéãô ±± - Åöäá [Photo of student body in 1912 or 1913 in Like It Was - Kearney Daily Hub, Friday, Sept. (probably 1973)]
Åíðèáóéóó ííí òèèá Åáòíù Ùááòóó-by Edith M. Smithey. Page 526

"The A. O. Thomas Training School was constructed in 1925-26 at a cost of \$100,000. Because of financial reasons, the high school grades were discontinued in 1939, and the lower grades in 1963."

6. Source: PLEASANTON ON THE LOUP, 1890-1990

Page 39 - School District 105-Pleasanton was organized October 18, 1890. "The first school officers were Rudolph Ritter, Sr., James Welliver, and A. H. Hlava."

Page 40 - "In September 1912 the tenth grade was added to the school. There were 70 pupils in grades one through ten and three teachers."

"In 1922 a white frame building was built on the west side of the brick school at a cost of \$270.00. This building gained fame by being called the 'sheep shed.' It was in this building that four additional classrooms were added. The reason for this expansion was the addition of two more grades to become a full-fledged high school. The first class to graduate from the 12th grade was in 1923."

Page 44 - Graduates of 10th grade -- 1913 Teachers: Earl Glandon, Edythe Tabler, Nellie O'Nele Anna Grammer Geisler

Bertha Reese

Walter Reese

(Grace Gilbert and Julia Harre attended with this class but did not graduate)

Graduates of first 12th grade -- 1923 Superintendent: O. L. Kenfield

Harvey Grammer

Earl Eaton

Minnie Lammers Beckman

Bernice Zbinden Hoffman

Rosa Bramer Zimmer

Mamie Klein Rohrich

Isabelle Eaton Phillips

Alfred Hadwiger

Eletha Swearingen Cloris Hansberry

First graduates of full four years - first caps and gowns worn- graduated four times eighth grade, ninth grade and tenth.

7. Source: TRAILS AND RAILS MUSEUM FILES ON SCHOOLS

æ® ÅÉáóòèéãô ±± - Åöäá [Photo of student body in 1912 or 1913 in Like It Was - Kearney Daily Hub, Friday, Sept. (probably 1973)]

Building burned in 1918 or 1919. Classes were held in the barn until the next building was built. (That new building was later converted into a home along Highway 30 east of Buda) District 11 merged with District 28 in 1959.

æ® ÅÉáóòèéãô ±² - İäáóóóá [Photo of wood building in Like It Was - Kearney Daily Hub, probably 1973]

Second building (in photo) built about 1880 after the first one, a mile west, blew away. The second building was torn down in 1926 when the brick building was built and opened in March, 1926.

[from Earl Webb]

The Odessa students started in one building. It was divided into 2 rooms to provide for grades 9 and 10. This building was built on the site of the present school. West Odessa school was built one mile west along the tracks. East Odessa school was built two miles east of the original building. All three operated at the same time. The original building was replaced by brick, East Odessa closed.

□ □ã® Äéóôðèéãôð ±µ - Òéöáðòäáîíá [from a Hub article in 1973 at the time the district celebrated its centennial]

The district was organized May 3, 1873. J.R. King was the first director; J.C. Bunnell, treasurer; and Mr. Piercey was moderator. The first building, a frame one-room schoolhouse was built in 1873. In 1908 the building was moved to just south of the railroad. In 1911 a south wing was added, completed on Sept. 1. Grades 9 and 10 were added that fall. Teachers were Miss Iva Cottrelle and Miss Cora Felker. In 1912 the original room was divided into two and a third teacher was added. When the new building was built, this one was sold to Albert Erickson, Sr. who tore it down and used the lumber to build a barn.

At the annual meeting on June 10, 1918, it was voted to add 11th grade. In 1919 the 12th grade was added. The second building, a two-story frame structure, was built in 1919. The first class graduated from Riverdale in 1921. The class members were Frank Dennis, Grace Hart Novak and Blanche Zollars Jones.

In 1939 the third building, a two-story brick schoolhouse was completed. The last class graduated from Riverdale in 1958. They were Glen Schnoor, Francis Miller, Wilma McAuliff, Lorraine Loeffelholz, Gerald Hibberd, and Phyllis Iosty.

□ □ä® Äéóôðèéãôð ²± - Æáéðòöéá÷ [from Ravenna News, Jan. 16, 1920, p.1, col.1]

Schoolhouse burned; located on Sweetwater Road four miles west of Ravenna; probably caused by a defective chimney.

□ □á® Äéóôðèéãôð ¶¹ - Òáöáîííá [Alumni of Ravenna High School, 1893-1986]

First graduating class was 1893. Class consisted of Ella Pool. First boy to graduate was Jerry Hlava in 1898. The building burned in 1945. New building now serves as junior high and another new senior high has been built. Renown graduate: Charles Jenkins, class of 1954, now living in Rochester, NY,

□ □æ® Ěáááòíáù Íéîéôáòù Áãáãáíù [See Kearney Daily Hub, Sept. 11, 1923 p.5, col. 3 for article on closing of Academy]

[See Bassett p.256 for article about Academy]

[Hub article in 1973 during Centennial] School opened in the fall of 1892 as the Platte Valley Institute, a co-educational school. Female enrollment declined and when the Spanish American War started in 1898 the school was changed to the Kearney Military Academy. It closed in September, 1923, because of insufficient enrollment and loss by fire of an annex, gymnasium, and boiler house.

[from the 1921 annual]

Top graduate and student commander of the 1921 graduating class, also star football player, was an Indian from Wakpala, South Dakota, Vine V. Deloria.

Óâðô® ±±-± ±¹²³ (entire article quoted)

MILITARY ACADEMY CLOSES ITS DOORS

Small enrollment present cause
of formal closing

The permanent closing of Kearney Military Academy has been definitely announced, owing to failure to enroll sufficient students on which to operate profitably for another year. The determination to close is the climax of a series of misfortunes within the past few years, beginning with the loss by fire of the annex containing the swimming pool, of the destruction of the boiler house last year, and finally during the past season the entire loss by fire of the athletic building or gymnasium. These losses by the elements and financial losses consequent on the late deflation period, necessitated heavy loans, entailing an added interest charge to overhead expense. Last week Bishop Becher and the Board of Control for the Episcopal District of Western Nebraska, held a council at the academy and decided on this step.

Liet. T. H. Holcombe, who had been engaged as headmaster, an army man with military academy experience, left yesterday accompanied by Mrs. Holcombe for Booneville, Mo, where a position awaits him at Kemper Military Academy, an old institution with about 400 students. The plans of other instructors have not been learned.

The Hub is informed that a tender of the academy property will be made to the U. S. Veterans' bureau, for a reasonable consideration for the seat of a disabled veterans hospital purposes. That plan failing it might be considered for general hospital purposes. Equipment is being offered for sale and there is not any present expectation that the institution will ever reopen as a military academy.

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Graduating from the Platte Institute Commercial:

- Fred Goodell
- Fred Salsbury
- Charles Tripp

- Normal:
- Grace Brown
 - Frederick Graves
 - George Frey
 - George Bates

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Odessa to Send Students to Kearney

Residents of the Odessa School District voted Wednesday night to contract to send the district's high school students to Kearney High School during the next school year.

Of the 93 persons attending the official meeting held at the school, 60 voted to contract with the Kearney district for a one-year period and 32 voted for the continuance of the Odessa High School on a non-approved basis.

The State Department of Education announced earlier this year that the Odessa High School would be taken off the list of approved high schools at the close of the current school year.

One More Year

Under the present regulations of the department of education, the Odessa High School can remain on the list of approved schools another year by contracting to send the students to another high school. If the high school were to be operated next year, however, it would be on a non-approved basis.

The action taken is a temporary solution to the district's school problems. Next year, the residents will decide whether to revert to a Class I district (grade school only) or merge with another district.

There are 15 students attending the Odessa High School this year.

Under the contract, the Odessa District will pay the Kearney District \$12 per week per student in tuition fees. Transportation costs will be charged in addition to the tuition fees.

In an earlier meeting, the district residents indicated they would not contract with any district, but allow the students to attend high school wherever they wished.

Riverdale Meeting

The residents of the Riverdale School District will hold a similar meeting at the high school there Monday at 8 p.m. to decide the future of the district's high school. Like the Odessa High School, the Riverdale High School also is due to be dropped from the list of approved high schools at the close of the current school year.

The Buffalo County School Redistricting Committee will meet Thursday night with representatives for school districts in the county to discuss redistricting problems. Lester Hunt of Lincoln, director of school reorganization of the State Department of Education, will attend the meeting.

Catholics Set Dates for New High School

Members of St. James Catholic Church were informed Sunday that construction work would get under way on the church's proposed new high school in the spring of 1959.

Those attending the general meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall also were told that the high school's opening has been scheduled for the fall of 1960. The meeting was held to discuss and formulate plans for building the high school and conducting a campaign for funds. A building committee is to be named in the near future.

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Article in HUB told of petition to merge Kearney and Odessa school districts with Odessa school being kept as an attendance center.

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Miller to Close High School

Residents of Miller School District No. 45 voted two-to-one Thursday evening against operating the district's high school during the next school year, Joseph Cherry, president of the school board, stated Friday.

Residents of Miller School District No. 45 voted two-to-one Thursday evening against operating the district's high school during the next school year, Joseph Cherry, president of the school board, stated Friday.

The residents of the district also voted not to contract with the Elm Creek, Amherst or any other district for the education of the high school students residing in the district.

As a result of the action the Class II district (grade and high school) will revert to a Class I district (grade school only).

The students in the district will be eligible to receive free high school tuition and may attend any high school of their choice in the state.

There are 19 students enrolled in the high school this year.

(caption under two pictures)

(caption under two pictures)

Odessa High. Marilyn Crowell (left), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Crowell of Odessa, and Myrtle Crowell (right), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Crowell of Odessa, have been named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the Odessa High School graduating class.

Other members of the senior class include Hazel Swartwood, Gary Skiles and Roger Johnston.

Baccalaureat services will be held for the five graduates at the Odessa School gymnasium, Sunday at 2 p.m. Commencement exercises will be held at the gymnasium, Wednesday at 8 p.m.

The 1958 graduating class will be the last group to receive diplomas from Odessa High School. The high school will not be operated after the close of the current school term.

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(caption under two pictures)

Honor Graduates. Frances Miller (left) daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Miller, Route 3, Kearney, is valedictorian, and Lorraine Loeffelholz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Loeffelholz, Route 3, Kearney, salutatorian of the Riverdale High School graduating class.

Other members of the class are Phyllis Iosty, Wilma McAuliff, Jerald Hibberd and Glenn Schnoor.

Commencement exercises will be held Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the high school with John Mitchell of Kearney the speaker.

Baccalaureat services were held Sunday evening at the school gymnasium with the Rev. Dale Coakley of the Riverdale Methodist Church the speaker.

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(caption under two pictures)

Miller Honor Graduates. Barbara Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester H. Clark, was valedictorian and Duard Harnagel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Merle Harnagel, was salutatorian of the 1958 Miller High School graduating class.

Other members of the graduating class include Barbara Albrecht, Jim Milligan, Charles Parish and Gary Fedderson.

Commencement exercises were held at the Miller Community Hall, Wednesday evening. Miss Phyllis Roberts, Kearney State Teachers College English instructor, delivered the address.

Baccalaureat services were held last Sunday. The Rev. Donald C. Miller, pastor of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, gave the address.

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(caption under a picture of 18 students, 2 priests, and one sister, summarized, not quoted.)

St. James Catholic graduated 8th graders. They will be the first to go on to Catholic High. Each year a high school class will be added. (That means the first class will graduate in the spring of 1963)

Those graduating from the 8th grade were:

Nancy Wilson	Joan Elliott
Mary Ann Keough	Edward Kelly
Josephine Carranza	Robert Blazick
Carolyn Miller	Gregory Miller
Mary Jo Jamrog	Patrick McCormick
Bonnie Butler	Michael Callinan
Colleen Davis	James Chambers
John Galvan	James Herzog
Diane McDonald	Judy Christensen

9. BUFFALO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

From correspondence in the files for 1923, 1924, and 1925 seeking approval for the following schools as high schools:

1923 - Buda	1924 - Buda	1925 - St. Michael (2)
Odessa	Odessa	Buda (2 year)
Riverdale	Riverdale	Odessa (2 year)

Pleasant Hill	Pleasant Hill	Pleasant Hill (2
Stone	Dist. 22	Shelton Dis. 22
Denman	Hartman	Hartman
Miller	Stone	Stone
Poole	Denman*	Denman
Pleasanton	Poole	Poole
Watertown	Watertown	Watertown
Alfalpa Center	St. Michael	Alfalpa Center
Amherst	Pleasanton	Amherst
	Alfalpa Center	
	Amherst	

*Denman wasn't approved. They lacked physical, geography and agricultural equipment.

COUNTY WORKSHEET FOR PAGES OF HISTORY; ALL NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOLS, PAST AND PRESENT 1850-2000

Buffalo County

I. Present High Schools Still in Existence

A. Public High Schools

Gibbon - District No. 2 organized April 22, 1871. First high school built in 1880. (Source 1,b.)

Kearney - District No. 7 was organized March 8, 1872 (Source 2,a.) First football team in 1884; coached by Supt. J. E. Morey (Source 2,b.) First graduation exercises May 29, 1884 at the Presbyterian Church. Class consisted of five girls. High School course of study was three years of work from 1881 - 1884 with junior, middle, and senior classes. Made a 4-year high school in 1885 so no graduating class that year. Miss M. I. Stewart was superintendent of schools in 1884. (Source 3,a.) High School housed in Old Whittier from 1881 to 1890 when Longfellow was completed. Moved to the new high school building in 1960. Longfellow was torn down in 1969. (Source 4) Directors when Whittier was built (1881) were John H. Rowe, James J. Whittier, Joseph Black (pres.), Samuel L. Savidge, and John B. Seaman. Mr. M. F. Miller was the first superintendent. (Source 5,e). This source also says there were five in the first graduating class in 1884, but lists six names.)

Elm Creek - District No. 9 organized June 10, 1872 with Josephus Moore the first teacher. (Source 2,d.)

Shelton - First graduating class had commencement exercises June 6, 1890 at the opera house. H. A. Hull was principal. Thirteen members in the class (Source 3,b includes their names.)

Ravenna - District 69 - School district organized in 1884; Erastus on the board; one-room school with Mrs. Alva Adams teacher. 1887 new building built for \$18,000 for both grade and high school. (Source 1,a.) The first 12th grade high school class graduated in 1893. The class consisted of Ella Pool. The first boy to graduate was Jerry Hlava in 1898. The building burned in 1945. The new building now serves as the junior high and a new senior high has been build. A renown graduate is Charles Jenkins, class of 1954, who presently resides in Rochester, New York. (Source 7,e)

Pleasanton - District 105 was organized October 18, 1890. First board members were Rudolph Ritter, Sr., James Welliver, and A. H. Hlava. Tenth grade added in 1912. Expanded to a 4-year high school in 1922. First graduating class from the four year program was in 1923. First 10th grade graduating class had three members; first 12th grade graduating class had nine members. O. L. Kenfield was Superintendent in 1923. This class graduated four times: from 8th, 9th, 10th and 12th grades. (Source 6)

Amherst - District 119 organized in 1893, Herman Kapedsky was director. First 10th grade classes held in January, 1909. Building burned March 17, 1928, as diversionary tactic by bank robbers. (Source 2,c.)

West Kearney High School - In 1880 F. G. Keens and Nathan Campbell were empowered by Kearney citizens to offer 300 acres as a site for the State Reform School. (Source 2,e.) In 1879 Kearney got the State Industrial School due to the efforts of Senator John D. Seaman and Rep. James A. Davis. The city gave 300 acres of land for the site. The first building cost \$10,000. Both boys and girls were admitted until 1890. The first superintendent was Dr. G. W. Collins of Falls City. (Source 5,a.)

B. Private High Schools
Kearney Catholic

II. Past High Schools No Longer in Existence

A. Public High Schools Now Gone

Riverdale - District 15 organized in 1873. (Source 5,b.) J.R. King was the first director; J. C. Nunnell, treasurer; and Mr. Piercey was moderator. The first building, a frame one-room schoolhouse was built in 1873. In 1908 the building was moved to just south of the railroad. In 1911 a south wing was added, completed on Sept. 1. Grades 9 and 10 were added that fall. Teachers were Miss Iva Cottrelle and Miss Cora Felker. In 1912 the original room was divided into two and a third teacher added. When the new building was built, this one was sold to Albert Erickson, Sr. who tore it down and used the lumber to build a barn.

At the annual meeting on June 10, 1918, it was voted to add 11th grade. In 1919 the 12th grade was added. The second building, a two-story frame structure, was built in 1919. The first class graduated from Riverdale in 1921. The class members were Frank Dennis, Grace Hart Novak and Blanch Zollars Jones. In 1939 the third building, a two-story brick schoolhouse, was built.

The last class graduated from Riverdale in 1958. They were Glen Schnoor, Francis Miller, Wilma McAuliff, Lorraine Loeffelholz, Gerald Hibberd, and Phyllis Iosty. (Source 7,c)

Odessa - District 12 students started in one building. A second building was built about 1880 after the wind blew away the first one. This building was divided into 2 rooms to provide for grades 9 and 10. It was torn down in 1926 when it was replaced by the brick building which opened in March of that year. West Odessa school was built one mile west along the tracks. East Odessa school was built two miles east of the original building. All three operated at the same time. When the original building was replaced by the brick one, East Odessa closed. (Source 7, b.)

Miller

Poole

Denman

St. Michael

A O Thomas - Constructed in 1925- 26 for \$100,000. High school was discontinued in 1939 for financial reasons. (Source 5,f.)

B. Private High Schools Now Gone

Kearney Military Academy - First known as the Platte Collegiate Institute, founded in 1891 by the Rt. Rev. Anson R. Graves, D.D.S.T.T, Bishop of the Episcopal Missionary District of the Platte. Operated from 1891-1894 as the Institute; then became a military preparatory school. Clarence and Marcia Murch were principal and Matron of the Institute for three years. Mr. Murch also taught Higher English and Literature. Mrs. Murch taught art. There were 147 students the second year. (Source 5,c.) Started as a co-educational school but became an all boys school when converted into the Military Academy. Top

graduate, football star, class commander, in the class of 1921 was an Indian from Wakpala, South Dakota, Vine V. Deloria.

Çéââîî Áâáâîù - Thomas Mallalieu was principal from 1877-79. The Academy was founded in 1875. Professor Campbell was in charge the first two years. The school board for the Academy in 1877 consisted of C. E. Brayton, J. H. Davis, and James Ogelvie. (Source 5,d.)

C. Other Districts which may have had 10-grade schools:

Buda - District 11 - Building burned in 1918 or 1919. One fourth-grader heard crackling, thought it was highschool students writing on blackboard. Classes were held in the barn until the new building was completed. District 11 merged with District 28 in 1959. The schoolhouse is now used as a residence and can be seen along Highway 30 east of Buda. (Source 7, a.)

Sweetwater - District 21 - Located on the Sweetwater Road four miles west of Ravenna. Schoolhouse burned in January, 1920, probably caused by a defective chimney. (Source 7, d.)

Worksheet for collection of information on your high school for entry in the book [something underlined here that did not translate to the updated program]

Please return completed worksheet by June 6, 1991, to
Mardi Anderson
Rt. 6, Box 423
Kearney, NE 68847

(Please LOAN us a glossy black & white original photograph of the present or last existing main high school building. An 8 x 10 size is idea, but any size is acceptable. All photographs will be returned undamaged.)

1. Name of high school _____

2. District number _____

3. School site location _____

4. Year opened _____ Year high school classes were added:

Year closed if no longer open _____

5. School colors _____

6. School mascot _____

7. School song (Name and source of melody if known) _____

8. Year of first graduating class _____
Number and names of persons in first graduating class

9. Year of most recent (or last) graduating class _____

Number of persons in most recent graduating class _____

If school is closed, names of last graduating class
members _____

(Continue on back of page, if necessary)

10. Notable achievements, both academic and athletic, of your high

11. Names of first school board members (if known)

12. Name of first superintendent (if known)

13. Names of noted graduates of national or statewide
prominence in government, business, politics, science,
education, athletic, entertainment, etc. Or names of
notable teachers or administrators at the high school.

(Continue on the back if necessary)

14. Any other information about your school which may be of
interest and is part of its history.

(Continue on the back if necessary) Thank you very much for your assistance with this project.

May 20, 1990
Rt. 6, Box 423
Kearney, NE 68847

Susan Underhill
32 Walnut
Riverdale, NE 68870

Dear Susan,

As you are well aware, the Nebraska High School Historical Society is putting together a book about Nebraska High Schools from 1855 to the present. I have agreed to collect information about high schools in Buffalo County for this publication.

Mr. Murphy, president and organizer of this project, has informed me that you contacted him about providing information about Miller High School. I am hoping you will be willing to help in providing that information for the book. I have enclosed a worksheet of the information we need. Since you live in Riverdale, I'm also wondering if you could help by filling in some blank spots concerning Riverdale High School. Along with the Riverdale work sheet, I am enclosing what I have collected so far.

Because of impending deadlines, I would like to have the information back by June 6. I realize this does not give you much time and I apologize. If you will not be able to provide this information, please let me know as soon as possible.

We are excited about the prospect of being able to preserve for future generations the history of our local high schools. I appreciate any help and information you can provide.

Sincerely,

Mardi Anderson

enc.