The founding of Florence, Nebraska, 1854-1860

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Abstract
The community of Florence, since 1917 a part of the city of Omaha, had rather unusual history of settlement in that it was founded not once, but twice. In 1846 the area was occupied by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Winter Quarters, as it was then called, had a population of approximately 3500 inhabitants and was the scene of much activity. Abandoned in 1848, it lay prey to plundering Indians and prairie fires until 1854 when James Mitchell and the Nebraska Winter Quarters Company laid claim to the area and established another settlement which they called Florence, Nebraska Territory.

Comments
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Florence Nightingale: 1854-1860. When the Crimean War begins, in March 1854, Florence Nightingale is an upper-class woman in her thirties who has gone against her family's wishes and against popular prejudice (nurses being seen as little better than prostitutes) to adopt a career in nursing. She is in charge of a small hospital in Harley Street when news comes, in Russell's reports for the Times, of the appalling conditions in the British military hospital at Scutari. At much the same time a family friend, Sidney Herbert (secretary of state for war at the time), suggests that she shi James C. Mitchell (1810-1860) was the founder of the town of Florence in the Nebraska Territory in 1854. YouTube Encyclopedic. 1/3. Mitchell thought the town would be the Nebraska Territory's Capitol and in 1854 co-founded the Nebraska Winter Quarters Company, which became the Florence Land Company in 1855.[2] He named the town "Florence" after his wife's granddaughter. Mitchell himself owned 277 lots in Florence and was very active in real estate in both Florence and Columbus, Nebraska. Mitchell joined the first board of the Bank of Florence in 1856.[3] Mitchell served in the First Territorial Council and cast the vote that gave the early capitol to Omaha.