

## Norwood

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Norwood was a small settlement five miles north of Ottawa, situated on level prairie that later served as an agriculture, shipping and supply point on the Kansas City, Lawrence and Southern Railroad. It was named after Henry Ward Beecher's only novel. The post office was established in 1873 and D.W. Moore appointed the first postmaster. Balch and Hedrick opened a store in 1878 and a number of homes were built. A population count in 1883 listed 40 persons. There are no signs of the town today as the site has been cleared and planted to crops and pasture. Midland Railroad, an excursion train which runs from Baldwin City, makes stops at Norwood.

Reuben Hackett and his family, the first settlers in Franklin County, located (1854) on the west bank of Taub Creek north and west of Norwood. The Hacketts lived there 12 years and then moved a few miles southwest to farm on a hill, since known as Hackett Hill.

Hackett, born in Quebec in 1810, came to Franklin County June 7, 1854 and pre-empted 160 acres in what would become Centropolis Township. He was the first Justice of the Peace in Franklin County. His daughter Ella G. Hackett was the first white child born in the county. A literary article on "Science in the Early Days of Kansas" referred to Hackett as an antiquarian-owner of specimens, fossils, etc.

In 1857 Amos Hanna and Reverend William Moore and four sons settled near what would become Norwood.

Emma Seneff Arnold, 735 N. Main, Ottawa, grew up in Norwood as a member of the W.E. Potter family who lived on the hill north of Norwood. Emma remembers the store on the north side of Main Street next to the railroad tracks, and a church on the south side. Emma also recalls an old log cabin a mile east of Norwood, now long gone. Other families in the area were the G.I. Streebins, the Chester

Fergusons, the Charles Riddles and the Edwin Martins. The Martins' daughter, Eunice, married Charlie Rhodes and their daughter, Glacia Rhodes Cordle, resided in Ottawa with her husband, Lyle.

Catherine Jane Richards, 1993, and Deborah Barker, 2011