

Madison County Remembers...

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EASTER EGG TRADITIONS

Easter presented a light hearted diversion for women settlers as many days beforehand they collected and hid eggs, sometimes creating cooking and baking inconvenience in the kitchen! This was the tradition they brought from their German and European homes-- coloring and decorating eggs, to be hidden and presented to surprised family and friends on Good Friday and Easter morning.

Egg coloring and decoration was a tradition of many ancient people such as Persians, Greeks and Chinese, even before Christianity, with the egg symbolizing rebirth. So also it is a Christian symbol representing the Resurrection of Christ, the triumph of life over death, and continues to be a joyful and dedicated Easter tradition. It's thought the Pennsylvania Dutch Amish people first brought the Easter celebration to this country in the 1720s. The farmers naturally had chickens and eggs. But it was the farmers wives who took on the task of daily collecting eggs, and according to early accounts, "spent hours boiling onion skins, alder catkins, hickory bark, roots, coffee and walnut hulls to obtain the right colors." So perhaps while enjoyable, it was a lot of work for the women and often done in the evenings after children were in bed.

Easter egg coloring and decoration in later years became a family affair in this country as it was a project in which the children were encouraged to use their imagination and talent in beautifying the eggs. Those eggs, of course, were hard boiled and after the novelty décor was sufficiently appreciated, they were eaten with relish on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. In fact, many "Easter Egg" traditions developed egg eating contests throughout the country, as well as special egg decorating classes, displays and contests, all of which further encouraged the Easter phenomenon. The Pennsylvania Dutch women were not the only ones noted for gorgeously decorated eggs. The Ukrainian women created beautifully decorated eggs they called Pysanky, many of which remain on display in museums. American and European women took up egg decorating as a new tradition. Special art classes taught the skills required to copy many of the earliest unique designs, employing modern coloring kits and tools. Many Nebraskans continue the challenge of decorating Easter eggs, supporting the American tradition of Easter egg gifts, and Easter egg displays and awards.

The date of Easter is set each year by two astronomical events: Easter is on the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs on or just after the vernal (spring) equinox. This year Easter is celebrated April 16, 2017.

CAPTAIN HENRY MATRAU of the IRON BRIGADE – Civil War Veteran, Norfolk Mayor and Businessman

Henry Clay Matrau seized upon President Lincoln's call for volunteers for the Civil War. Henry was only 16 years old and a scant 5 feet 5 inches tall in 1861, but neither fact affected his determination to join the military, one way or another. Turned down in Michigan and Illinois, but encouraged by rumors of a new company formation still open in Beloit, Wisconsin, in July, 1861, he hurried to apply and was accepted, but said 'no' to service other than the 'real thing'—no drums, fifes or such for him.

Henry Clay Matrau, born April 24, 1845, near Watervliet, a small village in the northeast corner of Berrien County, Michigan, was the firstborn of his parents, Joseph and Amanda, who were rugged frontier farmers. Joseph's ancestors had emigrated from France to Canada, settling near Montreal. Joseph later moved to the United States where he cleared land under contract in New York, and then in the area of Berrien County, Michigan. Berrien County is in the extreme southwest corner of Michigan, across the lake from Wisconsin. In settlement of his unpaid wages, in 1839 Joseph received 80 acres of farmland near Watervliet which he cleared, and began farming. In 1842 Joseph married Amanda Woodruff, daughter of Deacon Levi Woodruff, who had earlier relocated from New York to Bainbridge Township, Berrien County. Joseph and Amanda began their farm and family life on this acreage, and later in 1850 moved south to Bainbridge Township, their six children being: Henry Clay born 1845; Morgan W. born 1847; Benjamin F. born 1849; Levi W. born 1855; Lucy L. born 1857; and Edward N. born 1860.

The Bainbridge rural school gave Henry a good education, and as he applied himself to the extensive curriculum, geography and history opened up a whole new world beyond the farmstead.

So without second thoughts or fanfare, but with genuine resolve to serve, on July 11, 1861, the farmer boy joined Company G of the Beloit Star Rifles, representing Rock County. Disregarded by him was the caution that he might still be rejected by the federal army. At Camp Randall, Madison, Wisconsin, on July 16th, he and other recruits were mustered into the U. S. Army for three years--- the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment. It was later told that Henry had fitted his large thick soled shoes with additional insoles, and heels, and wore his extra high crowned cap, all of which passed inspection of the mustering officer.



Henry's Civil War experiences were well documented officially, and his perspective on military life was poignant and well described in his letters to his mother, as detailed in a book "Letters Home" edited and published by his great granddaughter, Marcia Reid-Green. Henry's Sixth Wisconsin Volunteers became a regiment of the "**Black Hats**" noted for its distinctive high-brimmed black hat with a large plume, topping the federal army uniform of blue coat and white leggings, replacing the earlier gray. The ferocity and steadiness of their battle at South Mountain in 1862, earned them the reputation and nickname of "**Iron Brigade**" by Gen. George McClellan; the sight of their Black Hats often demoralizing the enemy. At first eager for battle, soon the death toll raised the question of blame for the sacrifice of human life...gone was the bravado of war.

In Henry's letter to his mother in December of 1862, he described the great defeat with thousands of brave men dead on the banks of the Rappahanock, and he goes on-- "the papers all say the soldiers are aching to fight, but the papers are notorious liars." Some major battles in which Henry saw action were the Second Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, the Wilderness and Petersburg. The renowned Iron Brigade suffered more loss of killed and wounded men during the Civil War than any other Union Army brigade. Henry thanked "merciful providence" numerous times for his survival.

Known originally as the "baby of Company G", Henry rose in four years (he had re-enlisted in 1864) from private to captain, with his last battle near Appomattox Courthouse, with Lee's surrender on April 9, 1865, a fitting climax to his military life well lived, and his survival as "a young weather-beaten tanned old veteran". Captain Henry Clay Matrau was mustered out July 14, 1865, honorably discharged at Jeffersonville, Indiana. His last letter to home July 23, 1865 was from Madison, Wisconsin, from where he wrote his first letter to home in 1861. As a "war souvenir" he brought home a branch of the apple tree under which General Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant.



Henry returned to life and business in Watervliet, and on October 8, 1867, he married his cousin, Jerusha Owen Woodruff, daughter of William and Jerusha Owen Woodruff of Three Rivers, Michigan. They lived in Berrien County a number of years before moving to the Midwest, finally arriving in Norfolk, Nebraska in 1885. Henry immediately took an active role in local civic affairs-- was on the Norfolk City Council and served on the Board of Education for 18 years. Local commercial clubs and Mathewson Post of the G.A.R. benefited from his dedicated service. He was employed as the station agent for over twenty years for the Chicago, Northwestern Railway Company. He became Mayor of Norfolk in 1893 and 1894. In 1911 he was elected to the Nebraska House of Representatives from Madison County. One of his greatest accomplishments while Mayor was the purchase by the city of Norfolk of the local, but privately owned, water system. Norfolk citizens supported the issuance of \$40,000 bonds in payment, to place it under Norfolk control. Among many civic interests, he supported increased appropriations for the National Guard, and importantly, was successful in securing appropriations for completing construction on the new Norfolk State Hospital (the now former Regional Center). He authored the act creating the Board of Control of Nebraska institutions.

Matrau Avenue was named in his honor, and although it is short, from Fourth Street west to Seventh Street, south of Pasewalk Avenue, it is recognition of his dedication and service to Norfolk.

Following his retirement from the Railway Company, Henry operated a coal business with a partner---the Matrau and Wille Coal Company at 600 West Norfolk Avenue. In 1912 Henry sold

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600 Norfolk Ave.

Telephone 61

ALL SORTS AND BEST QUALITY

HARD **COAL** SOFT**MATRAU & WILLE**

his coal business, and he and Jerusha moved to Windsor, Colorado, where he operated his own ice and coal business for several years.

Henry Clay Matrau died January 5, 1917 at his home at Windsor, Colorado, and is buried in the Wyuka Cemetery, Lancaster County, Nebraska. At that time he was survived by his wife, Jerusha, one son, and four daughters, also a brother, sister and grandchildren. At his funeral Nebraska representatives of the G.A.R. were present, conducted their burial service

and draped the casket with the Stars and Stripes.

Mrs. H. C. Matrau, Jerusha (Woodruff), wife of the late H. C. Matrau, passed away in Lincoln, Nebraska on Tuesday morning, March 20, 1928, from pneumonia, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. E. K. Lewis, and is also in the Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska.

The Norfolk Veterans Home has built a fabulous new Veterans Memory Plaza where you may purchase a tile to honor any veteran, living or deceased. There are three styles of tiles currently available. One style can be linked to a website where you can upload unlimited data, photos, movies, songs, etc. of your veteran. The second style has only the veteran's photo and service dates. The third option is no photo but the veteran's name and dates of service. There is room for more than 2000 tiles. At present there are slightly more than 300 tiles installed. This veterans memorial is beautiful with the flags, engraved benches, life size bronze statues and an eternal flame. For more information visit the website at <http://supportheroespark.org/veterans-memory-plaza/>

Starting here and continuing in each issue will be the list of veterans and organization that have tiles. Tiles are being added regularly.

Name	Panel, Row, Column			Some tiles are linked to a website at: www.forevermissed.com
Norton, William	2	G	7	No website
Osberg, Eldon M.	4	F	8	See website
Otten, Fred E.	23	F	7	See website
Otto, Thomas E.	10	B	8	No website
Pearson, Donald G.	8	F	1	See website
Peitzmeier, Kenneth J.	9	E	6	See website
Pelster, Ralph	19	D	2	No website
Petersen, Louis E.	21	F	7	See website
Peterson, Howard "Dick" F.	17	F	2	See website
Pfeifer, Marvin John	8	F	2	See website
Pfister, Harold W.	23	F	8	See website

Pfost, Bob	19	E	6	No website
Pfost, Dempsey E.	19	E	5	No website
Pillen, Dale D.	14	F	2	See website
Podoll, Harvey J.	6	F	7	See website
Puffer, Marion E.	8	F	3	See website
Raasch, Arvid O.	7	F	3	See website
Ransen, Lyle	19	C	6	No website
Ravenscroft, Thurl A	21	F	3	See website
Recob, Donald E.	13	F	8	See website
Reese, Gordon	2	D	3	No website
Reigle, Kenneth Charles	1	F	1	See website
Rennerfeldt, Harland D.	15	A	7	See website
Ries, Glen Albert	1	F	2	See website
Robertson, Jr., Victor A.	2	G	1	No website
Robinson, Harold "Rosie"	10	F	5	See website
Rosacker, Johnny W.	1	F	3	See website
Rose, Thomas	1	F	4	See website
Rosenthal, Lawrence J.	20	F	5	See website
Rowley, H. E. "Red"	8	F	4	See website
Ryan, Harold R.	15	A	1	See website
Ryan, Michael L.	15	B	1	See website
Salter, George B.	1	A	8	See website
Salter, John Bauer	1	B	8	See website
Sanders Post 214, Ewing, Nebr.	24	J	8	See website
Scheve, Gary D.	15	F	7	See website
Schleusener, Curt	17	F	5	See website
Schmeckpeper, Norman R.	1	F	5	See website
Schmer, Sr., Conrad John	8	F	5	See website
Schmidt, Otto Diller	8	F	6	See website
Schmidt, Ralph Norman	5	F	7	See website
Schmitt, Clarence A.	8	F	7	See website
Schrad, Paul Frank	5	F	6	See website
Schroeder, LeRoy E.	14	F	3	See website
Schroeter, Paul L.	8	F	8	See website
Schulz, Wyllis A.	16	F	1	See website
Score, Randall	20	C	8	No website
Sebade, Gerald William	12	C	8	See website
Shannon, John B.	5	F	1	See website
Shapiro, Staff Sgt. Edward	16	F	2	See website

The websites are located at **www.forevermissed.com**. This website started as a place to post information about a deceased loved one but has evolved into a place for all persons to put up their information, memories and life history even while still living. **To be continued.**

QUERY from TEMPE ELIZABETH "BETSY" (ATTWELL) BROEKEMEIER (member of our Society)

My name is Betsy, born in Houston, Texas, where I grew up. My parents are Leonard Lyncrgus Attwell and Tempe (Howze) Attwell, both born in Houston, TX.

My dad is related (his grandmother) to the Van Zandts from Van Zandt County, Texas (the county is named for the family.) My mother comes from a long line of Tempes-her first name (Howze, Hinton, Howells, House families.) Tempes-Howze used by other families. My husband and I are both one of four children.

I would like to know more about my relatives and any other information, stories, etc.

I married Thomas Orville Broekemeier. He was born March 23, 1959, in Plainview, NE. to Orville Ernest Broekemeier from Osmond and Kathleen (Behrens) Broekemeier from Plainview, NE. (His mom was a Dewey from Ulysses, NE.- *Thomas is her oldest son.) *Thomas has a double cousin—their mothers are sisters and dads are brothers, born in Plainview, NE hospital.

We were married in Georgetown, Texas, December 31, 1983, at Grace Episcopal Church.

I would like to know more family history, stories, etc. My in-laws, Orville and Kathleen Broekemeier, met at the roller rink in the 1950s in Plainview, Ne. **I would like to have a picture of the roller rink in Plainview, Nebraska.**

On Facebook; betsybroekemeier@gmail.com Ph: 402-371-5393; cell: 640-7679

Spring Greetings from the Madison County Genealogical Society

With no regrets over the March snowstorm that missed us, we enjoyed a walk thru the Verges Park to check what's popping up in this unseasonably warm but welcome early spring weather. It was really too nice to be indoors which excused some members' absence, but that allowed the rest of us to concentrate on some Klug research. A future newsletter will detail the interesting journey of that family, and the record searches involved.

To celebrate that spring is here it's time for a little road trip. With our maps, cameras and the lists of burials in the old Christ and Zion Lutheran Cemeteries, well known as the Bauermeister Cemeteries, we will tour them on Saturday, May 20, 2017, weather permitting. We can carpool from the Museum as usual, possibly 9 A. M. if all in agreement. There will be an additional reminder near that date, also as to proper clothing and shoes. Prior to Memorial Day the annual spring clean-up will have been done, and we are eager to again have a close look at surviving gravestones and known gravesites in these historic Stanton County sites, to update our records.

Happy Easter to everyone!

Society Charter Member Passes Away

Mary (Doughty) Carlisle, passed away Thursday March 16, 2017 at St. Joseph's Rehabilitation and Care Center in Norfolk. Mary was 97. Graveside services were held at Prospect Hill Cemetery and arrangements were handled by Home for Funerals. Mary was a charter member of the Madison County Genealogical Society. Volume 32 Issue 152 of our newsletter (July-Aug. 2011) was a nice story of the Doughty family submitted by Mary Carlisle in May of 2011.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Norfolk, Nebraska Cemetery

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk was founded by members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ixonia, Wisconsin in 1866. The cemetery has Highway 81 on the west and Georgia Avenue on the south.

St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery as walked by the MCGS.

Name	Birth date	Death date	Additional notes
Zutz, Paul F.	4 Sept 1865	4 May 1901	Father, Lot 74
Zutz, Minna A.	8 Jun 1866	5 Jan 1954	Mother, Lot 74
Zutz, daughter of		1 May 1890	Lot 74
Zutz, Ernest	25 Oct 1898	13 Apr 1948	Lot 74
Wagner, Max F.	25 Jul 1890	15 Mar 1927	Lot 74
Wagner, Martha Z.	4 May 1891	6 Feb 1976	Lot 74
Wagner, Herbert M.	14 Aug 1921	22 Oct 1926	Lot 74
Schulz, Howard	1906	1929	Lot 75
Schulz, infant		1927	son of H.G. and C. E. Schulz Lot 75
Schulz, A. C. F.	1876	1938	Lot 75
Schulz, Emma L.	1885	1958	Lot 75
Howe, Norton F.	1882	1945	Lot 75
Howe, Louise D.	1892	1990	Lot 75
Schulz, Ferdinand	1847	1933	Father, Lot 75
Schulz, Louisa	1854	1934	Mother, Lot 75
Neitzke, Carlton D.	1938	1939	son of C. and H. Neitzke Lot 76
Pugsley, Lori Kathleen	23 May 1965	23 May 1965	Lot 76
Korth, Herman	1844	1933	Lot 76
Korth, Bertha	1852	1933	Lot 76
Kluender, August	1874	1946	Lot 76
Kluender, Bertha	1876	1968	Lot 76
Neitzke, Carl H.	28 Apr 1909	30 Oct 1994	
Neitzke, Hildegard M.	18 Jul 1913	27 Feb 1999	married 6 Nov 1932
Uecker, Edward	1865	1941	Father, Lot 39 Outer Drive
Uecker, Hulda	1866	1957	Mother, Lot 39 Outer Drive
Uecker, Paul L.	1893	1969	Lot 39 Outer Drive
Uecker, Mattie B.	1896	1982	married 16 Dec. 1915 Lot 39 Outer Drive

Section B Row 10 South to North

Kruger, Duane M.	12 Jul 1942	13 Jul 1942	Lot 33 Outer Drive
Kruger, Beverly J.	20 Sept 1948	23 Sept 1948	Lot 33 Outer Drive
Kruger, Infant daughter		15-Jun-45	Lot 33 Outer Drive
Kruger, Vera	1920	2013	Lot 33 Outer Drive
Kruger, Arthur	1913	1992	Lot 33 Outer Drive
Rohrke, Richard G.	1872	1940	Lot 35 Outer Drive
Rohrke, Martha E.	1870	1963	Lot 35 Outer Drive
Rohrke, Lloyd E.	1902	1980	Lot 35 Outer Drive

Section C, Row 1 South to North (start on north edge of west half where cement drive ends and go west)

Machmueller, Anna	1895	1923	daughter in law of Rudolph, Lot 81
Machmuller, Rudolph	1874	1930	Lot 81

St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery as walked by the MCGS, continued

Row 2 South to North

Haupt, Frank A.	1876	1923	Lot 83
Stoffer, George	5 Jun 1902	20 Dec 1992	US Army, WWII, PFC, Lot 84
Stoffer, Caroline L.	1902	1983	Lot 84
Stoffer, Bernice I.	6 Oct 1930	26 Dec 1930	Lot 84
Draube, Willis C.	19 Aug 1921	15 Dec 2001	(born Stoffer) Lot 84
Draube, Loretta J.	5 May 1939	16 Aug 2003	Lot 84

Section C, Row 3-4 empty South to North as of 1999

Section C, Row 5, south to north

unmarked graves			Lot 89 One is a child of M/Mrs. Walter Melcher died in summer of 1915
Engel, Anna Christine	1923	1923	infant daughter of Mr/Mrs. Nick Engel Lot 90

Section C, Row 6 south to North

Mather, Lucille	1925	1966	daughter of Howard and Mildred Lot 46
Mather, Dennis	1962	1969	grandson of H. & M. Mather Lot 46
Mather, Howard N.	1889	1946	Father Lot 91
Mather, Mildred A.	1904	1965	Mother, Lot 91
Mather, Karen	1956	1992	Lot 91
Raduenz, Herman	21 Jun 1864	28 Aug 1917	Father Lot 91
Raduenz, Augusta	1868	1965	Mother Lot 91
Raduenz, Paul			Lot 91
Radinz, M. I. A.	4 May 1852	23 May 1896	Lot 92

Section C Row 7 South to North

Unmarked graves			Lot 93 Krause, William owner,
Krause, William	unmarked		Lot 93 Krause, William owner,
Krause, 1st wife	unmarked		Lot 93 Krause, William owner,
Krause, 2nd wife	unmarked		Lot 93 Krause, William owner,
1 boy	unmarked		Lot 93 Krause, William owner,
1 girl	unmarked		Lot 93 Krause, William owner,
Nenow, Alfred H.	1883	1966	Father, Lot 94
Nenow, Anna L.	1891	1982	Mother, Lot 94
Nenow, Adolph W.	1884	1971	Lot 94
Nenow, Lennie E.	1888	1969	Lot 94
Nenow, Herman	1858	1940	Lot 94
Nenow, Minna	1861	1945	Lot 94

Section C, Row 8 south to north

Ebeling, Donald A.	23 Aug 1928	27 July 1997	Brother
Ebeling, Laverna	21 Jul 1922	25 Jun 1986	Sister
Ebeling, Arthur O.	1893	1983	
Ebeling, Marie D.	1898	1988	
Parsons, Alma C.	1885	1969	MM in cement Lot 95
Heckman, William	1894	1926	Father
Brown, Lydia Heckman	1893	1981	Mother (Web, her son in New Lutheran Cemetery)
Brown, Willard H.	1896	1969	Step-father Lot 96

St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery as walked by the MCGS, continued**Section C, Row 9 South to North**

Uecker, Lester A.	25 Jun 1917	11 Aug 1980	US Navy WWII	Lot 40
Klug, Maria	11 May 1863	12 Apr. 1896	First wife of Fred Klug	
Klug, Anhold R.	30 Mar 1896	18 Dec 1896	son	Lot 97
Klug, Fred	1859	1929	Big family stone, also smaller Father stone	Lot 97
Klug, Emilie	1880	1962	Born Klawitter, second wife of Fred	Lot 97
Klawitter, Herman L.	1858	1922	Father	Lot 98
Klawitter, Anna L.	1867	1947	Mother and wife of Herman	Lot 98
Klawitter, wife of Herman	31 Jan 1860	13 May 1902	Wilhelmine,	Lot 98
Klawitter, son W.		1889		Lot 98

Section C, Row 10 South to North

Klug, Wilhelm Sr.	5 Dec 1830	28 Apr 1895		Lot 99, Pioneers of 1866
Klug, Wilhelmine	9 Aug 1829	27 apr 1910	Mother,	Pioneers of 1866, Lot 99
Uecker, Friederike	2 Sept 1805	6 Jan 1899	Mother of Wilhelmine (Klug)	
Biehle, John	1865	1947	Father,	Lot 100
Biehle, Anna	1871	1924	Mother,	Lot 100
Biehle, Fred J.	1903	1940	Father,	Lot 100

Section C, Row 11, South to North

Locht, Eliese H.	21 Jul 1913	11 Jan 1915		Lot 101
Locht, Lillian T.	5 Jan 1916	29 May 1916		3 names on one stone, Lot owner John and Caroline (Dreesen) Locht, these parents are not buried here
Locht, Herbert H.	15 Aug 1918	26 Jan 1921		Lot 101
Schimmelpfennig, Carl	1835	1923	Father,	Lot 102
Schimmelpfennig, Frederika	1838	1928	Mother,	Lot 102

Section D, Row 1 South to North

Machmueller, Oscar	1888	1925	World War I,	American Legion, Lot 106
Machmueller, Edmund	1891	1905		
Machmueller, Gustav A.	1861	1933	Father	
Machmueller, Mary A	1861	1951	Mother	
Kell, Herbert	30 Jan 1903	3 Oct 1904		Lot 107
Kell, Julius	1879	1955	VA Record: Spanish American War	
Kell, Martha	1879	1950	Born Schimmelpfennig	
Dederman, Fred J.	1899	1993		
Dederman, Laura E.	1904	1983		Lot 11 Outer Drive
Dederman, Frederick G.	27 Jan 1932	21 May 1994		Lot 11 Outer Drive

Section D, Row 2 South to North

Bartz, Herman F.	1872	1955		Lot 116
Bartz, Hermine	1872	1944		Lot 116
Bartz, Paul	18 Jan 1907			died at 11 months, Lot 116

This will be continued in the next several issues of the newsletter.

A Soldier and Entrepreneur of the Times

William Henry Widaman was born September 21, 1840 in Miamisburg, Montgomery County, Ohio, and named in honor of President William Henry Harrison (D 1841), hero of the famous "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too" Indian Campaign. William was one of 5 boys, and with 4 sisters, grew up in the typical mid-western farm home. He learned two trades that served him well -- he was a brick mason, and also a cooper. The 1857 bank failures created a new awareness of money among ordinary folks like his parents, and he listened whenever the men, gathered to study the current value of each bank's money, and its depreciation, called "wildcat money".

He had earlier joined the Miami Light Guards so when President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers in 1861, the Miami and Dayton Light Guards combined and were among the first to answer the call, becoming Company C of the 1st Ohio Infantry. Colonel McCook was in command at that time and marched them through Baltimore to Washington, D. C., ignoring totally the hostile remarks along the way. One day the Regiment was standing at attention when a tall man stepped out of an old hack. It was President Abe Lincoln who had come to see the Ohio boys...the first time William had ever seen President Lincoln and he was impressed.

Pvt. Widaman served a total of 4 years in the Civil War, enlisting the second time in the 2nd Ohio Infantry, and rose to rank of Sgt., and acting Commander as circumstances warranted. His Ohio Infantry Regiment was in many battles -- first the Battle of Bull Run and retreat, although he said the 1st Ohio remained on the field until dark. The Regiment fought in Kentucky; in Tennessee had 2 days of very hard fighting at Chickamauga in 1863, where he said he came as close to death as anyone in battle, but escaped with only bullet holes in his clothes. He related that in those days of close range fighting foes came close to one another. Separated by only a small creek he once traded a knife for rebel tobacco.

The battles at Lookout Mt. and Missionary Ridge -- these names will forever live in the memory book of the Civil War. Two of his brothers were fighting and died in the Civil War, one at Fort Donelson with the 11th Illinois, and the other with the 93rd Ohio near Nashville, but word reached him too late of their proximity. In the Sherman 'march to the sea' in 1864 William Widaman became temporary "lieutenant" of his company, a consequence of the grim realities of the war. William Widaman mustered out October 10, 1864 in Columbus, Ohio. Of the then re-organized 2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, at one time 1300 strong, only about 285 were left. They had fought valiantly and given all, in some of the fiercest and bloodiest battles of the Civil War.

With the Civil War over, William Widaman headed west to Godfrey, Illinois where he worked as a miller. In 1869 he had taken the job as deputy sheriff of Madison County, Illinois. After 2 years there, he joined his parents, 2 brothers and 2 sisters, and in 1873 all of them moved to Boone County, Nebraska. They settled on 4 homesteads near present day Petersburg, which was named after his brother in law, John Peters.

In November of 1873 William came to Norfolk and worked for 3 years for John Olney in the grist mill. Dr. D. R. Daniels, local physician, and William Widaman formed the City Drug Store in 1878. Originally it was located on the south side of Norfolk Avenue (then Main Street), about 3 lots from the corner of First Street. Their business prospered and in 1881 totaled \$6,000 for the year. Mr. Widaman was also Postmaster being first appointed October 12, 1879, and served in that capacity about a dozen years as the Post Office moved around according to who

continued on next page

2016—2017 Officers

Phyllis McCain, Bobette Ferguson, Bernice Walters

Madison County Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702—1031

Our Society Website is at

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nemcgs/**Our future meetings**

February 18

March 18

April 15

May 20

Join us and bring a friend

Memberships are \$15 per year. Our membership year runs from September 1st through August 31st annually and includes our newsletter. Joining anytime is welcome and your first year membership will be pro-rated to expire on August 31st. If you would like to join our society please send your payment to our mailing address. Please include your email address. Let us know if you prefer an email newsletter or a paper printed copy.

Meetings on 3rd Saturday of each month except December and January, at 10 a.m. at 515 Queen City Blvd., Norfolk, NE., in the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center.

Queries, Society contact, Change of address, or Newsletter submissions can reach us by mail at our mailing address P. O. Box 1031, Norfolk, NE 68702-1031, or by email at mcs@telebeep.com. We are here to help you in your research .for your ancestors in Madison county.

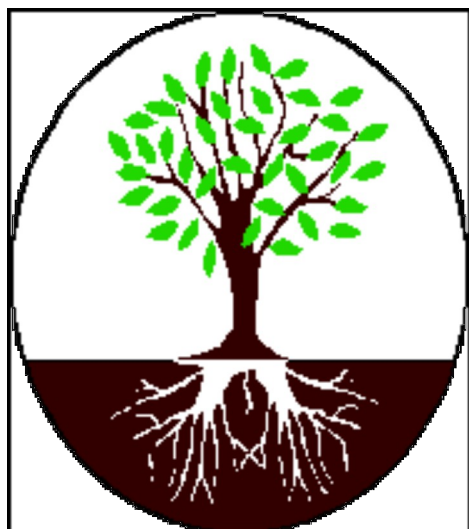
ever was Postmaster. Following sale of his drugstore business to Dr. Daniels in 1880 he moved the Post Office to his new building on the north side of Norfolk Avenue (about 226-228), which was later occupied by the Schenzel Meat Market, and today is Skini's music and media store. It was during his term that the Post Office was robbed in November of 1880, on the eve of Garfield's election. The safe was tapped and \$500 in stamps, 16 registered letters and some cash were taken. The thief made good his escape on a handcar. William then purchased the Semmler Saloon (south side Norfolk Ave between First and Second Streets) and converted it into a Post Office with lock and call boxes, and a fireproof and burglar proof safe. The Post Office moved with the politics of the day—it survived for a short time in the original "Richards Bldg." at 302 Norfolk Avenue west of the old McClary building. The Downtown Coffee Company today sits on that site; the old "Richards Bldg." was demolished years ago.

Civic minded, Mr. Widaman represented the First Ward on the Norfolk City Council for 3 terms. He helped organize and was the first Commander of the G. A. R. Mathewson Post No. 109, and his building at 228 Norfolk Avenue was G. A. R. post headquarters. As elected delegate he attended national encampments, serving as adjutant of the local post for 14 years. He was instrumental in organizing the Norfolk Fire Department, and served as its first Chief. Mr. Widaman was a charter member of Mosaic Lodge No. 55, A. F. and A. M. He served at various times as Chief of Police, and was always an enthusiastic supporter of local business ventures.

In 1878 William Widaman and Miss Elizabeth Wegner were married, and they had 5 children: Mrs. J. Fogerty of Gornoga, Panama; Harley Widaman of Sterling, Co; Miss Fay Widaman of Norfolk; Miss Elizabeth Widaman, a Norfolk High School student, and Edwin Widaman, who attends Norfolk schools.

Mr. Widaman, outstanding pioneer of Norfolk, passed away June 18, 1912 at his home at 119 North First Street, and is buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery, Blk 3, Lot 11, Norfolk, NE. (*This First Street address became the location for the Norfolk City Auditorium—built in 1938-39 as a government WPA project.*)

Madison County Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 1031, Norfolk, NE. 68702—1031



TEMP RETURN SERVICE FIRST CLASS

Your membership renewal date is on the address label.

Coming up in the next issue:

Pioneer history continues with:
Klug family and possibly others if
space allows.

St. Paul's cemetery records as walked by
Madison County Genealogical Society mem-
bers continues

Norfolk Veteran's Memory Plaza with
veterans names and information concludes.

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Upcoming Events

April 28-29, 2017 Nebraska State Genealogical Society annual conference, featured speaker is D. Joshua Taylor from the PBS TV series "Genealogy Roadshow" in Lincoln, information at www.NSGS.org

July 8, 2017, Northwest Missouri Genealogy Society Conference, St. Joseph, MO information at: www.nwmogenealogy.com

July 28-30 2017 International Germanic Genealogy "Connections" Conference, Minneapolis
Marriot Northwest Hotel, Brooklyn Park, MN contact: www.GGSMN.org