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Article Summary: Joseph Barker wrote long letters to his family in England in 1868 and 1869, many concerning the proposed bridge across the Missouri River. Selections from these letters are the content of this article and lend insight to the Omaha of 1868, with its population of about 8,000.

Cataloging Information:

Names: Reverend Joseph Barker, Joseph Barker Jr; Governor Alvin Saunders, Augustus Kountze, Ezra Millard, O P Hurford, Enos Lowe, Francis Smith, Byron Reed, John McCormick, Jesse Lacy, John H Kellom, Jesse Lowe, James E Boyd, Sidney Dillon, Thomas Durant, Colonel Sterling Price, James McArdle, Phillip Chapman, James K Ish, Aaron Cahn, Meyer Hellman, Conductor Cahoon, Conductor Edmundson, John Patrick, Matilda Patrick, Nelson Patrick, Mathewson Patrick, Algernon S Patrick, Maytie Patrick, Eliza Patrick, Mr Salsbury, Grenville M Dodge, Dr George L Miller, Dan W Carpenter, Oscar F Davis, Miss Ruth (daughter of William Ruth), Mrs Augustus Kountze, Clara Kellom, Emma Lehmer, Frank Lehmer, W H Hibberds, John Creighton, Edward Creighton, James G Megeath, Samuel D Megeath, Peter Iler, Andrew J Poppleton, John L Webster, Standing Bear, Henry W Yates, Henrietta M Bush Caldwell, Smith Samuel Caldwell, George W Frost, F M Dimmick, Gilbert C Monell, Frank Murphy, Victor H Coffman, C H Phinney, John Andrew Morrow, Mrs Jack Morrow, Mrs J P Peck, Dr James Porter Peck, William W Lowe, Dr J H Peabody, Thomas B Cuming, Francis Burt, Mark W Izard, Phineas W Hitchcock, Gilbert C Monell, Jesse H Lacy, Ella Hugus Beall, Roger Beall, John W Hugus,

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Photographs / Images: Joseph Barker;

**OMAHA IN 1868-1869:
SELECTIONS FROM THE LETTERS
OF JOSEPH BARKER**

Edited by Charles W. Martin

INTRODUCTION

In 1868 Omaha had a population of about 8,000 people. It was a frontier outpost, but it was bustling with activity. The Union Pacific Railroad had reached Cheyenne in January of that year and Omaha was the supply depot for much of its needs. River boats were coming in and going out each day during the navigation season. Emigrants were arriving in droves, some to head on to the western mining regions and others to file on the free lands of the area. Omaha was a supply depot for many of the western military forts.

But Omaha did have problems. The greatest worry was the planned construction of the railroad bridge across the Missouri River. This worry had been going on since early 1866. The fear of Omaha people was that the bridge might be built by the Union Pacific at Child's Mill, located near Bellevue. Inasmuch as the railroad out of Omaha went almost due south to within 1 or 2 miles of Bellevue before turning west and then northwest, there was a strong feeling that mileage could be saved by a bridge across the river at the Child's Mill. Of course, if this happened, Omaha would not be on the main line of the railroad and would consequently lose out to Bellevue. Another possibility was to build the bridge at Sulphur Springs, near the foot of Locust Street, which would run the railroad north of Omaha.

The Barker family had come to Omaha in the spring of 1856, two years after the town was founded. The family consisted of the Reverend Joseph Barker, his wife, and two sons and a daughter. In latter years the Rev. Joseph Barker wrote this recollection of his first view of the new little town:

We reached Council Bluffs on April 1st and the next day crossed over to Omaha City. At that time the city consisted of a few huts, two or three decent houses, a bank, the State House, a saw mill, and a few stores. The population would be about three or four hundred. The country round was one vast wild. The prairie fires had passed over it, as far

as your eye could reach, the surface was black as coal. To us it had a somewhat hideous appearance. It looked anything but inviting to the eye. But when you came to look at the soil, it was rich beyond all that we had ever conceived. The richest lands we had seen in Ohio were, compared with it, but barren washes, unworthy of cultivation. The site on which the infant city stands was the finest I ever saw. It was a rich and extensive tract, neither over level nor very hilly, but gently undulating; just such a plot as a man of taste and sense would have been likely to bespeak for a large new city, if he had been consulted. There was plenty of water. In front was the great Missouri, and on each side, about a mile apart, were two small streams with pleasant margins, covered with trees and shrubs.

The Barkers bought land and stayed here for four years until 1860. A death in the family back in England caused the Rev. Joseph Barker to return to England to help settle the estate. In July of the same year, the rest of the family returned to England.

The family began receiving word from friends in Omaha that they were losing property to claim-jumpers, so in May of 1866, the oldest son, Joseph Jr., returned to Omaha to represent the family and to protect their property. Joseph remained in Omaha through 1866 and until July, 1867, when he returned to England for a visit. He returned to Omaha in March, 1868, and remained until September, 1869, when he again visited his family in England. Once again he returned to Omaha in December, 1870. While in Omaha, Joseph wrote long letters about every two weeks to the family in England. These letters continued until about the end of 1870, when the rest of the family returned to live permanently in Omaha.

Early in 1868, friends had written the Barkers in England telling them of the bridge problem.¹ In March, Joseph returned to the United States, and upon arriving in New York called on an old friend living there. Here is what Joseph wrote in his letter (the spelling is essentially that of the writer):

THE LETTERS

Frank Smith's brother told me the Omaha delegation² were in town looking after the bridge question. So I posted off to the St. Nicholas and having been spending two hours with them and have just left them at the office of the U.P.R.R.Co., close by here. It seems Omaha & they have been in a great alarm. The bridge has been located at Child's Mill. But the new Directory of the U.P.R.R.Co. has been elected & yesterday rescinded that location, and are at present in session to decide at what other point it has to be located at. Our Omaha people & Frank Smith & his brother are all sanguine that it will be located at the Sulphur Springs, and be a low level. Omaha is to guarantee four hundred thousand dollars and if they get it they expect to be able to make Council Bluffs pay a part of it. Omaha is growing wonderfully & people are flocking in by hundreds every day & they say we shall be 25,000 by January if the bridge is located. Well, I hope it will be. If I learn it is located before I leave New York I will attach a post script. He attached not one, but two postscripts! They follow, the second paragraph having been written on a separate sheet:

Joseph Barker.



Good news. The bridge just located at Train's Landing. High level. \$400,000 & depot grounds. Omaha & Council Bluffs have shaken hands & combined. Council Bluffs pays \$200,000 county & city tax. A secret yet as to point, so as to secure lands for depot. Durant fights for us & so do all the U.P.R.R.Co.

3 P.M. Yes, it is all right. Gov. Saunders & Kountze stay to get the papers signed & secured. There will be an expenditure of 4 or 5 millions at Omaha. They have just sent off a telegram to Omaha to say it is located at Omaha, but they keep the point secret for awhile to get depot lands. Council Bluffs was at last frightened and has at last combined with Omaha for Train's Landing. Of course Durant owns most of what is called the Train Company's property. Everyone is excited & all send kind regards to you all. Dr. Lowe says there is no fear of them running off. But cautious Gov. Saunders says he will try to get it in black & white & have no running back. It is a glorious thing. I go on with joy. God bless you & goodbye, J.B.Jr.

About this time Dr. Lowe, John McCormick, Byron Reed, J. H. Kellom,³ and some others had incorporated a gas company, and they got an ordinance from the City Council for permission to construct the plant and the necessary gas lines to illuminate the streets and houses of Omaha. Joseph was invited to join the company. Late in March he wrote:

Mr. Kellom wishes me to join in the Gas Company & take one thousand dollars of stock, about 7 or 800 dollars is all they propose to call & perhaps not that. All the \$100,000 of stock is subscribed for & all the best men. They expect to receive 50 percent profit. They serve the city with gas at \$3 per 1,000 feet & the citizens at \$3.75½ per 1,000 feet. Mr. K. thinks it is the best thing going and if the city grows the new stock of the company will only be issued to the old members. He takes \$5,000 as do Dr. Lowe, B. Reed, Boyd, McCormick, Kountze⁴ & other principal men. Mr. Kellom is one of the principals and he thinks he can secure me the secretaryship of the company which will be a better thing as the company increases, so I decided to take a \$1,000 of stock and run the risk.

On April 3, 1868, when Jesse Lowe, Omaha's first mayor, died, Joseph wrote his relatives this bit of gossip:

Jessie Lowe⁵ died on Saturday morning. He was a strange man. I suppose in his younger days he was Captain of a robber band in Texas where he made a great deal of money, so says Colonel Lowe, his nephew. They say he was a very dangerous man. His body, I suppose, has numerous cuts & scars & gunshot wounds, and a Bowie knife was

once pushed right through his body, but escaped killing him. They say he has four wives living. All his property is settled on his children here. He joined Church a year ago, and just like him, when he was baptised himself, he made his wife & children & servants all be baptised at the same time. They bury him tomorrow & all old settlers are invited to attend. I shall go if all's well.

Business in Omaha was good during the spring of 1868. Joseph gives some of the reasons. He mentioned in his letter of April 10 that the government had established Fort Russell about 4 miles from Cheyenne and was about to establish another fort, Fort Steele, farther on along the railroad. Then he writes:

Besides these, are other large & smaller forts all of which are supplied from Omaha. So you can imagine it must help business here. Of course we only get a tithe of the money expended, as the great bulk comes from the East, but \$500,000—how much I won't say, but a large sum, were disbursed here last year by the Government & some millions by the railway besides the country business, so you may think there is some basis for prosperity. The bridge they think will add to the expenditure here. The Indians will for some years oblige the Government to keep many thousands of troops in the plains & mountains and their expenditure will help build up the country. . . . Government contracts seem to employ a full half of our businessmen & railway contracts a great part of the other half.

Getting the city to approve the bonds for raising money to give the Union Pacific for the station land was keeping Joseph busy. In this same letter he writes:

I have been busy all morning getting up a committee of property owners to meet the County Commissioners whom we wish to call an election of the County to sanction the giving of \$400,000 to the Railway & to issue the bonds. Durant & Dillon⁶ will be here next week & we wish to show them we are preparing to keep our side of the bargain. McCardle⁷ is opposed to the County being taxed for this & thinks the City ought to pay it. So we have been trying to bring a little influence to bear on him. If he can be induced to call the election we are all right, as we have one secure & there are only 3 County Commissioners, & if McCardle goes for it, the other one, Chapman⁸ of Florence, will. It is to be settled on Wednesday. It is very important to get the county vote, & very necessary to get it settled while people are in good humour, as there is a party wishful to make mischief & if we do not satisfy Durant, they can yet take it [the bridge] below. As I was at leisure, they pitched on me to hunt up the men and to get them at the courthouse in good time. Everyone of them were there & they all seem to feel the importance of getting the thing settled soon.

.....
The weather is still very windy and the amount of real estate it carries in the air is really remarkable.

When he had a chance to look around, Joseph was impressed with the development that had occurred in Omaha since he was there before:

Augustus Kountze got home today and Ruff tells me they are to have a meeting of the block owners between 13 & 12 on Farnam north side. And he expects they will arrange to put up the new Block. It will be 3 stories high. This will be a great addition, and will give quite an impetus to building & business. John McCormick took me this morning through some of the principal stores of the new Block⁹ on Farnam. It really is a splendid Block, the Dry Goods stores especially. Dr. Ish's,¹⁰ Druggist, house is really beautiful. I never saw anything finer in any town. Cahn's¹¹ store at the corner of 13th is equally fine, & 44 feet wide & 100 feet deep. The ceiling all paneled & painted white,

enameled. Below his store is the new billiard hall which is also as magnificent an affair. Above are the Government Headquarters. These men have all made their money here & they would not put up such very expensive & elaborate stores if they did not expect to make it pay them. Cahn's & Hellman's 44 feet store & finishing has cost them \$50,000. These stores are all wholesale houses as well as retail, & have well filled buildings with goods. You would be really surprised if you saw them. The new Block is to be as handsome & as well finished. The hardware & grocery houses only paint their bricks & seal the roofs, they do not need any costly finish.

Again on April 17 he reported on the weather:

Today the wind went round to the south & we have had hot winds & clouds of real estate filling the air and valley of the Missouri & nearly choking and blinding you. This evening the clouds thickened & the thunder rolled in good old style & suddenly hail & rain came down in torrents. Hail an inch through until we thought the windows would be smashed before we could get the Venetian shutters to. And now for the last three hours we have had heavy showers of rain diversified by wind & thunder. The change to rain is very welcome as the country began to need it.

A couple of days later he wrote:

For five days we have had dull wet days. Today it has rained steadily nearly all day & we are over ankles, nearly knee deep in mud. It is terrible & enough to dispirit everyone, and I see it does in a measure.

By April 24 grasshoppers had become a problem, and the fact that Omaha was to have a streetcar system drew comments, as did the problems of Jesse Lowe's family:

The weather has again turned out fine & pleasant, but the young grasshoppers¹² have been hatched out in myriads. The country swarms with them and nearly every green vegetable is eaten up as fast as it appears. People seem to think they will stay with us until they are large enough to fly, or until their wings are grown. How long that will be, no one knows. I hear it estimated at a month or six weeks. Last year they came late enough to save the crops. But those whose corn was late & green, had every bit destroyed. They are a fearful & terrible plague. Yesterday they attacked Dr. Graff's strawberry bed, which cost him over \$100 last autumn & destroyed every vestige of it. He hopes they will spring up from the roots, but this year's crop is all gone.

.....
Did I tell you that a company here have a charter for street railroads¹³ to run from Omaha to Brownell Hall (the old Saratoga Hotel, and which stands opposite to about the middle of your ¼ section). When this is running, and it has to be completed so far this summer, people will be tempted to settle along that route. It is to run down 16th Street & 23rd Street.

.....
The other day Jesse Lowe's first wife came to town. It seems she has never been divorced. So this last wife & her four (4) children are not legitimate. It has created quite a sensation. It is said he confessed to his last wife a few days before he died. It was the first she knew of it, though everybody was aware of the rumors that he had 3 other wives living when he married her, she never heard of it. If this first one proves her claim, & no one seems to doubt it, she will take possession of her thirds, & those who have bought property from Jesse will have to pay over a third to her. At present it is doubtful whether the children will be able to keep the property Jesse has left them. He was passionately fond of these children & has brought them up with great care & their Mother is a well bred lady-like person. But his disgraceful character may be very injurious to them. And in spite of all his efforts they may be prevented from enjoying his property. His seems to have been a strange lawless & criminal life. Some lawyer seems to have been watching him for years in the interest of the first wife.

The month of May started with some excitement:

The Indians¹⁴ are again very troublesome & have killed six railroad men & carried off much cattle. Matt Patrick¹⁵ had arranged to take some six or eight of his friends to North Platte which is his headquarters & I was to have been one, & the Bishop was going to open a church Matt has been raising money there to build. We were to have had passes on the railroad there & back & Matt was to have entertained us. But this Indian outbreak frightened everybody and broke the whole up. Gen. Sherman has gone out to arrange matters & to try & make peace & if he succeeds & peace is restored, we are to go sometime in the summer. There is no real danger at North Platte as that is quite a railway town & there are over 300 men at the railway works there. But still it frightened the party & broke it up.

On Sunday we had an alarm of fire about 2 P.M. It was very windy & hot & we all ran down & found a carpenter's shop & a stable on fire at 16th & Dodge St.¹⁶ It is a crowded block, but fortunately it was stopped after burning down the stable & shop. Somebody smoking in the stable set it on fire. There was great excitement & alarm & all the houses on the block were soon gutted & some four thousand men on the spot.

In the same month Joseph served on a jury in a murder case:

The day before yesterday about noon, I was collared by the U.S. Marshal and impanelled in a U.S. jury to try a murder case before the U.S. Court. It (the murder) was committed on Grand Island at Fort Kearny on the reservation. I was locked up at night with the others in the courthouse & had to sleep on the benches with only our overcoats & blankets & law books for pillows. There were several gentlemen & we played whist until nearly two in the morning & then we felt sleepy enough to sleep soundly on the hard benches until five or six when we were marched out to an hotel to wash & get our breakfast. We were in court hearing the case until 9 at night when we retired for the verdict. As usual there were so many wise & so many foolish men, but we compromised, after two hour's discussion, on manslaughter & I got home between eleven & twelve last night. Today I have felt rather sleepy. They made me foreman of the jury.

Land in Nebraska was being settled by groups coming in from Europe. Joseph noted this when he wrote:

Yesterday a farm with a little timber (200 acres altogether), three miles from town, on the railroad, good nice land, no improvements, was sold for \$30 an acre, \$1,500 down, the rest in 12 months at 10% interest. It was bought by the managers of a Bohemian Emigration Company, 50 of whom are already here camped outside town (Bohemians, part of the Austrian Empire). They will make it their headquarters & build large buildings & fences & cultivate it & live on it while they have time to select their lands and make their preparations. And when they have got settled, another batch will come on & take possession & so on. They intend to have two or three such settlements & homes up the valley & up the Elkhorn. They expect to take up Homesteads etc. There is another company under a similar organization, of Danes, Holsteiners & Germans, who have agents here looking for lands near town to make a receiving depot & sustaining garden farm. There are also a colony of Germans up from Texas, who went to Texas in 1860 & have had all the war troubles there to contend with. They are sick of the South & want to be up the Platte. I tell you Nebraska is going to be a place & the Homestead Laws along the railroad are going to be the making of us—the alternate sections in the rich valleys running into the Platte are going to be filled by actual settlements of hardy Germans, chiefly Germans.

More information about the Missouri River railroad bridge is revealed in a letter of May 16, 1868:

I have just returned from a meeting of leading citizens held in the Courthouse this evening to receive the report of the committee who went to New York about the bridge, & to organize further action to carry out the contract made with the U.P.R.R. Committee, Durant & Dillon. It seems that committee made or drew up a memorandum themselves on behalf of the City, & Durant & Dillon on behalf of the U.P.R.Rd. & the Bridge Company contracting to build the bridge at Trainsville on condition Omaha gave them the depot grounds and \$250,000 of County bonds & right-of-way. I saw this agreement & read it, and it was very satisfactory as, if we do our part, it is as good as a regular stamped contract. This agreement was drawn up on the 29 of April or 27, just after Durant came out & has been quiet until tonight. I suppose to allow somebody to secure their lots while croaking was going on. They also presented the plat of the lands & lots the Company have selected & condemned for the depot & route. It comprises 50 lots, but just saves our Lot 2 in 246 by the width of the street & runs from a little over the east side of Sixth Street to the west side of Tenth Street, which makes 10th one of the principal entrances to the depot. We have not heard anything more about Council Bluffs, only that Dodge,¹⁷ it is expected, will make them honey up, or pay their part without any promises about transfer grounds. Durant will make Dodge carry it through. When our Committee went to New York they found everything & nearly everybody against them & committed to Child's Mill.

Mr. Miller¹⁸ I believe has done as much as anyone for us. He (I have learned all this confidentially from Mr. K.) was deputed to offer Durant a bribe of \$50,000 to use his influence to secure us the bridge. Durant was pleased, but refused it & promised to do all he could. He let them know Dodge was our great enemy. Just at that time Dodge got a bill passed by & through the Iowa Legislature forbidding the U.P.R.Rd. putting a bridge at Trainsville, or other than at Child's Mill. This interference exasperated Durant who is a very haughty & proud man, and also gave him a good excuse to set on the Council Bluffs' delegation. He at once told them Child's Mill was played out, that Trainsville was the location, & that they, without any reservations or contracts, would have to pay \$250,000 towards the bridge the same as Omaha. At the same time he blamed them for this legislative interference with his affairs, "as he knew Dodge would not be such a d--d fool as to recommend such a course,"—though he had at the same time. This action both settled the Council Bluff Committee & silenced Gen. Dodge, & sent him off to Washington, while Durant upset Child's Mill at the Board & substituted Omaha in place.

I rather think Trainsville will be the permanent location & that Council Bluffs will pay their share. We have now to see all the owners of the condemned property & see what they will agree to sell for & where no agreement can be come to, Davis & B. Reed¹⁹ will be deputed to assess the value, which will be paid by the City with City bonds. I expect a few thousand dollars were spent in New York by our Committee in securing information & influence which will have to be smuggled through, or in to the City or County bonds. Dr. Miller believes Durant to be the ruling spirit of the railroad and our best friend. Dodge is resigning his seat in Congress to secure his position on the U.P.Rd. He had to give up one or the other and he gets \$10,000 as Engineer. So we shall not have his opposition in Congress. The bonds we give are \$250,000 payable in 20 years at 7%.

And again, he reports on grasshoppers, the scourge of the farmer, but he notes that the homesteaders—even excursionists—continued to come:

Mr. Kellom's garden is full of nice trees, quite a thicket, and so are the next two lots, and they are full of birds. The country is beginning to look lovely. And such splendid atmospheric effects as the sun goes down. But, oh!, the grasshoppers. I never saw such swarms, such clusters, and such a scourge. They cluster all over the fences & hang on the green grass in strings until it looks black & sways down with their weight. They rise up in clouds as you move & literally swarm over everything. They go about in flocks and eat up



OMAHA HERALD.

EXTRA.

OMAHA FOREVER

Glory to God in the Highest
--Peace on Earth--Good
Will to Everybody!

NEW YORK, March 29th, 1868.

TO EDITORS OMAHA HERALD:

The Bridge is located at Train Table. Omaha pledges the Depot Grounds and Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars. Council Bluffs pledges Two Hundred Thousand Dollars and Lands. Grounds and Right of Way will be condemned. -Make public.

A. SAUNDERS, Chairman.

EZRA MILLARD, Sec'y Omaha Com.



Barker was in Omaha when this Omaha Herald extra appeared in March, 1868. . . (Right) Omaha, northwest from 15th and Farnam Streets, 1873.

In an hour every green thing in a garden that is coming up fresh & green. They seem to be moving in swarms or shoals towards the north-west. . . . They are now about a third of an inch long & brown in color. They seem to gather together in the gardens & on the green patches. You could hardly conceive it if you had not seen it.

But the emigrants continue to come in every day, they are taking Homesteads & nearly 100,000 acres or more have been taken at this land office during the month of May for Homesteads, besides other entries.

.....
A party of 40 Methodist ministers stayed a few hours here yesterday as they went on an excursion to the end of the U.P. Rd. Bishop Simpson & Bishop Aymes (brother to the President of the U.P. Rd.) headed the party. They return on Sunday, when they preach in town. . . . This Methodist preachers' excursion is composed of the leading Methodist preachers in America. They will spread abroad an account of our road & country. This U.P. Company are cunning, they know who to make friends with.

In his next letter he wrote:

Today is Sunday June 7th. And we have all these celebrated Methodist Drs. of Divinity—Bishops & heads of the Methodist body here—preaching in all our pulpits. In the theatre, & courthouse & even in the streets. They only got in from the west this morning after travelling day & night, & I fancy must be very much fatigued. They have given some very fine sermons, and quite a treat to our people. And they are all full of praise of our "western world."

On July 10 Joseph heard that he had been elected a director and treasurer of the new gas company:

On Tuesday he [Mr. Kellom] told me he had got me made a Director of the Gas Company, & also the Treasurer in his place. And though there were several candidates proposed for each office, I was elected unanimously. As Treasurer, I have to collect the money and get a percentage for my trouble, and when the Company is once in running order, I get a salary.

And it is so hot. We have now had three weeks of steady hot weather. Every day nearly the thermometer over 90 degrees in the shade. The winds are hot and scorching and every thing you touch is as hot as to be unpleasant to sit or lie on. It is as hot, and I think hotter, and longer continued than we ever experienced. I am writing in the shade of the trees & the plaza, the wind blowing hot upon me, my eyes hot & dry, as if I were sitting before an oven.

On Monday, July 13, when Douglas County held its election on railroad bonds, Joseph reported:

Yesterday, Monday, I was busy all day at the election in our ward, as Judge of Election, on the vote for the railway bonds. It was a hot sweaty day, and I had to do it. We got out nearly half the voters, and polled in the whole city one thousand and sixty votes in favour and only 12 against it. In one of the county precincts they polled fifteen votes, 12 against & 3 in favour of the bonds. In the other precincts they forgot to prepare and hold an election, so it went by default. The majority of the farmers were opposed to the county being pledged for the \$250,000 in aid of the bridge. But we were able to carry it in spite of their opposition, and a third of them would have voted in its favour had it come to a vote. They knew the City would vote them down & carry it. We had a telegram from New York on Saturday evening advising us to do all we could to get out a good vote in favouring the bonds, and that Durant would start this week for Omaha. Some think he will be ready, when he arrives, to arrange about our bonds and to order work on the bridge. But I fear nothing towards commencing actual work will be done this year. It is supposed the Company again is short of money, and there is a fight going on between Durant and one part of the Company & another large party of the stockholders, which

will make its appearance in the law courts towards the end of this month. We are anxious to hear what this fight will end in. Durant's friends think him invincible and that he will again secure the nearly absolute control of the Company. We shall see.

.....

The quarrel between the two parties of the U.P.Rd. is this:—Durant and some 11 or 12 of the U.P.Co. & who are the Directors, or the majority of the Directors, and who also claim to be the "Credit Mobilier Co." of the U. States. Durant & the Directors, as the Directors of the U.P.Rd., have given the contract to build the road, at \$50,000 per mile to the Credit Mobilier. The Credit Mobilier built it at a cost of about \$30,000 a mile; some say \$20,000 or \$25,000 is all it cost. The Mobilier get all the Government subsidies, all the money raised by selling the bonds of the Company and get a lien or mortgage on the whole road & lands, and will in time, if not prevented, gobble up the whole road. Well, the minority of the Company object to this, & say the Directors had no right to give the Mobilier the contract to build the road, that it could have been done for less—half—& claim to have the courts settle the matter & force the Mobilier to come in & share their profits with the stockholders. It comes into court on the 21st inst. They think Durant will stave the matter off again by letting in young Fisk, who claims the ownership of one million of the U.P. stock. It is a gigantic swindle & the Mobilier have, or will divide a dividend of one million each member. The road however will go on in spite of everything it is said, and will be completed to Salt Lake next spring & all through by a year or so. Brigham Young has some 400 miles under contract. I saw the plans for the bridge. It will be built on round pillars 250 feet apart, like the railway bridges across the Thames to London, & with ice abutments made of railroad iron cased over with 2 inch iron plates to protect them. It will 50 feet above the highest high water mark on record. And there is good rock all the way across the river.

.....

I got an invitation to a party tonight to Miss Ruth's²⁰ party. I am going to have Miss Kellom in charge to escort. I suppose it will be a nice affair. It is the first party of Miss Clara²¹ & five other young Omaha ladies since they have left school for good. I have two in charge, Clara & Emma Lehmer.²² They are inseparable & as they are both elegant & pretty, I have no scruples in being their beau. I expect it will be very hot, but as we do not go until 9 P.M. & there is a good breeze, it may be bearable.

.....

Our wharf is really the most lively & striking feature of our town. Mr. Kellom & I had to go down last Monday to see about a lot of gas piping, etc. which had just been delivered. The landing now is opposite Train's Town & the upper part of South Omaha Landing. Five steamboats were unloading and the two large Ferryboats were going backwards & forwards crowded with teams & passengers as fast as they could load and unload. The wharf on the Iowa side was covered with some hundreds of cars surrounded by numbers of wagons unloading the coal, freight, grain, iron, etc. out of them and transferring them to this side. On our wharf the railroad has several lines of rails on which were scores of cars & engines & cars passing & repassing all the time. On the wharf were great piles, *hills*, of corn & oats, iron & railway & government goods & material with scores of men & teams, yelling & screaming & nigger deckhands laughing, whistling, singing & quarreling. We were struck by the bustle & excitement and the amount of business being done. There was the real life of Omaha.

And that party Barker was invited to attend. He reported on it, as well as on another party to which he was invited:

I told you in my last I was going to a party. It was a very pleasant reception. There was no dancing, but a handsome supper table, ice cream, fruit, cakes, sandwiches, coffee & lemonade, etc. It was for Mr. Frank Lehmer & his wife—Miss Phillips—Kountze's niece—daughter of Mrs. Phillips. Last night I was at another, a much larger & nicer, with a band of music & dancing, at a Mrs. Hibberds,²³ wife of the manager of the Telegraph Company & given to Frank & his wife & to Mr. & Mrs. John Creighton,²⁴

Edward Creighton's younger brother. You used to know him, a freckled faced fellow, rich now. He has just married Mrs. Ed. Creighton's youngest sister. It was a very pleasant party. Plenty of room to dance, good music, some sixty young people & a handsome supper, same in all respects as the Ruth table. There is just one style in such things. At both houses half the company were strangers to me, though I was well acquainted with the other half. There were some very nice toilets, & several very elaborate ones, long trains & fine headdresses. The young ladies though wore chiefly short skirted & ruffled gauze dresses, with handsome silk or satin slippers, white, red or blue, to match their dresses. People still continue to dress very handsomely and expensively. There were several very nice young ladies, come out west, expressly to be married. I went alone. I had no lady, but tried to make myself generally useful & agreeable. I suppose these marriage parties will cause some others to be given, and as the weather becomes cooler we may expect more lively times socially. Up to this time it has been like all other things, unusually dull.

1868 was an election year and General Ulysses S. Grant was running for his first term as President of the United States. Barker's report of Grant's visit to Omaha gives an extraordinary word picture of America's war hero and its next President:

Yesterday we had a visit from Gen'l Grant. He came attended by Sherman, Sheridan, Harney, Dodge, Auger our General, and a large staff. He has been out all through the western country & mountains & came back on his return to St. Louis, by the U.P.Rd. to Omaha. His first visit. The Republicans were all astir & sent a deputation of which Mr. Kellom was one, out to Fremont to meet him & offer him a reception, etc. He objected even to staying, & Gen'l. Dodge had arranged to take him over at once to Co. Bluffs to rest there an hour before taking the cars to St. Jos[eph, Missouri]. But Mr. Kellom stepped right up & squashed that dodge of Dodge's. They at last got Grant's consent to receive a deputation at the depot, & to get into a carriage to drive round town & to the Republican Headquarters, to bow to the people, then to the Herndon [House—a hotel] for a slight refreshment of whisky or wine, & then to the railroad for St. Jos.

Well, he came & the town turned out. It was dreadfully hot & dusty. The Headquarters are on Douglas St. opposite the center of the Douglas Block. The space was crowded. The people cheered well, & he took off his hat & bowed. At last they got him out & up to the stand & presented him to the people who cheered again. He would not open his mouth, looked around, bowed half a dozen times & backed out. Then the other Generals were presented & bowed. The band played & General Sherman said a few words thanking them in Grant's name, & said he was tired & wanted to get to his family, etc., & could not make them a speech. Sherman said he himself was one of us, this was his home, etc., & he should see us soon again when he would speak. Then Grant had to shake hands all around, & at last got back to his carriage which the crowd surrounded & he was kept there ten minutes handshaking before he could get away. I got to the side of the carriage & had a good steady look all over of him while he took off his hat & bowed & shook hands. He was dirty and dusty and evidently tired with his seven hundred miles of railway travel. Dresses in undress military blue, with a linen duster coat over it & a straw hat. He is my size, slightly heavier & bent in the shoulders. A nervous look, like a bull dog's when a child is teasing & petting him. thick neck & good sized solid calculating head & eye, & Roman nose, of the strong coarse character, full strong lips & solid square chin, full strong not high forehead. More of an old fighting British stamp. Heavy shoulders rather stooping or slouching. A strong heavy built man, with a watchful bulldog eye. A man without any mistake, who evidently keeps down with great will a nervous nature. They may say what they please, he is a *man* of power & fully equal in appearance to any other of the great generals. And his appearance of watchful nervous quietness struck me more than anything else. I am again satisfied that men do not get to such positions as Grant

has arrived at, solely by blundering luck. He has more the appearance of a British sailor than anything else.

Gov. Saunders who was with him, saw me & offered to introduce me, and just as he was doing so the horses started & I lost my introduction & a share of the handshaking. But I had a long, quiet study of the man. Mr. Kellom says he listens well & makes quiet pertinent, sensible answers to all you say, but seems to be both proud & bashful & evidently hates being made a show of. He did not please the Republicans by trying to avoid a reception & a presentation to the people. They think a man who consents & evidently wishes to be the president ought to be more sociable & show himself to the people in a democratic manner. He has evidently to be dragged by his friends into public view. But he won't speak. I am still more inclined to think he will be elected since I have seen him. I think such a man would have a "pretty sure thing of it" before he consented to give up the high position of General of the Armies of America with 25 or \$30,000 a year for life & lots of spoils. And the military chieftains both Democratic & Republican will all go for him. As General Harney told Mr. Kellom, & he is an old Democrat, "Grant is a power himself. He stands outside parties, & all can vote for him without regard to party," & I think that is the position Grant desires to take.

On August 4 the politicking in Omaha of the vice presidential candidate of the Republican Party, Schuyler Colfax, drew this amusing comment:

He made us a nice little speech chiefly about our "beautiful town" and our vast prospects "in the development of this wonderful road binding with bands of steel this great continent," etc., etc. Very Nice. They call him the "canary bird" for his pretty sentences.

On Saturday, August 8, Barker described a trip by Missouri River steamer to Plattsmouth:

On Saturday morning I went down to the river with Nelson Patrick to Plattsmouth. We went down on the St. Joseph packet, the chief clerk of which is a friend of Nelson's. He passed us down free of expense. We had a good dinner & went down in two hours & a half. It was a beautiful day, with a N.W. wind, making it cool & pleasant. Another boat left at the same time, but had the start of us, & before we knew it, there was a race going on. Both boats were manned by darkies, & we had a German band on board. Our band played & our darkies roared & screamed as we closed on the other boat & got half a boat's length ahead, when they lashed to us 'till we should get to some narrow channel, when we should be obliged to give way & let them pass, as they had the inside of the channel. I could not help laughing & enjoying it, in spite of the fear I naturally felt of the boiler bursting, or some other mishap. However at the next open space, we ran our boat a length ahead & got to the lower landing first, & as both boats had freight to take on & one only at once could tie up, we got the lead & won the race. It was quite a pleasant ride, the banks of the river covered with brush & many acres of the bottoms cultivated, & splendid crops of corn growing and just getting fully into ear.

The St. Jo's R. Rd.²⁵ was just finished & at the lower landing, runs close to shore, & as we stayed, the first through train passed on its way to the Bluffs.

Barker observed that Plattsmouth, although well situated and with a fine harbor, was just a little place and very quiet. He reported that there used to be a large trade by freighters there but that the Union Pacific Railroad had killed all of that. Then he wrote:

Yesterday I returned by stage from Plattsmouth & crossed the Platte in a flat boat as is usual there. It was windy & difficult to cross. It took an hour, & we had all to work our

passage by using poles to shove it across & prize [pry] it off the sandbanks. We got over safely and I enjoyed my ride up. . . . One thing Omaha ought to do, and that is to join the people in Plattsmouth building a good bridge across the abominable & treacherous Platte. There is a difference of 30 cents per bushel on corn between Plattsmouth & Omaha, and the whole people would trade with us if they could only make sure of crossing the Platte. . . . Cass County is one of the richest & finest counties in the State, & we could then secure all its trade of any value.

.....
 The grasshoppers are passing over us & have been for four days. We are greatly alarmed. Looking up towards the sun, you see them passing south in immense, or one continuous cloud. Their white transparent wings with the sun shining on them is all you see, & they are at an immense height, but it is like a continuous snow storm driving before the sun. As evening closes they begin to fall & you see the air full of them. The ground in the morning swarms & they fly before you in clouds. They attack the young corn, saw off the top & then eat out the kernel. So far they have started as soon as the morning sun had warmed the air & the N.W. wind was strong enough to carry them along.

They seem to rise up 'till they reach one of the higher currents of air & then sail steadily south, or wherever the current goes. In some localities they have done great mischief & consumed much corn. Should the wind cease they might stay in such quantities as to consume every green thing on the ground. As it is, the feeble ones, that do not seem able to go on with the bulk, are everywhere & doing much damage. These grasshoppers, or locusts, seem likely to prejudice settlers against this country, for the facts in the paper go over the whole country. But Iowa & Missouri and Kansas suffer just as much as we do.

Saturday, August 8, Barker visited the railroad shops:

Yesterday being a fine cool morning, I went down to the R.Rd. works & went through & round them. It was the first time since my return. I assure you, I was really surprised. The buildings are crowded with men at work. They have not room or means to supply the demands of the road. They told me they had to build shops twice as large in addition to the present. They do everything. They have a large iron works in which over one hundred men were casting all sorts of iron pipes, plates, pillars & all sorts of iron work. Then the car shop is filled with men & machinery, making cars & the finest kind of passenger cars.

They have the finest passenger cars in America on the U.P. Rd., and they make them here. The best paid & most skilled workmen are here in demand. They are at present in want of 4,000 freight cars & though they turn out ten cars a day they cannot supply the present demand. They say they are all surprised at the wants of the road. Neither the Heads of Departments or Directors had really any adequate idea of what the demands of this road would be when they commenced their works here three years ago.

The chief mason is an Englishman & a friend of mine. He was busy laying the stone foundation of the new blacksmith shop which is much wanted. It is 200 feet by 75. The foundation has to be 5 feet wide & 3 feet deep of solid rock imbedded in cement, & then the brick work. He said they would be obliged to have as many more buildings twice as large just for present use. Then the piles of lumber, iron & all sorts of material surrounding the works and the number of men at work, besides the crowds that are at work from the foot of Farnam all the way to South Omaha.

You see these two new railroads, The St. Joe's & N.W. roads employ large numbers of men in the transport business & they have their storehouses on the wharf, besides these & three ferryboats going backwards & forwards laden to their fullest capacity, there are six steamboats busy unloading mountains of goods & material. At the same time the passenger company's coaches & omnibusses were on the wharf on their way [to] the C.&N.W.R.Rd. depots on the Iowa shore. They consisted of two 4 horse luggage wagons filled with trunks & five four horse coaches & omnibusses crowded with passengers from the west going east. These coaches cross & recross three times a day, crowded each time & sometimes & often, they require five or six vehicles.

After seeing the river, I rode up with a friend to the large new brewery²⁶ being built on the edge of the bluffs on Pacific Street. It is a building on three sides of a square. One side 150 feet long, the other two sides 100 feet, 3 stories high, an immense affair. Just below it on the same street on the little plateau before you get to the regular, McCoy of Omaha & Council Bluffs, the largest liquor dealer, is building a large new distillery.²⁷

He is to remove his old one from C. Bluffs to this side. Several large new houses I see are being commenced about town. So our carpenters will find a sufficiency of work to do. I was really surprised & cheered by what I saw. The present force of men employed are sufficient for a large town, and if they double, or as they talk, treble the present force employed, they will soon double the size of the town, for the wholesale trade along the road seems to be increasing steadily.

On June 20 Barker had written his family of reports the military was closing Forts Phil Kearny, C. F. Smith, and Reno on the Bozeman Trail in the Wyoming area and that the garrison at Fort Phil Kearny consisting of twelve companies was to be moved to Omaha. It was assumed by him that an announcement would soon be made that barracks would be erected and that Omaha would become a garrison post.²⁸ Finally the long awaited report came:

Last night's mail brought the long expected orders from the War Department for the erection of apartments for 24 officers, which I suppose will be as many houses, and ten barracks, each to contain about one hundred soldiers. A hospital for 40 beds, stables for 40 horses, store houses, officers & other necessary buildings. The advertisement appeared in this morning's papers calling for tenders according to the specifications, to erect them. I suppose they will all be Frames on brick foundations, and are all to be completed by the 15th of November. Then there will be fences & stockades, etc. Quite a large expenditure, as the Government always gets the best. We are all very much pleased.

In October the barracks at the site which was later to become Fort Omaha, were nearing completion. Joseph walked up to take a look:

Yesterday was a fine day for a walk. So in the afternoon I walked up to the Barracks. They are three miles north, beyond Hadley Johnson's farm, which the Kountzes now own. It is a fine piece of land of 80 acres, and slopes off to the east very beautifully. The buildings already up, 40 in number, are arranged on three sides of a hollow square open to the east. On the west side & on the sloping hillside are arranged the officers' quarters consisting of about twenty double & single one & one-half story houses, with handsome porches the whole length and fronting the east. 3 or four of them will be handsome square two story houses for the colonel & chief officers. They are all large well built houses averaging 36 feet by 24, I should say, or 30 feet.

The soldiers' quarters are in double rows at the north & south sides of the square with porches and fronting towards the large square of at least 40 acres which is to be converted into parade grounds. There are yet the stables & storehouses, hospitals, etc. to be built. It will be quite a town when completed. They are all well built of pine. Filled in with brick upon good high foundations of brick. At present we shall have only infantry, as the cavalry ordered here have been sent out against the Indians, whom General Sherman is now determined either to subdue or to exterminate. The railroad, as I told you, has to be guarded by infantry and Omaha will be the headquarters & relieving post for the whole road. Cavalry in time will I believe be sent & kept here also. It will take \$200,000 to complete the present works going on, and more will be added each year for some years to come.

**"Make Hay While the Sun
Shines."**

FARMERS OF NEBRASKA,

we offer you at the lowest prices for cash,

McCORMICK'S

WORLD - RENOWNED REAPING

AND

MOWING MACHINES,

BY means of which you may cut down the splendid grass of your rich prairies, and your crops of wheat and oats, at the rate of ten or twelve acres per day, and thus provide for your stock, increase your wealth, and save yourselves a vast amount of labor and care.

We expect, in a few days, a supply of improved

HORSE RAKES,

to accompany the machine, and thus make your reaping and hay-making apparatus complete.

JOSEPH BARKER & SONS,

Omaha, July 9, 1857.

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This ad appeared in the Omaha Times, July 9, 1857-June 20, 1858.

The election of 1868 approached, and in the tradition of the times, torchlight parades were formed, streets were decorated, bands played, and bets exchanged hands. Gun salutes announced the winners after a quiet election day:

We have had a great deal of excitement about the elections. On Saturday both parties had torchlight processions. They had about 2,000 men in each procession all with torches & others with pans burning red, green & blue lights, with bands of music, flags, etc. The sight on Farnam & on Douglas was splendid from the bluffs. The Republicans had Douglas & the Democrats Farnam. They filled both streets from 14th to Ninth with torches. It looked very fine & beautiful. They then marched up the hill round in front of the Capitol, keeping the crest of the hill & down Davenport by the Patricks' house, and so back on 16th to Farnam & Douglas & each line extended all over the hill to nearly back to the place of beginning. It was a calm, dark night. Most of the large houses on the route were illuminated and all together it was a splendid sight. Council Bluffs sent about six hundred & the country places four hundred more. About equal parts of Reps. & Dems. to take part.

It takes Americans to get up these expensive monster demonstrations. It must have cost thousands of dollars. Today the elections took place. They have gone off quietly. But it has been a dreadfully wet & muddy day. The guns are now firing, 10 P.M. I have just heard the Republicans have carried the day, and the Democrats were so sanguine. It is a sample of what will be. Grant will be the next president. Immense sums have been expended here and very heavy bets changed hands. I split my ticket for Republicans who would help our railroads. But I voted for Poppleton²⁹ as I had promised him, but he is defeated and I am rather glad we have gone Republican as it will be better for our state getting federal land grants for our railroads.

On October 22 Joseph was invited to another party:

Last night—22nd—I was out to a large party at the new house of Mr. Yates³⁰ the Cashier of the First National, Kountze's bank. He has built a very handsome house, and there was a very large party of the leading citizens. Some 70 people were there. 100 had been invited. The Military were there. It was a very fine affair. I never saw a better dressed party. The larger part of the ladies were young married, and nearly all dressed in handsome light coloured silks. Very expensive silks with white lace & flowers. Most of the gentlemen were in full evening dress, white cravats & white or light coloured kids.

There was a band & dancing in the dining room. The library & drawing room were the reception rooms. Supper, the handsomest I have seen, was laid in two rooms. The large kitchen was cleared out, & a kitchen here in these new houses is as handsome a room as the dining. And the table was laid with coffee & tea & sandwiches. Haunch of venison, fine ham, turkeys, chicken salads, buffalo tongues, chickens and oysters, pickles. After getting all we wanted, we were marshalled upstairs where two bed rooms over the large drawing room, opening with large folding doors, were cleared out & fitted up as a handsome parlour, with a long table on which was spread ice cream & iced sherbets, wine jellies, charlot russ, half a dozen kinds of large splendid iced cakes, large dishes of French candies & bonbons with lots of little cakes, Makrones & iced cakes. Dishes of fine grapes, and I forgot all what, ornamented with silver & glass earperneys [epergne, a center-piece] & lots of flowers & lamps.

It was the handsomest party yet. The house is beautifully furnished, Brussels & velvet carpets all over. The dancing room was rather small, but they got on it one double set. We went at nine & got home at ½ past 2. Some of the military ladies are very handsome women & well bred. Lide P. [Patrick] was dressed in a new thick corded purple silk. Headdress green, wheat & oak leaves. Mrs. P. in a dark blue silk & crimson flowers & Mrs. Lacy her splendid stone coloured corded silk with brocade coloured flowers & pink headdress. Mrs. McCormick yellow or corn coloured thick silk, all new dresses. Mrs.

Caldwell³¹ pink silk. 3 greens, six different shades of light mauve, with browns & blacks. The Miss Frosts³² had pink & blue silks with tulle dresses over. But you would be surprised to see how expensively people dress & I saw 2 or 3 handsome sets of diamond jewelry. The dresses would nearly average \$100 each.

On November 7 Joseph wrote:

I was on Capitol Hill last night. It was dark, no moon & rather cloudy. Prairie fires, red & lurid were in the distance up & down the river on both sides & crawling over the bluffs. The city at my feet was all alight; dotted thickly over with lights. Farnam & Douglas were quite brilliant. All along the river & at the railway works were lights & on the opposite shore and stretching up all the way to Council Bluffs, were lights of that city stretching two miles along the foot of the bluffs shone out clear & bright & quite near. It looked like one vast city. I was surprised & struck by the appearance it made. The prairie fire surrounded it all, and the lurid shadows reflected on the clouds made quite a picture. Council Bluffs is steadily growing down towards the river & some day it will be one great city on both sides the river with railroad & foot & carriage bridges connecting the two, and this is now the hope & talk of the Bluffers.

Winter came to Omaha on November 15, 1868:

The winter seems to have set in a month earlier than usual. Last Sunday it commenced, and Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday were regular old fashioned Nebraska days. It snowed for 48 hours & blew & whirled & drifted & pierced through you & made its way through every crack & crevice that there was. No mistaking its meaning or escaping its stinging reminder. Wednesday it still blew & drifted but not so wildly and the evening brought a calm or nearly so & a cessation of hostilities. There was snow enough to cover the country 4 or 5 inches if left level. All week it has been cold, frosty, dull & cloudy overhead. Today it has looked like a thaw or more snow, but the evening is cold again.

On Thursday the river was open 'till the afternoon and at 7 o'clock the mail was carried over the thin ice on planks laid down for men to walk upon. It has not yet been cold enough to make firm ice, as it has not yet been as low as zero. Within 8 degrees or 10 degrees I believe. It is bad for business. It is strong enough for men to walk over on the planks but not for teams or even the heavy paper mails. If it does not open or harden, they will commence cutting away the ice to allow the Ferry Boats to ply backwards & forwards, for an immense pile of freight has already accumulated in two days.

The U.P. commenced today driving down piles with its steam pile driver to build its temporary bridge. If the ice lasts & winter really sets in, and it looks very much like it, we shall soon have the cars crossing the river.

The following week Omaha was to host one of its frequent nationally known entertainment troupes, Parepa Rosa and her assistants.³³ Omaha was strategically located on the transcontinental railroad:

Parepa, the singer is to be here, to give a concert on Monday & Tuesday. She is on her way back from California by the Overland & U.P.Rd. & stops to rest and give us a treat. She has caused a furor in America. Everybody is delighted with her simple ballads. I am going to see how it feels out here. I last heard her at Mellon's concerts in Covent Gardens Opera House.³⁴ You see we are not out of the world. The Academy of Music³⁵ holds 1,000 seats comfortably & they are all taken, at \$1, \$1.50 & \$2. So it pays a good singer or actor to stay here on their way to or from California.

Instead of watching television on a cold December Sunday, people in 1868 pursued simple pleasures:

On Sunday, snowing as it was, I went to church and then to the Patricks where I had been invited to dinner on turkey & oyster pie. They were all at home and as it snowed us in we amused ourselves, that is, Nels, Matt, Bob & I in playing & singing all the old songs we used to sing in the snowed up days of 1866 & 67, and in talking over the old times. After supper, 4 o'clock p.m. we had a digester in the shape of a sleigh ride around town where the road was broken and as it became dusk I got them to put me down at Mr. Kellom's, as I was afraid to try and get home through the nearly impassable snow after dark. I lighted my fire and sat down and read & finally went to bed, feeling sorry and disappointed in not having my usual letter from you. I did my best to be resigned, etc., and made up my mind very well and frequently, but it would not stay made up, and I fell asleep hoping the next day would bring it me.

.....
 But not to leave the snow too soon, I think & everyone says we have had no such storms & downfall of snow since '56 as this. Today the sleighs & cutters have been dashing about town, everyone trying to get all the enjoyment possible out of the snow.

The coal & fuel question is going to be a very serious one. This year no one has gone into coal excepting two Houses, and only one largely. The consequence is that this cold spell has found the town almost fuelless; during the storm wood went up to \$50 a cord, & coal \$35 a ton. Of course wood has come down, but even now it is worth 16 to 20 dollars a cord and coal will be from 20 to 30 dollars all winter. Another year will open to us the coal fields of southern Iowa as well as Missouri. The Richmond coal fields will be finished & the U.P. have formed a coal company & will no doubt bring us coal by that time.

Early in December the Presbyterians had a fund-raising bazaar and Barker went:

The Presbyterians have had a Bazaar in aid of their new church³⁶ which is roofed in & the school basement nearly ready for use. It has been a three day's affair. Of course as I am at Mr. Kellom's, I had to attend & patronize it. They cleared \$1,300 net. It was a very pleasant affair. Among other things was an "Art Gallery" got up by Dr. Monell,³⁷ a room hung round with blank sheets numbered, with certain things hung up. For instance, a large red letter C & a carpenter's plane beyond. That was "The Red Sea & the Plain Beyond." Another was "Boney part Crossing the Rhine"—a long beef bone laid across a cheese rind. Some 40 different "sells," generally good & some local hills that were quite laughable.

December 25, Christmas, Joseph spent the day this way:

In the morning I went to church³⁸ which was very nicely decorated. There were not many there. It was so cold we had a short service & no sermon. The business houses were generally closed & people were enjoying their Christmas, visiting, skating, and the like. Americans are gradually adopting the old world custom at this season. Everybody who is well enough off, has Christmas trees for their children. Only the poetry is lost as the children, unlike the old fashioned Germans, know all about the tree & how it was made, and have no happy mysterious belief in old Chris Kringle.

Lyde Patrick had a little tree for the baby & Mrs. Graff's young one, and as I happened to call I was invited to stay & see it lighted up. The children were quite happy, there were 8 or 10 of us in Lyde's bedroom where she had dressed it up. They were all busy laughing at their presents when Lyde managed to knock down a lamp, kerosine; of course it ran over the carpet & blazed up. We got the children out & stamped on it & got it doused with water & safely put out with no damage but a spoiled Brussels Carpet, a broken lamp, and a good fright. It was a dangerous accident.

On New Year's Eve Joseph stayed home and rested in preparation for an active New Year's Day. In Omaha it was the

custom for ladies to stay home on January 1 and prepare food because gentlemen would spend the day making courtesy house calls on as many ladies as possible:

Here we are in a new year. On new year's day I went out calling with Frank Murphy, Al Patrick, Dr. Cauffman, Mr. Saunders & Dr. Pinney.³⁹ It had snowed some inches the night previous so we had a nice sleigh & drove round and called on nearly all our friends and acquaintances. We started about half past eleven and made forty calls by half past five when we quit. About a third of the houses were closed or receiving with other ladies; at such, they had a basket tied to the bell in which to leave your cards. It was a mild day and towards evening it snowed, which made it damp and unpleasant.

All the town was out calling, and there were a many very handsome & some very expensive tables. One lady's table, Mrs. Jack Morrow's,⁴⁰ cost over \$500. He has made a fortune on the Road & has just bought Ruben Wood's house for \$16,000 & furnished it at an expense of \$6,000 and is determined to make a sensation. We all went to see it. The lady & two lady friends were splendidly dressed. A darkey in black clothes and white choker at the door to take our coats & another at the table. The table was a long one covered with handsome silver, glass & china with large & splendid iced cakes, pyramids of fruit & confectionery, ice cream, boned turkey, chicken salads, ham, buffalo tongues, jellies & everything.

On a splendid walnut side board with a high back carved with hanging fruit & game with a carved deer's head in center, was champaign, egg nogg, claret, sherry, brandy & whiskey & cigars. Hot coffee & hot oysters were brought in on silver plated salvers. She is a fine looking woman & did the honours very well. As ours was a nearly temperance party, we did not touch much, only a drop of champaign at the side board and not much at the table.

Mrs. Peck⁴¹ received for the first time with three other ladies all handsomely dressed in her beautiful new house. She had a very handsome dining room with a fine carved walnut side board costing 4 or \$500. Her table was like many others, turkey, salads, oysters, coffee & cakes, & fruits dried & fresh but nothing stronger than beautiful sweet cider. Her house, large hall, dining room & parlours covered with fine thick Brussels carpet. In the fine houses here, you see no oil cloth, all carpet & generally handsome & costly Brussels.

Mrs. Lowe & Mrs. Gen'l. Lowe⁴² received and had a beautiful table. Dr. Peabody,⁴³ or rather Mrs. P. received in their new house, just furnished. The large drawing room opens with folding doors into as large a dining room. Both beautifully & expensively furnished, with open grates and white carved marble mantle pieces. She had the usual table. The dining room is handsome black walnut, carved, & the parlour purple silk damask covered rosewood. Beautiful Napoleon shaped chairs & couches, tables, etc., with lavender ground Brussell carpet with a coloured figure & medalion floors.

We next called on Gov. Saunders.⁴⁴ His is a splendid house on the top of Farnam Street. The hall opens into a large conservatory with a lot of fine plants & some few flowers. From that into a large parlour then with folding doors into another large drawing room and out of that into a large dining room. All the rooms have fine plate glass French windows, mirrors from the top of the room to the floor, heavy gilt cornices, fine carpets, pictures and furniture. The Gov. & Mrs. Saunders received us, showed us through the house. They had a fine table & this also was a temperance house as are most in town. She was dressed in a blue watered silk with heavy black satin trimming & long train & white lace headdress. She had three ladies of her family in mauve, green & black silks. There was no servant seen here, they waited on us themselves.

Mrs. Murphy & Mrs. Cuming⁴⁵ received in their little house on the hill & it was one of our pleasantest calls. They had a fine table & sent their love to you & talked of you. We then went to Hitchcocks.⁴⁶ There was Mrs. Monell. A coloured girl handed round coffee & cake there. They have a very nice house & beautiful rooms with books & pictures etc.,

& they spoke of you & sent their kind remembrances. We then called at several nice houses, people you never saw, who all received in the usual stereotyped way & table of cake, fruits, meats, oysters, turkeys, etc., with here & there egg nogg or apple toddy, coffee & cider.

The Patricks did not receive at home but joined Mrs. Snyder⁴⁷ at her house. She had a table as fine as anybody & her beautiful parlour was full all day & as lively as any, with Lyde Patrick in her new purple corded silk & immense train, lace & diamonds, "fixed up to kill," on a sofa doing nothing but entertaining their guests.

Mrs. Lacy & Mrs. McCormick⁴⁸ & the ladies of their families all received at Mrs. Lacy's new house only just finished & furnished. It is one of the finest in town. All the doors & window frames are solid black walnut varnished, open grates & white marble mantles. Single sheets of French plate glass nearly half an inch thick. A register to warm up every part & flowers in bloom in both drawing room & dining room, both over 30 feet long. A darkey received us & a pretty white woman served at the refreshment table.

Mrs. Kellom, Miller & Davis⁴⁹ received with Miss Clara at "our" house & had a very nice table. The Hurfords & others had all handsome receptions, but we had to hurry from one to the other. We were dressed in our best evening dress & had to take off our overcoats & put them on until we were tired. I, we, hardly did more than just bite at any house, at lots of houses took nothing. The sight of so much seemed to satisfy us. It was dark when we finished & then I went to the Snyders & had a good supper of hot oysters. They had a number there & we spent a pleasant hour or two, when we all went to a party to Mrs. Beals, Ella Hugos.⁵⁰ There we met a lot of the Military, very stylish, and rather stuck up. Gen's., Colns., & Cap. and I think two Lieutenants as it is pronounced if not spelt here. We stayed & had music & a little dancing. I left about twelve quite tired.

NOTES

1. An act passed Congress in 1864 authorizing the railroad company to bridge the Missouri River somewhere between Florence and Bellevue. The three recommended locations were: (1) The "Telegraph Poles." This would have been south of present-day Carter Lake, then a section of the Missouri River. (2) Child's Mill. This was 4 or 5 miles south of Farnam Street in present-day Fontenelle Forest. (3) Trainsville, site of the present railroad bridge. Omahans feared the bridge would be built at Child's Mill, putting the main line nearer Bellevue than Omaha. Both Omaha and Bellevue had delegations in New York to present their cases to the Union Pacific board of directors.

2. The delegation of Omahans in New York consisted of Governor Alvin Saunders, Augustus Kountze, Ezra Millard, O. P. Hurford, Enos Lowe, and Francis Smith. Smith lived in New York at the time. Saunders was territorial governor of Nebraska Territory between 1861-1867 and US senator between 1877-1883. He had banking interests in Omaha, and was vice president of the Omaha and Southwestern Railroad, which later became a part of the Burlington system. . . . Kountze moved to Omaha in 1856, and with his brothers invested in real estate. They started the banking firm of Kountze Brothers, which in 1863 was reorganized as the First National Bank of Omaha. He was also involved in banks in Denver and in New York City and was treasurer of Nebraska Territory. He was an incorporator of the Union Pacific Railroad, as well as one of its directors. . . . Ezra Millard came to Omaha in 1856 to engage in the banking business, and upon the organization of the Omaha National Bank was elected its president. He served as mayor in 1870-1871. . . . O. P. Hurford came to Omaha in 1856. A leading merchant in 1868 dealing in hardware and iron, he did a large volume of business with the Union Pacific. . . . In 1847 President Martin Van Buren appointed Dr. Enos Lowe receiver of moneys at the Iowa City Land Office. In 1853 he moved to Council Bluffs where he held the same position for two years. In 1854 when Omaha was started, Dr. Lowe became president of the Town Site Company and a founder of the Council Bluffs and Nebraska Ferry Company. He was active in banking, railroad construction, and

businesses in Omaha. . . . Francis Smith came to Omaha in 1857 and in 1858 opened a bank. He and his brother Ben invested in Omaha land and built a number of buildings in the city. He was a stockholder in the Omaha and Northwestern Railroad, now a part of the North Western system.

3. For information about Dr. Lowe, see note 2. John McCormick came to Omaha in 1856 and established himself in the banking business. Later he and his brother-in-law Jesse Lacy organized the first wholesale grocery house in Omaha. . . . Byron Reed came to Omaha in 1855, entered the real estate business, and became the largest dealer of his day in the Omaha area. . . . John H. Kellom moved to Omaha in 1856. He held several positions in Omaha: clerk of the US District Court, clerk of the State District Court, US deputy collector, and postmaster and principal of the Omaha High School. Kellom School was named for him. Joseph Barker roomed and boarded with the Kelloms in 1868.

4. For information about Dr. Lowe and Augustus Kountze, see note 2. For information about Byron Reed and John McCormick, see note 3. James E. Boyd was born September 9, 1834, in Ireland. He came to America in 1844 and located in Omaha August 19, 1856. In 1858 he moved to Wood River and engaged in farming and raising cattle. In 1867 he had contracts to grade over 300 miles of the Union Pacific roadbed. He returned to Omaha in February, 1868, and joined in the construction and management of the Omaha Gas Works. He had many business interests in Omaha, served as mayor, and in 1890 was elected governor.

5. Jesse Lowe was born March 11, 1814, in Raleigh, North Carolina. During the Mexican War he was commissary of a Missouri regiment commanded by Colonel Sterling Price. He was a Major-General in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. He later was employed in the office of his brother Dr. Enos Lowe, receiver of the Council Bluffs Land Office. He was the first mayor of Omaha.

6. Sidney Dillon, one of the principal promoters of the Union Pacific Railroad, organized the Credit Mobilier of America as a way of raising money for its construction and was its president in 1867. In 1868 he was chairman of the board of the Union Pacific Railroad and in March, 1874, became its president. . . . Thomas Durant was also one of the promoters of the railroad. In 1863 he was elected vice president and general manager. He was one of the principal men in the Credit Mobilier.

7. James H. McArdle came early to Nebraska, settled along the Pappio Creek in the area of present 108th and Dodge Road where he operated the McArdle Mill. When Douglas County was organized in 1856, he was elected one of three county commissioners. He continued to represent his district for many years, and in 1872 represented Douglas County in negotiating with the city of Omaha and the Union Pacific Railroad obligating the county to give \$250,000, and the city to give the depot grounds and right-of-way for the construction of the railroad bridge.

8. Chapman was probably Phillip Chapman, who came to the Florence area in 1854, and helped organize the Florence Land Company, which platted the village of Florence.

9. The "new block on Farnam" (called the Central Block), was located on the south side of Farnam Street between 13th and 14th Streets. In June, 1867, the owners of the block agreed to build a uniform three-story brick and stone building with basement. It was completed in January, 1868.

10. James K. Ish, a Virginian, arrived in Omaha in 1856 to open a branch drug store for a St. Louis firm. He later purchased the Omaha branch and carried on the business under the name of Ish & Company, a wholesale and retail operation.

11. Aaron Cahn and Meyer Hellman came to Omaha in 1856 and started a clothing and tailoring business in a one-story frame building on the northwest corner of 13th & Farnam Streets under the name of M. Hellman & Co. Aaron Cahn was born in Nassau, Germany, in 1818 and emigrated to America in 1848. Hellman was born in Bavaria, Germany, on November 9, 1834, and emigrated to America in 1850.

12. As early as 1856, the Rocky Mountain grasshoppers, probably encouraged by

continued dryness and warmth during the summer, swarmed over present Nebraska and parts of the neighboring states. In the next 17 years there were six more invasions, less destructive to crops but discouraging to farmers. The locusts made their worst and most memorable attack in 1874.

13. The Omaha Horse Railway Company was incorporated and granted a 50-year franchise in Omaha by the territorial Legislature February 18, 1867. Its charter provided that within two years it must have built one mile of single track railway. The charter was not used for more than one and one-half years after the granting by the Legislature on account of financial difficulties. . . . It was not until October, 1868, that the Omaha City Council passed an ordinance affirming the territorial grant. The company started construction on November 13, 1868. The first shovelful of earth was dug on Farnam Street near 9th Street.

14. The May 2, 1868 *Omaha Daily Herald* reported: "At 6:45 p.m. . . . the section men from the section east of Plum Creek, on the U.P.R.R., came in at that place and reported four men belonging to their gang killed by Indians, and one wounded. They were shot with arrows. . . . One the same day at 3:30 p.m. a party of six Indians made a dash through Sidney, and after leaving the place, met Conductors Cahoon & Edmundson who were just returning from a fishing excursion, and shot them with arrows, wounding them severely, but is hoped not fatally."

15. The Patrick family, which came to Omaha in 1856, consisted of Colonel John Patrick, his wife Matilda, and their five children—J. N. H. (Nelson), Mathewson (Matt), Algernon S. (Al), Maytie, and Eliza (Lyda). They were active in many enterprises. Matt, a general merchandise and lumber merchant, in August, 1861, enlisted in Company A, 1st Nebraska Cavalry, and was made captain upon its organization. He fought in the Civil War, a lieutenant colonel in the 5th Iowa Cavalry. Upon his return to Omaha he was appointed Indian agent for the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians (1865-1869); he resigned to become US marshal of Utah Territory (1869-1873). Later he, his brother Algernon, and a Mr. Salisbury operated a stage line from Sidney to Deadwood. He sold out in 1878 and then operated lines in Wyoming and Montana.

16. The May 5, 1868, *Omaha Daily Herald* reported: "A fire was discovered in a stable near the corner of Dodge and 16th Streets. A horse that was in the stable was burned to death before it could be got out. The flame then connected with a carpenter shop, burning up and destroying about \$800 worth of property of Baringer & Guio. There was 2,000 feet of lumber laying a short distance from the stable, which was likewise destroyed. The total loss of Baringer & Guio will be about \$1000, no insurance. There being no cistern in the neighborhood, the fire engine could not be used. A couple of fire extinguishers, carried on the back of two men, done noble service, saving the adjoining building."

17. General Grenville M. Dodge, born April 13, 1831, in Danvers, Massachusetts, served in the Civil War. He represented Iowa in Congress (1867-1869). He was made chief engineer of the Union Pacific Railroad May 1, 1866. A resident of Council Bluffs, Nebraskans feared he was helping Council Bluffs to the detriment of Omaha.

18. Dr. George L. Miller, first practicing physician in Omaha, was born in Boonville, New York, July 1, 1831. After being graduated in 1852 from the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, he located in Omaha October 19, 1854, and the following year was elected to the Territorial Council, in which body he served three terms. In 1865 he and Dan W. Carpenter established the *Omaha Herald*, an evening newspaper. He continued as editor and joint proprietor until March 1, 1887. He died in 1920. Dr. Miller rendered valuable assistance in behalf of Omaha in securing the railroad bridge in Omaha.

19. Oscar F. Davis, born in New York state March 3, 1827, came to Omaha from Dubuque, Iowa, May 26, 1856, and engaged in surveying and civil engineering. He was city engineer for a time. In 1867 he took charge of the Union Pacific lands and in 1868 was appointed land commissioner of the company. After 1878 he engaged in a general land business. For information about Byron Reed, see note 3.

20. Miss Ruth was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Ruth. The *Omaha Directory* of 1868-1869 shows William Ruth ran a clothing and furnishings store. He was a brother of Mrs. Augustus Kountze and later went into the banking business with the Kountzes.

21. Clara Kellom was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Kellom. For information about the Kellom family see note 3.

22. Emma Lehmer was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lehmer. Lehmer was office manager of Western Union Telegraph Company.

23. W. H. Hibberds was the division superintendent of Western Union Telegraph Company.

24. John Creighton, younger brother of Edward Creighton, was born in Licking County, Ohio, October 15, 1831, and came to Omaha in 1856. He was identified with his brother in numerous enterprises. John operated a mercantile establishment for three years in Virginia City, Montana. For two years he was connected with the building of a telegraph line from Salt Lake City to Helena, Montana. Later he engaged in the wholesale grocery business. Upon the death of his brother Edward, he became administrator of the estate and was charged with disbursement of large sums of money to Creighton University, to Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital, and to other institutions.

25. The St. Joseph Railroad, actually the Council Bluffs and St. Joseph Railroad, later became a part of the Burlington system.

26. The 1870 *City Directory* shows Brewers & Bemis Company located at 6th and Pacific Streets.

27. The McCoy Distillery of Council Bluffs was purchased by James G. Megeath and Samuel D. Megeath and moved to Omaha. Later owned by Peter Iler, it was known as the Willow Springs Distillery.

28. In 1868 with the abandonment of the Bozeman Trail forts—Reno, Phil Kearny, and C. F. Smith—and with the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad to the mountains, General Sherman decided there should be a regiment stationed at Omaha in the winter. From there they could easily be sent west by rail when trouble threatened.

29. Andrew J. Poppleton was born July 24, 1830, on a farm in Michigan. After practicing law in Detroit for a few years, he relocated in Omaha in October, 1854. Upon the establishment of Nebraska Territory he was elected to the House of Representatives. In 1858 he became mayor of Omaha, and in 1863 general attorney for the Union Pacific Railroad. In 1879 he and John L. Webster defended the Ponca Indian chief, Standing Bear.

30. Henry W. Yates, born in 1837 in Leonardstown, Maryland, arrived in Omaha in 1861 as bookkeeper for Nave, McCord & Co., wholesale grocers. In 1863 he became bookkeeper for the First National Bank of Omaha.

31. Mrs. Caldwell, nee Henrietta M. Bush, of Tioga, Pennsylvania, married Samuel Caldwell in April, 1863. The Caldwells arrived in Omaha in 1859. He was born in 1834 in Marion, New York. In Omaha he entered the banking business with Barrows, Millard and Company, which became the United States National Bank. He was elected mayor of Omaha in 1871.

32. The Misses Frosts were daughters of George W. Frost, purchasing agent for the Union Pacific Railroad.

33. Parepa performed at the Academy of Music in the Caldwell Block on the north side of Douglas Street between 13th and 14th Streets. The troupe consisted of "Parepa Rosa, the great cantatrice, assisted by the renown Mr. Bookhouse, the distinguished tenor; Signor P. Ferranti, the brilliant baritone; Mr. Carl Rosa, the famous violinist, and Mr. George Mayhr, pianist," according to the *Omaha Daily Herald*. The paper raved over her performance, finishing its revue by saying, "It was the greatest treat which Omaha ever enjoyed, and we hope all who can, will attend tonight, if they would enjoy the greatest combination of musical talent which Omaha ever saw or heard."

34. Covent Gardens Theatre, London.

35. The Academy of Music was opened in the winter of 1866-1867. It was Omaha's finest theater until the opening of Boyd's Opera House in 1881. The academy was located on the second floor of the Caldwell Block.

36. The First Presbyterian Church, organized in June, 1857, was disbanded in 1860. That same year the Rev. F. M. Dimmick established the Second Presbyterian Church, and in 1868 a new building was erected at the Northwest corner of 17th and Dodge Streets.

37. Dr. Gilbert C. Monell was born in Montgomery, New York, October 20, 1816. In 1857 Dr. and Mrs. Monell located in Omaha where he practiced medicine for many years.

38. Joseph was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, founded in 1857. The Episcopalians bought the southeast corner of 18th and Capitol Avenue and in 1867 built a church there. It burned November 10, 1869, but the present Trinity Cathedral was completed on the same spot by November, 1883.

39. Frank Murphy, born 1843, near Wheeling, West Virginia, moved to Omaha in 1857. Deputy county treasurer for four years, he later engaged in the fire insurance business and from 1867-1872 in the transfer business. He became president of the Nebraska State Bank. . . . For information about Al Patrick see note 15. . . . Dr. Victor H. Coffman, an Army Surgeon, came to Omaha after the Civil War. He became recognized as one of the leading surgeons in the West. . . . This probably was not Alvin Saunders, the last territorial governor. Joseph in his letters never called him "mister" but always "governor." The *Omaha City Directory* of 1870 shows an S. Saunders and an A. B. Saunders who operated a dry goods store at 202 Farnam Street under the name of S. & A. B. Saunders. . . . Dr. C. H. Pinney, coroner in 1867, was associated with Dr. Coffman in practice. Later he lived in Council Bluffs.

40. Mrs. Jack Morrow was the wife of John Andrew (Jack) Morrow, who came to Nebraska about 1858. He was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania. By 1860 he was operating a well-known Platte River road ranch. Sometimes called Junction House, it was located below the confluence of the North and South Platte Rivers. When the Union Pacific Railroad built through the area, it put a big dent in business, and he became a railroad contractor in Omaha. His residence was located on the northwest corner of 18th and Davenport Streets. Joseph and his friends were curious about the Morrrows, who were breaking into Omaha society.

41. Mrs. Peck was the wife of Dr. J. P. Peck. Dr. James Porter Peck was born in Ohio October 11, 1821. In 1856 he moved from Akron, Ohio, to Omaha. He freighted across the plains from 1860-1866 but continued his medical practice in Omaha, where he became a leading surgeon. His home was on the northeast corner of 18th and Davenport Streets.

42. General William W. Lowe, born October 12, 1831, in Greencastle, Indiana, was graduated from the US Military Academy and served in the Union Army during the Civil War. He settled in Omaha in May, 1868, where he became involved in numerous enterprises. His home was on the southwest corner of 16th and Harney Streets. Joseph mentions a "Mrs. Lowe" in addition to Mrs. General Lowe. She no doubt was Mrs. Enos Lowe, the mother of General Lowe. For information about Dr. Enos Lowe, see note 2.

43. Dr. J. H. Peabody was born in Washington D.C. on March 7, 1833. He received his medical degree from Georgetown College in 1860 and entered the army as a surgeon. In 1864 he came to Omaha as Medical Director, District of the Platte, Department of Missouri. He continued his practice in Omaha. His first wife died in 1865. In November, 1867, he married Miss Jennie Yates. Their residence was on the southwest corner of 14th and Jones Street.

44. For information about Governor Saunders see note 2.

45. Mrs. Murphy was the wife of Frank Murphy (see note 39). Their house was located on the southwest corner of 18th and Dodge Streets. Frank Murphy's sister, Marguerite, married Thomas B. Cuming, who was appointed secretary of Nebraska Territory by President Pierce. He became acting governor upon the death of Governor Francis Burt.

Upon the appointment of Mark W. Izard to the governorship, Cuming resumed the secretaryship. He again became acting governor upon the resignation of Izard in November, 1857. Cuming died March 23, 1858, aged 30. His widow was holding open house with her sister-in-law, Mrs. Murphy.

46. Phineas W. Hitchcock, born in Lebanon, New York, on November 30, 1831, located in Omaha in 1857 and engaged in the real estate and insurance business. He was a delegate to the 1860 Chicago convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln; US territorial marshal, 1862-1864; delegate to Congress, 1865-1867; surveyor general of Nebraska, 1867-1871; US senator, 1871-1877. In 1857 he married Annie Monell, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Gilbert C. Monell. The Hitchcock residence was on the southwest corner of 20th and Dodge Streets. For information about the Monells see note 37.

47. Mrs. Snyder lived on the corner of 18th and Farnam Streets. Joseph Barker in a letter dated April 18, 1867, wrote: "Snyder, one of the chief men [of the Union Pacific Railroad] bought a brick house on Farnam Street at the top of the bluff for \$7,000." Webster Snyder, general superintendent of the Union Pacific, later entered the real estate business in Omaha.

48. For information about Mrs. McCormick see note 3. Mrs. Lacy was a sister of Mrs. McCormick. Her husband, Jesse H. Lacy, was born July 8, 1826, at Cadiz, Ohio. The Lacys came to Omaha in 1859, where Lacy and his brother-in-law operated the wholesale grocery firm of Lacy & McCormick. In 1870 he became agent for the Rock Island Railroad and for the Chicago and North Western Railway. The Lacy home was located on the southwest corner of 20th and Chicago Streets.

49. For information about Mrs. Kellom see note 3; Mrs. Miller, note 18; Mrs. Davis, note 19.

50. Mrs. Roger T. Beall, before her marriage, was Ella Hugus, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hugus. John Hugus was with the Omaha branch of the banking firm of J. A. Ware & Co. Roger Beall and Ella Hugus were married in July, 1864. Shortly afterwards he was made captain in the 2nd Nebraska Cavalry at Fort Kearny. He was later a captain in the Nebraska Militia.