FAMOUS PEOPLE OF THAYER COUNTY

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Michael Bergt

Born July 8, 1956 in Deshler Nebraska.

Lives in Las Vegas Nevada.

Extensive art awards including: 2000 Grand Prize "Realism Today" American Artist Competition, John Pence Gallery, San Francisco Ca. 2005 Elected Professional Sculptor Member of the National Sculpture Society (NSS). Solo Exhibitions in: Jane Sauer Gallery - New Mexico, John Pence Gallery - California, Turner Carroll Gallery - New Mexico, DC Moore Gallery - New York, Midtown Payson Gallery - New York, Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, Horwitch Newman Gallery - Scottsdale AZ, Santa Fe East Gallery - New Mexico, Caixa De Barcelona - Spain

Gayle Becwar

Born March 5, 1959 Davenport Nebraska.

Lives in Lincoln Nebraska.

Comedian and Magician. Gayle began performing as a child in 1967 with his dad, Leroy. Gayle has performed at thousands of conventions and banquets nationally and internationally. Those Gayle has shared the stage with include: Carrot Top, Sawyer Brown, Bill Engvall, Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons, and Phyllis Diller. Gayle has done performances for both HBO and Showtime. Gayle and his wife Cindy operate Becwar and Associates, entertainment agency in Lincoln.

Emory Buckner

Born 1888 Hebron Nebraska.

Died 1941, age 53 in New York.

Prominent U.S. lawyer who served as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. Son of a Nebraska Preacher. One of the architects of modern Wall Street's legal culture. Fought coruption in the New York Police Department. He is credited with coining the term "associate" for junior members of a law firm. His chief assisstant at his law firm (John Marshall Harlan II) later served on the Supreme Court. His philosophy was:
"He who wields the instruments of justice wields the most powerful instruments of government. In order to assure their just and compassionate use, a prosecutor must have an almost priest-like attitude toward his duties. Buckner practiced this attitude without deviation."

William J. Conklin

Born May 2, 1923 Hubbell Nebraska.

Died Nov. 22, 2018, age 95 in Mitchellville MD.

Versatile architect, who helped design the model community of Reston VA. He oversaw the restoration of the Greek Revival temple that served as Brooklyn NY's seat of government. Mr. Conklin was the principal designer of the United States Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington - 1987, and with Mr. Rossant designed many other prominent structures. He was an electronics technician in the Navy where he monitored signals from the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. His father, J. E. Conklin was President of the bank and a state legislator. His mother, Wilhelmina (Barrett) Conkiln was V.P. of the bank.

Michael Henry Cruise

Born 1871 in Illinois - son of Irish immigrants Pat & Bridget C.

Died 1947, age 75.

Actor Mike Cruise married Emily Viola 'Violet' Beck in Hebron in 1893. They lived in Davenport and Hebron Nebraska. He worked as a teacher in country schools and taught in Gilead school. Later in life he pursued acting, and landed the roll of the fiddle playing barber in the 1940 Columbia movie "Arizona" filmed near Tucson Arizona. He also played the fiddle near the end of John Wayne's "Red River". A son, Theodore S. was born in 1911, in Hebron, the 12th. of their 14 children. He attended U of N law school and became a special agent for the FBI. Later he was Deputy District Attorney for Santa Clara County Texas. He died May 27, 2005.

Ken Darby

Born May 13, 1909 in Hebron Nebraska.

Died Jan. 24, 1992, age 82 last residing at Sherman Oaks, California.

American composer, vocal arranger, lyricist, and conductor. His film scores were recognized with 3 Academy Awards and 1 Grammy Award. Ken provided vocals for the Munchkinland Mayor in the Wizzard of Oz. He was a composer and producion supervisor for Walt Disney Studios , and was choral and vocal director on the 1946 Disney film classic, Song of the South. He was Marilyn Monroe's vocal coach for Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (1953) and There's No Business Like Show Business (1954). He was also the principal composer of the 1956 Elvis Presley hit "Love

Me Tender" for the movie of the same name, but signed the rights over to his wife, Vera Matson, whose name appears as co-lyricist and co-composer with Elvis Presley.

Harriet Cruise Davidson

Born March 14, 1903 at Hubbell Nebraska.

Died July 17, 1984 in Ventura California.

Singer and Performer. She was the singing voice of Gloria Franklin, who played Nina, in the 1939 movie “Lady of the Tropics”. Harriet sang, “Each Time You Say Goodbye (I die a little)”.

In the 1920's she attended UNL in Lincoln, and was part of the Riverside Band.

Harriet Cruise did 13 programs a week in 1932 on stations WBBM and WGN-CBS. She was a contender in the IT contest of singing stars. In 1958 the Lincoln Journal Star called her Lincoln’s Dinah Shore.

Her father Pete Cruise was manager of the lumberyard and elevator in Hubbell. She graduated from Hubbell High School in 1923 and attended Nebraska University in Lincoln. When she died in 1984 she was living with her sister, Catherine, in California and had a cousin, Mrs. Ralph Dewald in Alexandria.

Harold Dittmer

Born in Byron, Nebraska.

Lives in San Francisco California.

A 1962 Hastings College graduate, Harold Dittmer is founder, president and owner of Wellhead Electric Company based in Sacramento, California. The primary business of Wellhead and its affiliates is to develop, construct, and operate independent power generation plants and invest in related businesses. Wellhead has business activities throughout California and internationally.

Mr. Dittmer earned his MBA in finance and marketing from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. He worked as a management consultant for 15 years prior to founding Wellhead. He is active with Vistage, an international organization of CEO's; the Hoover Institution; Independent Energy Producers; and Association of Energy Engineers.

Mr. Dittmer served as Board Chair of the Hastings College Board of Trustees from 2004 to 2016, and is a director of the Hastings College Foundation.

Dr. Roy Wesley Eaton

Born June 11, 1878 in Lafayette, Indianna.

Died June 27, 1947 in Omaha Nebraska. (buried at Westlawn/Hillcrest Memorial Park)

Roy Wesley Eaton has been a continuous resident of Nebraska since 1879. He is the son of Charles Wesley and Frances Adaline (Moore) Eaton, the former an educator, farmer and soldier of German and English descent. Charles Wesley Eaton was born at Willet, New York, and died at Davenport, Nebraska. His wife, Frances Moore, was born at McDonough, New York, and died at Chapman, Nebraska. During the Civil War she served as a nurse. Thereafter she was a teacher in the public schools.
Roy W. Eaton attended Happy Hollow one room school south of

Davenport until 1894, and was graduated from Davenport High School in 1896. In 1903, Mr. Eaton received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Fremont College, and in 1904 received the degree of Bachelor of Pedagogy, and in 1905 the degree of Bachelor of Science from the same institution. He received another Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska in 1913, and in 1920, was awarded his Master's degrees from that university. During 1924, Mr. Eaton attended Harvard University. On June 3, 1903, he was united in marriage to Daisie Serena Hansen at Wymore. Mr. Eaton is known throughout the middlewest as an educator and author of educational pamphlets and textbooks, and has attended scores of grade school contests and teachers' institutes as a lecturer and conductor. He is included in *Who's Who in North American Authors*. He is a member of the firm Omaha School Supply Company and editor of the *Middlewest School Review*.
Among his textbooks are: *Eaton's Graded Speller*, (1914); *True Blue Contest Speller*, (1914); *Eaton's Contest Arithmetic*, (1914); *Eaton's True Blue Bible Contest*, (1918); *True Blue Picture Study*, (1918); *True Blue Geography Note Book*, (1920); *Silent Reading Text,* (1924); *Nature Study*, (1929); *True Blue Grammar Review*, (1929); *True Blue Book Review*, (1929). He was also the editor of the *Middlewest School Review*.

Chris J. Eitzmann

Born April 1, 1977 born at Bellville KS, Grew up near Byron NE.

Died December 29, 2021.

Football player for Harvard University, while pursuing a degree in Psychology. Four year letterman. Nominated for First Team All Ivy League, and All American Farm Team, in his senior season. Also, during his senior year, he was nominated captain of the

team. He graduated Cum Laude in 2000.

Chris played in the NFL with the New England Patriots, several seasons with the Patriots, the Packers, the Browns, and the Frankfurt Galaxy in NFL Europe.

Maxine Gates

Born May 3, 1917 in Hebron, Nebraska.

Died July 27, 1990, age 73, last residing at Panorama City, Los Angeles, California.

American Actress that appeared in over 35 films from 1945 to 1972. Best known for acting in Three Stooges movies: "Goof on the Roof", "Husbands Beware", and "Muscle Up a Little Closer". Gates was also acclaimed for her singing and dancing talents.

Charles William Grugan

Born January 27, 1901 in Hebron Nebraska.

Died October 4, 1974 in Dallas Texas, cremated.

Charles "Charlie" Grugan graduated from Hebron High in 1918. He bacame a Flight Engineer and Test Pilot at San Fernando California. Charlie was the oldest Experimental Test Pilot and Flight Engineer in the US when he retired from Lockheed Association after working with the SR-71.
Witness to The Lockheed UFO Case near Yucca Valley California December 16, 1953, later called the Lockheed UFO Case or Project 1947.

Dale Haase

Born 1951, in Bruning?, Nebraska.

Lives:

Professional Basketball player for the Washington Generals, the opposing team that competed on tour with the Harlem Globetrotters. He also played 'forward' for the Kansas Jayhawks. Dale at 6' 5", was Hebron High sports royalty king in April 1969, and was a Nebraska Class 'C' all-state first team player.

Ordella "Giz" Geisler-Hoffmann

Born March 4, 1916 in Deshler, Nebraska.

Died April 21, 2012, age 96, at Lincoln.

The daughter of Robert W. and Lydia (Kuhlmann) Geisler. Giz was the first female veterinarian in the state of Nebraska and practiced for 36 years in Lincoln after graduating from Kansas State University. She owned and operated Geisler Animal Hospital. She belonged to numerous organizations including Nebraska Medical Association, American Medical Association, American Small Animal Association, Nebraska Art Association, Professional Women's Fraternity and the Arbor Day Foundation.

Roy Wesley "Rhino" Hitt

Born June 22, 1884 in Carleton, Nebraska.

Died Feb. 8, 1956, age 71, last residing at Pomona, California.

Major League Baseball Pitcher. He played for the Cincinnati Reds in 1907 and also had a long career in the Pacific Coast League. Rhino was 5-10 and 200 pounds. Win-loss record 6-10, Earned run ave. 3.40, Strikeouts 63.

Lucas Jerrod Hoge

Born Jan. 18, 1986 Born near Hubbell Nebraska.

Lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

American Singer-Songwriter and Musician. Lead artist for rock bands: "Southern Cross" and "Xtreme Devotion". First CD "In My Dreams" released in 2002. Second DC "Dirt" in 2006. Appeared on TV in 2007 Toby Keith Christmas production, and a Saturday Night Football promotion with Faith Hill. Lucas Hoge hosted Animal Planet's TV show "Last Chance" and wrote the theme song. Awarded "New Artist of The Year" 2011, Christian Contemporary Singer/Songwriter of the Year 2006, and Country Album of the Year (Los Angelos Music Awards) 2006. He is married to actress/singer Laura Lynn Thorsen. A popular military song he has recorded is "Medal of Honor". Hoge has opened for Martina McBride and in 2016 he signed a recording deal with Rebel Engine Entertainment. He has since become a Brand Ambassador for Cabela's. The album *Dirty South* was released on July 28, 2017, and debuted at No. 12 on Billboard's Top Country Albums with 7,000 copies sold. The following week it reached No. 5 on the chart and was the best-selling country album of the week with 9,900 copies sold. Rolling Stone named Lucas Hoge 'TOP 10 artists You Need To Know' 2017.

Beverly Deepe Keever

Born June 1, 1935 at rural Carleton Nebraska.

Lives in Honolulu Hawaii.

Journalist, Author: Attended grade school, and Belvidere High School. BA, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 1957; MSJ, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, 1958; MLIS, University of Hawaii, Manoa; PhD in American Studies, University of Hawaii, Manoa.
Beverly arrived in South Vietnam in 1962, age 26, and reported for seven years to several papers including: *New York Herald Tribune, The Christian Science Monitor*, and *Newsweek*. She taught journalism and communications at the University of Hawaii for 29 years. Beverly wrote several books. *Death Zones & Darling Spies: Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting* was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and received recognition as a One Book, One Nebraska (2015) winner, and Nebraska 150 Books honor, 2017. She recieved the Lifetime Achievement Award, Hall of Fame of the Society of Professional Journalists, Hawaii Chapter, 2015, the Distinguished Retired Faculty Award, University of Hawaii College of Social Science, 2015, and other honors.

Herman Henry (H.H.) Kemper

Born July 7, 1882 and grew up in Hebron Nebraska.

Died Aug. 1964 last residing at Tompkins, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Farmer and Political Figure. Director of the Saskatchewan section of the United Farmers of Canada. Representative of the Gull Lake Farmer-Labour Group.

Tabitha "Cecil" Kern

Born 1885 at Friedensau Nebraska.

Died June 1, 1928 in Manhattan N.Y. Resided in Portland OR.

American stage and film actress and director. She was the daughter of prominant publisher John Jacob Kern. Her first major stage roll was in 1907 and she made her debut on Broadway in 1909. Cecil starred in: the film 'The Gray Towers Mystery' as Miss Southerland, the film 'Rainbow' as Estelle Jackson, and the 1921, ten episode film, 'The House of Mystery' where she played Marion Lake.

Larry Alan Kubes

Born July 1966 at Hubbell Nebraska.

Lived in Clawson MI. and Kingman AZ.

Larry Kubes began his career with General Motors in 1989 after graduating from the University of Nebraska with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. His first assignment was in the Product Assurance, Test and Validation Group, which ensures that pre-production GM vehicles work as expected before going into full production. In 1992, Kubes joined the newly formed GM Motorsports Group as Engine Block Engineer. Two years later, he became Design Engineer for the revised Aurora Series 2.0 V8 engine for IMSA World Sports Car competition, and the SCCA Trans-Am Series short-deck, small-block V8. Around 1996 and 1997 he was responsible for Pontiac's winning Showroom Stock Road Racing Program. In 1998 Larry was named GM Drag Racing Engine and Program Manager for the Chevrolet and Pontiac drag racing programs.

Thomas Lahners

Born December 17, 1860 at Golden Illinois.

Died August 25, 1937 and is buried in Brunning Public Cemetery.

Son of Oltman and Luke Anna *Hoefling* Lahners, married Anna Bowman at Flanagan, Illinois, on November 25th 1883. Moved to Nebraska in 1890 and settled on a farm two miles north of Belvidere. Thomas Lahners served the Nebraska House of Representatives from 1905-1907 and in the Nebraska Senate from 1915-1917. He was also a delegate to the Nebraska state constitutional convention in 1919-1920.

Greg Allen Lee

Born March 3, 1962 in Hebron Nebraska.

Lives in Tennessee.

Actor / Comedian Host of "Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?" Voice of the principal (Robert White) in "Doug" Fireman on "Sesame Street" Teacher on "Ghostwriter" Host of "Total Panic" Pool Player on "Mad About You" Crazy Al on "The Drew Cary Show" Rob on "George Lopez" Rick in the pilot of "News Radio" Commercial for "Crunchy Graham Flipz". He is also known for NBA All-Star Stay in School Jam, and Perfect Inperfection. Greg performed live on the Token Show in Nashville. His father, Richard Smith, was killed in a plane crash in April of '63. He was a young, 22 year old preacher with the Church of Christ in Davenport Nebraska. Greg was just 18 months old. At 17 years old he went back to Davenport for a short time, to work a pig farm with a guy named Vernon Coreman Jr.

Charles Sumner Lobingier

Born April 30, 1866 in Lanark Il. and graduated from Hebron Nebraska.

Died in 1956.

United States Jurist, and Judge of the United States Court in China. Author of books on international and comparative law. Professor of Law at the University of Nebraska and received his PHD there. He also taught
law at University of the Philippines Law School, the University of California, the Comparative Law School of China, National University Washington and at the American University. Charles was one of the two people that graduated from Hebron High School in 1881. This was the first graduating class of what was then District Seven. He was the son of a Christian minister in the Hebron area.

Larry Gene "Beef" Lueders

Born Nov. 13, 1940 Deshler Nebraska.

Died June 24, 2026 buried at Deshler Nebraska.

Larry enjoyed hunting and fishing when he was younger and loved watching sports of almost any kind. Nebraska football and New York Yankees baseball were always at the top of his list. He was a member of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, a longtime member and past president of the Deshler Fair Board, and a proud member of the Ike’s League in Deshler. He was a minor league baseball player.

Minor League baseball player. Bats: Right, Throws: Right

Height: 6' 2", Weight: 195 lb.
1960 2 Teams D-C NYY 1960 Auburn
1960 Fargo-Moorhead
1961 Modesto NYY
1962 2 Teams C-B NYY
1962 Idaho Falls
1962 Greensboro

Phillip Edward Meyer

Born Oct. 27, 1930 Deshler NE.

Died Nov. 4, 2023 Carrboro NC.

Phillip had an MA in Political Science. At Kansas State University, Phil fine-tuned his identity as a mild-mannered reporter. He worked for the Collegian, and served as editor his final semester. He received his BS in Technical Journalism in 1952. He then served in the Navy in the Radio Section of the Public Information Office of the Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Force. Phillip Meyer worked for: Topeka Daily Capital, Miami Herald, Knight Newspapers - Washington Bureau, Akron Beacon Journal, and more. He won a Nieman fellowship to Harvard. After covering the 1967 Detroit Riots, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for local general reporting. In 1973, Phil drew on his experience using data analysis for investigative reporting to publish Precision Journalism. Precision Journalism has been used across the world and has been translated into many languages. Ethical Journalism, The Newspaper Survival Book, and The Vanishing Newspaper later followed.

Janice Pohlmann Moore

Born Deshler Nebraska. Graduated from Deshler High

School.

Lives in Lincoln Nebraska.

Janis attended UNL where she met her future husband, Roger Moore. Together they opened the first Amigos restaurant June 17, 1980. Many of the locations were co-branded with A&W until A&W was bought by Yum Brands in 2002. Amigos then acquired Kings Classic. While they had at one time expanded to other states, they later altered the path of their business, and now it is exclusively a Nebraska chain of Restaurants called Amigos/Kings Classic. The chain is in all areas of the state with 14 of the locations in Lincoln. In June of 2017 the business transitioned to employee ownership. Roger remained as President.

Ben Murray

Born 1974, Deshler Nebraska. Graduated from Deshler High School.

Lives in Deshler Nebraska. Currently practices law.

Ben Murray spent nearly a decade as an actor. He is known for acting in Stonebrook (1999), American Dreams (2002), and The West Wing (1999).Ben is also known for his roles on several NBC shows such as *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*, and *ER*.

Chuck F. Pohlmann

Born October 10, 1930.

Died August 26, 1996 (buried in St. Peter Lutheran Cemetery, Deshler, blk 88 lot 6).

Charles Frederick Pohlmann was an Automotive Designer and later, an Interior Design and Liturgical Consultant. He received a Bachelor of Industrial Design from the Pratt Institute. Prior to founding his own firm, Pohlmann Design, in 1966, Mr. Pohlmann was Design Director for Sacred Design Associates, Inc. and had ten years of experience as a Staff Designer at General Electric Company and General Motors Corporation. He was a theologically oriented, professionally trained designer who provided interior, product, and graphic design services to architects and their clients. In 1984, he received an Interior Design Award from the Minnesota Society of American Institute for Architects. At General Motors, Pohlmann designed the bodies of several Cadillacs. Later on, Chuck Pohlmann and Peter Brock designed the XP-96 roadster that became the basic body design for, V.P. of styling at G.M., Bill Mitchell's '59 private Sting Ray, race car. This is what is now know a the 'C2' '63-'67 Corvette body. Chuck Pohlmann married Marjorie Ford who also worked at G.M. and became one of Harley Earl's elite group: "Damsels of Design."

Glenn Presnell

Born July 28, 1905 in Gilead, Nebraska.

Died Sept. 13, 2004 last residing at Ironton, Ohio.

American football player, coach, and college athletics administrator. He set the NFL single-season scoring record in 1933 and led the league in total offense. Glenn was the last surviving member of the Detroit Lions inaugural 1934 team and helped lead the team to its first NFL championship in 1935. He also set an NFL record of a 54 foot field goal in 1934 which was not broken for 19 years. NFL Scoring Leader in 1933, Field Goal Leader in 1933, Nebraska Hall of Fame 1973. He was the first former player to coach the Nebraska Cornhuskers. He coached one year, 1942, before leaving for the war where he served three years in the

Navy. He returned as assistant coach for one year. At the end of his life he was the oldest living former NFL player.

Marvin John Priefert

Born Aug. 3, 1923 in Belvidere Nebraska.

Died Oct. 25, 1988 age 65 in Dallas Texas.

Marvin Priefert served in the Navy during WW II. He designed and patented a mechanical hay loader and a grain wagon which got him a mention in Readers Digest. In 1964 he designed, patented, and began manufacturing a gliding-action, fully-opening headgate used for cattle. He added a squeeze chute and other livestock equipment. In the 1970s he expanded into hay equipment. In 1980 the business, Priefert Manufacturing, expanded into a new 27,000 square foot building. Numerous other inovations followed. Sixty years later the company employs over 900 people, has over 20 acres under roof, and sells product coast to coast, and overseas. It is the largest farm, ranch, and rodeo equipment manufacturer in the world.

Jennifer Reinke

Born Nov. 9, 1952, and grew up in Byron, Hebron and Deshler Nebraska.

Lives in Hebron, Nebraska.

Jennifer , at age 14, won the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. on June 8, 1967 by correctly spelling the word (breed of dog) Chihuahua. One official of the contest stated, "Jennifer Reinke is most deserving person to win this contest because while she could have asked for the words use in a

sentence, country of origin, or other pronounciations, she never asked even one question."
She was honored June 11, 1967 on the Ed Sullivan Show. Sharon Gerdes, also from Peace Lutheran School in Deshler, made it to national just 3 years earlier. In 2016 a new library in Deshler was named in Jennifer's honor.

Richard F. Reinke

Born June 16, 1922 near Byron Nebraska.

Died June 27, 2003 at Deshler Nebraska.

Manufacturing executive, inventor, self-taught engineer, known for pioneering several innovations of modern- day mechanized irrigation, personally acquiring 30 patent claims, including the first reversible, electric-gear- drive center pivot irrigation system with an undertruss support called the Electrogator in 1966, and an alignment system that kept the systems straight on rough ground; self-employed since 1954. Founder of Reinke Manufacturing Company, which had by the turn of the 21st century acquired over 50 patent claims on irrigation systems and other products and maintained more than 170 dealerships in North America and 60 distributors in 30 countries, he also developed other products, notably his 1976 invention of aluminum corrugated shingles which have been installed on buildings nationwide and in five foreign countries, and fertilizer trailers, one in which the tank is the frame, allowing farmers to more easily pull them; his honors included recognition by the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement in 1982, the National Award for Agricultural Excellence in technology from the National Agri-Marketing Association in 1985, and the Irrigation Association Industry Achievement Award in 1992. Consult Lincoln Sunday Journal and Star, June 15, 1969, pp. B-1, B-6 and July 3, 1977, p. B-2 and Deshler, Nebraska, The First 100 Years 1887-1987

(Deshler Centennial Committee, 1987) 175-176 and Deshler Rustler, June 5, 2002, p. 1 and Lincoln Journal Star obituary, March 4, 2003, p. A- 6 and Omaha World Herald, June 19, 2004, pp. D1, D-2. See also *Who's Who In The* Midwest, 13th ed (Marquis, 1972-73) 608 and Men of Achievement, Vol 3 (Melrose Press Ltd, 1976) 588 and agri marketing, May 1985, p. 121 and *Badger Common'tater*, Vol 44, No 12 (December 1992) 17-18.

Elmo Burns Roper, Jr.

Born July 31, 1900 in Hebron Nebraska.

As of April 30, 1971, lives in Redding, Connecticut.

Was a pollster known for his pioneering work in market research and opinion polling. In 1934, he cofounded Cherington, Wood, and Roper, a marketing research firm. When that partnership fell apart, he founded his own research company, Elmo Roper, Inc.[1] He was hired by Henry Luce in 1935 to run surveys for *Fortune*, continuing these surveys for 15 years. His prediction of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's electoral victory over Alf Landon in 1936 was correct to within 0.9%; his 1940 prediction of Roosevelt's victory was correct to within 0.5%, further solidifying the reputation of Roper's techniques.[2] In 1940, Roosevelt hired Roper to assess public opinion of Lend-Lease prior to its implementation.[3] In 1942 he was hired by William Joseph Donovan to be the deputy director of the Office of Strategic Services; Roper subsequently worked with the Office of War Information. After leaving the OWI he founded the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research at the University of Connecticut in 1947. Roper Opinion Research Company (the "Roper Poll") was later renamed Roper Starch Worldwide Company and eventually acquired by NOP World and then GfK in 2005.

John Galen Saylor

Born Dec. 12, 1902 at Carleton Nebraska Graduated from Carleton High School.

Died April 27, 1998.

A teacher, administrator, and professor of secondary education. John was an authority on curriculum, supported a program of national assessment but opposed national testing. He was an author or co-author of more than a dozen books on curriculum, and contributed to several encyclopedias and education journals. John was a delegate to a White House Conference in 1960, to a conference on programmed instruction in Berlin, Germany in 1963, and to the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession in Seoul, Korea in 1966. John Saylor is the recipient of honorary doctorate from McPherson College in 1962 and Distinguished Contributions to Curriculum Award from the American Educational Research Association in 1983.

George Soule

Born 1877 in Illinois.

Died Sept. 22, 1898, age 21, of Typhoid Fever. Buried in Nuckolls County.

George Soule grew up in Davenport Nebraska. He is a six time great grandson of George Soule who came over on the Mayflower in 1620.

Harold W. Struve

Born Sept. 25, 1919 in Deshler Nebraska.

Died Nov. 10, 2000, age 81, buried in Deshler City Cemetery.

Harold Struve began in business for himself after returning from the Army of World War II in a small way. His first major venture was the organization of Modern Appliance shop of Deshler. Later he purchased the Deshler Motion Picture Theater. Then he bought other theaters and bowling alleys in the surrounding towns. In the years to follow, Harold added construction and contracting. Eventually his business, Struve Enterprises, would own hundreds of apartments in Kansas and Nebraska towns. Harold held positions on many boards including mayor of Deshler. He had a passion for history and organized the Deshler Centennial celebration in 1987. Harold took the lead in gathering, organizing and putting into print a grand history of Deshler Nebraska. Harold and his wife Lois, had a fireplace in their home that was constructed with bricks acquired from the White House of Washington D.C. remodeling, when Harry S. Truman was president. They formed the Struve Foundation and donated generously to the area communities. Later on they would own and operate the Deshler Rustler newspaper. After Harold's death, Lois continued operating Struve Enterprise for another 20 years. She was an active member of the Thayer County Historical Society for decades, and continues to support it.

Herman John "H.J." Struve

Born Mar. 8, 1857 in Brown township, Ripley Indiana.

Died Sept. 19, 1931, age 74 buried St. Peter Lutheran, Deshler.

Mr. Struve established the post office in Friedensau in 1878, and soon after, bought a mercantile store. In 1887 he, along with other businesses, moved to the new site of Deshler. The same

year he started a creamery, also in Deshler. In early 1893 he bought into a 3-year old broom business in Deshler owned by Joseph Steiner. By the end of the year they employed 15 people. He was granted a broom patent Oct. 27, 1914. For a time, electricity for the town was provided by a steam generator at the Broom Factory, that burnt waste product of the factory. The factory reached it's peak in the 1930s when 1400 brooms were sold in a single day, and up to 24 railroad cars of brooms were shipped out in a single day. It was the world's largest broom factory, and held that position for decades to come. In 1940, for the 50th anniversary, the world's largest broom, 60 foot tall, was made. H. J. Struve was appointed to the advisory committee for the Broom Industry. The factory was operated by the Struve family for 70 of the just over 100 years of operation.

Treva Tegtmeier

Born 1963 in Thayer County Nebraska.

Lives in Los Angeles, California.

Treva grew up in Davenport Nebraska and graduated from Davenport High School in 1981. She began professional acting at age 18, and later, graduated from the University of Nebraska with a BFA in Dance. After college she moved to Chicago and worked with Frank Galati, Robert Falls, and director Gary Griffin. One of her teachers was Steve Carell. Treva is an actress that has been in over 40 Theatre productions, over a dozen films as co-star and lead, and at least 10 popular television shows, such as: Switched At Birth, Grey's Anatomy, 90210, The Tonight Show, iCarly, The Shadow Men, Passions, X Files, Vital Signs, Roseanne, and Auld Lang Syne.

Roland Melvin Wilkening

Born Mar. 10, 1926 in Thayer County Nebraska.

Died Jan. 9, 2007 in Sarasota Florida.

Roland received his BS in Civil Engineering from Purdue University. He worked for Barton Malow Construction Company from 1950 to 1986. During this time Wilkening, as president of Barton Malow, played a leadership role in the construction of the Pontiac Silverdome, featuring the first application of a massive fabric roof. The Pontiac Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan, received engineering awards and served as the home stadium for the Detroit Lions from 1975 to 2001. He was also the National Chairman of the Boy Scouts from 1988 to 1990. He served on the Executive Board from 1979 to 1990. He received several distinguished awards of the Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope and Silver Buffalo. He was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church Ann Arbor, MI. Roland was honored with Lutheran Layman of the Year 1974. He served on the Board of Regents for Concordia College, Ann Arbor, MI. and served as the Chairman of the Board of Regents 1991-1992. Roland also served on the board of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, MI. from 1954 to 1987, and he was the Executive Director for the school in 1986. He served on the President Council of Valparaiso University and Purdue University and received distinguished alumni awards from both.

FAMOUS PEOPLE Near Thayer County, or connected with Thayer County:

Hans Aksel Andersen

Born March 19, 1912 in Ruskin Nebraska.

Died Nov. 18, 1977, age 65, last residing at Vedbaek Denmark.

Hans moved to Denmark as a boy and already played the organ, violin and piano. He was a pupil in Varde under Svend-Ove Moller and at age 12 replaced him as organist. Thorvald Aagaard was his teacher later on and became an Exam organist at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in 1931. Hans helped create the Logumkloster Church Music, developed the ground in the 1960s and helped in other departments.

Dr. J. Howard Beales

Born June 20, 1950 in Omaha Nebraska.

Lives in Washington D.C.

J. Howard Beales is the grandson of Henry Heipmann and Katharine 'Pohlmann' of Deshler. Henry was the first resident of the Parkview Haven nursing home. Howard visited him there many times. Henry joked that he only had to go to school for 8 years and it took Howard 20 years to get educated. "That Howard must not be too smart" :).

Professor Beales' has published numerous articles addressing a wide variety of consumer protection regulatory issues, including privacy, law and economics, and the regulation of advertising. From 2001 through 2004, He served as the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection at the Federal Trade Commission, where he was instrumental in redirecting the FTC's privacy agenda to focus on the consequences of the use and misuse of consumer information. During his tenure, the Commission proposed, promulgated, and implemented the national Do Not Call Registry. He also worked with Congress and the Administration to develop and implement the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003. His aggressive law enforcement program produced the largest redress orders in FTC history and attacked high volume frauds promoted through heavy television advertising. Dr. Beales previously served at the FTC as a staff economist, Assistant to the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection, Associate Director for Policy and Evaluation, and Acting Deputy Director. Immediately prior to joining the faculty at GW, he was the Chief of the Human Resources and Housing Branch of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the Office of Management and Budget. Howard Beales received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and a B.A. from Georgetown University.

Faye Blackstone

Born June 3, 1915 at Diller Nebraska.

Died Aug. 30, 2011, age 96, last residing at Bradenton, Florida.

American Rodeo Performer and Rodeo Star. Invented three rodeo maneuvers. Performed along side of Gene Autry. Faye and her husband (Vic Blackstone) were both inducted into the Rodeo Hall of Fame in 1982.

Charles Marion Fuller Jr.

Born February 13, 1874 at Forest City Illinois.

Died November 4, 1940 at Lodi California.

Inventor and manufacturer. Started the Angus Automobile Company by Angus Nebraska and manufactured 147 "Fuller" cars from 1907 to 1909.
In the 1930's he invented and built a gold mining, dry seperation machine.

Lewis R. Hunter

Born July 18, 1935 at Guide Rock Nebraska.

Lives in Superior, as of 2006.

Educator, television producer, film director, and screenwriter. He worked as program executive/producer for ABC-TV shows Batman and Bewitched and NBC-TV shows Little House on the Prairie and others. Lewis was involved as producer and writer of more than

20 major length productions, including the 1981 television movie Fallen Angel for which he received an Emmy nomination and won a Writer's Guild Award. Author of "Lew Hunter's Screenwriting" while UCLA professor of screenwriting. He is recognized as one of the best screenwriting teachers in the United States. Steven Spielberg has called Hunter "the best screenwriting teacher going". His bestselling book on screenwriting is entitled *Screenwriting 434*. Hunter has a bachelor's degree and honorary doctorate from Nebraska Wesleyan University and has masters degrees from Northwestern University and UCLA.
Hunter helped to found the American Screenwriters Association and has been inducted into its Hall of Fame.

Howard Sanford Searle

Born October 24, 1891, in Edgar Nebraska.

Died September 8, 1972.

World War II as a lieutenant colonel. Brigadier general in the Kansas National Guard in October 1946. Re- established the Kansas National Guard. In 1951, he handled the recovery of the Great Flood in Kansas City. In 1955, he oversaw recovery efforts in Udall, Kansas after a tornado. General Searle's military decorations include: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, the French Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre with Palm. In 1951, Washburn honored Searle with its Distinguished Service Award. In 1962, Searle was named the Topeka Phi Delta Theta Alumni Association's "Phi of the Year." In 1981, the Kansas Army National Guard posthumously inducted him into its Hall of Fame.

Russ Snyder

Born June 22, 1934, in Oak Nebraska.

Lives in Nelson Nebraska.

Starting outfielder for the 1966 World Series Champion Baltimore Orioles. Russ Snyder played in the major leagues from 1959-1970. Inducted to the Nebraska High School Hall of Fame. Snyder had played an uninterrupted 18 consecutive years of professional baseball, a feat in itself. Bats Left, Throws RightHeight 6' 1", Weight 190 lb. Debut April 18, 1959
Final Game September 30, 1970

Sources: Wikopedia, The McDaniels Collection, thayercentral.org/pages, 900 famous Nebraskans. Baseball-reference.com. One Hundred Years of Automotive Design. Lincoln Journal Register. Nebraska State Historical Society. Scripps Howard Spelling. Belleville Telesope. Hebron Journal Register.

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