

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1031

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OCTOBER, 1993

1ST QUARTER

ESTABLISHED JUNE, 1973

Meeting date and time - 3rd Tuesday of each month not including December
7:30 p.m. - First Baptist Church - 404 Benjamin Ave., Norfolk, NE.

OFFICERS: President - Dee Sewell V. President - Lottie Klein
Secretary - JaNelle Linnaus Treasurer - Donald & Dorothy Monson
Newsletter Editors - Joyce Borgelt and Jeanne Allison

DUES: Due September 1 of each year DUES DUE NOW
\$6.00 for individual or \$8.00 per couple

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

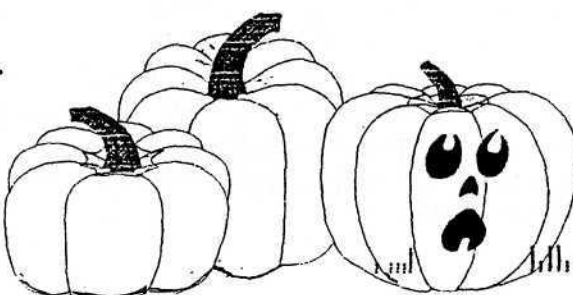
With fall and winter arriving, we can all look forward to doing some serious genealogical work. With that in mind, at our October meeting we will receive a report on an Everton Workshop held in Columbus in September. Mr. and Mrs. George Everton gave us lots of new (or renewed) hints to help us along the way.

Our July picnic meeting was enjoyed at Skyview Park, however the highlight of the summer was meeting Aage Anderson's long lost Swedish relatives at our August meeting. His Aunt, May Johansson and her daughter Christina Johansson and a friend, Sylvia Lundgren arrived in Norfolk for a visit with Aage and his family. They told us a lot about their country and about their trip to Nebraska. They also helped some of our members translate some Swedish letters and documents. Aage is hoping to go to Sweden before too long!!!!

Our September meeting consisted of 1930's depression stories told by our members and a guest, Stan Price. What a great way to start the new season - everyone had such great stories to tell.

Don't forget to make use of our Society Library. It is at the home of Harold Lyon at 604 So. 14th Street, Norfolk - Phone 371-2589. We have a lot of good books and periodicals to help you.

Sincerely,
Dee Sewell
President



Happy
Halloween

What Life Was Like During the 'Dirty Thirties'

Perhaps you've heard the old joke that asks, "When is it a Depression, and when is it a Recession?" The answer: "It's a Recession when *you're* out of work, and it's a Depression when *I'm* out of work!" For a third of the nation during the 1930s, it was a Depression. In fact, it was the Great Depression, and it meant hard times for 13 to 15 million people who were out of work — 25% of America's work force — and for the 30 million spouses and children they were trying to support.

There were a lot of sad scenes — people selling apples for pennies on street corners... people standing in long soup lines... and people working at jobs that paid too little but they felt they were lucky to get them. Bus drivers earned \$1,300 a year; teachers, \$1,227; waitresses, \$520; dressmakers, \$780; and hired farmhands, \$216. Again, those were those workers' wages *per year*.

Farmers were among those who experienced the worst of the hard times, getting as little as 5¢ per pound of cotton and 5¢ a pound for their hogs. Many farmers lost their land and some strapped family belongings onto the family sedan and wandered throughout the West and Southwest becoming migrant workers, picking crops and earning as little as \$40 to \$50 a month.

Shopping for food in the '30s was a perpetual hunt for bargains to make the family budget stretch through each week. Most meats cost 20¢ to 30¢ a pound. A pound of butter was 28¢; a dozen eggs, 29¢; a pound of cheese, 25¢; and a pound of potatoes, 2¢.

If you were shopping for furniture, you paid about \$45 for an eight-piece dining room set; \$50 for a three-piece bedroom set; and \$25 for a double bed and spring mattress. A wool blanket? Just \$1. A 9-ft. X 12-ft. wool rug cost \$5. Everything sold at unbelievably low prices in the '30s because people just didn't have money to spend. You paid only \$2 for an electric iron; a vacuum cleaner sold for about \$18; washing machines for \$46; and gas stoves were advertised for as little as \$29.

Clothes were a bargain, too, in those depressed days. Women could buy a cloth coat for \$6.98, a wool dress for \$1.95, silk stockings for 69¢, and a pair of leather shoes for \$1.79. Just \$11 would buy a men's overcoat or a wool suit; a shirt or silk tie was 50¢; and \$3.85 bought a good pair of dress shoes.

Checking some ads from the '30s finds children's toys didn't cost much either, then. A doll buggy cost \$4.98; a sled, \$1.50; a three-wheeled bicycle, \$3.98; a catcher's mitt, \$1.19; and a BB air rifle, just 79¢.

Not many people had the money for a new car or the gas to run it, but if they did, a Chrysler sedan sold for about \$1,000. A Studebaker was a couple hundred dollars cheaper. A tire cost \$6.25, and for a while gas prices slipped below a quarter, all the way down to 18¢ a gallon. For the few who were looking for a new home in the '30s, a new six-room house with a two-car garage would cost something less than \$3,000.

Radio Personalities

Eddie Cantor
Edgar Bergen & Charlie McCarthy
Kate Smith
Amos 'n' Andy
H.V. Kaltenborn
Major Bowes
Kay Kyser
Fibber McGee & Molly
George Burns & Gracie Allen
Bing Crosby

Radio Shows

"Our Gal Sunday"
"Myrt and Marge"
One Man's Family"
"Portia Faces Life"
"Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy"

Movie Stars

Ginger Rogers
Shirley Temple
Hedy Lamarr
Marlene Dietrich
Jean Harlow
Joan Crawford
Bette Davis
Carole Lombard
Claudette Colbert
Vivien Leigh
Greta Garbo
Fred Astaire
Mickey Rooney
Clark Gable
Gary Cooper
Charles Boyer
Tyrone Power
John Wayne
Errol Flynn
Jimmy Stewart
Cesar Romero
Robert Taylor

Movies

"Gone With the Wind"
"On the Good Ship Lollypop"
Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" & "Fantasia"
"The Wizard of Oz"

Condensed from "What Life Was Like During the 'Dirty Thirties'" by Henry Collison, *Reminisce* magazine
VIA PPGS September 1993,

Aage Anderson, a member of our Society, was featured in the Norfolk Daily News on Wednesday, August 25th, 1993.



Photo by Dorothy Fryer

Aage Anderson of Norfolk (center) hugs his newly found relatives from Sweden, while friends also enjoy the reunion. From left are: Sylvia Lundberg, Mai Johansson, both from Sweden; Aage Anderson; Kristina Johansson of Sweden; and Ingrid Granath of Norfolk.

Norfolkan's 10-year search for relatives ends with visit

By Dorothy Fryer
News city editor

Almost 10 years to the day that he started his search for his Swedish "roots," the task has concluded for Aage Anderson of Norfolk, but the ending is also the beginning of new relationships.

Two relatives from Sweden — Anderson's aunt, May Johansson of Navekvarn, and her daughter, Kristina Johansson of Nykoping — along with a friend, Sylvia Lundgren, also of Nykoping — are in Norfolk for 10 days.

It was on Aug. 7, 1982, that Mrs. Johansson received a letter from Anderson to introduce himself as her nephew and to seek information about his father's family.

ANDERSON became interested in his background after the death of his father, Joe Anderson of Neligh, in 1978. He knew that his father had been adopted after living in two orphanages in Sioux City and at Boys Town in Omaha, but that was about all.

In fact, it wasn't until 1989 that Anderson found his father's mother was from Sweden. Then, he discovered that she had lived for more than 40 years at Holstein, Iowa, before her death.

He decided to trace her life in Sweden. After visits to Holstein and Omaha, help from Ingrid Granath of Norfolk and other attempts, he found not only information on the family but new relatives.

On a trip to Sweden a year ago, Mrs. Granath, a native of Sweden, discovered the place where Anderson's grandmother was born and found a cousin of Anderson's father. Anderson had no idea he had any relatives in Sweden, and they, too, knew nothing about him or his father. Anderson found that his grandmother, who was born in 1882, came to the United States in 1914, later returned to Sweden and had a daughter who was adopted. She then returned to the United States, lived at Holstein, Iowa, and had a son, Anderson's father, who was placed in an orphanage.

Anderson's aunt — the daughter who was adopted in Sweden — received gifts from an "American

relative" for many years but didn't know until she was 17 that she had been adopted and that the person sending the gifts was her birth mother.

SHE WAS UPSET and in fact, started to run away from home, but returned to her adoptive parents of whom she was fond. Then she started corresponding with her birth mother, but never met her. She has saved letters from her mother in Holstein from the 1940s to the time of the mother's death in 1963.

Mrs. Johansson wanted to see where her mother, Hilda, had lived and one of the first places Anderson look her was to Holstein. They went

to the cemetery where her mother is buried, and saw the farm where she lived and was employed. Unfortunately, the house had just been torn down two weeks previously.

However, they talked to a Holstein man, age 99, who remembered Mrs. Johansson's mother and Anderson's grandmother. Relatives of the family for whom Hilda had been employed gave them a rug she had made.

This was an important part of the visit, but the Swedish guests are also busy meeting Anderson's own family and have gone to Mitchell, S.D., to see his sister, Elaine Sprigler, and to Wayne to see another sister, Cathy Anderson. At Mitchell, they viewed the Corn Palace and en route, stopped at Gavin's

Point and Yankton. On Monday, they visited Anderson's mother, Helen Anderson of Norfolk.

From Norfolk, the visitors plan to extend their American visit — they will go to Las Vegas, Hoover Dam and the Grand Canyon, then stop in New York City for a few days before returning home.

Mal and her late husband, Karl Johansson, farmed for many years, and Mrs. Johansson has also been a cook in a nursing home. Kristina Johansson works in a transitional home for former mental patients. Their friend, Sylvia Lundgren, is a secretary in an insurance company.

"The whole thing is just unbelievable," said Aage Anderson.

HISTORY SHOULD SHOW 'WARTS', TOO

From:
The Church News, newsletter of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Family historians have a tendency to canonize their ancestors, according to Monte B. McLaws, a correspondence and family history specialist for the Church's Genealogy Department.

In a presentation titled "Warts and All: How to Deal with Sensitive or Controversial Issues in Family History", McLaws said that historians tend to write what they think people want to believe about ancestors.

A good historian will strive to paint a fair and accurate picture of a subject, he said. And while that may include warts, it doesn't mean the negative must be accentuated.

"If your ancestor wasn't a saint, then you shouldn't try to make him one in your family history." McLaws said that knowledge of an ancestor's weaknesses and strengths helps one to know the person more completely. In addition, useful lessons may be learned from reading about ancestors' negative experiences.

McLaws offered these tips for dealing with sensitive issues in family history:

1. Establish the truth of controversial events. Facts should never be accepted on hearsay or family tradition.
2. Deal with sensitive issues sensitively. Use tact and caution. Be careful not to harm living persons.
3. Tell the truth, but not necessarily the whole truth. Don't sensationalize.
4. Use inoffensive words to discuss sensitive issues. For example, change "failures" to "adversities."
5. Remember that people involved in controversial incidents don't always have to be identified by name.
6. Don't distort the overall view of an ancestor's character through telling of one insignificant incident.

Source: Adams County Genealogical Society-Jul 1993

--contributed by Jan Morse

MORE 1930'S TRIVIA

Notorious gangsters in the '30's: Machine Gun Kelly, Bonnie and Clyde, Baby Face Nelson, Pretty Boy Floyd and John Dillinger.

Some of the great songs: "Chapel in the Moonlight", "It's a Sin to Tell a Lie", "Moon Over Miami", "Pennies From Heaven", "Harbor Lights", "Alexander's Ragtime Band", "Deep Purple" and many more.

Silly songs, "Tutti Fruitti", "The Flat Foot Floogee" and "Three Little Fishies".

Big Bands: Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Artie Shaw, Harry James and Bob Crosby.

Dances: the Black Bottom, Susy-Q, the Lindy Hop and the Charleston.

(editor note: What about Lawrence Welk? Or wasn't he famous yet? He played at the Glovera in Grand Island then.)

MAKING YOUR GENEALOGY RESEARCH A FAMILY AFFAIR

1. Involve young people in your research. It might encourage them to become the next "family historian" as well as make history more interesting.
2. Give young people a family history chart filled in with the names and dates of the generations you know about. You could fill them in on stories about their relatives if they are interested.
3. A special gift idea for older relatives is to make up a Memory Book of special family stories. This might spark new revelations or provide some happy moments.
4. Start a family newsletter. You can include not only research that you have compiled but also news and contributions of other family members. A good way to not "lose" contact with people.
5. Organize your material so that it is easy to use. A computer can be a great help but if you do not have one make sure your files are well arranged.
6. Videotape older relatives' memories. Be sure to use a list of questions to keep everything moving along.
7. Identify all family photographs! Enough said.
8. Also on photographs, make negatives of some of the most priceless ones and circulate copies to other family members.
9. Handpick a younger relative who has shown interest in your research and let everyone know that he/she will have your materials.
10. Prepare family biographies of yourself and the others in your generation. None of us want to become an "Unknown Relative."

LOOKING FOR YOUR CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR'S RECORDS

Since almost all southern states had citizens who fought for the Union, it is a good idea to check both sides (Confederate and Union), when researching your southern ancestor. The Draft Records, kept in the National Archives, are a good place to start. You will need to know the Congressional District where your ancestor lived. The LDS family History Library has a book which can help you get this information.

The Confederates drafted men from the age of 17 to 50. In the North, every man between 18 and 45 had to register for the draft, so even if he didn't serve there is still information on him. The registration papers give the place of birth and a personal description. If you can't find your ancestor in the Index of Union Volunteers, he was probably drafted. Until 1864, some draftees were able to pay a substitute to take their place.

Other sources to check are family stories, obituaries, photos, military tombstones and Census records. In 1890 there was a Special Census of Union Veterans and Widows. The states from Kentucky on, alphabetically, give service information.

Once you know your ancestor's Regiment and Company, you can get his Muster Roll, you can read the regimental history which tells about the battles which were fought, and you can check the ORN (Official Records) which has the Union and Confederate Officer's reports in 128 volumes.

Other good sources of information are The Index of Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers, The Consolidated Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, Widows Pension Records, and The Index to the Service of U.S. Colored Troops.

When you send to the National Archives for records, realize that they have both Pension and Military records for Union soldiers but only Military records for Confederate soldiers. (If your ancestor had a common name you may need to write to the State archives about their military records to clarify which one is yours.)

The Pension records are particularly helpful because marriages had to be proved. Enlistment records will also be included. Confederate Pension records are located in the State Archives of the state the person lived in or enlisted from. They also give good information about the soldier and his family. Sometimes a pension was stopped and there will be a "Dropped Card" which can give a death date or re-marriage information.

Other important National Archives military records are Prisoner of War Records, African-American records, Native American records and Court Marshall Records.

SNARES, SNAGS AND QUICKSAND TRAPS TO AVOID WHEN USING FAMILY MEMBER'S RECOLLECTIONS

by

ANNE PHILIBEN

Start with your family members is the admonition given in almost every article or *How to* on beginning genealogical research. No one who has done any research will dispute that family recollections are an excellent starting place. But, all too often, the beginning researcher *assumes* the information passed on from the family is totally accurate. Here are some pitfalls to avoid in using the memories or musings of a family member.

Anyone who is lucky enough to decide to do family research before all the members of the family are dead is certainly lucky. I was even luckier than some beginners. A genealogy of my maternal grandfather's family had been completed. As a child, I heard relatives talk about the family...*"the Rogers' who came over on the Mayflower"*. Once when I was grown I saw the Genealogy. For reasons I don't recall, there wasn't much time and only scanned it quickly. I did read enough to know that it *WASN'T* the Rogers' ancestors who had come over on the Mayflower as we had always been told but another family. Unfortunately the aunt who had the genealogy and promised that she would have it copied for me, died and the papers were lost before I could get a copy.

Then a hand written account from a distant cousin appeared. She gave what appeared to be a very concise report on one branch of the family back to 1780. I was off to the races. There was no reason for me to think that this wasn't a totally accurate, if somewhat sketchy, family history. *"Just need to fill in the blanks" and find that genealogy and I'll be finished.*; I assured myself.

Carefully checking the Genealogy *"How to"* I picked up at the library, I wrote inquiries and sent them off to genealogy societies all over the country...and I DID enclose SASE's. Then I sat back and waited for the replies. When they all came back with negative replies, I was slightly dismayed. But I didn't give up. When even more replies came back the frustration was building. Some libraries and societies wrote back and said that not only did they not have any record of my family, some of the *"facts"* didn't agree with their records.

According to the narrative my 3rd great grandfather settled in the Western Reserve. He was a watch repairer who was a Sergeant in the war of 1812. He and his wife, *"the mother's name was McKnight"* had 4 children. The children were; a son James, another son, my 2nd great grandmother Melinda, and a *"sister who visited Melinda"* once in Chicago.

The pages from *The History of Ashtabula County* received from that county's genealogical society that contained information on my Great grandfather, the *"shoemaker"*. I began to get a clue that all the family information I had received was not exactly accurate. Census records, military records, and lots more digging discovered **NINE** children. I also have never found any record of the son James, who allegedly went off to the Mexican-American war and never returned.

QUICKSAND: ASSUMING THAT EVERYTHING WRITTEN BY A FAMILY MEMBER IS A FACT.

With the help of census records, marriage records I began to find out more about the nine siblings and their children. The only mention of my great-grandmother was that she *"died of Typhoid in Colorado"*. My great-grandfather's military pension records showed that she died in Ohio. The discovery of her death record led to further census checking. This led to the discovery that my great-grandparents were cousins. Something none of us had ever heard before.

SNARE: ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION MAY NOT BE WRITTEN.

Source PPGS August 1993

Those Tricky Personal Names

By Louise Passmore Legeza

We are all acquainted with the research problems surnames present, but perhaps we should consider that knowledge of personal names is just as important. If a

"Great-grandpa must have been married twice, to sisters. First he was married to Polly Maidename then to Mary E. Maidename."

researcher says, "Great-grandpa must have been married twice, to sisters. First he was married to Polly Maidename then to Mary E. Maidename." He will never find the death data of the first wife nor the date of the second marriage.

The nickname Polly, which is frequently encountered, is a diminutive of Mary. Even Mary is not original—it is the Greek and Hebrew version of the name Miriam. For many years Mary was considered a name too holy to be used by mortals. It wasn't until the 12th century that Mary was sanctioned for use by ordinary people. Over the centuries it became the most used of all female names, a position it maintained until about 1950.

The oldest and most common nicknames for Mary were: Molly, Polly, May and Mamie. Others you might encounter are: Maria, Marie, Mariah, Marian/Marion, Marianne, Mariette, Merrie. There are others, to be sure!

Another female name that requires attention is that of Elizabeth/Elisabeth. The earliest diminutives of it are: Bess, Eliza, Letty, Lizzie, Beth, Bessie and Libby.

Later the following were used: Betty, Betsy, Lisa, Liz and Liza.

Kitty was a favorite nickname for Catherine/Katherine as were Kate, Kay, Cathy/Kathy and even Cassy. Kit was sometimes used, and we all know a Kaie or two.

Daisy, Maisie, Maggie, Meg, Madge and Peggy are all old versions of Margaret. Later Marge and Margie came along.

Although girls had most of the nicknames, boys came in for their share too. We remind you of several: A Harry could have been a Henry; Edward was Ned, Ted and Ed. Some Richards were known as Hitch, while Rich and Rick are common, Hick is not unknown. We all know a Dick and remember Richie from television.

Have you encountered a Rob? That, and several variations, as well as the name Robin, are nicknames for Robert, as is Bert. Some Wilburs were called Will, others Bill. But, a William could also bear those same nicknames so be careful.

Two frequently encountered female names that give us problems in research are Nancy (a nickname for Anne) and Sally which, of course, is Sarah. Wilhelmina usually became Minnie, and Amelias often were known as Millie. Let's not forget Lottie, for her real name was Charlotte.

Multi-Gender Names

Unfortunately, nicknames are not the only problem we encounter in personal names. Another stumbling block can be names used for both genders such as Carol/Carroll. We can not guarantee that a record keeper attained the correct spelling when hearing such names, in which case we must look for other clues. If Carol Cummings' death bears an occupation of a farmer or cooper, the researcher can probably be confident that the person was a male. Women/men named Fran-

ces/Francis bring the same problem as do Jean/Gene. Fortunately, there aren't too many formations like this—which were used frequently in earlier years. Beginning in 1850, the census indicates gender—that helps greatly.

Saint-Naming Practice

Germans, both Protestant and Catholic, as well as Catholics of many other nationalities, often gave their children a 'saint name' as the first name. This token name was followed by a 'call name' which was frequently the one the child went by or used with family and friends. Some people used both of their names and interchanged them at whim, causing much confusion for researchers. Mary Barbara was known by Barbara in some records, Mary in others and both in yet another. That is a simple problem compared to a relative like Thomas George, who not only used each name independently as well as together, but also switched them around and frequently went by his initials - one initial by itself or either combination of them.

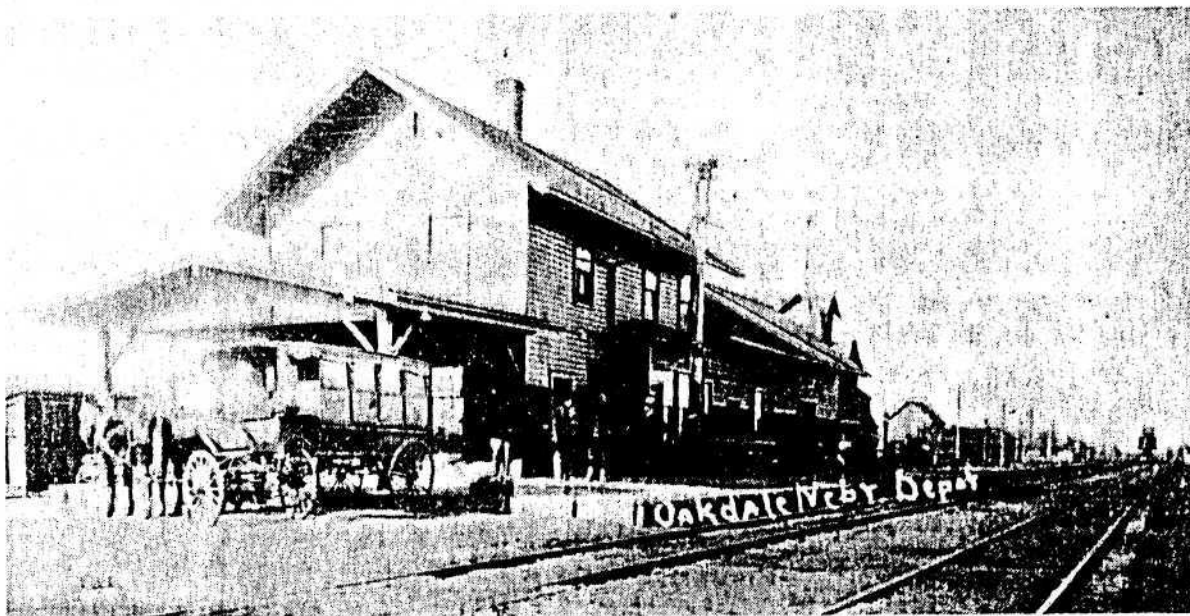
Re-cycling

Be aware that parents sometimes re-used names. If a child died young, the name might have been used again for a later sibling.

Future Problems

The problems caused by our ancestors in their naming patterns are nothing compared to what awaits future researchers. Women retaining their maiden names or hyphenating them with their husband's name will be an index searcher's nightmare.

May your search be Merry and devoid of Hitches while you Sally forth to the courthouses with your research Kit, leaving behind your Riches. ■



The Oakdale Depot and Stege Stage

C&NW train makes final run

by Lois Johnson

On December 1, 1992, the Chicago and North Western Railroad Company ended service on its 320-mile line from Norfolk to Chadron, across northern Nebraska. Thus ended an important part of history - rail travel in northeast Nebraska for 113 years.

The Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad completed its track to Oakdale in November of 1879. Oakdale was the terminus during the winter of 1879-1880. The depot was formally opened on December 4, 1879, and a passenger service to Omaha and points east began. The timetable, published in the early Oakdale newspaper, the Pen and Plow, and dated January 1, 1880, showed that trains left Oakdale going east at 5 a.m. and arrived from the east at 7:40 p.m. It took several more years for the railroad to be completed to O'Neill. The first passenger train west went through Oakdale on May 31, 1881, on its way to O'Neill, returning the next morning.

An article from the November 27, 1879, Pen and Plow showed how the advent of the railroad affected the pioneer town.

"The completion of the railroad to Oakdale has enlarged the business of the town, and added to the prosperity of everybody in a manner that more than meets our most sanguine expectations. Several new buildings have been erected; others are in the process of construction; old merchants have had to increase their stocks; a new store has been started, a new blacksmith shop, and a new shoe shop, a meat shop, and two saloons all have started out into actual business. Best of all, we have now our own grain buyer, and farmers selling their grain here spend their money here - not in the distant market town, as formerly. We have also a well-stocked lumber yard, and will have in a few days a coal depot. As soon as possible, grain warehouses will be built to accommodate all the grain that can possibly be brought here for sale and shipment from Antelope, Madison, Boone, Holt and Knox Counties."

During the 1800s, Oakdale was an important livestock and grain shipping center. The first carload of grain shipped out of Antelope County went from Oakdale, and the town was the headquarters for several large freighting outfits.

Before the extensive use of automobiles and the construction of highways in the mid-1900s, the railroad was the principal means of transportation for both passenger and freight. The depot at Oakdale, pictured on the cover, was a busy place. The passenger trains often stopped long enough for passengers and crew to eat meals. The Stege Stage was available to carry people to several restaurants and hotels for meals and lodging, and freight to the merchants.

The railroad had many employees who made their homes in Oakdale. Some made up crews on trains, some were employed to maintain tracks and still others worked in the yards and depot. There was a roundhouse where engines and cars could be turned around, a maintenance shop, a coal chute, a water tower and several sidings.

I haven't been able to ascertain the exact date on which the Chicago and North Western Railroad Company acquired the line. Although freight service continued until 1992, passenger service was discontinued in July of 1958, with train #13 leaving Omaha on July 5 and returning as #14 out of Chadron on the 6th, arriving in Omaha on the 7th. In 1985, C&NW abandoned the Fremont to Norfolk segment of the line after extensive flood damage.

The rails are idle now. Several shippers, cities and towns along the route have formed a coalition to negotiate with the railroad to buy the tracks with private funds. Time will tell if the tracks will ever be used again. Source: 1993 Newsletter from the Oakdale Cemetery Auxiliary.

Train

By Greg Wees
News Regional Editor

Chicago & North Western Railroad Co. ended service Tuesday on its 320-mile railroad line across northern Nebraska.

After departing from Chadron at 6 a.m. Monday, the last freight train arrived about noon Tuesday at the train yard in Norfolk.

The train was to pick up 30 cars loaded with grain and 15 empty cars on its final run, said Leslie Cleveland Hague, a railroad spokeswoman in Chicago.

"It's not a big event on our railroad," Ms. Hague said of the last run. "We've known this has been coming for some time."

The railroad received permission earlier this year from the U.S. Interstate Commerce Commission to discontinue service. But before it can pull up the track to sell for salvage, another application for abandonment must be filed, Ms. Hague said.

Supporters of the line don't want that to happen.

John Brice of Gordon, vice president of the Northern Nebraska Railway Preservation Association, said his coalition of shippers, cities and counties is continuing negotiations with C&NW to buy the track with private funds.

"We would like to go public with some of this as soon as we get it solidified," Brice said Tuesday. "We'll just leave it there for the moment."

C&NW has offered to sell only the Norfolk-to-Chadron portion of the line for \$5 million, Ms. Hague said. Not included in the offer are railroad facilities at Chadron and Norfolk.

Ms. Hague said the salvage value of the line is almost \$8 million. Salvage companies have contacted C&NW about buying the track, but Ms. Hague said the railroad remains interested in trying to sell the line to the preservation association.

"If something can't be finalized, I think that some time next year, we have to look at reapplying to abandon the line," she said.

In 1992, the Legislature passed a bill setting up a framework for the state to buy the line and lease it to a private operator. However, money for the purchase was never appropriated.

Magowan Grain Co., which Brice manages at Gordon, was the largest single shipper on the final run. It shipped 26 cars of wheat from producers around Gordon and southern South Dakota on the line's final run.

Brice said the wheat is destined for a flour mill in Ohio. With the loss of train service, the elevator will switch to trucks.

"It's going to lower our price to the farmer because it increases the freight rates," he said.

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Little fanfare greeted the last C&NW freight train as it passed through communities along the line. A few railroad buffs followed the train.

Neither Brice nor a C&NW marketing agent who was in Brice's office saw the last train pull out of Gordon about 9 a.m. Monday. But motorists sometimes got out of their vehicles to take pictures of the train as it followed along Highway 20, Brice said.

Brice said he understood the train would also pick up two more cars of millet at Merriman and an empty fertilizer car.

The train stopped Monday night at Long Pine, where C&NW has maintained a dormitory for employees, and switched crews for the final run. It left Long Pine at 3:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Engineer on the final run into Norfolk was Dick Thomas of Sioux City, Iowa. Conductor was Randy Mrsny of Norfolk.

The history of the northern line has been documented in a 166-page, hard-covered book by Jim Reisdorff of David City and Rick Mills of Hermosa, S.D.

Called "The High, Dry and Dusty - Memories of the Cowboy Line," it is published by South Platte Press, Box 163, of David City.

Construction on the line to Chadron started in 1869 at Fremont and reached Chadron in 1885. In 1985 C&NW abandoned the 78-mile segment of the line from Fremont to Norfolk after flood damage to the track.

C&NW purchased trackage rights from Union Pacific in 1985 and continues to serve Norfolk via UP track from Norfolk to Columbus.

Source: Norfolk Daily News
December 2, 1992

GRANDMA CLIMBED THE FAMILY TREE

There's been a change in Grandma we've noticed of late -
She's always reading history or jotting down some date.
She's tracing back the family. We'll all have pedigrees!
Grandma's got a hobby! She's climbing Family Trees!

Poor Grandpa does the cooking, and now, or so he states
He even has to wash the cups and dinner plates.
Well, Grandma can't be bothered, she's busy as a bee,
Compiling genealogy for the Family Tree.

She has no time to baby-sit, the curtains are a fright.
No buttons left on Grandpa's shirts, the flower bed's a sight.
She's given up her club work, the serials on TV.

The only thing she does nowadays is climb the Family Tree!
The mail is all for Grandma; it comes from near and far.
Last week she got the proof she needs to join the DAR.
A monumental project to that we all agree,
A worthwhile avocation; to climb the Family Tree.

She wanders through the graveyard in search of date and name;
The rich, the poor, the inbetween, all sleeping there the same.
She pauses now and then to rest, fanned by a gentle breeze
That blows above the Fathers of all our Family Trees.

How some folks came from Scotland, some from Galway Bay,
Some were French as pastry, some German all the way.
Some went on west to stake their claims, some stayed there by the sea.
Grandma hopes to find them all as she climbs the Family Tree.

There were pioneers and patriots mixed with kith and kin
Who blazed the paths of wilderness and fought through thick and thin.
But none more staunch than Grandma who's eyes light up with glee,
Each time she finds a missing branch for the Family Tree.

Their skills were wide and varied from carpenter to cook,
And one, alas, the records show, was hopelessly a crook.
Blacksmith, farmer, weaver, judge, some tutored for a fee.
Once lost in time, now all recorded on the Family Tree.

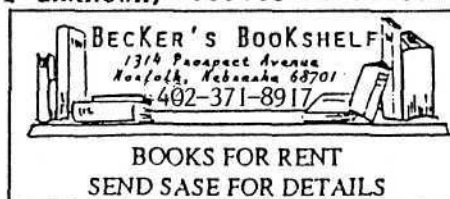
To some it's just a hobby, to Grandma it's much more.
She learns the joys and heartaches of those who went before.
They loved, they lost, they laughed, they wept; and now for you and me.
They live again in spirit around the Family Tree.

At last she's nearly finished, and we are each exposed.
Life will be the same again, this we all suppose.
Grandma will cook and sew, serve crullers with our tea,
We'll have her back just as before that wretched Family Tree.

Sad to relate, the Preacher called and visited for a spell.
We talked about the Gospel and other things as well.
The heathen folk, the poor, and then 'twas fate it had to be.

Somehow the conversation turned to Grandma and the Family Tree!
We tried to change the subject, we talked of everything
But then in Grandma's voice we heard that old familiar ring.
She told him all about the past, and soon 'twas plain to see
The Preacher, too, was nearly snared by Grandma and the Family Tree.

(Author unknown) Source-Northwest Iowa Root Diggers Vo. 15:73



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THE FAMILY CIRCUS.

By Bil Keane



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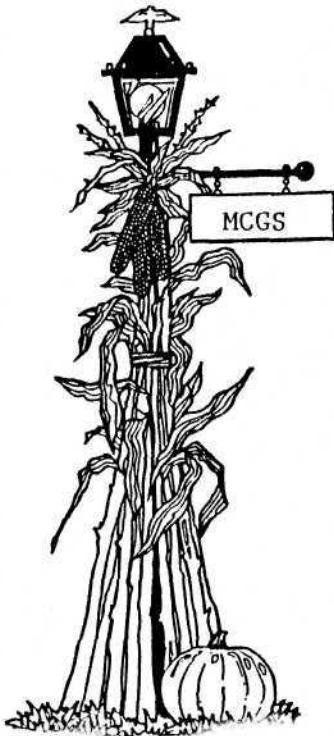
"Did they REALLY have INKwells when you were little, Grandma, or are you just makin' that up?"

Do you have information you would like included in the Newsletter? Have you submitted your ancestry Chart?

Please give us a typewritten copy which will be subject to editing as space permits.

Please mail it to the Newsletter Postoffice : Box.

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