

Elmwood – A Village Portrait
In Commemoration of Nebraska's Centennial, 1867-1967
by Elmwood Centennial Committee

The famous blizzard of January 12, 1888, drew front page attention of the Echo. It recounted how the morning dawned bright and clear. It was unusually warm for a January day. Suddenly the temperature changed from 40 degrees above zero to 40 degrees below in just 12 hours. The storm struck between 3 and 4 p.m. with a ravaging suddenness that trapped children on their way home from school. It was a miracle that no lives were lost in the community--in fact, two children, Guy L. Clements and William Schick were born during the storm. Other communities were not so fortunate as the freak and furious storm belted its way across central and Northern Nebraska with force described by William McBride as "it sounded like a train"! John P. Gonzales, one of the last survivors of the storm, told his grandchildren before his death in the 1950's how it was possible to ride horses over buried wire fences on the hard-packed snow.