

# Elm Creek Township

## Assessor's book

Western Precinct – April 9, 1877 (later called Elm Creek Township)

\*John Daul                Lots 5-8 in Sec 4-8-18 (127.3 acres)  
5-8-18 (160 acres)

\*John Ulerich            Lots 1-4 in Sec 5-8-18

James Holt              SW ¼ 20-9-18

\*D. T. Hood              NE ¼ 20-9-18

S. W. Schnyder        SE ¼ 20-9-18

\*Charles Davis         E ½ SE ¼ & SW ¼ SE ¼ 28-9-18  
SE ¼ NE ¼ 28-9-18

Dan Duly                NW ¼ SE ¼ & W ½ NE ¼ 28-9-18

\*Dick Holt              NW ¼ 30-9-18

\*Martin Stout         SW ¼ 32-9-18

\*George Miller        SE ¼ 32-9-18

NW ¼ 33-9-18

SW ¼ 33-9-18

\*D. C. Bond            NW ¼ 34-9-18

\*Homesteaded

Personal Property – items of note

William Barron        37 cattle

Charles Davis         Merchandise - \$50; 9 horses; 33 cattle; 17 swine;

Household furniture - \$150; 1 dog

John Daul              70 cattle

W. C. T. Kurth         Merchandise - \$250

George Miller         85 cattle

S. W. Snyder         Money & credits - \$600

U.P.R.R.                Depot, Section house, tank - \$800

Total 10 dogs

## **Biographies from Bassett, Vol. II**

p. 307

**JOHN F. DAUL.**

John F. Daul, who owns five hundred acres of excellent land, is one of the most successful and progressive farmers of Elm Creek township. He was born in Washington county, Wisconsin, thirty miles north of Milwaukee, on the 26th of May, 1852. A sketch of his father, Frederick Daul, appears elsewhere in this work. During our subject's childhood the family removed to Kewaunee county, Wisconsin, and there he grew to mature years. In 1873 removal was made to Buffalo county, Nebraska, the father, who was quite well-to-do, chartering a car and shipping a team of horses and his household goods by rail. The family settled in what is now Elm Creek township, where the father purchased a half section of railroad land.

John F. Daul had but limited school advantages, as, being the oldest in the family, he had to go to work when a boy. He received thorough training under his father in all kinds of agricultural labor and continued to assist with the operation of the home farm until he was thirty-five years of age. He then located upon his present place, which he has brought to a high state of development. He has made all of the improvements, which compare favorably with those of other farms in the neighborhood, and has carefully conserved the fertility of the soil. He holds title to five hundred acres of land, from which he derives a gratifying income. For a few years he lived elsewhere, but has again taken up his residence on his farm. While living in Wisconsin he began running a threshing outfit and continued in that business for twenty-four consecutive seasons, becoming very expert in that work. He claims that in the twenty-four years he did not waste as much grain as most threshers of the present day do on one job, as he not only understood the business thoroughly but also took pains to do the work well and to avoid waste.

Mr. Daul was married in 1880 in this county to Miss Addie E. Milbourn, who was born in McLean county, Illinois, but accompanied her parents to this county in 1872. Further mention of her father, Washington Milbourn, appears elsewhere in this work. Previous to her marriage she worked for others, receiving a wage of one dollar per week. To Mr. and Mrs. Daul have been born two children. John O., who is a hardware merchant of Elm Creek, married Miss Olive Fitzgerald, a daughter of Daniel Fitzgerald, an early settler of Buffalo county. She passed away leaving a daughter, Mary Alice, now three years old, who is living with our subject and his wife. Fred, the younger son, is living with his parents. He has spent considerable time in the west and owns two hundred acres of land near Baker, Oregon, and one hundred and sixty acres in Colorado.

Mr. Daul is independent in politics, voting for the man rather than the party. At one time he served as township treasurer and proved a very capable and conscientious official. Both he and his wife belong to the Catholic church, in the work of which they take a commendable interest. They are widely known throughout the county in which they have lived for many years, and their genuine worth is indicated in the fact, that those who have been most intimately associated with them are their staunchest friends.

Page 288

**GEORGE MILLER.**

George Miller is a fine type of a self-made man--a man who is not disheartened by a lack of unusual opportunity but who resolutely makes the best of conditions as they are and through

enterprise and good judgment, eventually wins success. He has at all times depended upon his own resources and is now one of the wealthy men of Buffalo county, owning seventeen hundred and eighty-four acres of fine land in the county. He resides in Elm Creek township and has brought all of his land to a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Miller was born in Delaware county, New York, on the 9th of February, 1841, a son of William and Fanny (Hicks) Miller, also natives of the Empire state. They removed to Iowa when our subject was but a small child and two years later went to Missouri, where they resided until the Civil war, at which time removal was made to Jones county, Iowa. There the mother passed away, but the father died in Audubon county, that state.

George Miller was reared upon the home farm in Missouri and when sixteen years of age began freighting across the plains, making several trips to Mexico and subsequently going to Wyoming. While there he worked for contractors who were freighting for the government and while in their employ drove six yoke of oxen, there often being twenty-five teams in a train, and he met with many interesting experiences in those pioneer days. In August, 1871, he removed to Buffalo county, Nebraska, and purchased a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Elm Creek township. For the first year he lived in a dugout but at the end of that time built his present home. In a comparatively short time he had his land under cultivation and was receiving a gratifying income therefrom. As soon as he had accumulated sufficient capital he invested in more land and gradually has added to his holdings until he now owns ten hundred and fifty-four acres in a body in Elm Creek township and seven hundred and thirty acres in Logan township. In managing his business affairs he has manifested a progressive spirit and a well founded faith in the agricultural future of the county, and the wisdom of his course has been vindicated as he is now financially independent.

Mr. Miller was married, in Jones county, Iowa, to Miss Angela Cohoon, a native of that county, who passed away on the 29th of August, 1912. For six years previous to this the family had resided in Arkansas for the benefit of her health. She was the mother of nine children, namely: Alma, at home; Howard, who is married, and resides on land belonging to his father; Archie, who is also farming land belonging to his father and is married; Bert, who is operating some of his father's land and is married; Kate, the wife of Harry Skinner, of Pueblo, Colorado; Georgia, the wife of John Loibl, of Elm Creek; Roy, who is operating his father's farm in Logan township and is married; and Harry and Dolly, both of whom died in infancy.

Mr. Miller has been a member of the Methodist church for many years and takes a commendable interest in its work. His wife was likewise identified with that church. He votes the democratic ticket but has never sought public office. His observation has convinced him of the great evil wrought by the liquor traffic and he is a stalwart worker in the cause of temperance. Although he is a man of wealth and has reached the age at which many retire he is still a hard worker and finds much satisfaction in activity.

### **Bassett:**

1866-67 – Railroad completed through county

Station at Elm Creek – D. C. Bond, agent

Eating house – Charles Davis, proprietor

20 minute stop for meals - Tea story

Among the first to take homestead claims in what is now Elm Creek Township were:

1907 – water works in Elm Creek

Steel 40,000 gal. tank 120 feet up, supplied by 5 wells, 35 feet deep, 20 blocks of mains with 65 hook ups and 16 hydrants

School census, 1873 – 40 school age children in Dist. 9

Frame schoolhouse built 1 mile west of present city. UP hauled lumber from Omaha free  
Later moved into the village. When a larger one was built, the old one was bought by the  
Episcopal Church. That church did not last long. By 1916 it was used as a chapel by A.  
Reeves, undertaker

### Churches

Christian Church – 1910

Methodist Church – Dec. 1872 funeral the first service. Revival meetings & then a class  
organized Feb. 1873. Asbury Collins served his church at one time.

Catholic Church – first service in station house 1871 or 1872. Built a small church in 1878.  
First, or one of first priests came once a month from Lexington.

1871— 4

A. F. Fraser

T. J. Holt

B. Foot

H. Ryan

1872— 14

Fanny Nevius

James Tyler

W. Shreve

R. M. Holt

M. Stout

F. Ryan

D. McAlister

W. S. Leake

J. E. Anderson

P. Hansen

D. T. Hood

W. V. Hoge  
J. McKee  
J. W. Stevens

1873— 5  
H. B. Steele  
John Tyler  
D. C. Bond  
D. Dooley  
J. Degler

1874— 11  
C. J. Swayne  
H. T. Morton  
J. Meach  
J. Dane  
J. Ulrich  
William Dawns  
J. T. Shufflebarger  
Wm. Snell  
F. Foster  
J. DeKam  
Charles Davis

1875— 7  
L. Kocker  
A. S. Leake  
S. T. Wolf  
A. Shufflebarger  
J. Shufflebarger  
Sarah J. Calkins  
George Miller

1876— 2  
G.W. House  
J.P. Arndt.

1877—1

D. I. Brown

1878— 4

R. K. Potter

W. C. Shufflebarger

J. R. Churchill

M. Hurley

1879— 14

J. Somell

A. Straight

S. M. Tingley

H. Hobson

C. E. Holmes

L. Knapp

D. Browning

A. S. Sabin

L. P. Wells

J. Demuth

A. Jarchke

Thomas Bolan

N. O. Calkins

J. B. Wait.

### **Archives**

1872 – June 19, Post Office

1872 – June 10, District 9 organized

1873 – Methodist Church started, met in schoolhouse till 1883

1906 – Fire on Front Street burned 14 buildings

1907 – Elm Creek Volunteer Fire Department

1888, June 2 (or 1886) – 1<sup>st</sup> newspaper – Elm Creek Sun

1975 – Chevyland started

Other newspapers

Elm Creek Pilot

Elm Creek Times

Beacon began 1897, March –

Elm Creek Beacon, 1906 – Former Buffalo County Beacon at Gibbon

### High School

Typing added to curriculum 1923 – 2 typewriters

Head gates of Kearney Canal are located in Elm Creek Township

Elm Creek original location one mile west on bank of Elm Creek

Named for red elms along shore

Trees used for fuel for the trains

Moved to present site in 1883 because that's the depot was

Incorporated on 1-12-1887

Elm Creek was one word until 1947

Story –1932 news clipping

Mr. Reeves was going to get rhubarb

Accompanied by wife of man who worked for his brother

Car stalled when crossing the track 2 miles west of town

No. 9 train was coming

He tried to push it off

Either the brakes had locked or perhaps he left it in gear

Lady finally persuaded him to stop trying to push the car off the tracks

They were still running away from the tracks when the train hit the car

Train hit the car with such force it carried the car ½ mile or more down the track.

### **Hub**

May 25, 1894 – O Hawkinson of Galesburg, Illinois, was in town to pay property taxes on the thousand acres of land he owns in Elm Creek Township.

July 2, 1894 – Board of Supervisors gave permission for the township to hold a special election on Aug 14 for approval of \$10,000 bond to irrigation in the township.

Oct. 17, 1895 – 12 miles of irrigation ditch had been constructed and there was interest in extending it to 20 miles long to end north of Odessa. It would irrigate 20,000 acres of land.

June 12, 1899 – [another building moved] W. E. Jakeway, Kearney businessman, bought a building in Elm Creek and was moving it to Odessa to use as a general store.

June 6, 1902 – Ernest Barse from north of Kearney was moving Daul Hall from Elm Creek to Odessa to use as a general store.

Frequent news about events in Daul Hall in Elm Creek

Daul road south and mostly east of Elm Creek. John Daul lived southeast of town.