

# Madison County Remembers...

A Publication of the Madison County Genealogical Society

Vol. 33, Issue 156

Published at Norfolk, Nebraska

Mar.—Apr. 2012

## Active Life Means Longevity for Mrs. Augusta Griep, 90

Mrs. Augusta Griep, who observed her 90th birthday anniversary Sunday with a party at her home at 711 S. Second Street, has led an active life. It is to this that she attributes her longevity. Even in recent years Mrs. Griep has been active about the house, helping with meal preparations and dish-washing. When the weather is warm she does a great deal of walking and often spends a few minutes in the back yard picking four-leaf clovers which no one else seems able to find.

She was born Augusta Brandenburg, Jan. 6, 1862, and lived in Greifenberg, Germany, until 1884 when she came to the United States to join Julius Griep, to whom she had become engaged in Germany. The couple were married Oct. 21, 1884, at the home of Mr. Griep's sister, Mrs. August Rottler, who lived south of Stanton at the time. They lived for a time on a farm near Stanton where Mrs. Griep often helped her husband in the field. They later moved to Fremont where Mr. Griep was employed for a time before returning to a ranch west of Norfolk where he worked for a number of years.

## Worked for Railroad

From the ranch they moved to Norfolk where Mr. Griep was employed by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad for a number of years. The later took an 80 acre tract southwest of Norfolk in Stanton County and farmed there until they retired to their home on Thirteenth street here.

**Active Life** continued on page 42

## A Tin Box with Treasures

You often hear about finding a tin box with treasures in it. After my parents passed away, going through their things I found this box with this autograph book in it. Charlotte (Clark) Miller was a school teacher, some I think are from students. Beautiful penmanship. Also found great grandfather's drivers license, pictures, crocheted squares and other things. Charlotte was my great grandmother. Just a few from the autograph book. — Sonja Burt

Remember me my dearest friend  
When future days shall come  
When she who wrote these lines for you  
Has gone to her long home.  
Truly yours, Mrs. E. Flowers, Oct. 15, 1885

When stars are in those far off skies  
And shadows broad upon the plain  
Be thinks thee of the loving eyes  
Which long for thee in vain  
Febr. 25th 1880 Battle Creek Nebr.  
Mary Clark

I would not have thee grieved or sad,  
I would thy soul were light and free  
But if one thought can make it glad  
Oh, let it be of me.  
Allie Clark {no date was shown}

Dear Sister  
Be not too ready to condemn  
The wrong thy sister may have done;  
Ore ye too harshly censure them  
For human faults, ask, Have I none.  
Allie J. Clark, Battle Creek Nebraska  
March the 5, 1881

**Treasures** continued on page 41

## President's Message

from *Richard Strenge*

Greetings to our members,

It takes time to do most anything. Today we find our time is getting filled more and more. The results are we get so busy doing so many things we forget the important ones. Take the initiative and make many expressions of kindness to your family, friends, and community.

Please remember that your contribution helps many other people in their research. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

The message I bring to you in this issue is a story on a recent research request. The story begins as have so many others.....

### What happens when a query is received?

When a query is received in the mail it is first opened and then read. A simple procedure at first. Then after it has been read decisions have to be made on what to do with it. Decisions such as can we handle the request, and who can do it or have knowledge on where to look, and who has the time or takes the time to look into the matter of the request.

Requests are usually simple but some can get a bit complex. One of the recent ones that was handed directly to me involved a bit of a challenge. Here is the story of the challenge that was given me.

**Query** continued on page 40

## Our Society Meeting Notes

from Frances Beck, Secretary

Our regular meeting schedule resumed on February 18, 2012 at 10:00 am at the Elkhorn Valley Museum after being disrupted by the ice storm in November, and our annual Holiday party in January. The Holiday party was held at The Granary and was enjoyed by the 8 members attending. After enjoying lunch, the members visited about general genealogical topics and participated in Word Search puzzles that dealt with genealogy, pioneers and the United States of America with prizes awarded as words were found.

The February meeting, with 5 members present, included a discussion about an upcoming seminar sponsored by the Greater Omaha Genealogical Society. This seminar, on April 28, 2012 from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, will feature Roger P. Minert, Ph.D., A.G., speaking on Researching Your German Ancestors. Topics will include: A Genealogist's Outline of German History since 1517, Form and Content in German Church Records, Introduction to German Phonetics as it Applies to the Spelling of Personal Names and German Social Status and Life Style, 1500 – 1800. Professor Minert has written more than seventy books and articles on German family history research and German pedagogy. The seminar will be held at Nebraska Methodist College, 720 N 87<sup>th</sup> Street in Omaha. For further information, go to: [www.gogsmembers.com](http://www.gogsmembers.com).

Material for the newsletter was also discussed. A suggestion to include a list of surnames that members are researching so if one person runs across references that could help, the new material could be referred to an individual interested in that family. It may be necessary to include the name of the state, country or city along with the surnames.

**Our Society Meeting** continued on page 47

**Birthdays Today**

This listing is from  
the newspaper  
The Norfolk Daily News.  
Date of the paper and page  
number they were found on.

Fri. May, 1, 1914, page 2  
William Hill, 1905  
Lyle Roker, 1906  
F. G. Henry, 1907  
Hilda Johnson, 1904

Sat. May 2, 1914, page 7  
Mary Gleason, 1899  
Merritt Stamsberry, 1907  
Cora Taylor, 1904

Tues. May 5, 1914, page 2  
Alice Braasch, 1899  
Edith Thillen, 1898  
Harry E. Madsen, 1895  
James Coyle, 1896  
Flora Engelman, 1896  
Mary Hough, 1906

Thur. May 7, 1914, page 7  
George Klat, 1901  
Elsie Zellmer, 1900  
Francis H. Reed, 1903  
Merlin Broadstone, 1908  
Eric Harmel, 1908

Fri. May 8, 1914, page 5  
Clara Frosberg, 1904  
Clarence McCormick, 1898  
Doris Palmer, 1901

Sat. May 9, 1914, page 7  
Ethel Anderson, 1905  
Helen Brennan, 1900  
Ervin Hille, 1898  
Joseph Reese, 1905  
Muri Church, 1901  
Clara Wendt, 1901  
Dorothy Kenney, 1896  
Ferdinand Mueller, 1894

Mon. May, 11, 1914, page 5  
Florence Barrett, 1894

Maywin Evans, 1899  
Leo Schula, 1903  
Lloyd Line, 1901

Tues. May 12, 1914, page 5  
John Dreesen, 1899  
Marie Holley, 1894  
Lee Ogden, 1894

Wed. May 13, 1914, page 5  
Margrette Hazen, 1904  
Gertrude Kohlhof, 1905  
Lizzie Massley, 1898  
Luree Evans, 1903  
Lynn Paterson, 1906

Thur. May 14, 1914, page 5  
Herbert Klug, 1903  
Lavina Scheive, 1902  
Nellie Land, 1905  
Joseph Ferr, 1903  
Easter Currier, 1895

Fri. May 15, 1914, page 2  
Walter Brubaker, 1905  
Bennie Beitz, 1905  
Donald Edwards, 1901  
Nora Snyder, 1905  
Elizabeth Tiel, 1902  
Dorris Surber, 1907  
Ruth Webb, 1907

Sat. May 16, 1914, page 2  
Levitt Broadstone, 1903  
Laura Clark, 1907  
Raymond Beymer, 1896  
Lenore Evans, 1905  
Martin Klawitter, 1907  
Charley Nelson, 1894

Tues. May 19, 1914, page 7  
Raymond Broecker, 1905  
Charles Coyle, 1895  
Gertrude Gilmore, 1907

Wed. May 20, 1914, page 6  
Clyde Breyer, 1903  
Dorothy Dean, 1907  
Alma Hasenfflen, 1906  
Janette Mayer, 1902  
Carl Stuckey, 1902

Martha Schwede, 1901  
Winston Cole, 1904  
Frank Fox, 1894  
Della Judd, 1907  
Lizzie Messerlie, 1897

Thur. May 21, 1914, page 4  
Mary Brummond, 1900  
Helen Hudson, 1899  
Clarence Richardson, 1905  
Bruno Fischer, 1905  
Lorena Harms, 1905

Fri. May 22, 1914, page 7  
Nathan Brown, 1902  
Lenora Morton, 1904  
Esther Vierqutz, 1899

Mon. May 25, 1914, page 7  
Walter Brennan, 1907  
Willie Schwede, 1900  
R. M. Parker, 1896  
Della Stewart, 1900  
Carl Franklin Stefan, 1910  
Jay Ellis, 1899  
Mata Fischer, 1894  
Herman Klawitter, 1904  
Paul Pinnt, 1896

Wed. May 27, 1914, page 2  
Robert Best, 1903  
Gertrude Sar, 1903  
Clarence Burden, 1901

Thur. May 28, 1914, page 5  
Leone Carbine, 1899  
Ruth Locks, 1904  
Rosie Uhle, 1900  
M. R. Loucks, 1904  
Dorothy Hall, 1906

Sat. May 30, 1914, page 8  
Edwin Booth, 1906  
Vivian Hazen, 1903  
Herbert Killian, 1906  
George Salter, 1903  
Lawrence Mandelka, 1903  
Fred Brummond, 1908  
Doyle Church, 1894

**Query** continued from page 38

The request said basically: I have a picture of a couple who I would like to know the names of. I was not given dates or location of the people in the picture. They wanted to know the identities of the couple so the picture could be returned to a descendant of the couple. The part that was included on the picture said, "Ned Vosses parents". At least I had a starting point to work with.....a name. The next step was to try and gather more information from the person asking for help in identifying the couple. I was told they most likely were a Madison county couple or could be a Knox county couple. The picture(s) had been purchased at an auction in Knox county.

There were Voss families in both counties at one time. So I found out the name on the picture was written as Vosses but with some detective work think it should have been Ned Voss's parents. Now I had to locate the Voss name in Madison county. That was not much of a problem as one of the couples in Norfolk some years ago were Orville and Mary Voss. The Mary Voss collection of family information was now located at the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center. In looking over that collection I was a bit overwhelmed with papers and other items that were there.

I picked out several large family files of names and started down the list, looking for Ned Voss name to appear. In my search that day I learned that it was not to be seen, at least at the time I was there. I checked the cemetery books while there and found a Ned Voss buried in St. Leonard's cemetery at Madison. Now I had a death date to work with. Maybe his obit would give a clue as to his parents names. While looking over the names of the ones in the cemetery book I took note of all Voss names. One caught my attention and so I went a bit deeper in searching.

Then at the public library I went to find a paper for the time frame of his death and the one that caught my attention. In looking over the one from 1918 I found out that a couple had died the same day in their home in Madison. In the article it said that a man went to the home of William Voss and found no one to answer the door. He looked in a window to discover Mr. Voss lying on the kitchen floor, appeared to be dead, and Mrs. Voss was in the rocking chair and she appeared to be not moving either.

So the police were called and a son Ned Voss was also called to the residence. Now I had him tied directly to his parents. Of course things are not that easy in most cases and this one is not an exception. So now I had Ned Voss tied with his parents Mr. and Mrs. William Voss. I do not have Mrs. Voss first name as yet. That needs to be established as soon as I can find it. In checking for the burial location of Mr. and Mrs. William Voss it was found to be at Crown Hill Cemetery at Madison. I had to find the burial location a bit more exact as Crown Hill is a large cemetery and walking it will take lots of time. So I checked the burial records for Crown Hill and got a Block and Lot Number location and then looked at the map for Crown Hill.

The map gave me a more exact location to look for as it shows the lanes and streets in the cemetery. When I went down to the cemetery to take pictures of the marker I had a better idea where to drive to find the grave of Mr. and Mrs. William Voss. Upon discovery of the marker it said William and Emma Voss, Father and Mother. So now I had the parent's names

to Ned Voss or so I thought. In writing back and forth with the person who sent the request I discovered that her name should be Catharine and not Emma. But the marker clearly showed Emma.

With this conflict of information more work needed to be done in locating the name of Mrs. Voss. With additional work on obits as each obit gave me more and more clues to try to discover the correct name for Mrs. William Voss. As it turns out I gathered over 40 pages of information on the Voss line and put together 4 generations of family from the obits. I still had not completely cleared with the other person or myself as what was the correct name for Mrs. Voss.

Since I had some names and dates of birth and death for many of these people I did finally check the census records. In locating that information I discovered another clue to the mystery of Mrs. William Voss name. In the 1910 Census for Madison county it said for marriage for William m2 and for Emma m2. Now that told me both of them were on their second marriage. With the length of marriage shown as 20 years it told me Mr. William Voss first wife was gone prior to 1890. In checking for an earlier record it was discovered that the first Mrs. William Voss name was Christina.

I still do not know any other information on Christina Voss. We do not know when she died or where she is buried at. Marriage dates have not been found either. Now I had "proved" to myself that there were two wives and the identity of the lady in the picture might be either one. It could be Christina or Emma. Right now the time the picture was taken will be another clue to be searched. If a year or time frame could be established for the picture a more exact name could be used for the couple. We do know that it is William Voss in the picture but which wife is it? It is leaning more towards being Christina in the picture as the person who wrote on the back of the large picture said Ned Vosses parents. Edward "Ned" Voss was born in 1876 and died in 1952. This large picture is from the 1870's to 1900's. If there is anyone with information on the Voss families and especially on the 1860 to 1920 time fame please contact our society with that information.

### **Six Request Citizenship**

Six filed naturalization papers in district court here and will be given hearings April 9 before Judge Fay H. Pollock. They are:

Hilda Joyce Whitfield, 1209 Park Ave., Norfolk, native of England

Audrey Irene Middleton, 1407 S. Second St., Norfolk, England

Martha Ida Bley, Rt. 2, Norfolk, Germany

Mary Louise Piwenitzky, Winside, Germany

Marie I. Steube, Wayne, Germany

Frank V. Kucera, Stanton, Czechoslovakia

Charles A. Rain, Omaha, naturalization examiner, met with the applicants.

Source: The Madison Star, Thursday, March 11, 1954, page 1

**Treasures** continued from page 37

Charlotte (Clark) Miller born Dec. 22, 1860 and died July 11, 1951. Sisters to Charlotte were Almira "Allie" Jane (Clark) Miller born Jan. 10, 1859 and died Dec. 7, 1915 and Mary Elizabeth (Clark) Flowers born Oct. 23, 1862 and died June 29, 1926.

**Active Life** continued from page 37

A little over a year after they observed their golden wedding anniversary in 1934, Mr. Griep died of a heart ailment.

The couple had three children, two daughters and a son. The boy died while the couple lived at Fremont. The child was two at the time, and as Mrs. Griep phrased it. "he was such a bright boy." A daughter, Mrs. Almuth Kapple, died while giving birth to a daughter around the turn of the century. The third child, Mrs. Frank Maas, now resides in Sebastopol, Calif. It was with Mrs. Maas that Mrs. Griep lived after the death of her husband. When the Maases moved to California four years ago, Mrs. Griep chose to remain here and now makes her home with Mrs. Henrietta Mosher at 711 S. Second Street.

**Daughter is Here**

Mrs. Maas arrived here to visit with her mother late in November and was present for the party held Sunday. She will return to her California home early this week. Mrs. Griep, whose first days in school in Germany were associated with the Bible yet today spends much of her time reading it and the newspapers. Her eyes have remained in good condition and when the light is sufficiently strong she is yet able to read without glasses.

About 20 friends and neighbors were present Sunday. Among those present were the Rev. M. G. Vance of the Evangelical United Brethren Church here and several members of the choir, who sang a few selections. Among those who sang were Mrs. S. E. Reichow, Miss Anna Schermer, Mr. and Mrs. William Rottler, and Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Werner. A duet, "Shall I Find a Star," was sung by Mr. and Mrs. Rottler. A birthday cake, baked for the event by Mrs. Maas and Mrs. Lawrence Heckendorf, was served.

Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Mon. Jan. 7, 1952, page 5.

**Deaths****Mrs. Augusta Griep**

Mrs. Augusta Greip, 95, formerly of Norfolk, died Thursday night in a rest home at Wayne. Funeral services will be held at Norfolk, the time to be announced later. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Frank Maas, Pentluma, Calif. Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Fri, Oct. 4, 1957, page 9

**Mrs. Augusta Greip**

Funeral services for Mrs. Augusta Griep, 95, who died Thursday in a Wayne rest home, were conducted Tuesday afternoon at the Norfolk Home for Funerals by the Rev. Wayne Schruers, First Evangelical United Brethren Church pastor. Music was furnished by Mrs. Virgil Schlack, vocalist, and Mrs. A. G. Weddingfeld, organist. Burial was in Prospect Hill Cemetery. Pallbearers were Ed and Fred Maas, Erich Meierhenry, Charles Jochens, Fred Schroeder and William Chesslie.

Augusta Brandenburg was born Jan. 6, 1862, at Lubzig by Griefenberg, Germany. In 1884 she came to America with her parents. She was married Oct. 28, 1884 to Julius Griep at the home of August Rottler in Stanton. They were the parents of two daughters and one son. Since coming to America she had resided in the Norfolk community with the exception of the past two years which she spent in the Wayne rest home. (continued on page 43)

She was one of the original members of the Norfolk Evangelical United Brethren Church. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Frank Maas of Sebastopol, Calif., two grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, one daughter, Almuth, and a son, Helmuth, in infancy. Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Wed. Oct. 9, 1957, page 13

**The Nebraska State Genealogical Society meeting and conference will be held May 5 and 6 in Grand Island, NE.** For more information go to <http://nesgs.org/> then go to Conference and then to the 2012 Grand Island. [The following is excerpts from the website.]

### **Featured Speaker: Laura Prescott**

Laura G. Prescott is a professional researcher, writer, and speaker. Originally from Charleston, West Virginia, she has lived in New England for over thirty-five years. She lectures and writes for national audiences on a variety of genealogical topics. Her specialties include the use of manuscripts in genealogical research, genealogy on the Internet, genealogy for Mac users, and merging history with genealogy. Her articles have appeared in Ancestry, New England Ancestors, Genealogical Computing, NGS NewsMagazine, and Digital Genealogist.

Laura's topics for the conference will be:

#### **Diaries & Journals: Finding and Using these Valuable Resources**

This lecture explains the advantages of using diaries, letters, and journals in compiling a comprehensive and appealing genealogy. Opinions and observations written by our ancestors or someone who knew them add a personal dimension to names, dates, and places. We'll explore a few examples of the different types of journals and diaries available, where to find them, and how to apply what you find to your research and your family history.

#### **Turning Fiction into Fact:**

Genealogists are detectives at heart. We regularly stumble across unsubstantiated tales and rumors in need of clarification and verification. We have countless photos, family stories, and scraps of correspondence to interpret with little or no references with which to place them into context. In this lecture we discuss strategies to understand how to take an uncited, perhaps apocryphal story or unidentified family memento, and discover the truth behind the family legend. Emphasis is placed on how to think outside the box to find related clues. Practical methodologies are explained with examples of debunked myths within the speaker's own genealogy. Also discussed will be the importance of facing facts and then disseminating accurate information. It is important to set the record straight when it is verified that an ancestor did not arrive on the Mayflower, a great-great grandmother was involved in a shady profession, or a military distinction really belonged to the distant cousin, not the genealogist's forebear.

#### **The Rest of the Story: Using Manuscripts to Create a Family History**

Manuscripts, memorabilia, and artifacts stored within the special collections departments of libraries, museums, and universities around the nation are some of the most underused resources available to genealogists. These are resources not found online, although references to them can be discovered there, and some repositories are making efforts to digitize them. Probing special collections requires more energy, time, and patience than the average genealogist is accustomed to, but the rewards are often beyond expectations. Participants will learn how to be productive in identifying appropriate collections, what to expect during a visit, and how to use the resources most effectively. Particular examples, some humorous, some disappointing, some triumphant, will be elaborated upon.

#### **Spinsters and Widows: Gender Loyalty within Families**

A maiden aunt's will, or a widow's land deed can bring insights into relationships and social status not found anywhere else.

(continued on page 44)

Public records tell more of a story than many people realize. Strong-willed women and women with possessions left legacies that we can uncover now. A prenuptial agreement from 1848? Got one! Personal accounts within diaries and letters left by our female forebears are also vital resources for exploring relationships and the support structure enjoyed by women in the past. Examples from the speaker's work as well as stories from other genealogists will show how brick walls were hurdled and empty spaces in genealogy charts completed once the women's accounts were uncovered. Most examples are taken from nineteenth century sources.

### **Timelines: Placing Your Heritage in Historical Perspective**

This topic stresses the importance of placing ancestors within their historical, social, and political environment. Events and customs shaped their lives. If we understand where they fit in and the circumstances that impacted their lives, we understand a little more about who they were, where they lived, what they did, and how they interacted with colleagues, peers, and relations. Some genealogy software programs have basic timeline potential. Excel spreadsheets, basic word processing programs, and mapping software can also add to a better understanding of a person's place in history. All these possibilities will be reviewed and applied.

What events shaped the lives of our ancestors? From simple to difficult, the questions are always in a genealogist's mind: Who was president when my immigrant ancestor arrived in Boston? Where was my great-great grandfather living when his future wife was born? Why did they marry so late? What brought one family into contact with this other family in my lineage? Did a war or epidemic cause a change in quality of life for my ancestors in this location, in this time period? Many questions can be answered when we place events, migration patterns, and customs on a visual plane beside a record of our ancestors' life events.

### **Guest Speaker: Dr. Susan Nordstrom**

Dr. Susan Naomi Nordstrom is an assistant professor in education at Wayne State College. Her dissertation is about the ensembles of life that 11 Nebraska family history genealogists created in their work with objects (e.g., documents, photographs, and other artifacts) connected to their ancestors. Susan will discuss her dissertation and will explain how she became interested in studying family history, genealogy, the study of the ensemble of life.

### **Guest Speaker: Catherine Renschler**

The W B Hines Glass Negative Collection

In 2010 while workmen were dismantling a house in Hastings they made a discovery in the attic--several cardboard boxes of glass plates with images on them. The owner donated the collection, 420 negatives in all, to the Adams County Historical Society. The collection includes images of fashionably dressed women, family groups, children, character studies, farmsteads, houses, street scenes and business buildings. The time period covered ranges from 1890 to 1920. Catherine Renschler will show selected images from this collection utilizing PowerPoint to tell how some of them were identified through research, and discuss how to date photos from clothing styles. She will also present information on the history of glass negatives, how to digitize them, and how to properly store them

### **Guest Speaker: Gary "Mitch" Zabokrtsky**

Genealogy: A trip back through time

Mitch Zabokrtsky of Fairbury, Nebraska began his interest in genealogy after attending a Zabokrtsky Family Reunion in Washington, Kansas in 1983. His presentation "Genealogy: A Trip Back Through Time" covers (1) Chronicles, (2) Census Records, (3) Land Records, (4) Immigration, Naturalization and Ship Records, (5) Church Records, (6) Death Records and (7) The Rewarding Experience. He cites records from research personal experiences in the Czech Republic and the United States.



The information that follows is typed as found in the newspaper. Some times you wonder if you have the right person or the right name. This will give you time to think what is true and what is maybe not so true. --- from the editors thoughts

## **Found Dead in the Road**

**Herman Berdeen, Known as "Fred Miller," Stricken**

**Dies Near City Dump Grounds**

**With a bottle of beer sticking out of each overcoat pocket, the body of the Northwestern Eating House Steward is discovered, face down.**

With a bottle of beer sticking out of each overcoat pocket, Herman Berdeen, known as Fred Miller, for the past twelve years steward of the Northwestern eating house at Norfolk Junction, was found dead in the middle of the road on South First street, near the city dump grounds, at 4:10 Tuesday afternoon by Tom Crotty, a local teamster. Apoplexy was the probable cause of his death.

Since the eating house was destroyed by fire, Mr. Berdeen has been boarding at the Carl Reiche farm, and Tuesday afternoon he left there apparently in good health, saying he was going to walk to the Junction and would be back very early. He purchased three bottles of beer at the Junction saloon, and after drinking the contents of one pint bottle he placed the other two in his pockets and started to walk back to his boarding house. A number of people who talked with Berdeen before he left the Junction say he was sober and apparently in normal condition.

He left the Junction probably at 3:30 and when near the dump grounds apoplexy must have overtaken him and he fell bodily into the fine sand, striking his nose and forehead.

"I was hauling a load to the dump grounds," says Mr. Crotty, "and before I reached the spot I noticed something in the road. I believed at first it was some drunk man lying there, but I got off my wagon and felt of Miller's hands and found them warm, but the pulse was silent. I knew then he was dead and I immediately sent for the police. Miller's hands were buried in the sand and his fists were closed tightly and in each he had some of the sand."

### **Coroner Inspects Body**

Mayor Friday, after hearing of the case, sent Officer Sasse to investigate, and that officer made several trips to the scene. Coroner M. D. Baker of Tilden was located at Meadow Grove and came in an automobile. The body was removed at 6:30 to the undertaking parlors of Sessions & Bell.

Dr. W. H. Pilger, who was present, inspected the body and gave his judgment that the man had probably died from a stroke of apoplexy. There was no traces of any struggle visible, and there is no doubt in the minds of the authorities that anything else but a natural death overtook Berdeen.

Berdeen was well known here and it is presumed his employment for so many years by Rome Miller, former owner of the eating house, gave him the nickname of "Fred Miller," by which he was so well known at the Junction. Some reports have it that Berdeen has been brooding

over the question as to whether or not the eating house would be rebuilt.

"Berdeen had been intending to go to his home in Germany this summer," said Mr. Reiche, with whom Berdeen has boarded for the past week. "His relatives have been very wealthy." Berdeen's only relative in this country, as far as can be learned, is August Smith, an uncle, who lives on a farm near Millard, Neb., His sister, who is said to be very wealthy, lives in Hauffelberg, Saxony, Germany.

Berdeen was well educated and spoke about four languages. He was about 53 years old.

Tom Crotty, Frank Jirak, a local carpenter, and another man were placed as a guard over the body by Officer Sasse. All three men have given their opinion that Berdeen was not drunk. Coroner M. D. Baker will give his opinion some time today.

### **Coroner Says Heart Disease**

Heart disease, said Coroner M. D. Baker, was the probable cause of Berdeen's death. Coroner Baker held an inquest in the undertaking parlors of Sessions & Bell, and after hearing a number of witnesses he immediately decided that no further inquest need be held. He returned to Meadow Grove late in the night. Among the witnesses were: Dr. W. H. Pilger, Patrolman Ernest Sasse, Thomas Crotty, Fred Gall, Fred Lehman.

When Berdeen's pockets were examined \$85 in deposit certificates were found. A gold watch valued at about \$30 was also found. The undertakers telegraphed Berdeen's uncle, who lives near Millard, Neb., and the remains will be held until some word from him can be obtained.

To a friend a few days ago Berdeen explained his reason for having two names. "I don't want you to call me Herman again," he said. "I had some trouble some time ago. It was not my fault, but because of this trouble I changed my name to Fred Miller."

Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Wed., March 29, 1911, page 2

## **Bodine Funeral Friday**

### **Heart Had Been Troubling Him for Several Days Before Death.**

Funeral services over the remains of Herman Bodine, who dropped dead south of the Junction on First street at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, will take place in the St. Johannes church at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon. Rev. Otto Bergfelder will have charge of the services and railroad men will probably act as pallbearers. A telegram was received by L. Sessions from August Schmidt of Millard, Neb., an uncle of Bodine's, who says to leave the body here. It is not likely he will come.

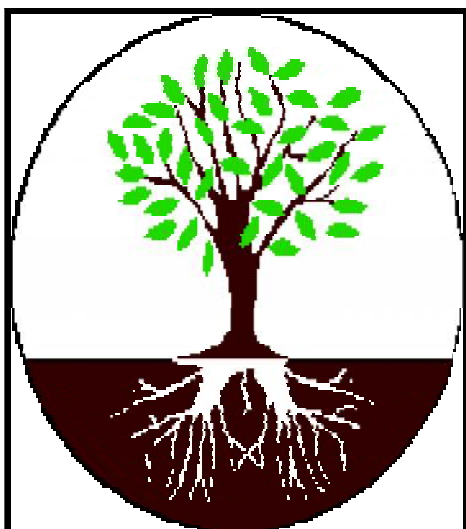
Carl Reiche, at whose farm Bodine has been boarding, has made all the arrangements for the funeral. Mr. Reiche has known Bodine for twelve years and he probably knew the unfortunate man better than any person in the city.

Later reports confirm Coroner Baker's heart failure verdict. Bodine is said to have complained recently of a pain in his left side, and according to Mr. Reiche, the burning of the eating house was a great shock to Bodine, who as a rule did not drink when he had anything to occupy his time. Only recently Bodine returned from Texas, where he purchased five acres of land.

Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Thur., March 30, 1911, page 7

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2011—2012 Officers</b></p> <p>President: Richard Streng    Vice-President: Phyllis McCain  Secretary: Frances Beck    Treasurer: Bernice Walters</p>	<p>Our future meetings:  March 17  April 21  May 19  June 16</p> <p>Join us and bring some one along with you.</p>
<p><b>Madison County Genealogical Society</b>  <b>PO Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702—1031</b></p>	
<p>You may reach our society by mail at the address above or by e-mail at <b>mcgs@telebeep.com</b></p> <p>Send your newsletter information to <b>mcgs.nebraska@centurylink.net</b></p> <p><b>Memberships</b> are \$15 per year starting at the time of your membership and it includes our 12 page bi-monthly newsletter.</p> <p><b>Meetings:</b> 3rd Saturday of each month except December and January at 10 a.m. at 515 Queen City Blvd., Norfolk, NE., Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center.</p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://mcgs.nesgs.org">http://mcgs.nesgs.org</a>  or <a href="http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nemcgs/">www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nemcgs/</a></p> <p>The Nebraska State Genealogical Society is an organization so it is .org — and note there is NO www in front. Remember mcgs is Madison County Genealogical Society and nesgs is Nebraska State Genealogical Society. You can find our website at <a href="http://mcgs.nesgs.org">http://mcgs.nesgs.org</a></p>	
<p><b>Did you know</b> that the memberships in the Madison County Genealogical Society reaches across the United States. Right now we have single memberships in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Arizona, and five in California. We have 11 communities in Nebraska represented in our membership. In addition we share by exchange or give to 9 Nebraska locations outside of our members locations. Plus we send our newsletter to Washington, D. C.; Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Cleveland, Ohio as a way to reach more people. If you have some information you like to share with us from your area with others please let us know. Your contribution is welcomed and it will help a lot of other people . Send your information to: P. O. Box 1031, Norfolk, NE. 68702-1031.</p>	
<p><b>Our Society meeting</b> continued from page 38</p> <p>Bernice Walters informed the group that she has Civil War papers from Michigan that she is willing to make available to anyone interested in them. It was also suggested that we spend sometime after each meeting doing research on the computer as well as using written material in the research room.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. and after the meeting the members spent some time on the computer learning about and experimenting with the FindaGrave website.</p>	

Madison County Genealogical Society  
PO Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702—1031



Your membership renewal  
date is on the address label.

**TEMP RETURN SERVICE      FIRST CLASS**

**The 2012 Nebraska State Genealogical Society (NESGS) Annual Membership Meeting and Conference will be held in Grand Island, Hall Co., Nebraska on May 5th & 6th at the Midtown Holiday Inn.**

**You may contact**

Nebraska State  
Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 5608

Lincoln, NE 68505-0608

**for more information or to obtain a brochure on the conference or go to their website at <http://nesgs.org/>**

## **Contents:**

Mrs. Augusta Griep.... 37, 42-43  
A Tin Box with Treasures ....37, 41  
President's Message / Voss  
Query.... 38, 40-41  
Our Society meeting notes.... 38,  
47  
Birthday listings May 1914....39  
Citizenship request 1954....41  
NESGS May 2012 Conference...43,  
44, 48  
Herman Berdeen / Bodine / "Fred  
Miller" .... 45-46  
How to reach the society....47  
Did you know.....47