

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTED

Nieman Homesteading

Immigration began in the Whitewater area about the same time that Kansas became a state. George and Howard Nieman, brothers, staked their claims in 1869. George got the quarter-section where Whitewater is located. Howard claimed the quarter-section immediately west of George's, across the Whitewater River in Harvey County.

Isaac and Eliza Nieman began their family in New Berlin, Pennsylvania. After the birth of seven children, the family moved to Tipton, Iowa. That was 1854. Three more children were born after the move to Iowa. Mr. Nieman died in 1862, the same year as the birth of his youngest son.

George, who was the eldest of the family, went to California in 1864. He returned to Iowa three years later to continue on the family farm. Within a couple years, George and Howard came to Kansas.

Both brothers complied with the requirements of homesteading by breaking sod and improving their land. George built a log cabin east of the Whitewater River. The location was right in the middle of the current Main Street, about a block north of Wheat State Manor property. We have no information on the location of Howard's early house.

