



The photo above is a view from the Penn Colony entrance looking down Nemaha Street—also known as Back Street—toward Dawson. The row of evergreen trees on the right line the north side of the Heim Cemetery. The page 8 photo looks north from the cemetery toward the Penn Colony Museum site. The property was originally purchased by John J. Heim and Johnnie Heim in the 1880s and extended south to the Nemaha River. The Evangelical Church, the Dawson school, the cemetery, and the museum site are all part of the same tract.

Penn Colony Meets for 95th consecutive year

Relatives of the Pennsylvania Colony met for the 95th consecutive year at Dawson for a two-day reunion August 6 and 7. The event kicked off Saturday evening with an old fashioned watermelon feed at the Dawson Community Museum and Henry Heim House. Sunday morning, the colonists attended church services at the Humboldt Christian Church, where Margaret Ruth Heim Brown gave the traditional memorial moment (page 6). The group reassembled at the museum at noon for a picnic dinner. Genevieve Ulmer Young, 94, was the oldest member present and Lola Shorney, 11, the youngest. The Young family had the most generations present (three), and Gary Georgi of Temecula, California traveled the longest distance. At the business meeting, Dan Pleiss, Cindy Callaway, Lorrie Novak, Karen Krofta, and Michelle Heim were re-elected to the Colony Board of Directors.



In the photo: Attendees enjoy a catered picnic dinner at the new Dawson Community Museum Sunday, August 7. Left front: Dennis Thacker and Dwight Elliott; Right: John Latusek; Center: Lorrie Novak and Glenn Hayward. (See more reunion photos on page 3.)

Dunkard Meetinghouse gets a needed facelift

By Keith Heim

As long as they lived in Germany, our forefathers were Lutheran (Evangelical), but after they arrived in Pennsylvania in September of 1804, they wintered in nearby Germantown where they came under the influence of Dr. Frederick Conrad Haller. There, they became Dunkards, a sect somewhat like the Amish and Mennonites which shared some beliefs with the Quakers.

About two decades after the group settled at Blooming Grove in the wilds of northeastern Pennsylvania, they built a log meetinghouse, which, 188 years later, still stands as a testimony to their faith. Although regular services have not been held there in more than a hundred years, it is still in good condition, thanks to the loving care of succeeding generations and a recent, ambitious renovation campaign that has restored it to its original appearance.

Some years ago, siding was installed over the original logs in order to protect them from the ravages of weather, and the wooden shingles of the roof were replaced by tin sheets, altering the original appearance of the building. Despite these efforts, some of the logs had since rotted, and a number of other problems needed attention.

Thanks to the efforts of the Blooming Grove Historical Society, which raised almost \$47,000, the siding has been removed and several

squared off virgin white pine logs, which were up to 23 inches thick and spanned the 30 by 40 foot building, have been replaced. The original roof has been restored with cedar shakes from New Brunswick, Canada. Rotting window frames and shutters have been replaced by wood from Lycoming County. About 80 percent of the original window panes were saved. The broken panes were replaced by modern, manufactured “antique glass” ones.

Like the exterior, the interior of the building looks much the same as it has for almost two centuries. An article in the *Williamsport Sun-Gazette*, ca 2000, states: “About half the floor space is taken up by row upon row of long, backless wooden benches, where worshippers sat—men on one side, women on the other—through hours-long Sunday sermons.” The back benches next to the outside walls were reserved for pregnant or nursing mothers. Two small wood stoves were added some years later, as was a Victorian-era Miller organ that used a vacuum system rather than bellows.

A visit to the building and attendance at an occasional service is certainly a highlight of any visit to Blooming Grove. A visit to the

Photos and conclusion, page 3.

THE COLONY PENN**EDITOR**

Keith Heim

7200 Van Dorn, #359, Lincoln, NE 68506
rvnkh4@gmail.com**DESIGN/PRODUCTION**

Shirley Heim Pierce

Copyright © 2016 Pennsylvania Colony
Historical Society of Nebraska

Permission to reprint in whole or in part is hereby granted, provided the following credit line is used: "Reprinted by permission from The Colony Penn, a publication of the Pennsylvania Colony Historical Society of Nebraska."

◆◆◆

**PENNSYLVANIA COLONY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
NEBRASKA**

PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR

Dan Pleiss

14721 Laurel Plaza, Omaha, NE 68116
402-431-9267
dan@pleiss.omhcoxmail.com**VICE-PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR**

John Heim

SECRETARY-TREASURER/DIRECTOR

Cindy Callaway

DIRECTORS

Douglas Brown	Keith Heim
Michelle Heim	Karen Krofta
Lorrie Novak	Marilyn Ogle
Shirley Pierce	David Shorney

VOICE OF PENN COLONY

Robert Williamson

402-239-6489—wb20437@bbwi.net

GENEALOGY/STATISTICS

Send family information to:

Evie Heim Grubb
Eve.grubb@sths.org**MUSEUM MONITORS**

Michelle Heim

402-855-2285

mheim1021@gmail.com

Marilyn Ogle

402-855-4225—r_mogle@bbwi.net

WEBSITE

www.penncolonynebraska.org

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIESLife \$1000; Patron \$50; Sustaining \$25;
Family \$15; Individual \$10**To join or renew, send check to:**

Charol Pleiss

14721 Laurel Plaza, Omaha, NE 68116
charol@pleiss.omhcoxmail.com**A qualified Internal Revenue Service
501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.****This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.****Charol and Dan Pleiss****President's Letter**

Where did the year go? For those of you who made it to the annual picnic, you enjoyed some beautiful Nebraska weather—both for the watermelon feed and for the Sunday dinner meeting. Harvest time is here and everyone is preparing for the colder months ahead.

John Heim had a Penn Colony float in the Richardson County Fair held in Humboldt. Go to the Penn Colony Facebook page to view some pictures of this event. Very nice float with one side a take-off of the print pattern of Frances Heim's quilt and the other side a takeoff

of the house site and the Dawson water tower. All very well done and now stored for use next year. Pictures will also be uploaded to the Penn Colony website.

I mentioned in the last newsletter two restoration projects. The Amish craftsmen who will undertake the projects are expected to begin the middle of October. The second floor project can be done during the winter months. Some funds have been donated, can still use more.

We have a new 4' x 8' banner sign for use on the road sign—but due to Federal highway restrictions, can probably use only on a limited basis. We do plan to use it out near the road during picnic weekend and on the float during the Richardson County Fair. It is a sign that will be much more visible.

As we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, we are grateful for all of our blessings and friendships. May each of you have a very blessed holiday season. —**Dan Pleiss**

An Index to the Penn Colony newsletters would be a handy item for many readers. If you would like to volunteer for this painstaking project, please contact the Editor.

Our Readers Write

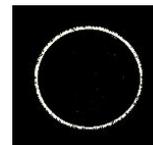
Thanks again for an exceptional *Colony Penn*. I want to mention the Burma Shave road signs in this issue. I remember one in particular after all these years. We used to entertain ourselves, my brother and I, on road trips to Texas each summer to visit our relatives who lived there, by reading these signs. One that stands out in my mind after all these years is "Ben met Anna, made a hit, neglected beard, Ben Anna split. Burma Shave!"

—**Bev Heim***Bev emails us from Walnut Creek, Calif.**[Joseph G. Heim family]***A slight omission**

In our last issue, I listed dozens of events and inventions that had occurred during my father's lifetime that effected more changes in lives, perhaps, than in any previous generation in history. While I did mention such things as the electric can opener, I realized later that I had neglected another important invention: atomic energy!

—**kmh**

**What's
happening
in 2017 at
Penn Colony
Museum**



A **total solar eclipse** will take place on Monday, August 21, 2017, and the Penn Colony Museum site will be a perfect place for viewing!

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun. A *total* solar eclipse occurs when the Moon's apparent diameter is larger than the Sun's, blocking all direct sunlight, turning day into darkness.

The path of the eclipse occurs on a line from the northwest, entering the U.S. in Oregon, through southeast Nebraska, leaving the U.S. at South Carolina. For information, including a map showing Dawson very close to the path center:

<http://www.greatamericaneclipse.com/nebraska/>

Hotel and motel rooms along the path are already being reserved. If this event interests you, it's time to make your plans! Here are websites for Falls City and Humboldt:

➤ <http://www.fallscitynebraska.org/falls-city/tourism-and-recreation/lodging>

➤ <http://www.ci.humboldt.ne.us/business.asp?ID=238>

**And don't forget to learn how to
safely view a solar eclipse!**

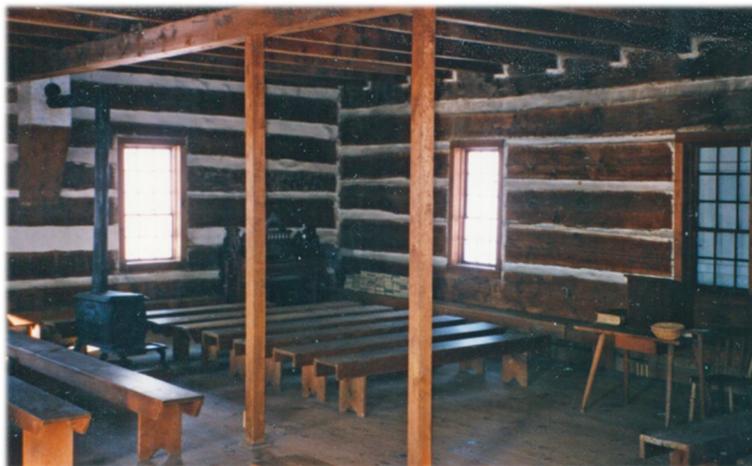
Dunkard Meetinghouse gets a needed facelift *(continued from page 1)*

Thanks to Rev. Larry K. Waltz, President of the Blooming Grove Historical Society and Cemetery, Inc., for much of the information regarding the restoration project.



Dunkard Meetinghouse, Blooming Grove, Pennsylvania

graves in the cemetery behind the structure cements the tie one feels with our ancestors of long ago and their descendants. We congratulate our Blooming Grove cousins on the completion of this project. We appreciate their continuing care for a building we can rightfully regard as *our own* too!



Interior of Dunkard Meetinghouse. Made from hewn (squared) white pine logs, from trees that grew up to 150 feet tall.

If you are planning a visit to Blooming Grove:

Two public meetings are held each year, the first Sunday in June and the last Sunday in September. The Meetinghouse and nearby museum are free and open every Sunday afternoon, June thru September, and open by appointment at other times.

Attendees at the 2016 Penn Colony Reunion

Attendees from Nebraska

Beatrice: John Fiala. **Dawson:** Lorrie, Nick & Natalie Novak, Dick & Marilyn Ogle, Dennis & Robin Thacker, Jordan Thacker, Bob Williamson, Violet Heim, Dwight Elliott. **Douglas:** Dan Dallmann. **Falls City:** Myrt Arnold. **Humboldt:** Glenn & June Hayward, Karen Krofta, Gail Mason-brink, Genevieve Ulmer Young. **Kearney:** Richard Brown. **Lincoln:** Keith Heim, Charlie Heim, Alex Shorney, Jim Shorney. **Norfolk:** Margaret Ruth Heim Brown. **Omaha:** Martha Hoig, Dan & Charol Pleiss, Doris Wuster, Andrew & Shari Wuster Jennings, Doug and Judy Heim. **Pawnee City:** Gary & Becky Leatherman. **Plattsmouth:** Dave Shorney, Lola Shorney.

Attendees from out of state

Alabama: David, Kathy and Chip Dalton & Kaila Monti, Foley. **Arizona:** Neil & Margaret Thacker, Mesa. **California:** Charles Young, Arcadia; Gary Georgi, Temecula. **Iowa:** Lola Shorney, Council Bluffs; John Heim, Marion; John Latusek, Dike; Debbie Bryant, Oxford. **Kansas:** Keith Robinson, Leavenworth; Wayne, Dee & Barrett Young, Paola. **Minnesota:** Doug Brown & Gail Korell, Minneapolis. **Missouri:** Ann Tobin, King City; Dawn McEwan, Kansas City; Malcolm & Mary Oliver, Republic. **Oregon:** Neal & Shirley Pierce, Salem.

Highlights of the Reunion



Genevieve Ulmer Young, oldest attendee at 94



Lola Shorney, youngest at 11



Margaret Ruth Brown gives Memorial Moment



Playing games at dusk; Saturday night watermelon feed

Colonists featured at the county fair!

Several members of the Pennsylvania Colony played prominent roles at the recent Richardson County Fair at Humboldt.

Karen Krofta was named “Woman of the Year,” recognizing her active role in the life of the community, including working and volunteering at Colonial Acres, organist (for 50 years) and elder at the Christian Church, Meals on Wheels, Legion Auxiliary, and P.E.O., among others. She is known for her cookie baking, and fellow members of the Colony Board are often beneficiaries of her culinary prowess.

Glenn Hayward, honored as King of the County Fair, has had a varied career, serving in the Marine Corps, teaching Vocational Agriculture, serving as Farm Manager at the Home State Bank, County Assessor, serving as Secretary of the Board of Directors of the County Ag Society, and serving as an elder, treasurer, and

Sunday School teacher at Faith Lutheran Church. He is a founding member of the Humboldt Community Foundation.

Nick Novak, son of Mark and Lorrie Novak, was accorded the honor of being an Escort for the Queen at the coronation ceremony. He is a senior at HTRS in Humboldt, where he is a member of the National Honor Society and the football, wrestling, powerlifting, and quiz bowl teams. He plays on the Tecumseh American Legion Baseball team and is an Eagle Scout. He is a member of Faith Lutheran Church. He has volunteered for a number of community projects. Oh yes, his grandfather is this year’s King of the Fair!

The Penn Colony Society received needed publicity at the fair largely through the efforts of **John Heim**, who was responsible for the Society’s float in the daily parade, on which were new flats created for this year’s parades.



John Heim put together another winning float (we give it a purple ribbon!) for the Richardson County Fair. Dick and Marilyn Ogle wave from a sideboard. Driving the tractor is Dan Dusselier, and riding along are his daughter Angela (top) and wife Carol (center). The muslin flat is a newly-created scene of the Penn Colony museum site, with Dawson’s iconic water tower. Another flat, on the other side of the float (not shown), illustrates the Family quilt made by Frances Heim Whited for the museum. The Dusseliers bring the tractor formerly owned by Ron Heim (John’s father) from their home in Kansas City.

The flats on the float were built and painted by Fred Strotman (right), and the lettering was done by Shelley Denner, John Heim’s long-time friends who run a family lumber/building business in Waverly, Iowa.



Karen Krofta was honored as Woman of the Year at the County Fair



Glenn Hayward, King of the fair, rides the royal float

Coming from out of the sticks

In the 1920s, my dad’s second cousin, Dr. Harlan S. Heim, a graduate of the medical college at Cornell University, was a medical missionary for several years at Redbird Mission which was located in the remote mountains of eastern Kentucky. It was a boarding school sponsored by the Evangelical Church where children of impoverished mountaineers came to live and study during the school year. After serving there for several years, he took up a practice in Humboldt, Nebraska.

Usually, when you think of backward states, Kentucky is one of the first to come to mind, so I was somewhat taken aback when upon moving to Murray, Kentucky, someone—upon hearing I was from Nebraska—asked me if I had ever worn shoes before!

Remembering Dr. Heim and Redbird Mission, I replied, “Yes, and we send missionaries to Kentucky.”

—**Keith Heim**

Photo credits: Page 1: Keith Heim (banner, picnic). Page 2: Linda Knudsen. Page 3: Blooming Grove Historical Society (meetinghouse exterior); Evelyn Heim Dallmann (meetinghouse interior); Shirley Pierce (reunion photos). Page 4: John Heim (float and Strotman); Dan Pleiss (Krofta and Hayward). Page 7: Mrs. Colleen Mullins Uhri. Page 8: Shirley Pierce (museum site); *Lincoln Journal-Star* (Bornschlegl).

Barrett Young's feature (The Colony Penn, July 2016) of his great-grandfather Nelson Ulmer's service in World War I led us to ask readers to submit stories about the military experiences of their family members, appropriate in view of the impending celebration of Veterans Day, November 11. Thus far, our terrific idea has elicited only one response (below)—coming from our editor who suggested the idea. C'mon, readers!

—shp

The human face of war —Keith Heim

In Vietnam, I served in intelligence at the headquarters of the 4th Infantry Division at Pleiku, located about 250 miles north of Saigon. One afternoon, I flew in a chopper to the mountains southwest of Pleiku where our division was engaged in heavy fighting. I was to pick up a prisoner of war and bring him back to our base camp and turn him over to the Military Police. Most likely, they would then turn him over to the South Vietnamese Army.

When I landed in a clearing in the jungle, I was escorted to a barbed wire enclosure where a young North Vietnamese soldier had been detained. I was familiar with the popular image of the enemy—black pajamas and rubber tire sandals, and I was somewhat shocked to see that my prisoner was similarly attired. But it was with a greater shock that I saw his face—a very nice-looking man of about 25 with a smooth complexion and beautiful dark eyes, a sensitive face—hardly the green-eyed monster with pointed fangs I had pictured the enemy to be! He looked like someone you might like to have lunch with under other circumstances. The prisoner receipt indicated that he was a sergeant—a medic.

When he saw me, he fell down on his knees, and I directed him

to stand up. Standard operating instructions are that POW's are not to be given cigarettes, food, or water—at least not until they have been interrogated. It was a very hot day, there was no shade, and I was thirsty myself, so I ordered the guards to give him water.

His hands were tied behind his back, and he was blindfolded and escorted to the chopper. I sat down beside him, and we took off for our base at Dragon Mountain. We all had heard the stories that were circulating about how enemy prisoners were treated by the South Vietnamese Army—some were pushed out of helicopters; others were beaten to death during interrogation and torture. My prisoner was trembling, and I imagined that he had heard the stories too.

I felt sorry for him. The demonized enemy soldier had become a fellow human being, and I put my hand on his shoulder and gave him a pat of sympathy, trying to reassure him. It was all I could do. When we landed, I had no choice but to hand him over to the Military Police and whatever fate awaited him. I never saw him again, of course, and I sometimes wonder if he died or if he survived to return to his loved ones in the North. I still have the receipt the military police gave me for him—a receipt for another human being.

DONATIONS

The following funds have been received since the last issue of the newsletter was published. Donations received after October 8, 2016, will be reported in the next newsletter. If you would prefer your donation to be listed anonymously or be unpublished, please indicate your preference.

Thanks to all who contribute in any way to support the Pennsylvania Colony.

Grants

Richardson County Visitors Committee, \$1,000 grant for barn improvements

Richardson County Visitors Committee, \$550 grant for newsletter and website expense

Donations:

Wayne & Dee Young, \$250

Lloyd & Donna Epley, \$100

Stratton family (JJ, JoAnn, Phyllis), \$34

John Heim, \$140

Myrt Arnold, \$50

Dick & Marilyn Ogle, \$100

John & Evie (Heim) Grubb, \$140, in memory of Kenneth Heim on the anniversary of his death, July 4, 2000

Margaret Ruth Brown, \$500, in memory of Emerson & Viola Heim and in honor of their 80-plus descendants

Robert Weber and children, \$100, in memory of wife and mother Marjorie Klima Weber

Charlotte Wuster, \$40, in memory of Orville & Mary E. Wuster

Glenn & June Hayward, \$500 for barn restoration

Farmers National Company, \$500 for restoration

Donations (continued):

Ronald Blevins, \$75, in memory of Sally Shively, wife of Charles Shivley (a son of Bertha Heim Shively) and mother of Raymond and Ronnie Shively

Jeanne Collado, \$50, in memory of her mother, Marjorie Klima Weber. "Donation is for the restoration of the second floor of my great-grandparents house. My grandparents, Martha Heim and Arthur Klima, began married life living upstairs on the second floor of her parents house."

In memory of Steve Richards: Pat & Peggy Flinn, \$50; D. J. & Jackie McCartney, \$50; Cassandra Lawton, \$50; Michael Faser \$50.

Shirley Richards Morris, Deanna Richards Lehl, Larry & Linda Richards, and Ron & Candy Richards, \$1,000, in memory of their parents Harlan & Evelyn Richards, and their brother Steve Richards. Ron writes, "Steve passed away this past July, 2016 and we thought it very fitting to offer this memorial money because nothing was more important to Steve than family. He was our encyclopedia before Google was invented when it came to family questions. He will be sorely missed by all of us."

Note regarding donations: We strive for accuracy as we compile our list of donors. If you note an error or omission, please bring it to our attention. Comments or corrections can be addressed to Charol Pleiss, 14721 Laurel Plaza, Omaha, NE 68116.

Sadly Noted

Steven Richards, 62, passed away at Lincoln July 27, 2016. He was a son of Harlan and Evelyn (Kincaid) Richards [Samuel F. Heim family] and was born December 19, 1953, at McCook, Nebraska. Inurnment was at McCook. He is survived by brothers Larry of McCook and Ron of Brule, Nebraska, and sisters Shirley Morris of Omaha and Deanna Lehl of Des Moines, Iowa.

Darlene (Hammerback) Myers, 71, passed away in Lincoln August 18. She is survived by her husband, Allen Myers, sons Matthew and Jeremy of Lincoln, daughter Jody Stewart of Chadron, nine grandchildren, and mother-in-law Virginia (Bil-sing) Myers of Lincoln. [Samuel F. Heim family]

Memberships

These are the current members of the Pennsylvania Colony Historical Society as of October 8, 2016. Membership renewals received after that date will be listed in the next newsletter.

Life Members: Margaret Ruth Heim Brown, Dolores Ulmer Chapman, Coons Farm, Lloyd & Donna Epley, Marjorie Fithian, Gary Georgi, Fern Heim, Keith Heim, Willis & Joyce Heim, Evelyn Heim-Grubb, Betty L. Johnston, Alice Koba, Marian Leatherman, Shirley Pierce, Mark & Lorraine Roller, Ben & Ann Tobin, Frances Whited, Genevieve Young.

Patron Members: Sam & Wanda Bilsing, Robert & Mary Riley Bohlken, Doug Brown, Dan Dallmann, David & Kathy Dalton, John & Delores Fiala, Doug & Judy Heim, John Heim, Martha & Bob Hoig, Nick Klein, Margaret Kruesi, Brian & Claudia Robertson, Rev. & Mrs. Larry Waltz, Wayne & Dee Young.

Sustaining Members: Susan & Scott Bice, Ron & Emily Blevins, David & Shirley Haner, Dennis & Kathryn Hayward, Alan Heim, David A. Heim, John Scott Judd, Myron Klein, Curt & Mary Leitko, Monte McGuire, Shirley Morris, Dan & Charol Pleiss, Jennifer Radulovich, Creighton & Phyllis Rehm, Larry & Linda Richards, Glen & Donna Sandoz, Sue Seaton, Dave Shorney, Robert Weber, Janice Whitney, David Wuster.

Family Members: James & Carol Anadale, Chuck & Kim Barnes, Scott & Cindy Callaway, Judy Dappen, Doug & Jenny Edwards, Glenn & June Hayward, David & Brenda Heim, Joe & Ketti Heim, Jessie Hill, Paul & Carol Kendall, Gary & Becky Leatherman, Tim & Debbie Leatherman, Tom Martin & Karla Bohmbach, Linda & Steve McGuire, David & Nedra Merck, Mark & Lorrie Novak, Dick & Marilyn Ogle, Scott & Kris Ogle, Ron & Candy Richards, Peggy Schmidt, Dennis & Robin Thacker, Neil & Margaret Thacker, Charles & Peggy Ulmer, Steve & Norma Ulmer, Bob & Phyllis Williamson, Doris Wuster, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Wuster.

Individual Members: Lucile Arnusch, Mike Barnes, Sherry Berthot, Dan M. Breunsbach, Jeanne Collado, Rita Cushenbery, Kerry Dowdell, Jean Feitshans, Kristi Hall, Carolee Heim, Charles Heim, Violet Heim, Jay Hickey, John Hickey, Vicky Ingram, Katherine Judd, Jane Keefer, Carolyn Kirkwood, Douglas Kruesi, Gail Masonbrink, Dixie Minary, Louise Stratton O'Donnell, Kathy Riggs, Elaine Wagner Roberts, Dave Shorney, Kristy Sneathen, L. Joe Stehlik, Ann Thomas, Charlotte Wuster.

Memories and family

Margaret Ruth Heim Brown

Each colony picnic Sunday, the Christian Church in Humboldt shares its morning service with us, providing for a memorial moment given by a Penn Colony descendant as part of the service. Margaret Ruth Heim Brown of Norfolk delivered last summer's moment, remembering families and their importance in our lives. Below is an excerpt of that talk. —Ed.

We in the Pennsylvania Colony are sort of one big family—we are all related in one way or another—and sometimes it's a puzzle, trying to figure out those relationships. But we *are* family, and I believe all of us look forward to this once-a-year reunion and the chance to renew old friendships, make new friends, and share memories.

Families live together, go through times of happiness and sadness, prosperity and trouble, but always there is that bond of love to keep us close. Thinking back a hundred and forty years ago, when our ancestors began to relocate from their Pennsylvania homes to Dawson, *family* was *everything* to them.

We have probably lost a lot of that during the last few decades, but still, to most of us, family *is* everything.

One story from my own family is that of my grandparents, Joseph G. and Rosa Heim. In 1874, as a teenager, Joe moved to Nebraska from Pennsylvania with his parents, Jacob G. and Regina Heim and their family. Six years later, he and his sister Sarah returned to Pennsylvania for a winter-long visit with relatives. As they went place to place, they came in contact with other young people, and Joe became deeply interested in Rosa. In time, they both realized they wanted to be together.

When it was time for Joe and his sister to return to Nebraska, Joe and Rosa had no idea when, where, or how they would ever meet again. Knowing the situation, Rosa's parents, Johnnie and Margaret Heim, did not want their daughter to suffer, nor did they want Rosa to leave them to join Joe in Nebraska and break up the family. Thus, they sold most of their household goods, and the entire family left for Nebraska.

It is a love story that has been written about and remembered through the years. On their marriage, Joe said, "Never had the stars or the moon shone so brightly; I could work hard all day and never be tired. I had something to work for."

My dad, Emerson Heim, and his generation of young men were probably the first to marry outside the family. My mother, Viola, came to Nebraska in a different way—with other homeless children on an orphan train from New York. She and her brother were accepted by a couple living south of Dawson who cared for them and provided the loving family they needed. My dad and mom were married in May, 100 years ago, and today, four generations later, there are more than 80 direct descendants of that marriage.

My mother later was able to bring her parents to Nebraska. When I was growing up, she could not leave home because she had to care for her mother, who was an invalid requiring constant care—that in itself an example of family devotion! I remember that my father always took me and my brothers to church. Our Christian faith was important in our daily lives, as it was throughout the other Colony families.

Like many families, we are now scattered from coast to coast, and it is really not possible to have the bonding and sharing that our ancestors knew. However, with the benefit of instant communication when we want it, all is not lost. This weekend, those of us who have gathered here once again feel the closeness and sense of community.

Early resident describes first high school

Little is known of John Willard Thomas, the writer of this account of the first high school built in Dawson, other than the fact that he was a member of the graduating class of 1902. Our files contain a photo of the first class that graduated in 1891. Members included Jonas A. Heim, Bryan M. Riley, Mary Heim, Dan J. Riley, C.J. Allen, and E.E. Barlow. The building burned in 1901 and was replaced by a brick building which served the community until it was replaced in 1925 by the large brick structure which still stands.—Ed.

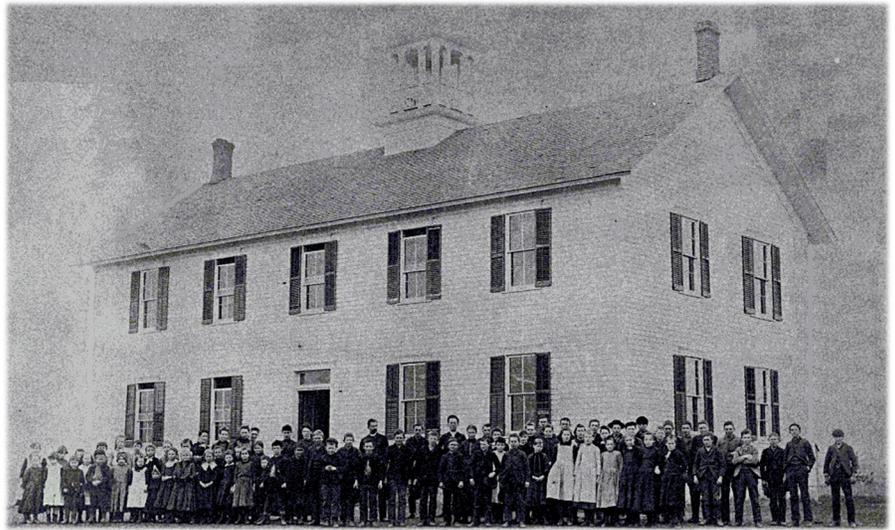
About 1886, Henry Heim married Regina Heim and they moved to the farm when the Reimers family retired. Later, children of the Heim family attended school—Lottie, Charles, Martha, and Paul. They were very close neighbors of the Thomas family for many years. Some of my pleasantest thoughts of people of my younger years are associated with the Heim families with whom we attended school and church for so long.

The town of Dawson had a population of approximately 300. It was the center of a trade territory about six miles square. It was also the school center of an area not quite as large as the trade area. The school building was a wood structure two stories high. On the ground floor were two rooms of equal size. One housed the first three grades of the elementary school and the intermediate grades occupied the other. A hall which ran the width of the building served as an entry way and a cloakroom for children of the lower grades. At the north end of its hall was the stairway to the second floor where the upper grades and the highschool students were housed. There were two rooms and a small hall, which also served for a cloakroom on this floor. One of the rooms was the assembly room, the other was a classroom used by one or the other of the teachers every hour of the day for recitations. While one teacher was conducting class in the recitation room the other teacher used the assembly room for recitations. There were only two teachers for the upper grades and the highschool.

The heating of the building was done with two coal burning stoves, one on the first floor and one on the second floor, each located in the center of the room. On the roof of the building was a cupola which housed the school bell. This bell regulated most every activity of the school day. A rope attached to the bell extended downward through the ceiling of the second floor room where the principal held forth. He pulled the rope to call school to signal recess time, to signal the end of recesstime, to dismiss school at noon, to call school at one o'clock, for afternoon recess, and to indicate dismissal time at four o'clock. The lower grades and their teachers were geared to the ringing of the bell just the same as the upper grades and highschool were.

The history of the Dawson High School dates back to about 1890. It can be assumed that at its beginning the highschool course was for one year and the second year was requested by students who completed the first year and desired further education—Board members added the second year in response to the increasing need for it. It was not until well into the first decade of the new century that larger facilities were provided. A fire destroyed the old building, making it necessary to build. A new brick structure was built, and the district became a consolidated district with four years of highschool.

In 1893 the highschool curriculum was known as classical—two years of Latin, two years of English, two years of mathematics, two



The first high school built in Dawson. It was built in 1880 and destroyed by fire December 18, 1901. Photo was taken in 1889. The teachers were R.L. Hoff and Miss Annie O'Brian (Mrs. M.J. Byrne).

years of science. Fill-in subjects were bookkeeping and physical geography. Civics, or civil government, as it was then called, was offered. Extra-curricular activities just did not exist. For opening exercises each morning, sometimes for as much as ten minutes, singing of old familiar folksongs by the student body was permitted. Sometimes, instead of singing, students would copy a quotation which the principal had written on the blackboard. The students were to memorize the quotation and be ready to recite it at some future opening exercise period.

Before 1900, the principal of the school was George Crocker. In addition to being principal he taught all of the highschool classes plus English and arithmetic in the seventh and eighth grades. He was the only paid teacher in the upper grades and the highschool. By 1900 the Dawson Highschool had two full-time teachers, one of whom was also principal. In 1902 the graduating class was: John Todd Waggoner, John Wuster, Ora Draper, Winifred Ryan, Alpha Roberts, May Heim, Ethel Hummel, and J. Willard Thomas. The valedictorian of the class, Bessie Peatling, died of what was called brain fever in March of that year.

The need for education for the children of the pioneer families was one of the things uppermost in the minds of their parents. The first school in the area was built in 1862 on the Rothenberger land, a cabin of logs 14' by 16', one room with benches for seats and no desk for the teacher, Miss Ruth Draper (Barlow). There were 55 pupils, ages eight years to 35 years. Reading, spelling and writing were the studies taught. One bewhiskered man took only writing.

—*Dawson's History for the Bicentennial 1976*, by Elma Griffith



PENNSYLVANIA COLONY
c/o CHAROL PLEISS
14721 LAUREL PLZ
OMAHA NE 68116

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OMAHA, NE
PERMIT NO 1974

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

A budding entrepreneur who knows his business

Fifteen year old Boaz “BoBo” Bornschlegl was featured recently on the front page of *The Lincoln Journal-Star* in an article written by Cindy Lange-Kubick.

Wanting to earn money to further his eventual studies to become a doctor, the young man, who is a great grandson of the late Evelyn Heim Dallmann [Jonas Heim family], decided to set up a lawn mowing business. Hard work and attention to detail quickly expanded the range of his business to well over a mile radius, helped by many dozens of flyers advertising his business which were distributed in the area. His dad Garth helped him design the custom-made, bike-powered cart shown in the photo, on which he loads his mower, gas cans, weed eater, and other equipment. A Bo-Bo-Bug Lawn Care sign on the cart advertises a free mow for every fifth mow. His business is expanding at a good clip.

One admirer describes him as “the best, most hardworking 15-year-old kid I know.” He is a sophomore at East High this fall, and as he mows, he wears ankle weights getting ready for a tryout with the Spartan football team. He knows what he wants and goes after it. —kmh



Boaz Bornschlegl mows a lawn near 56th and High streets, Lincoln, with his bicycle-powered, custom-made cart in the foreground

Find revives old memories

From *The Dawson Trade News*, April 18, 1957

“While tearing down the former home of Al Bradley, across from the Dawson Cafe, Frank Hogue uncovered some old printed material which dates back a good many years.

“Found in the building was a ‘Pocket Directory and Road and Business Guide of Dawson, Nebraska,’ that Pat Ross [long-time publisher of *The Dawson Herald*] says he printed about 1928. Some of the advertisers listed in the Directory were Bodkin’s Cafe—A.R. Bodkin; T.F. Ryan grocery store; Dawson Auto Company—E.J. Duryea and Son; E.A. Kemist—druggist; Dawson Service Station—Bryan O’Connell; J.A. Tiehen—Ford Garage; Combs Cafe—Allan Combs; Sullivan Lumber Company—J.H. Hickey, Mgr.; and C.M. Cooper—General Merchandise. Rev. J.H. Williams was at the Evangelical Church and Father Jas. Hennessy was at St. Mary’s.

“The city officials were B. Harpster, Chairman, Max Georgi, Joseph G. Heim, Lloyd Kinsey, and John G. Smith. It tells of a tourist camp two blocks from Main Street, located between Dan J. Riley’s and Don Porter’s.”

Ed. Note: A modern day visitor to Dawson would be able to locate only one resident bearing one of the names mentioned in the article—Joe E. Heim, living at the top of Main Street, is a great, great nephew of Joseph G. Heim.