

The 1854 Cabin Structure



The 1854 Didier Log Cabin was built with whole logs running the length of the cabin, seven logs high with dovetailed corners. These logs are 8" to 15" in diameter, each chinked. The woods used in the reconstruction of the cabin were oak, walnut, pine, cottonwood, and cedar.

The fireplace is erected with stone. The foundation is constructed with large limestones. The loft is 7' x 15'. The main room, 15' x 15' was used as a bedroom, sitting room and dining area. The porch, 7' x 15', was probably used as a summer kitchen. This is where meals were prepared and wash water heated in the winter. In the summer these tasks were done outside to keep the house cooler.

The Move & Reconstruction of the Didier Cabin

In 2008, a corner of the cabin was brought to Brownville, and B.H.S. purchased the cabin from the Last Family. They decided to move the remaining logs located 10½ miles south of Brownville to Boettner Park at 2nd & Main Streets. 2011 was the 50th anniversary of the gift of the park to B.H.S. by George Boettner of Rock Port, Missouri.

The Society began to raise money for the reconstruction project in 2009 reaching out to B.H.S. members, Brownville School Alumni, various corporations and foundations, and friends. During 2011-12, Jim Doty of Doty Construction of Brownville rebuilt the cabin.



1854 Didier Log Cabin is owned and operated by the Brownville Historical Society
213 Main Street, PO Box 1
Brownville, NE 68321

For Information call or visit:
(402) 825-6001
www.Brownville-NE.com

Other Brownville Historical Society Properties:
B.H.S. Office - 213 Main St.
Railroad History Center, 125 So. 1st
Bailey Museum, 412 Main Street
Land Office, 131 Main Street
Dr. Spurgin Office, 222 Main Street
Wheel Museum, 219 Main Street
Carson House, 231 Main Street

MAP



Brownville, NE (www.Brownville-NE.com) is five minutes off of Interstate 29 and just over an hour from Lincoln, Omaha, St. Joseph, and Topeka, near the intersection of Highway 136 and the Missouri River Bridge.

This printed material sponsored in part by a grant from the Nemaha County Visitors' Committee. www.enjoynemahacounty.org.

1854 DIDIER LOG CABIN



Before . . .

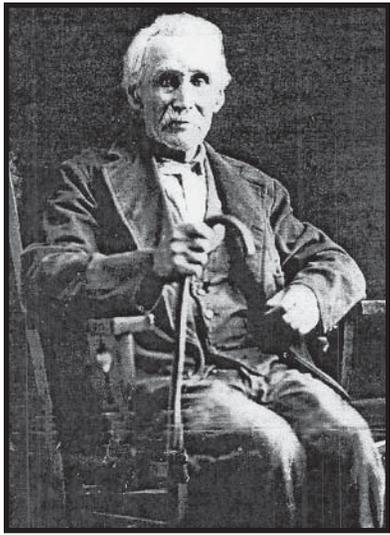


After . . .

An abbreviated history of the 1854 Didier Cabin.

Boettner Park
2nd & Main Streets
Brownville, Nebraska

The Didier Family History



John B. Didier, II

John B. Didier, II was born in France on Christmas Day, 1827. He arrived in America twenty years later, settling in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1849 he moved to St. Louis, Missouri, working for Pierre Chateau, Jr.. Mr. Chateau sent him to oversee a fur trading post five miles below Fort Laramie, Wyoming.

On August 19, 1854, the Grattan Massacre occurred at Sarpy's Point about eight miles below the fort. Lt. John L. Grattan was detailed from the fort to arrest a Native American who had reportedly stolen a cow from a Mormon immigrant. Since the Native did not surrender, the soldiers were ordered to fire upon the his tribe indiscriminately, thereupon they were attacked by a large number of warriors. All of the command, comprising of Lt. Grattan and twenty-nine men, were killed.

In latter years, their remains were removed to the National Cemetery at Ft. McPherson in Central Nebraska. Mr. Didier withstood the danger, and following the battle reported the loss to Mr. Chateau.

Two years later, John left St. Louis by steamboat. He came here from St. Joseph and erected the 1854 cabin, living there for 63 years. He took up a homestead

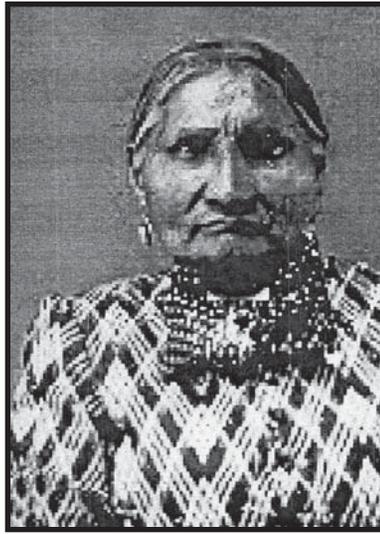
of 120 acres and built the cabin, clearing the land, and enduring the hardships of frontier life.

In 1855, he was married by Judge Whitney to Mary Peneaux Beauvais Red Nose Didier Desersa in Brownville. The obituary of John B. Didier II, lists Henry, John III, Paul, Mary Peneaux Beauvais Red Peter, Mary Dero-Nose Didier Desersa in, Cecilia Longcor, Adelia, Gertrude and Myrtle Last as their children.

Prior to her marriage to John, Mary was married to Beauvais, and they had four children. She also was married to Howard Red Iron, and to this union three children were born. In the Lakota tradition one's mother's sisters are your mothers.

It is possible that some of the children were not Mary's birth children, but the children of a sister.

Mary was enrolled in the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, and was a part of the Sioux Nation forced to walk to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears. She was 66-years-old when she died, and is buried at St. Francis Indian School in South Dakota. Newspapers indicate her death being in 1908. However, her grave marker at St. Francis, South Dakota has 1901 as the date she died. Mr. Didier died September 27, 1918, and is buried at Barada, Nebraska.



John B. Didier II on the porch of his cabin.

A giving opportunity...

I want to help!

- I will support the Brownville Historical Society 1854 Didier Log Cabin with a gift today.
- I would like to make a commemorative gift.
 - In Honor of _____
 - In Memory _____
 - My gift is anonymous.
- Please contact me about my donation or naming opportunities.

Please send your gift to:

Brownville Historical Society
PO Box 1
Brownville, NE 68321

Brownville Historical Society is a 501(c) 3 organization. All financial contributions are tax deductible.

John B. Didier II with his dog.

