

# Garfield Township

**Location:** Fourth in the top tier of townships, going from west to east.

Bounded on the north by Sherman County, on the south by Schneider, on the west by Loup, and on the east by Cherry.

## **Rivers & Streams:**

South Loup River enters the township about a mile north of the southwest corner of the township and winds northeast, finally turning east to exit into Cherry Creek Township a mile south of the Sherman County line.

Beaver Creek (Muddy) enters the township about 2 miles from the north boundary and winds basically east to empty into the South Loup about at south side of present day Ravenna.

## **Towns:**

Ravenna – two miles into the township, a mile from the Sherman County line.

Nantasket – two miles east of Ravenna

**Early homesteaders** – 18 before 1880.

Smith, Erastus – first in 1874

Stark, Fritz – 1878

New York – June 16, 1864

Davenport, Iowa, 3 years, Miller

Omaha, NE, Feb-May 1867

Grand Island – 3 years

Fremont – Oct. 1870

Council Bluffs – Elevator hand

Grand Island – Apr. 1871 – Started a saw mill on Oak Creek

Gibbon 1873 – milling business

Garfield Township homestead – 1876, filed on it in 1878

Loup valley at Nantasket

Married in 1877 in Grand Island – Wilhelmina Gaden, a native of Germany

Two children – William & Anna

Erastus Smith

First to homestead in Garfield Township

Born in Indiana in 1830, in his 40's when he came here

Father from Vermont, mother from Maine

English – came here before the Revolutionary War

**Bassett**, p 114 – Homesteaders before 1880

GARFIELD TOWNSHIP--TOWN NO. 12, RANGE NO. 14

1874--Erastus Smith, H. J. Alward, Wm. Eastridge, D. Miller, W. Freel.

1876--E. Veith.

1877--J. T. Lewis.

1878--F. Stark, A. A. Hixon.

1879--J. C. Stark, P. Gehrt, J. W. Mommesson, J. M. Smith, C. Uri, W. Brough, B. F. Peck, P. N. Round, C. Landers.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SOUVENIR OF BUFFALO COUNTY, 1890, p. 100-101**

**Fritz Stark**, miller of Garfield township, Buffalo county, Nebr., was born in Holstein, Germany, November 28, 1834. His father, Friedrich Wilhelm Stark was superintendent of a large farm in the old country; he married Lucy Schall, and by her became the father of five children, of whom Fritz is the youngest. Fritz Stark came to America alone, landing in New York, June 16, 1864; from that city he went to Davenport, Iowa, and for three years followed his trade as miller; from Davenport he came to Nebraska in February, 1867, and until the first day of May of the same year resided at Omaha; thence he went to Grand Island, where he remained until October, 1870; then he moved to Fremont and to Council Bluffs, being employed as an elevator hand at the latter place; he next returned to Grand Island, in April, 1871, and later started a saw-mill on Oak Creek, but the mill was not profitable, and he passed two more years at Grand Island; he then passed two and a half years in the milling business at Gibbon, and in 1876 located on his present homestead, it being one-half of section 2, Garfield township. One quarter section is a homestead and the other quarter is a timber claim. He has sixty acres under cultivation in mixed crops, has good buildings and most of his farm fenced in. His residence and barns are large frame structures, surrounded by fine orchards and groves. The farm shows thrift and good management, and is situated opposite the town of Nantusket in the valley of Loup river, with water convenient for his stock. Mr. Stark was married at Grand Island, in 1877, to Miss Wilhelmina Gaden, a native of Germany, and two children bless this union -- William and Anna. Mr. Stark has two brothers in this country -- John C., a plasterer and mason, living at Grand Island; and Carl, a farmer living near Litchfield, Sherman county. Mr. Stark is in politics independent and unfavorable to prohibition. He takes great interest in the development of his country, and is a true American citizen.

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