



AWARD-WINNING ORGANIZATION 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000

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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 304 / St. Paul, Nebraska / 68873

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“Now in a labor of love...”

Frank Partsch

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THEY CAME BY



THE MILLIONS.

Christian Sack's passport from Germany.

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A Family Scrapbook

Founding-family histories included in Emerging Howard County are listed below. Included in each history but not listed here, are the names of the families which intermarried with them and their descendants.

Anderson	Armstrong	Bahensky	Bannan
Barnes	Bartie	Bartlett	Baxter
Bebernes	Becker	Beck	Berggren
Bisgard	Blaha	Blanchard	Blomberg
Boehle	Boll	Bower	Bucy
Buddecke	Buhrman	Burkhardt	Calvin
Carter	Chalupsky	Chapman	Charais
Christensen	Clark	Collins	Cordes
Cording	Coufal	Craig	Crowe
Dahlberg	Deertz	Dethlefs	DeVry
Dingwerth	Dobish	Dvorak	Eller
Elsterneier	Encvoldsen	Evers	Fahy
Fairbairn	Fedderson	Forbes	Foulstick
Franssen	Fries	Frost	Gardner
Gdanitz	George	Gillispie	Gow
Green	Haggart	Hald	Hanisch
Hansen	Haruda	Harvey	Holtorf
Hruza	Huebner	Irvine	Iwanski
Jacobs	Jacobsen	Jansen	Jares
Jarosz	Jechorek	Jensen	Jepsen
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Schow	Schwenk	Sevcik	Shaughnessy
Sidej	Silk	Smith	Sorenson
Southard	Spilger	Spilinek	Sprague
Stitt	Strzlecki/Strlecki	Suchanek	Svoboda
Swanson	Thomsen	Treatman	Tuenge
Vavra	Vincik	Ward	Wasielowski
Webster	Welsh	Wenke	White
Wicker	Wisc	Wissbaum	Wissing
Wysocki	Yas	Yaeger	Zimbelman
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Foreword

The people of Howard County are particularly fortunate to have the extensive written record that has been handed down by those who came before us. Since the earliest years of settlement, an informal archive has been accumulating of the diaries, letters, articles and, in a few cases, books in which history-minded residents have set down the memories they were determined to preserve for posterity.

Among the most treasured items are first-hand accounts by the founders themselves, including the Paul brothers. These include an invaluable look, through the eyes and pen of J.N. Paul, at what might be called Howard County's founding moment. On a pleasant winter day in 1871, Paul rode with Frank North into what is now the St. Paul area. They stopped and admired the view to the east, of cottonwoods along the river. Paul wrote almost poetically about the moment: "As the sun came up bright and clear, every weed and grass and stem and leaf and tree was covered with ice." He and North began almost immediately to consider the possibilities of developing the area.

Robert Harvey, another of the founding settlers, recorded the frantic days of claim-proving in 1871. The activities of Frank North and brother Luther with the Pawnee Scouts are traced in their own words, as well as in regional histories. Dr. George Towar left an interesting account of military life in the Loup River Valley.

Memoirs and articles by the likes of C.V. Svoboda, Samuel W. Roe and Peter Ebbesen provided additional detail. Journalists captured the flavor of the community and its way of life in newspaper stories and columns, including but certainly not limited to Byron Phillips, Vance Lind, Tommy and M.J. Thompson and my own grandmother and mother, Eva Kiechel and Ellen Kiechel Partsch. Historians of today are only harvesting the seeds of remembrance sowed in the pages of the county's newspapers by the Websters, the Lorkoskys, the Thompsons and all the other journalists of the county who so faithfully set down a record week after week, year after year.

Still other writers with a connection to our community have broadened the focus of Howard County literature. Roger Weisch, with his books and CBS network commentaries, has taken a more contemporary look at the life and culture of our region and presented it with particular skill. Tom Osborne, who spent a few years of his youth here with the Virgil Welshes, describes in one of his books a young boy's life in the St. Paul of the 1940s. Jean Potts and Lowen Clausen, among others who have written novels, have left their own important contribution, not particularly with regional pieces but always with the formation and influence of their upbringing in this place.

Now, in a labor of love, the more important historical accounts, including many original documents and priceless photographs, have been gathered into one place. Marion Babensky and Ron Sack, under the auspices of the Howard County Historical Society, have simply outdone themselves. In this volume, they have presented more information about the history and present state of our county than anyone could have dreamed was available. They have made this project all the more useful and interesting by throwing it open for the rest of us to participate, in effect, by assembling the family histories.

Ellen Kiechel Partsch (1914-1993) wrote her history of Howard County in the 1970s because she felt she had to. She saw the older generations passing away, sometimes without preserving what they remembered of the early days. She believed it would be tragic if significant portions of our history were lost. A teacher by training, she wrote with the intention that schoolchildren would always be able to know the history of this place and the people who made it their home.

Babensky and Sack have secured that dream for additional generations, a tribute to all those whose love of history and dedication to the written word moved them to write about our county. This is destined to be the county's definitive historical resource. Enjoy it, share it, preserve it and pass it on to future generations. It is a researcher's treasure, one that can long be cherished and appreciated by all who value our county's history and the shared memories of its people.

Francis L. Partsch
Omaha, Nebraska
March 1, 2000

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ST. PAUL Top photograph: the J.A. Haggart residence later owned by the Keating family (southeast corner of Howard Avenue and Sheridan Streets, still standing). H.C.H.S. photo donated by Marie Iwanski. (Page 251) Bottom photo: The T.T. Bell home after remodeling took place. The home would later become a hospital. It is still standing. H.C.H.S. photo collection. (Page 252)



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ST. PAUL. Top photograph: the N.J. Paul home (north side Howard Avenue) in 1909. Bessie Paul is standing Pauline is sitting on the chair N.J. Paul is holding N.J. Paul II. Photo courtesy of Jackie Paul Johnson. (Page 250)

Bottom photograph: the Bartle and Moravec home on Sixth and Elm Streets in St. Paul. Veronica Bartle is holding Clayton Moravec. Courtesy of the Bartle and Moravec family. (Page 249)



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You've helped us make "miracles;" now please help create more "magic."

By Marion Bahensky, President

We are proud of the "miracles" we have achieved since 1997. Our Village grounds are very attractive. our buildings look the best they ever have, we may be able to re-open the Agriculture display building this summer, and we are on the way to developing a transportation museum in our charming depot. Best of all is the Howard County history book, which is being praised by all who see it — from officials at the State Historical Society to fans in New York, Texas, and Colorado, to every local reader, so far. The history needed to be done — and we did it!

Printing the book was expensive, but the bills are paid. However, we need to have major funds on hand to pay depot restoration bills (to be refunded 80% by the Dept. of Transportation). We still have to raise about \$10,000 of our matching money. We hope you'll buy the book, so the profits can begin...and we hope you can continue to support our need for grant-matching money. Thanks for your help in making "miracles" happen!



HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 304
ST. PAUL, NEBRASKA 68873

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