

Madison County Remembers...

A Publication of the Madison County Genealogical Society

Volume 33, Issue No. 154

Published at Norfolk, Nebraska

Nov.-Dec. 2011

Greetings to our members,

The holidays at the end of the year are now getting closer. However, have you considered that we have many holidays over the course of the year. There are only a few months that we do not have a major holiday in the month. Holidays for some people are great as they get together with family and friends to celebrate. For some people holidays are not as welcoming events. We tend to think of family, friends and other relatives during the last part of the year with Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day. We should consider them all year long and not just at the end of the year.

How do we communicate our events in our lives to others who may not live close to where we do. In the "old days" letters were sent to each other telling of the happenings going on with our families. Today, with some people, it is more by e-mail and other instant communications using the computers. Consider those who do not have computers also in your family news sharing. Write them and tell them about what is going on.

May I suggest an idea that will be of benefit to many people, especially to us who work on our family trees. Begin a yearly newsletter or a round-robin letter to your family circles. This can be started at anytime of the year. Write the major events in your life such as births, deaths, marriages, and give the details as to locations of the event. Keep the letter for one month and then send it on to another relative in your mailing list. Include the names of the all the recipients and the address for each of them. Over the course of the year or so it takes to get back to you it will have lots of information that can be included in your family files and put into your family tree. You will be thinking of your family and relatives in such a meaningful way each month.

As mentioned in a prior newsletter the possibility existed that this Nov-Dec. 2011 issue might be the end of the newsletter. The latest news is that this newsletter will continue being published. You can look forward to seeing this in your mailbox over the next year or as long as we have a society and members in our group. We do welcome your presence at our meetings. For those who can not attend our meetings but would like to participate in our group here is a suggestion for you. I am looking for new information to be placed in our newsletter. If you have helpful ideas, suggestions, or other tips on researching let us know. If you can look for information in your area or know who to contact about your area send us the information. It will be included in our newsletter so others who may be reading this will know what is available.

At the present time I live in Nebraska but I do have ancestors, relatives and other family members who are and have been in Pennsylvania, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, and California. So share with us your ideas and together our society will be a benefit to many other people.

A BIG Thank You goes out to Nancy for continuing the newsletter over the past year. May the days ahead be better and brighter for you.

Richard Strenge

Madison County Genealogical Society Minutes
September 17, 2011

The Madison County Genealogy Society met September 17, 2011 at the research center in the Elkhorn Valley Museum with eight members present with newly elected President Richard Streng presiding.

The minutes of the last meeting, our August outing and election of officers were given and approved. Treasurer Bernice Dewey gave the financial report. As of August 31, 2011 the balance reported as \$803.16. One hundred sixty new membership renewals were reported. Expenditure for September was \$100 for the Goose Lake trip. Current balance is \$703.16. The Society currently has three Certificates of Deposit at \$500 each. The report was accepted. It was moved and seconded to pay our membership of \$17.00 to the Nebraska Historical Society. Motion carried.

The Society was presented with the cost of meeting in the Library of the EVHS. The cost for the year would be a \$125 membership to EVHS giving us 6 free meetings. The remaining four would be \$10 per meeting. Members of the Society would have free access to the research center upon the presentation of a card identifying them as members of the Genealogy Society. The possibility of shared speakers was also discussed.

President Richard Streng outlined a new program available for a web page available from Power Pages Computing. A demonstration of the web page proposed was demonstrated. Two options are available for a new web site. The deluxe version would be a one time cost of \$1750 plus \$19.95 a month for updates. The other option was given as \$1250 a year, one time cost, plus \$19.95. After a lengthy discussion, the matter was tabled to the next meeting with a representative from the company to be present.

Ruthie Galitz presented the rules and regulations for the use of the library. It was decided only a member of the Genealogy Society would have free use of the Library. Guests brought in would pay the \$6 admission fee. Ruthie also showed what items were available to researchers in the front and back rooms. Staff would be available to help with other material not available to the general public. Those using the facility were asked to come to the front desk to be identified prior to going in the library.

The other topic discussed was the fees for queries. It was agreed those answering the queries should have some kind of reimbursement for their research plus the fee to the Society. This item was tabled to the next meeting for further discussion.

The next meeting will be held at the EVHS the third Saturday in October at which time those present at this meeting were asked to encourage other members to attend.

Secretary Pro Tem Betty L. Bohac

Madison County Genealogical Society Minutes
Meeting, October 15, 2011

On Saturday, October 15, eleven members of the Madison County Genealogical Society met at the research center in the Elkhorn Valley Museum, with President Richard Streng presiding.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted with a correction in the Treasurer's report of membership renewals. These renewals resulted in a deposit of \$160, not 160 renewals. The treasurer's report showing an ending balance of \$923.34 was filed as written, subject to audit. This report included a total of \$220 in dues and interest of \$.18 with disbursements of \$40 for research expense, \$165 in dues to the Elkhorn Valley Museum, \$17 in dues to Nebraska State Genealogy Society and \$43.66 in newsletter costs. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

The fall in membership over the years was discussed, noting that members see similar reductions in membership in other organizations. The discussion of a new website, which was tabled until this meeting, resulted in the decision to indefinitely defer this idea for now. The desire to provide researchers with reimbursement for their work, which was tabled at the last meeting, was opened for discussion. We need to reach a consensus on what reimbursement to the researcher is due and what

information should be put on the current website and newsletter for people wishing to order research. After one motion died for the lack of a second, Betty Bohac moved that the information on the website and newsletter should require an initial fee of \$10, a SASE, a Family Group Sheet and a commitment to cover research costs to be determined after an initial review of the information being requested. The fee is to be paid to the society and after the president refers the request to a researcher, that person will quote additional costs to the inquiring person and handle all further correspondence. The motion was seconded by Jeanne Rix and passed. President Richard Streng asked for anyone interested in doing research to contact him. Queries will be listed at each meeting, so if someone can help, they can volunteer.

Karen Reed suggested that we consider doing a brochure for libraries and other organizations to advertise our group and the services we provide. Betty Bohac moved that we investigate the cost of printing a color tri-fold brochure to include information about our membership and research facilities. Phyllis McCain seconded the motion and it was passed. We will look into the cost of a professional looking brochure and plan to print 100 to 250 depending on the cost differential involved. Members should be thinking about ideas to be brought to the next meeting such as information and pictures to be included along with ideas of places, such as motels, stores, the Chamber of Commerce for bags presented to newcomers, etc., where the brochure could be left.

Ideas for promoting membership were also discussed such as speaking to groups around town that might be interested in hearing about genealogy and family history research, possibly being interviewed on WJAG or suggesting articles, such as an interesting family history or the history of interesting groups such as the pioneers, to be included in the Norfolk paper and/or Nebraska Life magazine. Members are encouraged to bring ideas to the next meeting to pursue promoting membership. Subjects that could be covered include: "Do you want to know about your family tree?", "Where does your family come from?" and "Come to our meeting and we'll help you!"

A discussion on the need to issue membership cards was deferred until the next monthly meeting. We will also need to talk about plans for our Christmas Party in January. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

JAMES C. STITT, ARCHITECT ---- A 60-Year Legend

By Bernice Walters

A 60-year lifetime as Norfolk's outstanding architect is the story of young James Carey Stitt. Freshly arrived from New York in 1889 to spend a few days visiting in Norfolk, he was persuaded almost immediately to draw up plats for new Norfolk development. Architecture and construction were the Stitt family business -- his father, Ransom Stitt, was a building contractor, and his grandfather, James J. Stitt, had been an outstanding master builder in Albany County, New York. An aspiring and energetic architect, James readily agreed when asked to make a display plat for the new Hillside Terrace Addition on West Norfolk Avenue. Before that was even finished he was requested by railway conductor Dorsey to draw some house plans. A Daily News article of 1939 quotes Mr. Stitt: "I figured I would finish the house plans and then leave Norfolk, but another conductor, whose name was Noble, ordered house plans, and my gosh, I never did get to Omaha."

Young James was born September 28, 1866, at Medusa, New York, to Ransom and Elvira P. (Cooper) Stitt. He had attended elementary and high school at Canastota, New York, and in January of 1889 he decided to visit his parents in Norfolk, and look for a job in Omaha. Ransom and Elvira were born in New York, and were early residents of Norfolk, Nebraska. Norfolk was growing fast in 1889 with many improvements to utilities, streets and services for the expanding population. In fact, it was a boomtown, spurred on by the railroad traffic, and reflected in continued extension of city limits, real estate development, and promotion of new industries. In this stimulating atmosphere young James C. Stitt became well acquainted, and was kept so busy with architectural plans for Norfolk and surrounding towns, that he soon gave up all thought of leaving.

He met a young lady, Miss Cora May Holt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Holt, who were also early day residents of Norfolk. Their friendship blossomed, and on October 20, 1890, they were married at the home of her parents, by Rev. J. J. Parker, Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Norfolk. James and Cora May Stitt first made their home at Park Avenue and South Sixth Street. Two years later they moved to the house at 410 South Eighth Street, which remained their home for over 56 years. Remodeling and expansion by James created the comfortable, homey residence which still stands today.

Mr. Stitt's first workshop was in the harness store at 404 Norfolk Avenue, operated by D. A. Hopkins, father of Harry Hopkins who was appointed Secretary of Commerce by President Roosevelt in those years. Then Stitt opened his office on the second floor of the National Bank Building at 309-311 Norfolk Avenue. This was the original old 3-story Mast Building designed by Stitt in 1888, with its first and second floors occupied by business and offices, and the Masonic Hall on the third floor. (Later Hested's "dime store" and McCrorys filled the lower floors. In the 1950s the building and site became part of the large Woolworth-Hested complex, and still later appliance-furniture stores located here.)

At the early age of 16 young James had worked for his father, Ransom, so his interest in buildings came naturally. James never attended formal college but developed his architectural knowledge and skills of design through diligent studies and practical application, and was noted for meticulous attention to detail. Although a few other architects worked in Norfolk, for over a half century James C. Stitt was the primary architect of scores of public buildings and residences in Norfolk, and towns in north-east Nebraska.

The lengthy list of Stitt's architectural designs for Norfolk alone is truly amazing, and is a virtual "Who's Who" of the businesses and people who over a span of 60+ years built the town in its early days. Some of the buildings still in existence today are now landmarks, such as the St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Georgia Avenue-1907; several of the State Hospital buildings (the Norfolk Regional Center); Carnegie Norfolk Public Library-1909 (now offices of JEO Consulting) and the Sacred Heart Church on South Fifth Street.

Most of the early schools of Norfolk were Stitt design from the original Senior High School through Junior High and elementary schools, as well as the parochial schools and many of the early churches. Business buildings ran the gamut of well known names such as DeLay Bank, Ballantyne's Furniture, Dudley Laundry, the Campbell hospital-on North 12th; Norfolk Live Stock Sales; the Norfolk Hotel--now the Kensington and on the National Historic Register. His early pride and joy was the Masonic Temple in 1916. The early 1900s were most productive as Norfolk continued to grow, requiring all manner of mercantile stores and business buildings in which the Stitt name figured prominently with such familiar names as the Cotton Block, Olney, Bishop, Mapes, and Huse; and facilities including water works, foundries, creameries, distilleries, and apartment buildings. Much concerned with safety, health and sanitation, his design work included silos and bridges, and the city jail. In 1937 he joined with E. B. Watson, local architect, in designing the Norfolk City Auditorium during the Depression years, the construction completed in 1939.

Alongside public buildings, James C. Stitt designed some of the finest homes in Norfolk during his career. The roster includes many names embedded in the history of Norfolk, such as Braasch, Mathewson, Hutchinson, Verges (906 Prospect), Ballantyne, Mapes, Durland, Robinson, Huse, Campbell, Brown, Bullock, Degner, and Koenigstein, to name a few. Sadly, with the passage of time many of these former showplaces no longer exist, but one-the Rainbolt residence at 1104 Koenigstein Avenue-is a classic example of timeless style.

Architect Stitt's spirited philosophy on life matched his passion for designing buildings. Having no time nor inclination to be sick, at age 72 (in 1938) he said he had not been sick a day since he was 14, -- "I don't know what it is to have an ache or pain." He willingly shared his secret of good health -- which is to keep busy, get plenty of exercise, have a little fun every day and forget one's age. But it was not all work and no play. He and his friends in those days were great "practical jokers" with one another, and an office left unlocked upon leaving was often an invitation for friends to rearrange and stack all its contents. An anecdote from those days relates that James Stitt took his white horse and buggy to the State Hospital grounds where he was designing additional buildings. Returning to his buggy he found his white horse had zebra stripes, painted by his buddies, James' "zebra" becoming the butt of much humor long after.

Along with his zeal for work was his sense of duty, which he exercised by serving as Norfolk City Clerk 1896-1900. Stitt was secretary of the Norfolk Home Guards during the Great War (World War I), and a member of the United States Public Service Reserve. He was a charter member and former president of the Kiwanis Club; served three terms as a director of the Chamber of Commerce and was its vice president in 1930. He was president of the Norfolk Building and Loan Association for over thirty years. For many years he was active in Knights Templar, and Masonic circles, serving Mosaic Lodge No. 55, A.F. and A.M.; as master in 1897, and was holder of the Jordan medal.

James C. Stitt and his wife were members of the First Congregational Church, and enjoyed the activities of local civic clubs. They had the blessings of four children: Marian J., born November 28, 1892; James C. born August 11, 1897; Roger H, born June 2, 1899; and Kathryn, born January 30, 1911.

Norfolk's most prominent architect, James C. Stitt, passed away Monday, January 10, 1949, at a Norfolk Hospital, age 82 years. Survivors included his wife, two sons, James and Roger, two daughters, Marian (Mrs. Frank Hughes) of Norfolk, and Kathryn (Mrs. George Eckel) of Riverside, Ill., and four grandchildren. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. E. G. Brinkmeyer at the Home for Funerals, on January 13, 1949, with burial in the Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Mrs. James C. Stitt was one of the original charter members of the Norfolk Women's Club, organized in October, 1895. In 1969 she was the last surviving member of this original club. She died August 23, 1969, and is buried in the Stitt plot at the Prospect Hill Cemetery, Norfolk, Nebraska.



Carnegie Library
8th & Norfolk Ave.



110 S. 12th St.



Rainbolt home,
1104 Koenigstein



Cotton Block,
3rd and Norfolk Ave.



Huse home,
1810 Norfolk Ave.

Hotel Norfolk, 4th and Norfolk Ave.

Trinity Episcopal
9th and Madison Ave.

Norfolk High School
5th and Pasewalk



Sacred Heart Church,
5th and Madison



RUSH FLOYD AND VIRGINIA IRENE (STRANGE) OSBORN/E

Corrected Copy May 19, 2009

Written by Beverly Cox French and Donalee Collier Dietrich

(We are spelling Osborn without an "e" on the end as both of Rush's parents, Enoch and Irena, have the "Osborn" spelling on their tombstones. When Rush wrote his name he left the "e" off but Virginia put it on when she wrote the Osborne name.)

VIRGINIA IRENE STRANGE, nickname "JENNIE", daughter of John R. and Mary (Young) Strange, was born at Mouth of Wilson in Grayson County, Virginia, on May 19, 1870. Her father left the family in March—he just disappeared—before she was born in May and the family never heard from him again. Jennie's grandparents—the Young's—helped Mary and her two children but we think they grew up pretty poor. In later years, Jennie told her family of reading by the light from their fireplace as her mother didn't have enough money to buy lamp oil or candles. We don't think she got to go to school many years but she was smart and had a real skill with words.



Rush Floyd Osborn and Virginia Irene (Strange) Osborn, on their wedding day, July 4, 1902, Meadow Grove, Nebraska

Jennie's mother Mary "Mollie" Mitchell first married a Nichols (we don't know the spelling for sure) and had two boys. We assume Mr. Nichols then died as the marriage license for Mollie when she next was married to John R. Strange lists her as a widow. John and "Mollie" had a son Robert first and then Jennie was born after her father left. Lastly, Mollie married Calvin Mitchell. There were three children born to this union. A drummer (traveling salesman) came to their house and exposed George Eddie, b 7 Jun 1883, to the measles from which he died 6 Apr 1887. One other boy, Bruce Franklin b 12 May 1884, and died of measles on 13 Oct 1887. Only one child survived to adulthood from that marriage. His name was Wiley Mitchell. All of Mollie's marriages were in Grayson County and all her children were born there.

Jennie's grandfather William "Billie" Strange was a cabinet maker and he made many pieces of fine furniture some of which are still owned by folks who live in Grayson County today—pie safes, buffets, chests, etc. A distinctive feature of his work is a special kind of keyhole which makes them very recognizable. He was a very skilled craftsman.

We do not know what Billie's son John—Jennie's father—did for a living or where he went when he left his family. Our mothers told us they were told by their mother that John probably went to the gold rush in California. Perhaps that story was just told to Jennie when she asked her mother about her father. It would have been nice to think John Strange might eventually returned home with a fortune! In any case the gold rush to California was primarily in 1849 and, although it lasted several years, Jennie was not born for another 20 years. The Colorado "Pikes Peak or Bust" gold rush was in 1858 and lasted a few years thereafter but was still many years before Jennie's birth in 1870. Still, people go to look for gold every year so the tale may be true after all!

The family's oral history also says that the first Mr. Strange (de La Strange) to come to the colonies was a first cousin of Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) and came with him from France to help the colonies fight the Revolutionary War. Lafayette first brought a shipload of soldier-adventurers (World Book encyclopedia uses that name for them) to the colonies in 1777. In 1779 France declared war on England and Lafayette sailed back to France hoping to join the invasion of England. When that never happened, he came back to America in 1780 and fought in many battles until 1782. How great it would be to prove that a de La Strange ancestor was indeed related to Marquis and came to America in either 1777 or 1780 with Lafayette! We doubt if adventurers such as these bothered to write down the names of those who decided to stay in America!! But who knows? Maybe Lafayette kept a journal in which he listed the names of the men with him—??

While in Virginia Jennie made her living as a seamstress except for a short time spent in Bartow, Florida, in 1891 where she wrapped tomatoes for shipment. A good friend she made in Florida was Donna Dickenson. Jennie later named one of her daughters Donna Grayson Osborn in honor of this friend and of Grayson County. In the time that Jennie did sewing for people in Virginia, it was common for a family to hire a seamstress to come and stay with them while doing the sewing for the whole family. Often the seamstress took her own machine along and just stayed until every family member was outfitted. The demand was highest in the fall and spring for Jennie's expert sewing.

Jennie was a member of the Sulphur Springs Church at Volney, Virginia, In 1945 she transferred her membership to the First Methodist Church in Mullen, Nebraska.

In a 1945 letter she wrote to Rev. W. A. White at Grant, Virginia, she states that her grandmother Mary, nickname "Polly", Young's family gave the land for the Sulphur Springs Church and a piece of land to Oak Hill Academy, both located in Grayson County, Virginia.

RUSH FLOYD OSBORN, everyone called him "COLONEL", was the 11th child of 14 children born to Enoch Burton and Irena Jane (Cox) Osborn. He was born February 1, 1866, on the family farm in Grayson County, Virginia. He was a member of Cox's Chapel Methodist Church. His father Enoch passed away in 1883. In about 1886, Colonel, his mother and some of his brothers and sisters migrated to Madison County, Nebraska, where some of the family had already homesteaded. Twelve of the 14 Osborn sons and daughters moved to Madison County in just a few years' time. They were: Troy, Mary Jane, Alien, Mahala, Drucilla, Joseph, Codella, Rosamond, Robert, Fielden (Hoyt), and Charles. The other two children, Isom Burton and Jincy Ann, remained in Grayson County their entire lives.

Colonel worked for his brothers in Madison County and then spent five years working on South Dakota ranches. In 1897 he filed on a homestead consisting of 160 acres in southern Cherry County, Nebraska, 12 miles north of Mullen. Two of his sisters lived in the area north of Mullen at some time—Rosamond Phipps and Codella McMillan. Colonel's brother Alien, who lived in Madison County, bought some land adjoining Colonel's which Alien's son Rich and wife Dode lived on for awhile. Colonel's niece Bird M. Osborn Boyer and her husband (William) Loy Boyer had a homestead just east of Colonel's. They were his partners. (Loy was also from Grayson County.) Colonel had only a very small shack on his land but Loy had built a substantial five room, two-story house for him and Bird. Colonel ate some of his meals with the Boyers. Loy and Colonel herded cattle for some big ranches, as well as a few of their own, for a living.

In 1900 a distant cousin of Jennie's and Colonel's got them to write to each other—Colonel on his Nebraska homestead and Jennie at Edgewater, Virginia. (There is no longer a town on that spot but the old building that housed the post office is still there. When we visited in Virginia in 1998, we stood by that building and imagined our grandmother walking to that post office, wondering and hoping all the way. Would there be a letter from her Nebraska friend?

They had not known each other when they both lived in Virginia. Those of you who are familiar with Grayson County topography will understand why when you learn that Colonel was born south of New River (not far south from the present (2008) High Water Bridge) and Jennie was born north of it at Mouth of Wilson! Since there were no bridges over New River in their area, communication between families on opposite sides was not easy. They did know some of the same people, however. Colonel did not save Jennie's letters to him but we still have the ones he wrote to her, including the one where he proposes marriage! During the nearly two years they corresponded, Colonel visited Jennie in Virginia at Edgewater twice so they had at least seen each other before deciding to marry!

The October 13, 1900, letter mentions the westbound train that ran through Mullen being robbed of \$75,000 just east of Mullen. The money was being sent to Butte City, Montana.

In one of Jennie's first letters to him she must have asked him what foods they ate in Nebraska. He replies by listing what his niece fixed for dinner that day—roast beef, potatoes, big sop*, cow butter, squash butter, com bread, store coffee, and sand cherry pie. (Colonel spells "roast" as "rost and "squash" as "squast".)

(If you don't know what big sop is, you are not from Grayson county!)

The letter of March 28, 1901, said he "kept four saddle horses rode half to death" while working for the 101 Ranch as well as keeping his own place going. One reason for this was that, according to his daughter Mamie Osborn Collier, the land wasn't fenced so cattle would wander away if the cowboys didn't herd them. It took many more years to fence the Sandhill area of Nebraska with its many miles of prairie into pasture size parcels.

He also wrote of a prairie fire that started when a neighbor emptied stove ashes onto the prairie which, after smoldering for several hours, ignited the rangeland the next day. The south side of the fire was 25 miles long. Colonel plowed a fire guard for 18 miles. He plowed from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. Several barns and many cattle and horses perished in the fire.

In 1901 he told of a blizzard that caused extensive cattle losses. He said that they lost only three of the 101 Ranch's cattle that he and Loy were caring for. He said that the Standard Cattle Company lost several hundred head. Forty in one bunch were found dead. He told about the Standard Cattle Company branding 9,600 calves the previous fall.

We have a picture of Colonel on horseback taken in 1900. He has a cow roped. Loy, Loy's wife Bird and a woman friend of theirs are standing in the foreground near the house that Loy built. Part of the house shows in the background as well as a windmill with Hereford cattle drinking at the tank. They had a photographer take the picture and Colonel sent a copy to Jennie in Virginia.

When Colonel proposed and Jennie accepted, Colonel bought out his partners Loy and Bird, they moved back to Madison County and Colonel had more land and a home fit for his bride! Partly for their survival and partly in anticipation of his bride's arrival, Colonel wrote her that he had planted an acre and a half of potatoes, two acres of watermelons and 60 acres of corn in the spring of 1902.

In June of 1902, after reading the many instructions for the trip that Colonel had written to her, Jennie went by train from Grayson County to Broken Bow, Nebraska. Jennie had earned the money to buy things for her hope chest—for her first home as a married woman. She brought many things with her to the Sandhills—dishes, pitchers, linens, trunks, kitchen gadgets, pans and, at Colonel's special request, four bottles of Virginia whiskey! Colonel met her in Broken Bow two days before their wedding day and helped her fill out the paper work to file on her own homestead at the land office there. She had to file before they married as married women were not

allowed to file on a homestead—only if she was the head of the household. Colonel, having lived on his homestead for the required five years, had already started the process of proving up on his homestead. His Warranty Deed was filed on January 16, 1902.

They then took the train to Madison County where Colonel's relatives were eagerly awaiting their arrival. Colonel's sister-in-law—his brother Hoyt's wife, Alice—had written him with plans she and the other relatives were making for the wedding. At this time neither Colonel's mother Irena nor any of his brothers or sisters had met Jennie. We can only imagine Jennie's trepidation as she thought of meeting all these strangers as the train brought them closer and closer to Madison County. She would have no representative of her family at the wedding. (Indeed she felt some resentment all her life that she had had no say in the wedding plans and felt severely judged by Irena. Irena had very much wanted Colonel to marry but perhaps no woman would have met her standards for a wife for her son Colonel. Or perhaps Jennie felt resentment from Irena when there was none.)

Seamstress Jennie had sewn her wedding dress in Virginia and brought it on the train with her. Wool lawn was considered the regal fabric of the day so she used that fabric. It had long sleeves with stiffened cuffs and a high neck with a stiff collar. How did she get through the day in that style of dress made out of wool on the Fourth of July?! We still have the dress and it is lovely. In later years Grandma Jennie told us our Grandpa Colonel could reach around her waist when they were married. None of us can fit into the dress! Of course that is partly because we don't have Grandma's corsets!

They were married on July 4, 1902, in a grove of trees at Colonel's brother, Hoyt Osborn's, farm near Meadow Grove, Nebraska. Hoyt and Miss Blanche Reeves (Colonel's niece) were their attendants. Colonel's relatives that lived in the area all came, A big picnic lunch was spread out in the grove of trees. In later years Jennie would tell her family that lemonade was made in a large, non-galvanized wash tub and served at their wedding and she couldn't imagine why no one got sick! Wedding pictures of the couple were taken which we still have. Unfortunately, none were taken of his mother, Irena, or any of his relatives, because they had their wedding pictures taken after they arrived back in Mullen a few days later.

After spending a few days with Colonel's mother and other relatives in Madison County, Colonel and Jennie took the train to Seneca, a small town 11 miles east of Mullen. Colonel was afraid some friends and acquaintances would meet the train at the depot in Mullen and steal away the bride! They rented a horse and carriage and drove to the homestead north of Mullen. On the way out from Seneca Jennie asked Colonel where the meadows were. Colonel just laughed. In Grayson County she had been used to lovely green meadows and many trees. In the sandy soil of the Sandhills, there are only meadows in sub-irrigated areas. There were no meadows on Colonel's or Jennie's homesteads.

Jennie was 32 years old when she married. Colonel was 36. We can only imagine the adjustments each of them must have had to make. In the first place they had to get to know each other. Some letters and two visits can't have been enough to make them feel very comfortable with each other. Colonel was used to bachelor living. Jennie was not only used to living as a single lady, but she had to adjust to knowing no one and the very different terrain of Nebraska compared with Virginia. And she wouldn't be sewing for folks any more to earn a living. Colonel, who had only been responsible for himself, now had a wife to support.

To be continued in the next issue of this newsletter

Gleanings from the Madison Chronicle

By Karen Tiedgen Reed

These are obituaries, death notices, tidbits, and other interesting things going on as found in the Madison Chronicle. I'm not guaranteeing that I got all of them, but I tried.

1882

Oct 19

Cards of Thanks- Wife of J F Duncan
Margaret Mae Duncan 28 yrs. Died Fri. morning Oct 13, Obituary
Infant of Mr and Mrs Herman Fowler

Oct 26

Martha Davis wife of Wm Davis, Died Oct 17 at Emerick
Charley Grant
Maria Francis Abts
Charles Rodebach

Nov 16

James W Roberson son of Callin and Margaret, buried Forreston, IL

Nov 23

Dolphine Virginia Lyons
John Dahlstein 16 yrs.
Infant of G W J Hall

Nov 30

Julia Pearl Hall dau. of G W J and V K Hall
Magdalena Wilhelmina Rasp dau. of Adam and Wilhelmina Rasp

Dec 14

Adelia Sophia Clausen dau. of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clausen

Dec 28

Sarah Parks teacher at Deer Creek #10

1883

Feb 1

Dave Bishop son of J W and A J

March 8

4 week old son of T J Malone

April 5

Infant of Mr. and Mrs. Bruner
Amelia Church

April 12

Simonson Berntina 39 yr. 9 mo. 26 days of Newman Grove, wife of Christian

April 26

Wallace J. Blakely

May 3

2 week infant of Mr and Mrs George Earl buried at **Madison Cemetery**

May 31

Joseph Stibley of Kalamazoo precinct

June 24

2 year old son of C C Wyatt

July 12

Died on the 8th, old man 60's on the P H Fedderson farm

Marietta daughter of Charley Kaul, 1 yr and 6 days

July 26

Irak Cole - teenager

1884

Sept 3

son of D K and Anna Robertson

Sept 17

Dora Mary wife of Fred Litke

Harry son of N L Bryant

Infant of Mr. and Mrs. S P Tyrrel

1885--

1886--

1887

Aug 24

List of School teachers

To be continued in the next issue of this newsletter.

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702-1031

Information and queries:

mcgs@telebeep.com

Membership and newsletter:

nzaruba@kdsi.net

Memberships are \$15 per year.**Research Requests:** \$10 and a family group sheet to:
MCGS, PO Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702-1031**Meeting Information:** Subject to change
Call Nancy 402-379-4654**Website:** www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nemcgs/
or <http://mcgs.nesgs.org>**2010-2011 Officers**

President: Betty Bohac

Vice-President: Phyllis McCain

Secretary: Frances Beck

Treasurer: Bernice Walters

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Zaruba

Website Address Please note the new address for one of our websites. The Nebraska State Genealogical Society moved their website to a new server which therefore changed the address. Our new address is now: **<http://mcgs.nesgs.org>** which stands for: mcgs is Madison County Genealogical Society and nesgs for Nebraska State Genealogical Society and its an organization not a commercial business which is why its .org not .com - this might make it easier to remember actually. (Note: there is NO www in front)

Membership Reminder

The date above your name on the mailing label shows when your memberships is expiring. Membership renewals will continue your membership for one year after your expiration date. Thank you for your renewal. Your donations to our society are greatly appreciated.

BITS FROM THE WEB**Random Acts of Genealogy Kindness (RAOGK)**

RAOGK has been around with our volunteers helping other genealogists get copies of documents required to prove your lineage back to Adam and Eve (giggle). Pictures of your ancestors' tombstones were also high on the lists of requests. I hope everyone got as much service as we were able to give.

Our heart is saddened that we will be offline for quite awhile. Between computer problems (hard drive turning to toast) and the health of the administrator very questionable ... RAOGK, after 11 years, will cease to exist for awhile. Bridgett Schneider, RAOGK Administrator

CHANGE IN PUBLIC DEATH MASTER FILE RECORDS (Social Security Death Index)

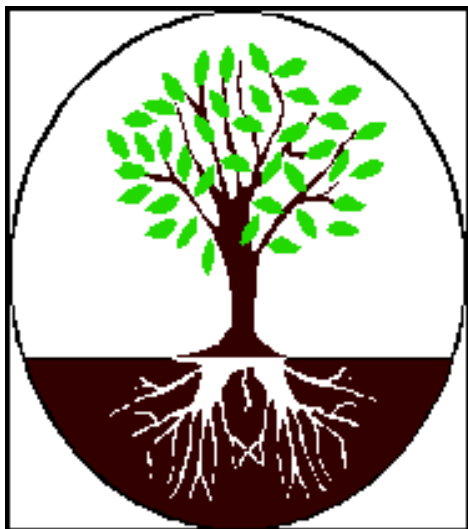
Death Master File (DMF) data comes from the Social Security Administration (SSA). SSA receives death reports from various sources, including family members, funeral homes, hospitals, and financial institutions.

Effective November 1, 2011, the DMF data available to the public will no longer contain protected state death records. Section 205(r) of the Act prohibits SSA from disclosing state death records SSA receives through its contracts with the states, except in limited circumstances. (Section 205r link - http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title02/0205.htm)

The historical Public Death Master File contains 89 million records. SSA will remove approximately 4.2 million records from this file and add about 1 million fewer records annually.

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The date on your label is your membership renewal date. Please check it and renew to save postage/printing costs.

TEMP RETURN SERVICE FIRST CLASS

MCGS Meeting Announcements

The next meeting will be on the 3rd Saturday of the month (November 19). Time will be as always at 10 a.m. at the museum in the research center.

No program is arranged.

Our Christmas party is coming up in January. We will be having that also on the 3rd Saturday of January with a meeting location for that to be decided at this November meeting. Also time of that January meeting will most likely be early afternoon as it seems it was a good time when they held it in January 2011. But the final decision will have to be worked out at our next meeting.

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