



# Madison County Genealogical Society



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## **Alfred Brewer Returns from France**

A number of young people had a very pleasant time at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Brewer Tuesday evening. The guest of honor was Mr. Brewer's nephew, Alfred Brewer, who has just returned from France.

The room was tastefully decorated with flags and roses. The evening was spent in playing various games which were very amusing and interesting, after which dainty refreshments were served.

Mr. Brewer entertained the company with stories of his life as a soldier and a cook. He was sent to Camp Funston, Sept. 18, 1917, and sailed for France June 21, 1918. After landing in France 16 days later, he received training until he was sent to the St. Mehiel front on the Metz offensive. After the armistice was signed Mr. Brewer was sent to Germany with the Army of Occupation thru Luxemburg, Belgium, on to Dusseldorf, Germany. On May 8<sup>th</sup> he sailed for U. S. and was honorably discharged at Cheyenne, Wyo. From here Mr. Brewer goes to Madison to visit his sister.

Source: Meadow Grove News, Friday June 27, 1919 on page 1.

## **Child Injured in Storm**

A little 7-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Best of Enola narrowly escaped death during the wind storm which swept over that section of Madison county last Saturday. The little one was outside the house when the storm broke and was running for the house when a large tree was uprooted and she was caught by the falling branches. She sustained several deep gashes on the head and face and was unconscious for several hours. A physician was called and her wounds were dressed and fears of permanent injuries were dispelled when she regained consciousness. The little lady is getting along very nicely at present and within a short time will be none the worse for the accident which came so near being fatal. Source: Battle Creek Enterprise, Thursday, May 20, 1920, page 1.

## **Wind and Hail Storm**

The wind and hail storm which passed thru the territory north of Enola Saturday afternoon blew down several trees on the farm of Elmer Best. His little eight year old girl was playing out in the yard and had started for the house when a branch from one of the trees was blown down struck her fracturing her shoulder and her body was also painfully bruised. Source: Madison Star-Mail, Friday, May 28, 1920, page 7.

## **Enola View Stock Farm one county's rural show places**

A part of the Star-Mail force took a little auto run into the Enola country Sunday afternoon and spent a very pleasant hour at the Enola View Stock Farm. It is always a pleasure to meet such hospitable people as Mr. and Mrs. James C. Brosh.

The Enola View Stock Farm comprises a half section and is beautifully located just a mile north of Enola and one of the best small town trading points in this part of the state.

The Enola View Stock Farm is making a specialty of Pure Scotch and Scotch Top cattle. Mr. Brosh is getting a fine start in this famous breed of cattle. He has six cows, two of which are exceptionally fine cows, second to none we have ever seen and his herd has just lately been increased to nine by three fine calves, one heifer and two bulls. If Mr. Brosh keeps up the pace he has started the past year the old breeders will have to whip up if they keep up with him.

Mr. Brosh also has a fine bunch of Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has about 100 spring pigs, but on account of the bad rainy weather he says they did not do as well as they would under more favorable circumstances, but we thought they were a fine lot of pigs.

Mrs. Brosh has a fine flock of pure blood R. C. White Wyandotte chickens, she intends to sell off all other chickens and raise nothing but the Wyandottes.

Mr. Brosh was out in the field last Saturday when the big storm passed through that section. He saw it coming and started for the house, but it caught him about half way in. The storm blew almost all of the fans off the windmill, parts of which began to fall around Mr. Brosh as he was coming to the house. The dust was so thick he could not see and he thought the boards were coming from some of his buildings. Mrs. Brosh and their two fine children, a girl and boy, went out into the storm cave. By the way, the Brosh's have one of the best storm caves we ever looked at and it would take an earthquake to be able to do any damage to it.

Mr. Brosh has taken some pictures of his fine cattle and if they prove to be good ones we may be able to show our readers a good likeness of them and a more complete description in the near future. Source: Madison Star-Mail, Friday, May 28, 1920, page 5.

### **County News Notes**

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sunderman left the latter part of last week for Smithville, Ontario, Canada, for an extended visit with relatives and to be present at the golden wedding anniversary of Mrs. Sunderman's parents.

Connie Funk of Atkinson, Ed. Funk of Ainsworth, Maden Funk of Page and Mrs. Novella Gunthorpe of Lincoln were in Battle Creek Sunday to attend the funeral of their brother-in-law, James D. Taylor. They remained over for a short visit at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Funk. Source: Battle Creek Enterprise, Thursday, May 20, 1920, page 1.

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Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Flannigan spent Sunday with their daughter, D. F. LaFlavor.

Howard Farage was visiting at the home of his uncle James Dugan.

Miss Anis Coley is visiting her uncle, F. B. Flannigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Olin of Norfolk spent Thursday with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Graves.

Mrs. S. Burdwhistle of Stanton, visited with her daughter, Mrs. Barr, who was operated on at the Campbell hospital the first of the week.

Mrs. William Bennett of Battle Creek is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wiedeman.

John Louisberg moved his family from Sioux City into the house he recently purchased from his mother, Mrs. Myers.

Mrs. Jack Klam returned to her home at Omaha Thursday after a week's visit with her sister, Mrs. John Fuchs and family. Source: Madison Star-Mail, Friday, May 7, 1920, page 12.

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Mrs. Anna Tewksberry and daughter, Lola, spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Beaty.

Miss Lizzie Kaler spent a few days last week with her sister, Mrs. Arthur Smith. Source: Madison Star-Mail, Friday, May 21, 1920, page 10

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Mrs. Christine Kamrath of Norfolk spent Friday with her mother, Mrs. Christiansen who was 80 years old that day.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Evans drove up to Holt county, Saturday, where Mrs. Evans was called on account of the serious illness of her father, Mr. Tavenner. W. P. returned on Monday and Mrs. Evans will remain with her parents for a few days. Source: Madison Star-Mail, Friday, May 28, 1920, page 7.

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Mr. and Mrs. Garrett and Dr. and Mrs. Long were at West Point Sunday the occasion being the 86<sup>th</sup> birthday of Grandma Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Underberg and children of Ceresco, Nebraska spent several days the past week with Mrs. Otto Underberg and Mrs. Ben Davis, mother of Mrs. Underberg. Madison was formerly the home of Mr. and Mrs. Underberg. Source: Madison Star-Mail, Friday, June 4, 1920, page 2.

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Marion Zavodsky is staying with her brother in Emerick.

Clarence Dahlsten was assisting his uncle, Hans Dahlsten, with his farm work last week. Source: Madison Star-Mail, Friday, June 18, 1920, page 1.

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Mr. and Mrs. Leo Rucha of Enola, spent Sunday with J. J. Machacek and family. Mrs. Rucha is a cousin of Mr. Machacek. Source: Meadow Grove News, Friday, May 14, 1920, page 1.

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Mrs. Lawrence Hansen of Omaha, is spending a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Rouse.

John Kleider's attended church in Battle Creek Sunday morning, then spent the remainder of the day at the home of Mrs. Kleider's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Eyl. Source: Meadow Grove News, Friday, May 21, 1920, page 1.

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Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cloyd of Norfolk spent Sunday at the home of Mrs. Cloyd's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Brewer.

Mrs. A. S. Kuderna and son, Earl, of Los Angeles, Calif., are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Brown. Mrs. Kuderna is a sister of Mrs. Brown. Source: Meadow Grove News, Friday, June 4, 1920, page 1.

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Mrs. Luella Keller, recently of W. Va., is visiting her sister, Mrs. John Hunt. Source: Meadow Grove News, Friday, June 11, 1920, page 1.

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Chas. Herlocker of Tekamah, Nebr. One of the early settlers of Madison county, who formerly homesteaded on the farm west of town, now owned by Albert Cress, accompanied by his son, Bert, and his two daughters, Grace and Dot, arrived here Saturday and are spending a few days at the

home of his cousin, R. E. Rouse. Mr. Herlocker came here in 1871 and left here in 1876 for Eastern Iowa, and has lived near Tekamah since 1880.

Source: Meadow Grove News, Friday, June 18, 1920, page 1.

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Hazel and Walter Windsor of Lincoln, spent last week with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Cunning, and their uncle, Sam Livinghouse, returning to their home Monday.

Alm. and Roy Oehring and families of Neligh spent Sunday at the home of their sister, Mrs. Freel Stamper.

Source: Meadow Grove News, Friday, June 18, 1920, page 1.

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Mrs. J. L. Berry, who was visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wilson, left here Saturday for Lincoln, where she will spend a few days with her sister, Mrs. W. J. Brochu, after which she will leave for her new home at Raymer, Colo. Source: Meadow Grove News, Friday, June 25, 1920, page 1.

**Battle Creek Inventor  
John W. Kovalek gets patent for  
machine**

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**Is to adjust wagon Axles**  
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**Hubs and Axles of Wagons and Buggies can be Rigidly tightened by the new device of the  
Madison county Blacksmith—Has Another**

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Battle Creek has an inventor. John W. Kovalek is that same. He has just received notice from Washington from his attorneys, C. A. Snow & Co., that his patent on a device for adjusting hubs and axles on buggies and wagons, was granted a week ago today, January 10, 1905.

Mr. Kovalek was in Norfolk yesterday. The machine which has been reeled out of the brain of the Madison county man at Battle Creek is so arranged that, by tightening up screws that adjust the axles, any loosed hubs are immediately pulled rigidly together, saving rattling and unnecessary wear and tear.

Mr. Kovalek invented the machine last year and applied for his patent on August 20, 1904. Since that time is has been going through the course of events in officedom at Washington.

The machine will either be sold by Mr. Kovalek or it will be manufactured by himself and sold. He is pleased with the success of the device and his friends in the county are glad for him.

He has another patent pending, which will likely be ready before long.

Mr. Kovalek is a blacksmith at Battle Creek and has lived there for years. On the patent sheet the names of T. M. Morris and Herman Hogrefe appear as witnesses.

Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Tuesday January 17, 1905 on page 3.

**TWO BEDS FOR NINE PEOPLE  
Half of the Wilkinson Family Ill—One Cripple, One Blind**

Two small, illy covered beds for the accommodation of a family of nine people—seven sick children, a father and a blind, feeble mother, is the picture which greets the visitor at the Wilkinson

home, a little house at the corner of Eighth street and Norfolk avenuen. Surrounded by the most sickening destitution, their breath freezing up inside the home because of the cold, no carpets to take away the chill of the cold, damp floors, and but one tiny stove to heat the building—that is the situation mildly told.

Young Wilkinson, a youth of eighteen and a cripple, who had been employed in a livery stable, was yesterday taken sick along with the other children of the family and is today flat on his back. A little 15-year-old girl does, or tries to do, all of the housework, while the blind, helpless mother is ill on one of the beds. Some of the children sleep on the floor.

The family is in sore need of bedding. Blankets, quilts or comforters would find a warm welcome these cold nights, as would also an old rug or so, for the floors.

"I have worked every day that I could get work," said the father, Wilkinson, today. Source: The Norfolk Weekly News—Journal, Fri. Feb. 10, 1905, page 2.

### **REFUSE TO GO TO POOR FARM Wilkinson Family Intend to Remain a Charge Upon the Public**

An effort has been made on the part of Mayor Hazen and others to induce members of the Wilkinson family, corner Eighth street and Norfolk avenue, to become inmates of the county poor farm at Battle Creek. And the Wilkinsons, despite their admitted destitution, have refused to go over the hills to the poor house for a single minute. Not they. The family has been a charge upon the public for some time. During the cold snap, when the children were suffering through no fault of their own, the inability of the father to provide for them was overlooked in the one aim to prevent their suffering. But this does not end their poverty, there is no charitable society in Norfolk and there is a poor farm where they might go and be taken care of. They refuse to either take care of themselves or to take advantage of the latter alternative.

Source: The Norfolk Weekly News—Journal, Fri. Feb. 10, 1905, page 3.

### **PITIABLE CONDITION OF A FAMILY Mother Blind and Little Children Suffering From the Cold**

A pitiable condition of poverty and suffering was reported yesterday to the police from the Wilkinson home, corner Eighth street and Norfolk avenue, and in response coal and food were ordered sent to the place. The reports came from neighbors and others who had noted the exceedingly destitute condition of the place.

Upon investigation it was found that the mother, Mrs. Wilkinson, was blind and was suffering from the cold. A large number of small children, with scarcely enough to keep them warm, huddled near a little stove in an attempt to keep warm. This case has been repeatedly reported to societies, charitably inclined and on a number of occasions assistance has been granted. The father lives in the city and one son is employed in a livery stable. Source: The Norfolk Weekly News—Journal, Fri. Feb. 10, 1905, page 3.

Editors notes: In the same issue of the paper as the above items an article about the family was found that carried no headlines. The item was found within all the other items in that column of news.

The Wilkinson family, housed at the corner of Eighth street and Norfolk avenue, have for the past three days been "at home" to an unusual number of visitors. In fact a regular reception, somewhat informal in its nature and to which those came who had not received engraved invitations, has been held. The Wilkinson family is the household whose destitution attracted attention last week and as a result of that attention dozens of kind hearted and charitably inclined Norfolk people have seen to it that the suffering in that home was relieved. Beds, and bedspreads, quilts and comforters, rugs and clothing, flour and bread have been among the list of articles ordered sent to the place, and great joy has been brought into the home as a result.

Source: The Norfolk Weekly News—Journal, Fri. Feb. 10, 1905, page 7.