

# Sharon Township

## Resources:

### **Buffalo County Atlas, 1919, Sharon Township** features

Schools – west edge ¼ mile from south edge sec 7 (Dist. 30), nw corner sec. 10 (Dist. 56), ne corner sec 14 (Dist. 10), ne corner sec. 28 (Dist. 17), sw corner sec. 29 (Dist. 18)

Grange hall – nw corner sec. 32, nw corner sec. 27

Church – ne corner sec 32

River – Wood River cuts se corner sec. 36

### **Bassett, History of Buffalo County**

p. 112

SHARON TOWNSHIP--TOWN NO. 10, RANGE NO. 13

1871--V. Armbus, Wm. M. Craven, Albert Washburn, Geo. L. Thomas, O. B. Washburn, O. C. Hancock, Simon V. Seeley, F. D. Boardman, James Garfield, Jame E. Judd, T. D. Thacher, Lorenzo Plumb, J. W. Vance, J. A. Barnes, George Meisner, Casper Meisner, D. Fox, Henry Fieldgrove, John P. Smith, A. Barrett, Alzo Plumb, J. H. Mills, S. R. Traut.

1872--Mrs. Lois N. Ayer, E. Buno, L. Sturges, P. Ruth, R. A. Fox, Robert Goar, T. J. Taylor, J. E. Miller, C. E. S. Cooper, E. Miller, J. M. Kean, J. K. Lux, C. W. Davenport, J. C. Standley, P. McCullough, S. F. Henninger, J. J. Whittier, D. W. Johnson, R. Neil, D. Stonebarger, Mrs. E. Pember, Nathan Mills.

1873--A. Rines, C. S. Bailey, E. S. Judd, T. E. Mundle, A. D. Barnhart, John Henry, M. S. Henry, Daniel Dye.

1874--H. S. Colby, J. D. H. Koch, J. M. Devall, Geo. F. Klingst, F. A. Kappler, O. Gumprech, Isaac Willard, B. Whittaker.

1875--E. W. Borman, J. P. Turbell, E. M. Devall.

1876--F. W. Killner, T. F. Craig, W. S. Freeman.

1877--D. Otto, F. W. Schiemann.

1878--W. F. Koster, H. Sutter, George Conroy, John Conroy, Geo. D. Williams, C. H. Cudney, G. A. Blume, A. Hoag, W. H. Bentley, Florence E. Brown.

1879--John Lubbin, E. L. Smith, T. D. Allen.

### **Rural Electrification 1929-1953 by Alice Shaneyfelt Howell, *Buffalo Tales* (Buffalo County Historical Society), Vol. 13, No. 4, April, 1990**

By October 16, 1941, as reported in the *Kearney Daily Hub* of that date, the District was servicing "165 irrigation wells and 49 installations or contracts awaiting service. 65 miles of poles with hardware installed are awaiting shipment of conductors. This construction is located in Sharon Township and in the Wood River valley from Kearney to Miller."

**The Mormon Trail: The Oliver Family of Shelton by Grace Oliver, *Buffalo Tales*, (Buffalo County Historical Society), Vol. 1, No. 2, February 1978**

Ephriam, who was eight years old when the family settled here, married Dorothy Fieldgrove, and they raised a family of ten boys and one girl.

**Roots of Buffalo County - The Germans and Austrians, Part I by Margaret Stines Nielsen, *Buffalo Tales*, (Buffalo County Historical Society), Vol.12, No.6, June, 1989**

Henry Fieldgrove, of Hanover came to this country in 1854. After working in Pennsylvania as a farmer and miner, he served in the infantry for two years. In 1871 he took a homestead near Shelton and soon added more property. During his first year he was appointed road supervisor and also deputy sheriff. He served in the legislature in 1888.

In 1877, Fieldgrove's daughter, Racheal, married George Meisner of Vitzburg, Germany, who had also settled in the Shelton area in 1871. (*Buffalo Tales*, May 1987) The Meisners lived in a granary until their elaborate mansion could be built. "The Elms" has been restored by the present owners, Kathie and Doug Turner, and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

**George Meisner of Shelton by Angela Frazier, *Buffalo Tales*, (Buffalo County Historical Society), Vol. 10, No. 5, May 1987**

On October 3, 1877 George Meisner married Racheal Fieldgrove, daughter of the Hon. Henry Fieldgrove, also of the Shelton area. They lived in a small combination barn/granary until their home, the "Elms", could be built. The "Elms" was completed in 1878 and the Meisners moved in that year. The house was known throughout the county and beyond as a country mansion. It contained two main floors, plus an attic and a basement. This showplace had sixteen rooms, eighty inside doors, six outside doors and ninety windows. Each detail was planned perfectly. The ornate carving found on the staircase and the woodwork throughout the house are unblemished over the years. Special designs were created for each room.

-----  
About George Meisner - born in Vitzburg, Germany in 1842, came to US in 1845, Lived in Troy, New York and then Tama, Iowa. Tried several times to enlist during the Civil War but turned down because he was blind in one eye. Father and brother fought, he stayed home and farmed and accumulated land, eventually some 400 acres.

In 1871 Meisner bought a section of land two miles north of Shelton, since land was so much cheaper in this area. Over the next six years he worked hard at farming and ranching, and bought more land. During all this time he lived in a small house on his property.

Married Racheal Fieldgrove, had 4 daughters, Elnora, Cora, Dora, and Lulu.

Racheal died in 1889. [a stone co. in Kearney made her tombstone, the tallest monument in Shelton Cemetery.]

George married Nellie Forsythe, a teacher, in 1895

Started Meisner Bank, later reorganized as 1<sup>st</sup> Nat. Bank of Shelton in 1889. Back to Meisner Bank in 1894 but now Meisner did not have controlling interest.

Bought, fed, and sold cattle having 1400 – 1500 head all the time

Owned 8 business buildings in Shelton and about a dozen residences of different sizes.

President of City National Bank of Kearney a few months before he died in 1909

Was planning a 4-story hotel in Shelton

Total value of his estate including land in Buffalo and Hall Counties – over \$530,000

**Historical Background of Churches in Buffalo County Part I by Alice Shaneyfelt Howell, *Buffalo Tales, (Buffalo County Historical Society), Vol. 19, No.3, May - June, 1996***

Rural Sharon Methodist Church was built two miles east and two and one half miles north of Gibbon in 1885. Ministers drove out from Shelton on Sunday afternoons to conduct services, and if baptism was desired by immersion, this sacrament was conducted in the Wood River nearby. Their church was sold to the United Evangelicals in 1898 and is disbanded.

**Hub, July 8, 1890**

Sharon Township resident, Mr. Stebbens, spoke the Alliance and Labor Convention. He was nominated (for??)

**Hub, Aug. 4, 1890**

Mr. & Mrs. S. D. Thatcher celebrated 25th anniversary

**Hub, Nov. 5, 1890**

Prohibition carried by a small majority

**Hub, Sept 18, 1891**

Capt. S. F. Henninger, democrat

**Hub, Oct. 12, 1892**

Rep. meeting at Stebbins schoolhouse

**Hub, Oct. 26, 1892**

What a Blind Man Can Do

Jacob Sutter is a farmer living in Sharon township and is totally blind. He manages a large farm and makes a success of it, although he can only do the headwork. He has two sons to do the work but the old gentleman runs the farm just the same. He says if some men who work on a

farm would put a few more brains into their work and not talk so much they would do better. Mr. Sutter's success ought to put to shame men who have two good eyes and are continually 'howling about the downtrodden farmer.'

### **Hub, March 11, 1893**

Eli Campbell of Sharon Township has been in Kearney today on business. He is one of the largest sheep raisers in this part of the country.

### **Hub, May 10, 1893**

Marriage license was issued to Ed M. Snow of Sartoria and Eva D. Henderson of Sharon township.

### **Hub, June 7, 1893**

Personal property assessment for Sharon township - \$21,754; real estate - \$60,225  
Both numbers higher than Grant or Schneider townships.

### **Hub, Nov. 21, 1893**

Marriage license for Albert Henninger and Wilhelmina Fieldgrove of Sharon township. She is the daughter of the Hon. Henry Fieldgrove.

### **Hub, May 17, 1894**

Jake Johnson, of Sharon township, is doing business in the city today.

### **Hub, May 26, 1894**

John Peters and Hon. John Stebbins, "two of Buffalo county's populist wheel horses"

### **Hub, June 13, 1894**

W. O. Weaver, one of Buffalo county's grand, but poor honest farmers, a man whose only fault is that he is a "pop" which is bad enough the Lord knows, and who, when at home, lives in Sharon township, which township he represents on the county board was in the city yesterday and last night attended the band concert. He was accompanied by his whiskers.

### **Hub, July 12, 1894**

--The road controversy between Shelton and Sharon townships that has been dragging in the county board for some time was settled by the supervisors yesterday. The road was allowed, Meisner getting \$100 damages and the two Olivers and Joe Owens getting \$25 each. A notice of appeal on the part of Meisner was given.

**Hub, Aug. 21, 1894**

(Shelton Clipper News)

Jacob Johnson and family, who have resided in Sharon township for several years past, left Tuesday for St. Paul, Indiana, where they will remain during the winter.

**Hub, Oct. 9, 1894**

Death of a Veteran

Nathanial Henderson, a veteran of the late war, died in his residence in Sharon township on Saturday, October 6 Age fifty-six years. . . . . Buried in Riverside Cemetery, Gibbon.

**Hub, Nov 26, 1894**

(Gibbon Reporter News)

Thomas Clark moved last week to the James Stevens farm in Sharon township which he has rented.

**Hub, Aug. 13, 1895**

25<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. T. D. Thatcher. Friends brought gifts of silver.

**Hub, Aug. 16, 1895**

Hon. John Stebbens is Dead

John Stebbens of Sharon township, a well known populist politician and an ex-member of the legislature, died at his home four miles northeast of Shelton Wednesday evening of percarditis. He leaves a wife and six children.

**Hub, Oct. 15, 1895**

(Gibbon Beacon News)

T. D. Thatcher was moving into Shelton. He had rented his farm to S. V. Seeley.

**Hub, Feb. 19, 1896**

(Gibbon Beacon News)

Frank Henderson and family of Sharon township returned home after spending the winter in St. Louis, MO.

Thomas Ginther, who had been farming for a few years in Phelps county, was moving back to his farm in Sharon township.

On Feb. 12 Judge Easterling married James Doty and Alice Hibbard, both of Sharon township.

**Hub, Sept. 21, 1896**

(Gibbon Beacon News)

Mrs. Elvira Henderson, of Sharon township, widow of the late Nathaniel Henderson, has lately been granted a pension of \$8 per month.

**Hub, Nov. 4, 1896**

I. Willard, who used to live in Sharon township, died at Alliance, NE of a paralydic stroke.

**Hub, June 24, 1897**

No money in the county road fund to appropriate to various townships, including Sharon, who had applied.

**Hub, Mar. 14, 1899**

Jacob Sutter, one of the old pioneers of Buffalo County, died Monday last at his home in Sharon township. The deceased was born in Zofingen(?), Canton Aargus, Switzerland, December 23, 1824.

**Hub, Mar. 22, 1899**

Jacob Sutter died Monday at his home in Sharon township, aged 75 years.

**Hub, June 13, 1899**

J. M. Kean, an old resident of this county, died at his home in Sharon township Friday morning about two o'clock. The deceased was seventy-three years of age and leaves a wife and eight children.

**Hub, June 20, 1899**

The funeral of the late J. M. Keen, who died last Friday morning at his home in Sharon township, was held last Sunday morning at the family residence.

**Hub, Sept. 9, 1899**

Ann Eliza Kean, of Sharon township, asks to have the county court probate her husband's will.

**Hub, Aug. 2, 1902**

(Ravenna News Notes)

Mrs. Anna Keen, of Sharon township, this county, is visiting her son, Eugene Keen, and daughter, Mrs. O. L. Miller, in Ravenna, this week, being her first visit to Ravenna in eight

years. Mrs. Keen is one of the first settlers in Buffalo county, coming here with the Gibbon Free Homestead Colony over thirty years ago. They homesteaded on a farm in Sharon township, where she has lived ever since. Mr. Keen, her husband, died a couple of years ago, and she is now about to retire from the farm, having purchased a residence property in Gibbon.

### **Hub, Nov. 28, 1903**

Dennis Swigert, who was sent up from Sharon township by Justice Fieldgrove, to lay out a ten dollar fine for contempt of court was released by Sheriff Simmons Saturday morning his time having expired.

### **Hub, March 19, 1904**

Death of Henry Fieldgrove

Highly Respected Citizen Passes Away Friday Evening

Hon. Henry Fieldgrove died at his home in Sharon township, shortly after noon Friday

Mr. Fieldgrove was a pioneer of Buffalo county having come here in the early seventies and settled on the farm where he has since resided. He was a man of sterling qualities and one of the most prominent and respected citizens in the county. He served on the board of supervisors for a number of years, at one time representative in the legislature. At the time of his death he was and has been for some time the justice of the peace for his township.

In all his public services he evinced a hard, common sense and native shrewdness, which coupled with his unimpeachable integrity, won for him the esteem and confidence of the entire community.

Funeral services will be held Sunday afternoon at two o'clock at Shelton, under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity, of which deceased was a member. A number of Masons from this city will be in attendance.

### **Hub, June 2, 1904**

Report on personal property tax values

City of Kearney total - \$1, 273,705

Largest individual amount in the county was George Meisner's - \$26,820

"This, however, does not embrace all of Mr. Meisner's personal property as he has many thousands of dollars worth in Shelton township as well as in Hall county.

### **Biographical Souvenir of Buffalo, Kearney, and Phelps Counties, 1890**

Wm. M Craven

Henry Fieldgrove

George Meisner

James Hill

Lorenzo Plumb

T. D. Thatcher  
Samuel R. Traut  
Henninger, Solomon F.

---

## 1871— 23

Armbus, V.

Barnes, J. A.

Barrett, A.

Boardman, F. D.

Craven, Wm. M. – Came in spring, 1871 (Soldiers Free Homestead Colony), stayed until 1876, went to Arkansas for 3 years. Returned to NE and took up residence near Armada. Put store in his sod house in 1881 with \$9 inventory. PO soon moved there.

Fieldgrove Henry - Soldiers Free Homestead Colony. Born in Germany, came to US in 1854 to Penn. Homesteaded a mile north of Shelton in 1871, expanded to 400 acres in the Wood River valley. Also acquired 240 acres nine miles north in Schneider Township

Public offices – 1871 - Road supervisor of his district 9 years

Deputy sheriff for eastern part of county

School board

Chairman of board of supervisors 2 years

Justice of the peace

Buffalo county's representative in state legislature

Children - Dora, Rachel, Mary, William H., Charles, Maggie, John, and Jennie.

large of frame and hearty in manner.

### **Hub, Nov. 21, 1893**

Marriage license for Albert Henninger and Wilhelmina Fieldgrove of Sharon township. She is the daughter of the Hon. Henry Fieldgrove.

### **Hub, Nov. 28, 1903**

Dennis Swigert, who was sent up from Sharon township by Justice Fieldgrove, to lay out a ten dollar fine for contempt of court was released by Sheriff Simmons Saturday morning his time having expired.

### **Buffalo Tales**

Ephriam, who was eight years old when the family settled here, married Dorothy Fieldgrove, and they raised a family of ten boys and one girl.

## **Census Records**

1870 – Slippery Rock Precinct, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania

Fieldgrove, Henry – 39

Margaret – 39

Dorothy – 13 (born 1857)

Rachel – 11 (born 1859)

William – 7 (born 1863)

Charles – 4 (born 1866)

Margaret – 2 (born 1868)

Margaret Stickle – 76

1880 – Shelton Precinct, Buffalo County, Nebraska [no Sharon yet]

Fieldgrove, Henry – 48

Margaret – 48

William – 16 (born 1864)

Maggie – 9 (born 1871)

Mary – 4 (born 1876)

1900 – Sharon Township, Buffalo County, Nebraska

Fieldgrove, Henry – 68

Margaret – 69

Jennie – 24, daughter, single, born July 1875

Henninger, Margaret – 31, widow, married 6 years, 1 child

Eugene – 3, grandson (born 1896)

## **Hub, March 19, 1904**

Death of Henry Fieldgrove

Highly Respected Citizen Passes Away Friday Evening

Hon. Henry Fieldgrove died at his home in Sharon township, shortly after noon Friday

Mr. Fieldgrove was a pioneer of Buffalo county having come here in the early seventies and settled on the farm where he has since resided. He was a man of sterling qualities and one of the most prominent and respected citizens in the county. He served on the board of supervisors for a number of years, at one time representative in the legislature. At the time of his death he was and has been for some time the justice of the peace for his township.

In all his public services he evinced a hard, common sense and native shrewdness, which coupled with his unimpeachable integrity, won for him the esteem and confidence of the entire community.

Funeral services will be held Sunday afternoon at two o'clock at Shelton, under the auspices of the Masonic fraternity, of which deceased was a member. A number of Masons from this city will be in attendance.

Fox, D.

Garfield, James

Hancock, O. C.

Judd, Jame E.

Meisner, Casper – George's father. Farmed for a few years, then went into the mercantile store business in Shelton until his death in March 1879.

Meisner, George - About George Meisner - born in Vitzburg, Germany in 1842(or 45), came to US in 1845(or 48), Lived in Troy, New York and then Tama, Iowa. Tried several times to enlist during the Civil War but turned down because he was blind in one eye. Father and brother fought, he stayed home and farmed and accumulated land, eventually some 400 acres.

In 1871 Meisner bought a section of land two miles north of Shelton, since land was so much cheaper in this area. Sold out in Iowa. Over the next six years he worked hard at farming and ranching, and bought more land. During all this time he lived in a small house on his property.

Married Racheal Fieldgrove, had 4 daughters, Elnora, Cora, Dora, and Lulu.

Racheal died in 1889. [a stone co. in Kearney made her tombstone, the tallest monument in Shelton Cemetery.]

Married Nellie Forsythe, a teacher, in 1895

Owned 2,600-2,700 acres of land in the Wood River valley in buffalo and Hall county

Started Meisner Bank in 1884, later reorganized as 1<sup>st</sup> Nat. Bank of Shelton in 1889. Back to Meisner Bank in 1894 but now Meisner did not have controlling interest.

Bought, fed, and sold cattle having 1400 – 1500 head all the time

Owned 8 business buildings in Shelton and about a dozen residences of different sizes.

President of City National Bank of Kearney a few months before he died in 1909

Was planning a 4-story hotel in Shelton

Total value of his estate including land in Buffalo and Hall Counties – over \$530,000

Mills, James H. – Born in New York in 1843. Served in Civil War, wounded in right shoulder at Gettysburg and recovered with only partial use of that arm. Came to Buffalo Co in fall 1871 and homesteaded in Sharon Township.

Plumb, Alzo

Plumb, Lorenzo – Born in Ohio 1847, came in the fall of 1871, claimed land, built a frame house

in which he and two other bachelor friends lived that winter.

“In 1874, the grasshoppers harvested his crop on shares, but the portion left him afforded a small remuneration for the trouble and expense in planting it.” (Biog. Souv.)

Represented Sharon Township on the county board of supervisors

“He now owns three hundred and twenty acres of choice land, which is already in an advanced state of cultivation. Mr. Plumb purchased most of this land from the U. P. R. R. Company for \$3.00 per acre.” (Biog. Souv.)

Seeley, Simon V.

Smith, John P.

Thatcher, Timothy D. – Born in Ohio in 1850. 21 and newly married when he came to Buffalo Co in 1871. Turned his 80 acre homestead into 240 acres in the Wood River Valley Share holder in the Shelton State Bank which he helped organize.

**Hub, Aug. 13, 1895**

25<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. T. D. Thatcher. Friends brought gifts of silver

**Hub, Oct. 15, 1895**

(Gibbon Beacon News)

T. D. Thatcher was moving into Shelton. He had rented his farm to S. V. Seeley.

Thomas, Geo. L.

Traut, Samuel R. – Born in Penn. Came in fall 1871 and claimed land 4 ½ miles northeast of Gibbon. Went home and returned with family in spring 1872. Moved into Gibbon in 1879 so his children could be educated, but kept the farm. Wife died the following year. In 1881 he married Mrs. Wm Brady. She and her first husband were members of the Gibbon Homestead Colony and his was the first death, in an accident making brick for the first county courthouse. After this marriage they lived on the Brady homestead, the first taken in Gibbon Township.

Vance, J. W.

Washburn, Albert – Soldiers Free Homestead Colony

Washburn, O. B.

1872—21

Ayer, Mrs. Lois N.

Cooper, C. E. S.

Davenport, C. W.

Fox, R. A.

Goar, Robert

Henninger, Solomon F. – Born 1833 in Ohio. Returned home after the Civil War and bought 40 acres. But with a growing family he decided to go west. Came to Buffalo county in fall 1872 and homesteaded on 160 acres in Sharon Township. Increased to 560 acres. Served two years as Township assessor. A democrat in a republican township. Ran for legislature and lost.

“He weighs over two hundred pounds and is as kind-hearted, jolly, good-natured a man as lives within the borders of Buffalo county.” (Biog. Souv.)

#### Census Records

1870 – Erie Co., Pennsylvania

Henninger, S. F. – 35, (born about 1835 in Ohio)

Barbary – 35

Stephen D. – 8

Amanda – 11

Albert M. – 5

Isaac K. – 3

1900 – Shelton, Buffalo Co., Nebraska

Henninger, Solomon – 67, (born 1833 in Ohio)

Barbara - 66

Johnson, D. W.

Kean, J. M.

Lux, J. K.

McCullough, P.

Miller, E.

Miller, J. E.

Mills, Nathan

Neil, R.

Pember, Mrs. E.

Ruth, P.

Standley, J. C.

Stonebarger, D.

Sturges, E. Buno, L.

Taylor, T. J.

Whittier, J. J.

1873—8

A. Rines,  
C. S. Bailey,  
E. S. Judd,  
T. E. Mundle,  
A. D. Barnhart,  
John Henry,  
M. S. Henry,  
Daniel Dye.

1874—8

H. S. Colby,  
J. D. H. Koch,  
J. M. Devall,  
Geo. F. Klingst,  
F. A. Kappler,  
O. Gumprech,  
Isaac Willard,  
B. Whittaker.

1875—3

E. W. Borman,  
J. P. Turbell,  
E. M. Devall.

1876—3

F. W. Killner,  
T. F. Craig,  
W. S. Freeman.

1877—2

D. Otto,  
F. W. Schiemann.

1878—10

W. F. Koster,

H. Sutter,  
George Conroy,  
John Conroy,  
Geo. D. Williams,  
C. H. Cudney,  
G. A. Blume,  
A. Hoag,  
W. H. Bentley,  
Florence E. Brown.

1879—3  
John Lubbin,  
E. L. Smith,  
T. D. Allen.