

# Grant Township

Named for William Grant who homesteaded in 1874

Listed as a Precinct in 1875 (Assessors books)

County adopted township system in 1883

Location: Third tier from the top, 2<sup>nd</sup> in from the west (Township10; Range 17)

Rivers & Streams: Wood River winds cattycorner from southeast corner to northwest corner  
All other streams or waterways empty into it.

Whole township is in the Wood River watershed

Type of land: Mixed crop and pasture

Transportation routes:

Stagecoach – from Kearney up south side of Wood River through Stanley and Greendale

Railroad – Kearney & Black Hills - Up Wood River on north side through Amherst

Highway – State Highway 40 on same route as railroad up north side of Wood River

Graveled bed completed in 1936; paved in 1958

Post Offices:

**Huntsville** – Couple miles southeast of present day Amherst

Miles B. Hunt – Filed on homestead early in 1873 in Section 22.

Lived on his land some years before filing

Applied for Post Office, established in Oct. 1873, first in the township

Post Office moved 2 miles west Mar. 15, 1877 and renamed Stanley

**Greendale** – Mile and a half or so northwest of Amherst

Post Office established in 1879 in NW ¼ Section 8,

Closed when the railroad was built in 1890

**Stanley:** Had Post Office from 1877 until 1891 when it was discontinued.

[another source] In 1890 P O was moved to Amherst

Located at intersection of present day Eagle Road and Road 145,  
(mile east of road from Odessa to Amherst)

Mile south & two east of Amherst

At the crossroads – 2 general stores and post office

Blacksmith shop

A mill on the Wood River northwest of Stanley

Dam across the Wood River was 40 feet across.

School, Dist. 13

Hotel, livery barn, blacksmith shop

Bank

Methodist Church

Dr.'s office  
Newspaper – *Stanley News*  
Literary Society – Tuesday nights  
Topics of debate  
"The United States Owe Her Greatness to Her Geographic Position and Not Her Form of Government."  
"The School District Should Furnish Text-Books and They Should Be Uniform."  
"Courts are Bigger Frauds Than the Railroads." Stanley vs. Riverdale

**Towns: Amherst** – Established in 1890 as a depot on the K & BH Railroad

Laid out by K & BH Railroad 2 ½ miles northwest.  
Train did not stop at Stanley  
Hotel moved  
Doctor moved  
Soon not enough people in Stanley, Post Office discontinued

Incorporated in 1894

Has wide streets. Main St. is 100 feet wide; others are 80 [most streets are 60]

Cemeteries: Old Stanley

½ mile west of Stanley – Graves from Huntsville Cemetery moved here

Churches: None outside of Amherst any more

Schools:

Dist. 13 – organized in 1873 (Where Buffalo Roamed) First school was sod  
May have been in use before it was organized  
Located in Section 22  
School census in 1890's had 70 children  
Second building erected in Section 13, about 2 miles away  
Second school called "East Stanley"  
First school called "West Stanley" or "Old Stanley"

East Stanley closed at end of 1953-54 term  
West Stanley combined with Amherst, Dist. 119, in 1959

Dist: 16 – Amherst

Dist: 31- Greendale (1907 & 1919 Atlas)

Located northwest of Amherst, upstream on the Wood toward Watertown & Miller  
Organized in July, 1876; closed after 1954-55 term. Joined Amherst Dist 119

Dist. 44 – Glendale (1907 & 1919 Atlas)

Located south and a little west of Amherst  
Organized in late 1870's; dissolved and attached to Amherst dist. 119 in 1959

Had a literary society

“A man will do more for his friends than he will for money”

“There is more pleasure in pursuit than in possession”

Dist. 74 – Prairie Dell (1907 & 1919 Atlas)

Located 2 miles east and a little north of Amherst

Organized in Dec. 1883; dissolved in 1959 and divided between 3 districts, one being 119

Dist. 108 – River View (1907 & 1919 Atlas)

Organized in 1887 by taking land from Dist 31 and 44 – about one mile west of Amherst on south bank of Wood River

Students from Amherst attended here until Dist 119 was organized

Last term was the 1940-41 school year

Dist. 119 – organized in 1893; (Where Buffalo Roamed)

In Feb 1893 Dist 108 purchased land in Amherst and built a second schoolhouse

Dist. 119 was formed in Nov. 1894; this building became theirs.

Present Day:

2006 Election Results - GRANT TWP BOARD

Vote for up to 3		
(WITH 2 OF 2 PRECINCTS COUNTED)		
Kevin Klingelhoefner . . . . .	146	80.22
WRITE-IN. . . . .	36	19.78
Total . . . . .	182	
Over Votes . . . . .	0	
Under Votes . . . . .	496	

County Board Secretary 10-22-2007

Other two members are Ryan Fisher and Clark Nuttelman

Budget – 8,379

Telephone conversation with Kevin Klingelhoefer 10-22-2007

Meetings – Annual meeting, other times informal meetings when something comes up

Responsibilities – Roads & Cemetery

Roads – Do not own any equipment

Delegated responsibility for road maintenance to county

County asks each year if there are changes to their list of priorities on which roads are to be graded and/or have snow removed

After ice storm last winter he & son cleared one road themselves

Cemetery – The township owns Old Stanley Cemetery

Delegated operation to the cemetery board which hires maintenance person

Township Board has to make major decisions like if more land were to be

Purchased

**Dec. 4, 1891 - W. L. Moss – Director of Dist. 13 – Charged with Malfeasance of Office**

Took lumber appropriated lumber left from building the school to his own use.

Now a splendid barn is the result

Purchased coal at \$4 per ton. Sold it to the school for \$7/ton.

It is said that neighbors told him if he returned the lumber, nothing would be said.

He didn't and was arrested

Long and bitter battle but a year later a jury declared him "not guilty"

**From the HUB:**

W. D. Liebee - Extensive farmer, stock raiser in Grant township in 1901. Came 15 years ago with less than \$200. Now has thousands of acres. Cultivated 450 acres. Is experimenting with 4 acres of brome grass. 909 head of cattle, 60 hogs, orchards of apples, cherries, plums, peaches, & pears. Yard with 18 varieties of roses, pansies, geraniums, and flowering shrubs.

1890 Census

Buffalo County - 20,254. Every other county with 20,000 or more population was within 100 miles of the east border of the state.

Grant including Amherst – 632

Amherst – 183

Kearney – 1,386 First Ward

1,473 Second “

1,169 Third “

1,606 fourth Ward

5,634

Buffalo Co. 1860 – 114

1870 – 193

1880 – 7,531

1890 – 22,162 – Actually less than 20,000 but big towns liked to inflate their numbers – Ex. Kearney, this was the height of the “Boom Period”

1900 - 20,254

[No wonder the state did a census in 1885]

Henry Downer, of Grant Township, was elected superintendent of the poor farm by the Co. Board – July 10, 1900 Hub

July 1899

Green does threshing

Finished Van Blue farm at end of day

Next job on Jesse Blue farm

Green refused to move machine there, roads too bad

Blue offered to hitch his horses to it and pull it

Green refused to take machine where the engine could not pull it.

One word led to another

Green made a statement

Blue called him a liar

A fight took place

Green got the worst of the deal, taking several blows about the head

Close to a dozen men present [the threshing crew] but they apparently wanted to see who was the "best man"

Township Justice of the Peace fined Blue \$5 plus costs – court costs, constable costs, \$30 in witness fees

Blue is appealing to the District court – which may make his costs even higher

It was said there was already bad blood between these two and this affair will not improve matters.

[Blue may have to find someone else to do his threshing next year.]