

# NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 1031

Norfolk, NE 68701

VOLUME 10 - NUMBER 39

APRIL, 1989

3RD QUARTER

Dear Members:

In the absence of our President, Joyce Barlow, I will write a short note. Joyce Barlow and another member, Dee Sewell, are on their way to Washington D.C. for the National D. A. R. Convention. Along the way both going and coming they are doing research on their families. Hope they find lots of good information and maybe even some good tips and suggestions for us.

Just a reminder - we receive many newsletters in exchange with other societies. Much good information is included in these newsletters and is well worth your time to borrow these from the society and browse through them.

Two very good workshops are coming up that will be well worth attending. On April 29, 1989, the Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society (ENGS) is sponsoring "An All Day Czech Genealogical Workshop" at Midland College in Fremont featuring Margie Sobotka, Czech Genealogical and Researcher and member of ENGS. On May 5 and 6, 1989 - Nebraska State Genealogical Society (NSGS) is holding their 12th Annual Meeting at the Holiday Inn I-80, Grand Island, Nebraska, featuring Dr. George K. Schweitzer, an expert in military genealogy, genealogical sources and techniques, German genealogy, a southern states genealogical research. Hope you can attend one or both of these. See outlines elsewhere in this newsletter with details on the above workshops.

Our Society meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Future meeting dates are May 16, June 20, July 18, and August 15, 1989, at Logan Antenna Shop, 200 Braasch Ave., Norfolk. See you there!!

We are in need of a new meeting place as Logan's Antenna is growing and have less room for us to meet there. Anyone having a suggestion, let us know. New members are always welcome.

Joyce Borgelt

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We express our sympathy to Marge Fuhrmann and family on the sudden death of her husband Fred W. Fuhrmann on April 12, 1989.

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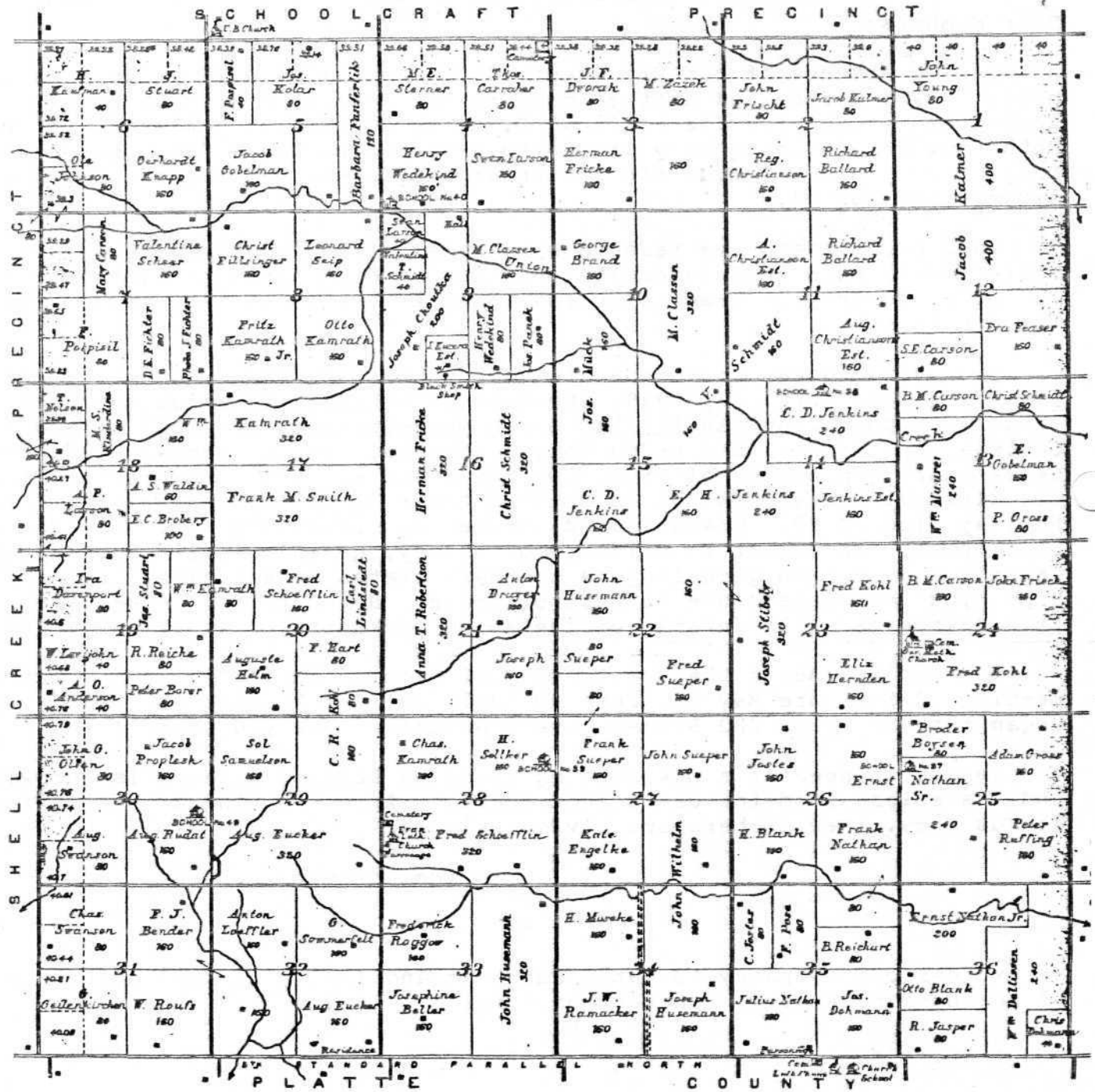
Hours are changed at LDS family History Center. Check before going out.

# PLAT OF KALAMAZOO

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.

Township 21 North. Range 3 West.

of the 6th Principal Meridian.



## K A L A M A Z O O P R E C I N C T

The town of Kalamazoo was an inland locality in Schoolcraft precinct, doubtless named for Kalamazoo, Michigan. The next precinct south was named Kalamazoo. The name derives from negikanamazo, a word of some Indian language, variously translated as "otter tail, beautiful water, boiling water, or stones like otters."

Kalamazoo is located in the southern part of the county. The post office was established June 23, 1874, discontinued the 2 April, 1887, reopened the 26 May, 1887, and discontinued June 24, 1904. C. D. Jenkins was postmaster in about 1883. The town is surrounded by a fine farming and well-settled county.

### IOWA VALLEY UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

The Iowa Valley United Brethren in Christ Church was organized at the home of Rev. John Hotskin on Sunday, 5-28-1882. Trustees for the original incorporation were: A. A. Webster, President; John Hotskin, Vice President; Julian Hatch, Secretary; Charles Olson and Cyrus Barnes, Laymen.

Rev. Hotskin and wife Cynthia Ann James came with their family to homestead six miles north and six miles east of Newman Grove, the site of the Iowa Valley Cemetery. He was an evangelist and with his wife ministered to the homestead country. He traveled the area, Tilden, (known as Burnett then), West Hill Swedish Methodist Church, Looking Glass, Fairview, Walnut Grove, St. Clair and others. His small black record book of marriages, deaths and baptisms is a prized heirloom of his granddaughter, Hazel Luttmann.

On 8-3-1882, Rev. Hotskin's daughter, Mary Olson, wife of Charles, deeded one acre to the Trustees of the United Brethren Church for a church building six miles

north and four miles east of Newman Grove. In 1920 the church was dissolved and the church building relocated to the homestead of Frank and Frances Pospisil. Mrs. Pospisil kept it as a summer kitchen, while raising the family of eleven children. It stands today, as a tribute to the spirit of the Iowa Valley Community.

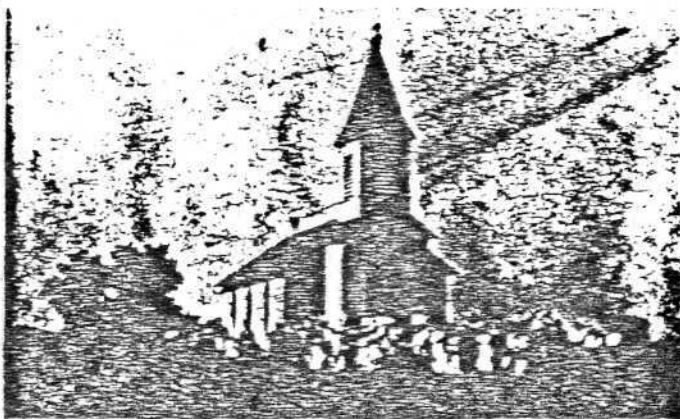
### IOWA VALLEY CEMETERY

The Iowa Valley Cemetery is located on the northeast corner of the original homestead of Rev. John Hotskin six miles north and six miles east of Newman Grove. When Rev. Hotskin's son Marion, died of an ailment in 1872, a suitable tract of land was set apart as a cemetery.

The Iowa Valley Cemetery Association was formed on 8-17-1912. The incorporators were: Frank Pospisil, James Adanek, Frank G. Dvorak, Tom Panek, Frank Panek, and Charles Olson.

The cemetery is a lasting monument to the memory of its founders and is being kept today as one of the prettiest country cemeteries.

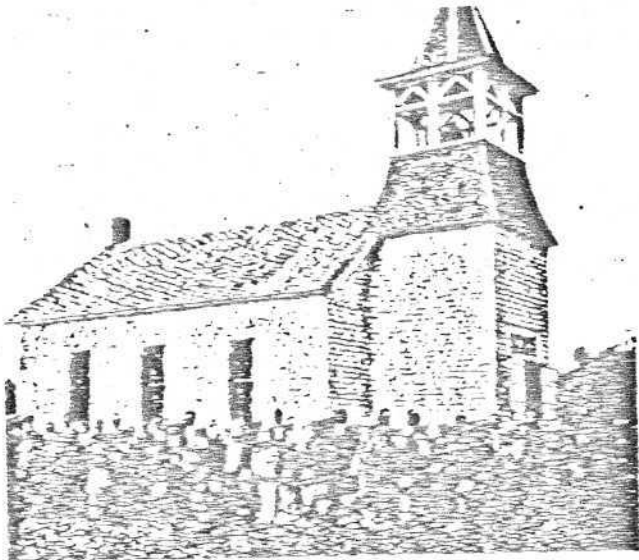
Rev. John Hotskin and his wife, Cynthia, lived in Long Pine, NE after leaving the Newman Grove area. Both chose to be buried at Iowa Valley Cemetery on the site of their original homestead.



Iowa Valley Church, early 1900's

Iowa Valley Cemetery is located in the Northeast Quarter of Section 4, Township 21 North, Range 3 West.

The Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of rural St. Bernard was located in Section 35, Township 21 North, Three West. The cemetery is located across the road in Platte County, Section 2, Township 20 North, Range 3 West. The church is no longer there.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School - 1929  
St. Bernard

### ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ST. BERNARD)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Missouri Synod was organized in 1873. A few scattered Lutherans appointed the Rev. G. Hoffman of Green Garden Church as their pastor. They met in an old school house west of its location, eight and one-half miles east of Newman Grove in Platte County. They built a school and parsonage. The Rev. Hoffman traveled this distance by buggy and on horseback. In 1887 a call was extended to Rev. Rudolf, who became the first resident Pastor. In 1920 the old school burned and a new one was built in 1921. The growth was never great but in 1931, there were 118 members. With the coming of the automobile, people slowly began moving and transferring elsewhere.

Through the years they had eleven pastors, the last one being Rev. E. H. Marquardt. The school closed in 1940. In 1952, there were eight families left, namely, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Nathan, Mr. and Mrs. Eimer Nathan, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schroeder, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nathan, and Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Franzen. This group could not continue, disbanded and joined with the members of St. Peter's in Humphrey, the Rev. Marquardt serving both parishes. The congregation was officially dissolved in 1953, the property and furnishings were disposed of. The cemetery is still being maintained.

The German Evangelical Lutheran Zion -Wedekind Church and Cemetery is located on the west side of Section 28, Township 21 North, Three West. The church is no longer there.

### GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ZION CHURCH (WEDEKIND CHURCH)

11-21-1885, Fredrick and Dorthea Schoepflin (great grandfather of Irene (Wedekind) Ehlers) in consideration of \$5 00, sold a plot of land for the purpose of building a church, parsonage and cemetery plot; this being five miles east and one and a half miles north of Newman Grove, Ne.

1-4-1888, a meeting was held at the German Evangelical Zion church, for the purpose of organizing a congregation and electing church officers. The Rev. C. Burchers was chairman and Theodor Beltz, secretary. The name adopted was The German Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church, Ohio Synod. The confession of the Lutheran Church of AD 1580 known as the "Book of Concord" was adopted. Officers elected were Rev. C. Burchers, August Eucker, Frederick Schoepflin, Christian Wollin and Theodor Beltz.

The first pastor to serve was Rev. George Bohn from 1890-1891. In 1895-1914 the Rev. John Weber (grandfather of Irene Ehlers) served the parish. Before 1932 both German and English services were held. In 1932 it was changed to two consecutive Sundays English and the third Sunday German.

During the "Depression" years the congregation suffered financially and mentally. Back wages of Pastor C. M. Hollensen, who served from 1929-1933 were paid in full in 1960.

Mrs. Ehlers remembers her mother, Mrs. Gustav (Weber) Wedekind, telling of activities of the church. The Ladies Aid met in homes on Sunday with a noon meal and their husbands as guests. Mission Festivals were held



German Evangelical Lutheran Zion-Wedekind Church  
and parsonage

with guest speakers in the morning and afternoon, with a dinner at noon. There was a Vacation Bible school each summer. The men had a baseball team and the women played "kitten ball" having competitive games with neighboring churches.

The Rev. J. Beckmann of Albion, served as vacancy pastor from 1933 until his death in 1952. The congregation had hoped for better financial conditions. This did not happen, and the church became vacant from 1952-1957, when it was disbanded.

In 1960 a meeting was held and it was decided to give the lumber in the old church to the Mid-Nebraska Lutheran Home, to be used in the new addition. Members of the congregation were given items from the church, and the Communion Ware and the Baptismal Font were given to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Omaha.

On 11-30-1962, all the land except the cemetery was deeded back to Mrs. Gustav Wedekind and her sister Margaret Weber.

The corner stone was saved, when the church was dismantled. In 1973 it was placed near the entrance to the cemetery, with the inscription, "Zion Lutheran Cemetery, in memory of Walter Wedekind, 1973, corner stone of church - 1897"

Former members have established membership in churches in the area and in Newman Grove.

**Kohl Cemetery is located in Section 24, Township 21, Range 3 West.**

### Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kohl

Long Time Residents

Mrs. Albert Kohl, the former Louise Ganskow, came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Ganskow, three brothers and one sister from Volin, Germany, at the age of four. They settled at Norfolk where her father owned and operated a brick kiln. Her mother died when she was eight and she and her sister cared for the younger brothers. Louise Ganskow married Albert Kohl on April 13, 1891. Albert, who was born in Wisconsin, came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Kohl, in a covered wagon at the age of two. They took a homestead in Kalamazoo Precinct. Albert had two sisters and three brothers. During those years the closest town was Columbus from where supplies were hauled by ox team. Mr. Kohl also remembered his father using oxen for plowing. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kohl began housekeeping in Green Garden Precinct. In 1896 they moved to a farm seven miles south and three-fourth east of Meadow Grove where they lived for fifty-five years. They moved to Madison in 1951. Their children are Oscar, Fred, Ruth Kohl Ganser, Eva Kohl McKnight, Viola Procknow, Elwood, Irvia, Elmer, Clarence, and August is deceased.

The family table usually included twelve to fourteen people as the nine children, parents and often relatives were present. When they attended church at Kalamazoo it meant a sixteen mile drive in an open vehicle with a hot brick for a foot warmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Kohl are both deceased. Mrs. Kohl lived until she was 98 years of age.

## MADISON PRECINCT

MADISON H. M. Barnes and his sons made the first settlement here in the fall of 1868. Madison is usually stated to have been named after the county. Town founded by a German colony of 20 from Wisconsin. It is also authoritatively stated that the town was named by Herman Madison Barnes, son of Frank Barnes, homesteader of the present site. The precinct is also named Madison. Madison won county seat election over Norfolk and Battle Creek in 1875.

Peak population (1980), 1,950. Post office established December 23, 1869.

### St. Leonard's Catholic Church

By HELEN HENRY

Member of St. Leonard's Catholic Church

A journey back in time would find a limited number of Catholics in the Madison area when the county was organized in 1868.

The first Catholic service was held in the home of John Dieter, six miles west and two miles south of Madison. The priest, the Rev. J.P. BeCard, came from Frenchtown near Ewing. Later services were held in the homes of Patrick O'Shea and Thomas Lindner about twice a year by the Revs. Fred Ubing and Anselm Puetz.

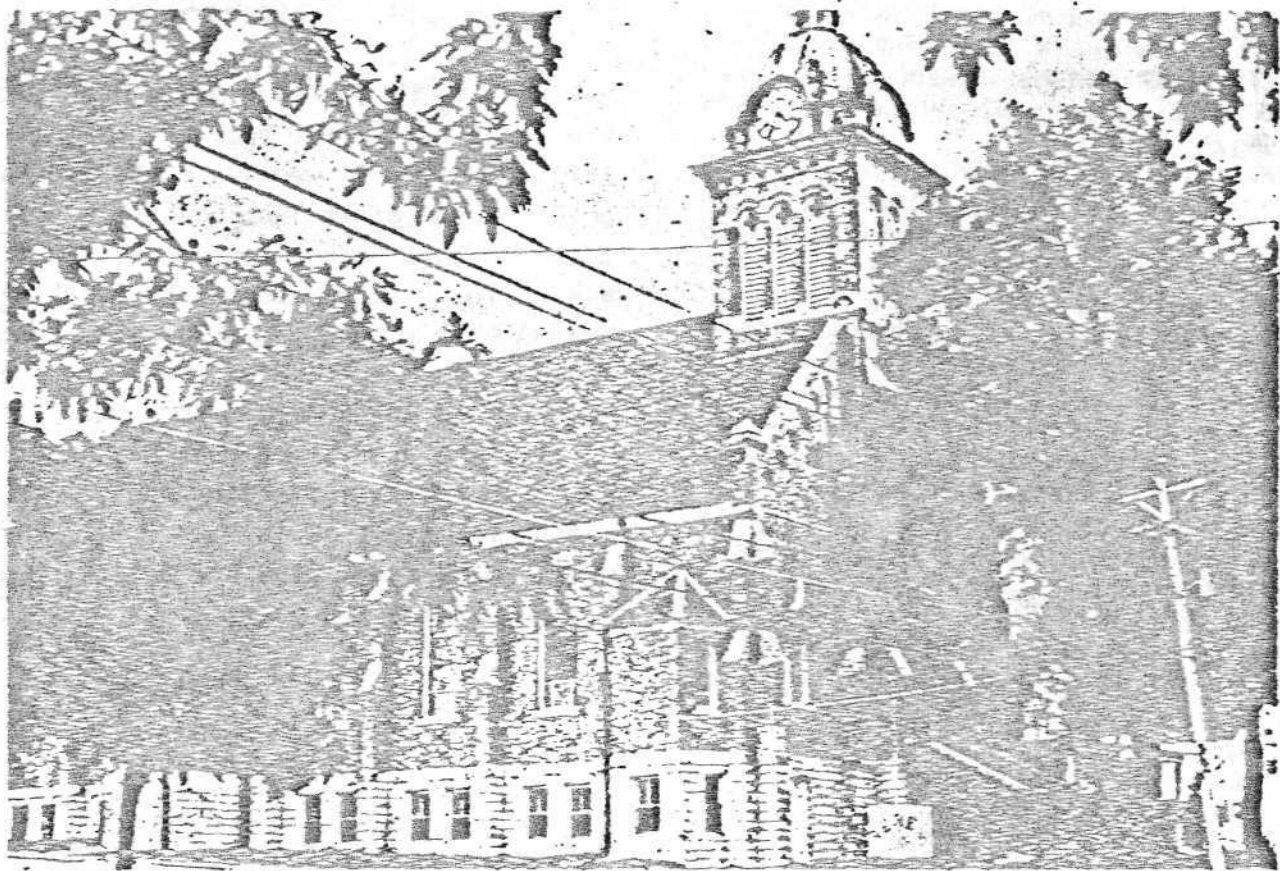
The troubled times of the 1870s delayed the building of a church. The rural people were plagued with drought, depression and grasshoppers. Corn sold for as little as sixteen cents a bushel. Much of it was burned for fuel.

With the coming of the railroad and still more settlers in the area, the need for a church became apparent. In 1878, a small group of Catholics met at the home of Wm. Abis in Stanton County to plan the building of a church. Those present at the meeting were the Rev. Cyprian Branschield, a Franciscan missionary, Michael Adelman, Anton Ganser, Joseph Lindner Sr., Thomas Lindner, George Malin Sr., Patrick O'Shea, John Reisinger and Joseph Rief Sr.

THE FIRST TRUSTEES of the church, Pat O'Shea and Thomas Lindner, purchased five acres of land upon a hill north and west of the present Catholic Cemetery. Men from the parish drove their ox teams to Wisner to haul the first loads of lumber for the church. The first church was completed in of 1881 at a cost of \$957.61. It was dedicated to St. Leonard, who is the patron saint of parish missions. The church measured 40 by 30 feet and had a seating capacity of 100. Services were held twice a month until 1902.

By 1898 the church was too small and too far from town. It was then moved into town in two sections. A third section was added between the other two increasing the seating capacity to 180. The dedication at the new site took place on November 9, 1898.

For 30 years, from 1880 until 1910, the church services were conducted by the Franciscan Missionaries of Columbus.



St. Leonard's Catholic Church in Madison dates back to 1878.

A cemetery was purchased and blessed in 1882. By 1901 additional land was purchased east of the church and plans were drawn to build a new church, and remodel the old one to be used as a school. Due to a lack of funds to build the church as designed, a temporary basement church was built at a cost of \$8,000. The church was dedicated on Feb. 17, 1903 and it served the parish for the next 10 years.

THE SCHOOL WAS opened in 1903, closed in 1926, and reopened in 1931 as a boarding school under the supervision of the Benedictine Sisters in Norfolk. The boarding program was discontinued in the 1940s, but the school continued to operate there until a new school was built in 1954. In 1978, when the nuns could no longer staff the school, the seventh and eighth grades were transferred to the public school and three lay teachers were hired to teach grades one through six. At the present time there are sixty students enrolled in the school.

In 1910 the Franciscans turned the parish over to the care of the diocese of Omaha. The first diocesan pastor was the Rev. Edward S. Munich. Under his pastorage the rectory was completed and furnished in 1912 at a cost of \$10,374.

The work of completing the basement church began on March 23, 1913. The cornerstone of Vermont granite was laid and dedicated in May 1913 and the church was dedicated on Dec. 4th of the same year. The magnificent interior of Romanesque design is considered beautiful. Frescoe paintings decorate the walls and the entire ceiling of

the altar area has an enormous oil painting. In the center of the sanctuary is a high altar donated by the children of John Malone. The high altar and two side altars are made of hand carved white wood decorated in white and gold and adorned with onyx columns. The hand carved communion rail and the altar tops are covered with marble. An artistic tabernacle on the main altar was donated by the family of Dr. John Brockhaus.

THE 14 HAND PAINTED stain windows from Germany represent the life of Christ from his birth to his Ascension. Twenty-five additional hand painted, stained glass windows of various sizes and shapes depict the saints and symbols of the church. The seating capacity in the church is around 700.

Adorning the interior walls of the church are 14 beautiful stations of the cross. Above the main entrance is a choir loft supporting a gigantic pipe organ. Hanging high in the dome is a peal of three bells harmoniously cast weighing 900, 1,600 and 2,500 pounds. There is also a great clock with six foot dials facing all directions. The bells are so attached to the clock that they strike every quarter hour. The bells were donated by all the citizens of Madison. The total cost of the church was about \$75,000.

Since its beginning, St. Leonard's has been blessed with devout and dedicated pastors. Since 1913 there have been 13 diocesan pastors. The Rev. James Ryberg, the present pastor, came in 1986.

During the 108 years of the parish history two parishioners have become priests and five parishioners entered convents.

Through these years the parishioners of St. Leonard's have worked hard and made many sacrifices to maintain and preserve this beautiful church. They have worked to address both the spiritual and material needs of the parish. Annual summer bazaars were started in 1939 and continue this day in the form of a Fall Festival held each year in November.

Church membership (families) at the time of the Centennial celebration in 1980 numbered 280. The count remains about the same today.

## Trinity Lutheran Church, Madison, Nebraska.

Trinity Lutheran Church was organized November 8th, 1885, with 22 voting members. The Rev. J. Hoffmann, then pastor of the church in Green Garden precinct, was its first pastor, being succeeded in 1887 by the Rev. E. Denninger, who served the congregation until 1906. In this year the Rev. H. F. Hensick was called as first resident pastor, and still is the present incumbent.

In 1887 a small church had been built. When the number of members had increased to 40, it became necessary to erect a larger building. The new church was dedicated November 7th, 1909. It is located in the southwest part of the city of Madison. Regular services are held every Sunday at 10 A. M.

Since 1906 Trinity Church also maintains a parochial school, considering this the best means of rearing its children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. In this school, besides religion, the branches of the eight grades of the common elementary school are taught, and thus the children are reared to be loyal to their country, their church and their God. In January, 1918, a special teacher was called, so as to relieve the pastor of this work, and Mr. E. G. H. Becker is now in charge of the school. It is conducted exclusively in English, and attended by 35 pupils.

The present officers of the church are:

Pastor, H. F. Hensick; Secretary, R. F. Huelle; Treasurer, Andr. Kalmer; Deacons and Trustees, Aug. Boysen, Adam Emrich, Fred Huelle.

A Ladies' Aid Society was organized in 1911, the meetings being held at the homes of the members on the second Friday of each month. It numbers 30 members. The officers are: President, Mrs. Fred Zessin; Vice President, Mrs. Emil Huelle; Secretary, Mrs. Dan Scheer; Treasurer, Mrs. H. F. Hensick.

So far, six young men of the congregation are in the service of their country. They are: Cecil Kamrath, Reinhold Kaul, Ernest Moehnert, Gustav Purtzer, Walter Purtzer, Kenneth Strother.

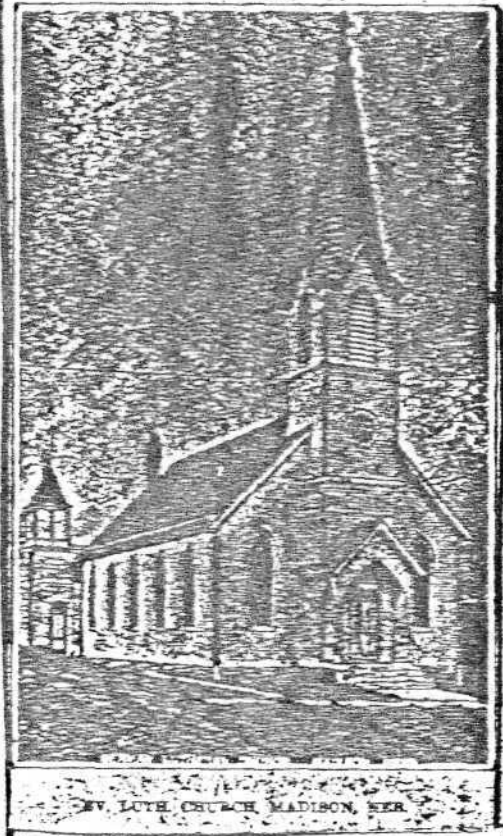
The number of those baptized since the organization of the congregation is 360; confirmed (since 1906), 60; marriages, 63; deaths, 70. It now numbers 270 souls, 148 communicant; and 40 voting members. The membership includes the following:

Mrs. Annuschat  
E. G. H. Becker  
\*August Boysen  
Broder Boysen  
Fred Brechler  
Arno Bretschneider  
\*Paul Bretschneider  
Mrs. Bretschneider  
Henry Bruse  
Mrs. Henry Christiansen  
\*Ketel Christiansen  
Mrs. Aug. Christiansen  
Mrs. Clothier  
\*Fred Dittberner  
\*Otto Dittberner  
\*Adam Emrich  
Albert Emrich  
Eugen Emrich  
Mrs. Feiling  
Rev. E. Frese  
\*Jul. Froelich  
\*Dr. Chas. Hartner  
Mrs. Heckstein  
\*August Hintz  
\*Emil Hintz  
Wm. Hintz

John Huber  
\*Emil Huelle  
\*Ernest Huelle  
\*Fred Huelle  
\*Herman Huelle  
\*Reinhold Huelle  
\*Andr. Kalmer  
\*Chas. Kamrath  
\*Fred Kamrath  
Mrs. Frank Kamrath  
\*Otto Kamrath  
\*Fred Kaul  
Mrs. Gust Kaul  
\*Hans Ketelsen  
Frank Klawonn  
\*Leo Klug  
\*Sam Kurgeweit  
\*Dan Lang  
Ernest Lang  
Henry Lang  
Mrs. Peter Lang  
Mrs. Leffler  
Edgar Lehmann  
\*John Linse  
Geo. Lintner  
Mrs. McGehee  
\*John Maurer

Mrs. Mielenz  
Mrs. Moehnert  
\*Emil Moehnert  
\*Fred Moehnert  
\*Gottl. Preuss  
\*John Purtzer  
\*Ad. Rakowsky  
Martin Sattler  
\*Dan. Scheer  
John Scheer  
Otto Scheer  
Theo. Scheer  
Mrs. Val. Scheer  
\*Rich. Schmidt  
Ed. Schwank  
\*Emil Schwank  
\*Gust. Schwank  
Mrs. Schwartz  
Aug. Steffen  
Mrs. Sterner  
Kenneth Strother  
\*Wm. Voss  
\*Wm. Wendt  
\*Fred Zessin  
Mrs. H. Zessin

\*Indicates voting members.



Sources for this issue are:  
Newman Grove Centennial 1888

= 1988

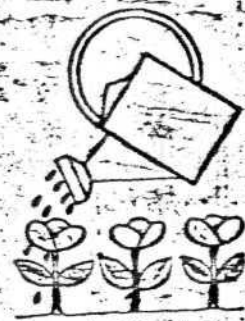
Nebraska Place Names by

Lillian L. Fitzpatrick

Perkey's Place Names

Postal History of Nebraska

by William Rapp



-FEATURING-

DR. GEORGE K. SCHWEITZER

Hosted By

Prairie Pioneer Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 1122

Grand Island, Nebraska 68802

Phone: 308-384-5111 or

308-382-5049

12th ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 3 & 6, 1989

HOLIDAY INN I-80

(I-80 & U.S. 281)

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA  
STATE  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY

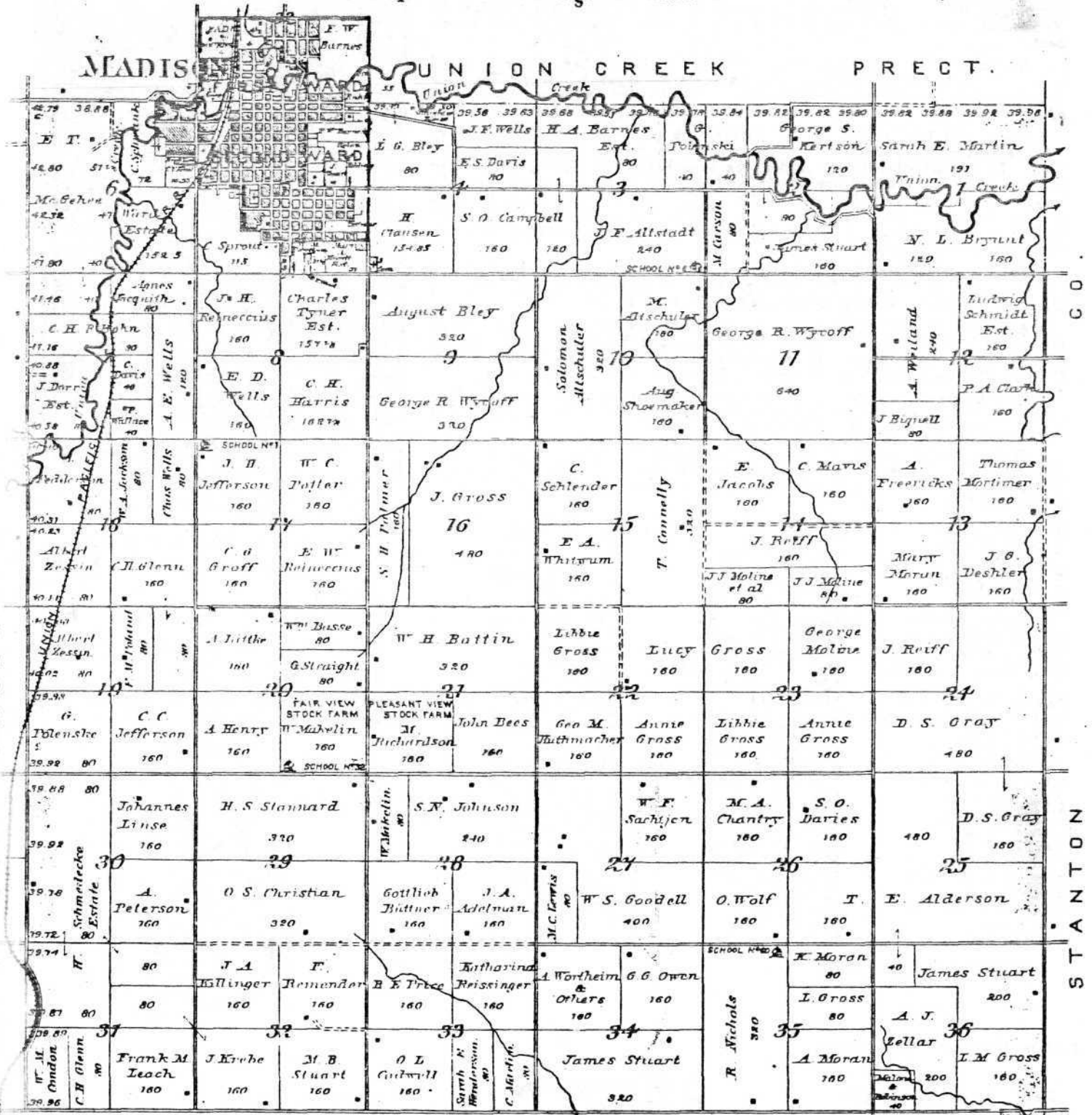
# MADISON

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.

Township 21 North. Range 1 West.

of the 6th Principal Meridian.

## MADISON UNION CREEK PRECT.



PLATTE

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FRIDAY MAY 5, 1989

- 9:00 am Registration - Outer Lobby
- 9:30 am Meet in lobby for TOUR to REYNOLDS RESEARCH CENTER. Transportation provided by PPGS. (\$2.50 fee)
- 8:30 am NSGS Committee Meetings
- 9:30 am NSGS Area Rep. Meeting
- 10:30 am NSGS Ex. Board Meeting (All in Little Blue Room)
- NOON Lunch on your own
- 1:00 pm WELCOME Mini-Workshop (a or b)
- 2:15 pm Mini-Workshop (c or d)



- a. Genetic Genealogy & Color-Coding Files
- b. Beginning Genealogy
- c. Family Photos for Genealogy
- d. Using LDS Branch Libraries

- 3:15 pm Computer - "FAMILY ROOTS" (Informal meeting for users of this software & those looking for genealogy software.)
- 4:30 pm WELCOME - PPGS WAR OF 1812 Dr. Schweitzer
- 5:30 pm Dinner on your own Vendors
- 7:15 pm WELCOME - NSGS President - Intro NSGS Officers
- KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE RESEARCH Dr. Schweitzer
- 9:00 pm REFRESHMENTS - LET'S GET ACQUAINTED PPGS Hospitality Room Vendors

All general sessions in North Platte Room

NO RECORDING OF DR. SCHWEITZER'S LECTURES - THANK YOU.

VENDOR ROOMS OPEN:

SATURDAY - MAY 6, 1989

- 8:00 am Registration-Conv. Center Lobby Coffee & Rolls will be available for purchase (price not included in registration.)
- 8:45 am WELCOME
- 9:00 am NORTH CAROLINA RESEARCH Dr. Schweitzer
- 10:10 am NSGS Annual Meeting
- 10:30 am Break
- 11:00 am U.S. MIGRATION ROUTES AND SETTLEMENT PATTERNS Dr. Schweitzer
- 12:00 noon LUNCHEON - Outstanding Genealogist Awards
- 1:30 pm NEBRASKA POSTMARKS Alton Kraft
- 2:30 pm REVOLUTIONARY WAR Dr. Schweitzer
- 3:30 pm QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Dr. Schweitzer
- 4:00 pm ADJOURN
- 4-5 pm VENDORS OPEN

WAR OF 1812 and REVOLUTIONARY WAR sessions will be open to the public. Tickets: \$3.00 adults (\$2.00 if another family member is registered.) \$1.00 students

**VENDORS**

Genealogical books and supplies.  
Book publishers.  
Photographer. (Bring photos that you want copied or restored. These will be photographed & you take originals home. Copies will be mailed.)  
Genealogical & Historical Societies

WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE - Bring old books you want to sell marked with your name and address and selling price. NSGS forms 107

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Select choice Friday Mini-workshops:  
1:00 pm (a or b) \_\_\_\_\_ 2:15 pm (c or d) \_\_\_\_\_  
Make checks payable to NSGS.  
Mail to: NSGS Annual Meeting  
P.O. Box 1122  
Grand Island, NE 68802-1122  
I wish to join NSGS and qualify for member rates.  
Separate check enclosed.

MON-MEMBERS:	
Friday Only	\$ 8.00
Saturday Only	\$12.00
Sat. with Lunch	\$18.00
Fri. & Sat. with Lunch	\$25.00
Research Center Fee	\$ 2.50
Society Tables	\$ 1.00
Dealer Tables	\$10.00
Late Registration @ \$2.00 per day	
Special Session Tickets:	
War of 1812: Adult	\$ 2.00
Student	\$ 1.00
Rev. War: Adult	\$ 2.00
Student	\$ 1.00
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____

PRE-REGISTRATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 24.  
Registration after April 24 - add \$2.00 per day.  
NSGS MEMBERS:  
Friday Only \$ 6.00  
Saturday Only \$10.00  
Sat. with Lunch \$16.00  
Fri. & Sat. with Lunch \$21.00



# Eastern Nebraska Genealogical Society



DOOR PRIZES

E.N.G.S.  
is  
sponsoring  
AN ALL DAY CZECH GENEALOGICAL  
WORKSHOP

on  
APRIL 29, 1989

at  
Midland College  
Andersen Conference Center  
930 No. Clarkson St.  
Fremont, Nebraska

(see map)

SPEAKER  
Margie Sobotka  
Czech Genealogist  
and Researcher  
(member of E.N.G.S.)

PACKETS

PROGRAM: Basic History - Migrations - Language -  
Czech Embassy - Material available -  
General problems facing Czech  
family researchers

(display of maps)

### ITINERARY

- 8:30-9:15 a.m. registration  
(coffee-juice-donuts served).
- 9:15-10:30 a.m. - program
- mid-morning break
- 10:45-12:00 - program
- lunch break
- 1:00-2:15 p.m. program
- break (door prizes)
- 2:30 p.m. - question and answer period

COME JOIN US!!!

### REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable and mail to:

#### PRE-REGISTRATION

(deadline April 25, 1989)

- Member \$ 6.00
- Non-member \$ 8.00

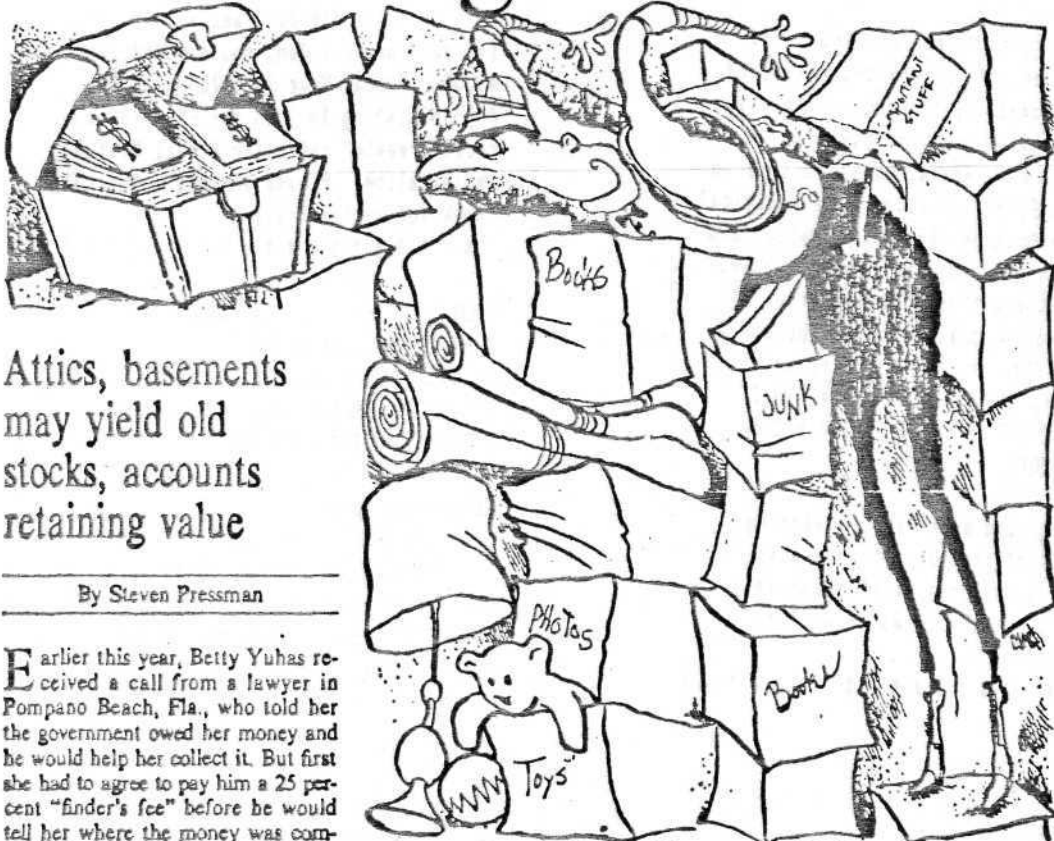
E.N.G.S.

Jim Westphal  
1805 No. H Street  
Fremont, NE 68025

#### AT THE DOOR

- Member \$8.00
- Non-member \$10.00

# Hunting lost loot



## Attics, basements may yield old stocks, accounts retaining value

By Steven Pressman

Earlier this year, Betty Yuhas received a call from a lawyer in Pompano Beach, Fla., who told her the government owed her money and he would help her collect it. But first she had to agree to pay him a 25 percent "finder's fee" before he would tell her where the money was coming from.

Yuhas, who now lives in Tallahassee, soon learned she had \$861 due her in the form of an insurance premium refund from a paid-off FHA mortgage she and her late husband had on a house they bought near Miami in 1956. But it cost her more than \$200 in lawyer's fees to collect.

It did not have to cost her a cent. If Yuhas had known that the Federal Housing Administration owed her money, she could have applied directly for a refund without a lawyer's help.

The FHA office in Washington, D.C., that processes refund claims receives about 10,000 phone calls each

week, according to FHA official Ken Tucker. "We love to find people," he says, "and we love to give them their money back."

Millions of Americans, many of them elderly, probably would be surprised to know that they're entitled to some money—if only they could find out where it is. The source could be long-forgotten bank accounts, stock certificates and savings bonds, or various government payments, such as lost Social Security checks or veterans' benefits.

Usually the problem occurs when people move without notifying banks, government agencies or other places of their new address. The Social Se-

curity Administration, for example, will place a beneficiary's account "in suspense" if it is unable to deliver a check to the correct address, according to spokesman Phil Gambino.

"Most people don't let something like this go on for more than a month or so," Gambino says. "After that, they start missing their checks and realize what the problem is." He suggests that anyone who believes he is owed past benefits should contact the nearest Social Security office, all of which have access to central computer files that track Social Security payments.

The procedures for collecting forgotten money from banks, brokerage

firms and other companies operate a little differently because each state has its own law controlling these lost assets.

Typically, a state's abandoned property law allows banks and other places to keep the assets of inactive accounts for a specific period of time, say five to seven years. After that, the assets are turned over to a state agency that keeps track of abandoned property. Usually, the controller or treasurer oversees these assets.

In Florida, the state controller's office has accumulated about \$60 million worth of unclaimed assets since that state's abandoned property law was enacted in 1961. "Say that you overpaid Montgomery Ward at one point, and they gave you a credit balance," says Rex Pearce, who oversees Florida's abandoned property office. "And then you moved and forgot about it—but the money is still there."

Pearce's office, like those in other states, provides claim forms for people who think they have money owed them. Typically, anyone making such a claim has to prove ownership of the lost account or other asset by providing an old bank passbook or by confirming that he once lived at the address on the account.

Pearce says refunds from his office average about \$1,000, although he once paid a claim for \$200,000 to the owner of a bank account that had been accumulating interest for years.

With so much unclaimed money lying around the country, a thriving industry of lawyers and private investigators known as "tracers" has cropped up to locate the proper owners and charge high fees to help them collect their money. Tracers usually purchase public listings of unclaimed property from government agencies and then use basic detective skills to locate the owners.

As Betty Yuhas found out, tracers often won't tell where the money is coming from until the owner has signed a contract to pay a finder's fee, ranging from 10 percent to 50 percent of the total to be collected. "What we're trying to tell the public is that before you sign a contract, please contact our office to see if you have any property," says Pearce.

Another way to find out if you are due money is to check occasional listings of abandoned property in local newspapers. Earlier this year, the FHA sent listings of insurance refunds to dozens of mayors around the country and to treasurers in all 50 states in an effort to draw more attention.

The FHA also is trying to tap into the computers at the Internal Revenue Service to locate people who are due refunds. "If anyone knows where you live," says Tucker, "it's the IRS."

Steven Pressman is a Washington-based freelance writer.

## How to claim your abandoned property

If you think you might have some money coming to you, here are a few hints to make your search a little easier:

1. Search your basement or attic for any records of inactive bank accounts, unsold stock certificates or other financial dealings. If you have a claim to make, you'll need proof that you're the owner of any abandoned property and that you once lived at the address shown on any old accounts.

2. Contact your state's abandoned or unclaimed property office to find

out if you are listed as the owner of any lost assets. In most states, either the state treasurer or controller keeps track of abandoned property and will assist people in filing claims to recover the property.

3. Check your local newspaper for listings of abandoned property, or call the paper to find out if and when they plan to publish such listings.

4. If you think you are owed benefits from the federal government, contact the agency directly. For example, the Federal Housing Administration has a hotline, (202) 755-5616, to help people claiming mortgage insurance refunds. Or contact your local Social Security office or

the nearest Veterans Administration regional office for information about unclaimed benefit checks.

5. Be careful if a lawyer or investigator says he'll collect money owed to you if you agree to pay a finder's fee. They're not obliged to say where the money is coming from, but try to determine the source before signing a contract. If you can, chances are you can collect all the money without paying any of it to someone else.

AARP Newspaper

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