

Location – Third Row from north boundary of the county, fifth township from west
Schneider township to north, Thornton to west

Geography – watershed divide runs east-west about 1 ½ to 2 miles from north line.

Drainage to north goes to South Loup River, drainage to south goes to Wood River

Cemeteries – None

Churches – Methodist

United Brethren

Schools – Dist. 49 – Upper Buckeye

Dist. 97 – Lower Buckeye

Towns/communities - Butler

1895 map of Nebraska shows Butler

Bassett, P 114

HISTORY OF BUFFALO COUNTY

VALLEY TOWNSHIP--TOWN NO. 10, RANGE NO. 14

1871--N. W. Short, M. Gray.

1872--T. L. Mitchell, J. R. Beach, S. A. Barrett, E. Graham.

1873--W. T. Beatty, H. H. Haven, W. A. Losee, S. F. Berry, M. Oard, A. M. Campbell, George Simpkins, Samuel T. Walker.

1874--Thomas Jones, John Brennon, W. R. Wheeler.

1875--P. C. Shannon.

1876--Wm. Puttergill, S. D. Kooser.

1878--J. B. Wheeler, Geo. E. Fredericks, T. Q. George, O. Knepper.

1879--R. R. Rathbon, Joseph Glaze, Wm. Trivelpiece, L. C. France, J. Kinnett, G. W. McKay, David Roach, G. W. Walker, N. H. Smith.

Comparison of Gibbon Homestead colonists with early homesteaders –

No names match

Gibbon Homestead colonists must have purchased railroad land – makes sense since they came as a group on the railroad and the railroad let them use some of their cars for a while until they got houses built

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RECOLLECTIONS OF BUCKEYE VALLEY SCHOOL

by Ruth Gitchel Anderson

In April 1880 there was school being taught but no school house. Within a year a schoolhouse had been built for Dist. 49. (Upper Buckeye) There was a small pond near the schoolhouse where the children would slide on the ice.

In 1885 the district was divided and Dist. 97 (Buckeye Valley) was formed.

“Ann [Gitchel] told her own story. There was open prairie all about the school and in spring, clumps of wild garlic. One recess the children took to digging and eating. When the bell rang and the children re-assembled in the school house, their combined breath was overwhelming. The teacher flung open door and windows and forbade any more gourmet foraging.”

School so crowded the children sat 3 to a seat in double desks. In 1898 there were 60 students enrolled.

“In 1896 the Grange built its own hall. A Methodist and a United Brethren congregation each had their own church building. There was also a store. This rural community in Buckeye Valley was known as Butler and had its own post office located in the store.”

“Levi Gitchel gave the following finale to the story of District 97: "Old District 97 school house was purchased by Valley Township and used as a township hall.”

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BUCKEYE VALLEY AND THE HAMLET OF BUTLER

by Laura Vohland Brady

“A schoolhouse was built in 1880 in which Methodist church services and Sabbath School classes were also held until a church could be constructed. In 1884 a United Brethren congregation also organized in Buckeye Valley and erected a church building.”

The grange had a revival in Nebraska about 1921.

“Some fifteen years after their first hall was sold, the Butler Grange bought the church building of the disbanded United Brethren Church for use as a grange hall.”

HUB

Oct 9, 1899 - Methodist church was located in Section 20 [in upper Buckeye Valley]

Aug. 17, 1903

Archbishop of Syrian Orthodox Church from Toledo, Ohio visited Kearney. Services were held in the West Kearney schoolhouse twice. Then on Sunday afternoon he met with the people and they were given permission to select someone who would be their priest. N. E. Yanney, one of the Yanney brothers living in Valley Township, was selected. He was examined by the archbishop on Monday and was to leave soon for the east where he would study for several months. Then he would return to Kearney and assume control of the church. On Wednesday the archbishop held his last mass before leaving for the east. The Syrian congregation have

purchased the West Kearney building which they plan to move to 14th St. between 1st and 2nd to use as their church.

March 25, 1905

Large prairie fire in Valley Township caused damage on 6 farms and burned one schoolhouse. High winds and dry grass made fighting the fire difficult.

1871—

N. W. Short –

1880 Gibbon Township

Wife Nancy, sons Clarence 11 & Gilbert 9 (May 1872), Frank 5 (1875), & Vernon born in Sept 1879.

1900 Gibbon Village

Gilbert & Mary & Ruth 4, Esther 2, & Harry (Kearny) 6 mo. (1899)

Maria sons Frank 24, Vernon 20, Archie 18 (1881)

1910

White Water, McPhearson Co.

Gilbert 38 & Mary, 5 daughters & Harvey 10

North Platte, Lincoln Co

Frank 34 & Francis & 3 children

Omaha, Douglas Co.

Vernon 30, & Jessie & a daughter

Archie, Maria & a daughter

M. Gray

1870 – 2 M. Grays in Otoe Co.

1880 - Joseph, Mary, & sons Charles, James & Joseph in Kearney

1872—

T. L. Mitchel

1870 & 1880 – not in Buffalo Co.

J. R. Beach

1870 & 1880 – not in Buffalo Co.

S. A. Barrett

Several Barretts in Shelton and Gibbon

E. Graham

1873—

W. T. Beatty

1880

W. T. 63, Marian, George 27, Jenny 22

H. H. Haven

1880

H H Haven 35, Maddie 6, Ora 3

W. A. Losee

S. F. Berry

M. Oard

A. M. Campbell

George Simpkins

Samuel T. Walker

1874—

Thomas Jones

John Brennon

W. R. Wheeler

1875—

P. C. Shannon

1876—

Wm. Puttergill

S. D. Kooser

1878—

J. B. Wheeler

Geo. E. Fredericks

T. Q. George

O. Knepe

1879—

R. R. Rathbon

Joseph Glaze

Wm. Trivelpiec

L. C. France

J. Kinnett

G. W. McKay

David Roach

G. W. Walker

N. H. Smith.

Oct 15, 1901 - At a meeting of the County Board of Supervisors

“Roe made a report on disappearance of Mike Murphy from poor farm August 13 and subsequent search by himself and Sheriff Funk, but nothing had been heard from him since last seen immediately afterward when passing the Snively place on Wood River.