

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 1031

Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1031

VOLUME 16 - NUMBER 61

October, 1994

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

\$6.00 for individual or \$8.00 per couple

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Up-coming meetings will be:

October 18th - Show and Tell - Our latest Genealogical finds & pictures.

November 15th - Land Record Workshop - Discussion on land records, terminology, where to find, what to look for - Bring what you have.

December - no meeting

January 17th - No Host dinner at Golden Corral


Our trip to Allen in July was not only fun but informative. Sharing sack lunch with the Dixon County Historical Society helped us get acquainted and then touring their exceptionally nice museum was great. Later we visited with their group.

Our August Picnic was not too well attended but the food was so good as was the conversation.

In September Dave Dembeck of the Norfolk Public Library gave a program about the obituary/birth/marriage computer program they would like to proceed with. They need our help to enter the information on the computer. We will discuss the program at a future meeting.

Since we will be "confined" to the house somewhat, fall is the time to get back to our genealogy. Let us know what you are working on and if there is anything we can help you with. Remember you can put queries in our quarterly - never know who might have the information you are looking for!!!!

Good Hunting,


Dee Sewell, President

MEMORIES

We thank Tim F. Preece of Dannville, California, a member of our Madison County Society and the grandson of the late Tim (T. D.) Preece - a local auctioneer - for the following story of the Preece family. This was written by Mary Nettie Preece Doles who was a sister of the late T. D. Preece. It was published in the Battle Creek Enterprise on Wednesday, July 27, 1994.

Letter to Editor

Dear Mr. Falter:

Irene Zimmerman told me that you were responsible for publishing the old Battle Creek pictures in the Battle Creek Enterprise. Thank you very much. I hope that someone in the area spots a familiar face. They are fascinating to me since I found them in my grandfather Timothy D. Preece's home in Battle Creek.

I have done a lot of research on my family and have something that may be interesting to you and Irene. In my research, I found a Mrs. Opal Doles in Colorado who was the widow of Lafayette Doles. Lafayette Doles was the son of Mary Nettie Preece Doles. Mary Nettie Preece was my grandfather Timothy D. Preece's sister. She was born in Battle Creek on September 7, 1872. She married Duncan Doles in Oklahoma in 1896 and died in Colorado Springs, Colorado on April 22, 1968.

Opal Doles had a handwritten group of notes of memoirs written by Mary Nettie Preece Doles. She sent them to me and I transcribed them (see attached). All of the notes are her actual notes except that I added parenthetical words or names to assist in clarity or for the full names of persons referred to. What may be of interest to you and Irene is the description of life in Battle Creek on a farm in the 1870's and 1880's. The farm on which she lived after her mother died when she was just three years old was the Carrabine farm near the Kent (Broken) bridge. It was the NE 1/4 of Sec. 31-T-24-R1W and the NW 1/4 of Sec. 32-T24-R1W.

These notes were written 34 years ago by a woman who was then 92 years old. She left Battle Creek in 1892 and the next year was in the great Oklahoma land rush. Thus they are records of interesting events in Battle Creek and the area some 125 years ago. Incidentally, her grandparents, Timothy (D.1885) and Hanah (d.1903) Carrabine, and parents Douglas and Mary A. Preece are buried in St. Patrick's cemetery in Battle Creek--all original pioneers.

Kindest Regards,
Tim Preece
246 Montair Drive
Danville, CA 94526



Written by Mary Nettie Preece
Doles in Longhand at Age 92

Some memories were handed to me before I was born. My father Douglas Preece, son of Sarah and Thomas Preece, was a civil war veteran. Entered as a volunteer early part 1861 served through it all. Was in nearly all the severe battles and was on Sherman's March to the Sea. And how he loved the old songs. And especially Marching through Georgia. He was honorably discharged at end after being a war prisoner for a short time. Went back to Illinois. He was in the 111th Illinois Infantry Co. I, and after living back in Illinois near Carlyle met and married my Mother Mary A. Carrabine in 1867. My oldest brother Tim (Timothy Douglas Preece) was born a year later in Dakota Co. Nebraska where they had gone to live. My brother Eli (William Eli Preece) was also born in Dakota Co. Nebraska. Later they with my mother's families (Timothy Carrabine), also his mother (Sarah Montgomery Preece), all went to Madison County, Nebraska. Several took up homesteads west of Norfolk all near together in 1870. My brother Ben (John Benjamin Preece) was born there and I was born on my father's Homestead S.W. of Norfolk, 1872 Sept. 7.

There were few conveniences for the pioneers. Implements to till the soil were few. Some perhaps had a plow some had perhaps a harrow or would make something to help out and all divided (shared) with each other and were good neighbors. They were near the Elkhorn River so had plenty of fuel from the timber. I think though they were always in fear of Indians at that time and the men had to be away from home a lot. My father did hauling to the reservations with supplies and was gone a lot and we were not so far from the reservation. After the settlers got their land in cultivation, they raised corn and fed to their hogs. About the only thing to market. Very little market at that time and a long road to get there. For years the nearest was to Stanton or Columbus. It took several days to make the trip. In April 1875, my Dear Mother passed away which caused my Daddy much sorrow with four little children. He took the three boys to his mother's (Sarah Montgomery Preece Lilytee) and I to my mother's parents (the Timothy Carrabines) and my first memories are from there. There when my

Aunt Kate (Carrabine then age 17) rocked me to sleep, singing to me and being with Grandma Carrabine (Mrs. Timothy--Hanah) feeding her chickens and ducks.

I do also remember they lived in a sod house and one night it rained so hard the roof leaked and the families all were busy keeping dry. I was very small then as later they and Grandpa built a new house north close to Uncle Owen's (Carrabine son of Timothy) and when the M.M. (Missouri Valley) R.R. was building through west of Norfolk. There were some contractors stayed at grandparents and they were so nice to me, always brought me candy or something. Also Aunt Kate's boyfriend, George Berry. He always brought me something when he came. These are early memories. I was very small. My Daddy would come and take me to see my brothers and stay there for awhile. Then back to Grandma C's again until later I can see in my mind now Grandma C (Carrabine) knitting and making straw hats for the men to wear in summertime from rye straw. She was real ingenious with her hands. She was such a good seamstress. All by hand and so quick. When I grew larger, I often wished I could be as quick at my work as she was. I don't think I ever seen anyone as quick as she with her hands. In her day she had no machine, did all her sewing by hand.

At an early date (when) I was very small, some friends, the O'Neills, (W.F. O'Neill homesteaded on land later owned by John Volk) Professor O'Neill and wife and children, stayed at our home for some time. They were both teachers. Lovely family. As I do remember Mrs. O'Neill a most lovely gracious lady. She would see that I (was) with her children always, said our evening prayers together. She taught school for awhile in the Hughes School. Later, they decided to go back to Omaha. Years later one of the daughters of Rose O'Neill became quite famous as designer of the Kewpie Doll and made a fortune. These are just old memories. As I grew up, I wanted to take up sewing. I remember watching the older folks making garments. I thought how could I learn to do those things well; later I started to with a little help. I made my first dress when I was 12 years old--not too good but kept it up until I could sew fair at least--made my own wearing clothes, we didn't have such

nice patterns as we have now. But--as I practiced I got so I could make my own, at least a great satisfaction. I even could make shirts--for the men folks and I loved to work with needle. I learned to crochet and that was my hobby--also how I always loved to read.

Grandfather Carrabine always drove mules. When I was small he had one he called Jimmie and when he stopped he would say, "Ho, Jimmie." So I called him Grandpa Ho Jimmie for a long time. He was such a good soul. God bless his soul. Well, later when I was ready for school, my Daddy took me to his mother's (Sarah Montgomery Preece Lilytee) where my brothers were and I went to school, 1 1/2 miles to the schoolhouse known as the Stirk schoolhouse. My first teacher was David Whitla (David O) and I admired him. He was always so kind. He called me Dollie, the name my mother added to me and they all called me that for so long I did not know I had any other. We did not have long terms of school then like later and when the weather was cold we missed a lot. At times, our Daddy would take us and he and one of the neighbors would take turns at taking theirs and we. There was not many things of amusement. There were no radios or T.V. those days. Not any electric lights either. We had coal oil lamps. Wood stoves burned wood and then when berry picking time came, we would go picking wild blackberries and raspberries. Later pick plums. Then in autumn we gathered hops. We made our yeast with hops and we surely had good yeast--our bread would surely rise. The winters were cold and generally lots of snow. The summers seemed very warm and we had a lot of flies and mosquitos. No one had screens for doors or windows. Some used mosquito bars but that was not much good. The farmer had not yet got many convenient machines. I do remember the early wheat harvesters. The men stood on a platform and bound the grain in sheaves tied with handmade ties. Later the self binder came, then the header, and now the combine. The same as the corn machines at early days the men husked by hand with a peg in hand to take the husk off. Now they have machines to husk and load at once with the truck hauled along by gas power.

MEMORIES

The planting (in) later years has also been improved. Well in early days in Nebraska we had no markets close (to us). As I stated, our folks often butchered their hogs when the weather was cold so as to take them to market frozen. And pile them up on the wagon cover(ed) with canvas and drive to Columbus 50 miles in the bitter cold. That was when I was small as the railroad had not got to us. Later I remember we had sleighs and used them when there was snow, but my Daddy never seemed to mind the cold too much. Once a year we went to Sioux City (90 miles) in the coldest weather. Even the old Missouri River was frozen as we crossed with team on the ice as he had two aunts (Montgomerys) living over there, one on the Iowa side, the other on the Nebraska side. They lived near the old Mo River and lost their land by it washing away. I also remember going to Sioux City crossing on the ferry as our folks went often for being so far from us. Had to have horses sharp shod to cross ice which we often crossed the Elkhorn on ice in the wintertime--many in early days boys had ox teams but buckle about--all gone. When I was big enough to remember, I do remember some, going to church with the family in the wagon and the man walking along side of the oxen directing them. So many later had nice sleighs, little cutters (one horse sleigh) and larger sleighs to haul loads on and the horses with sleigh bells ringing as they moved lots of happy sleigh riders going to Grandfathers. Tough on the horses but they were covered with blankets, when stopped, if no place to put in a stable were available. We often had spelling matches at different schools and we all enjoyed them and in summer it was seldom any amusement but picnics and celebration (on) the 4th of July. That was it, get to town. They had a parade and music, flags. A brewery with dance platform covered with green boughs, flags and bunting. Ice cream and pink lemonade. Racing of many kinds and always horse race. This was just it. The dancing to last--wee hours.

There were no bridges over river for years and when the Elkhorn was high in spring no one tried to ford it. But--later it used to be so it could be crossed with teams or otherwise. I even played in the water and waded across the old river. Would gather clams on the shore. I never tried to run the boat on the river but would go with Alice my neighbor many times as she was good with the boat oars. I would row on the pond but not on river. My brothers were all good swimmers and divers but not me. And once I do remember how my brother Tim dove in the swollen stream on the O'Neill place and saved our little cousin's (probably a

Montgomery) life as he fell in the creek while we were looking at the high water. Tim in an instant was in the water with the boy in his arms. It was a thrill to me. Also when the winters were cold, the boys trapped for muskrats for their pelts. They would skin the rats, stretch the pelts on the frame when dry (and) sell (them) to get pin money. Also they liked to skate on the river when it was frozen over. Some years we had lots of snow as now then. Some years not so bad. I do remember the big blizzard of 1888 (when she was 16). It was fierce for miles while it lasted. Many school buildings were torn to pieces. Teachers tried to get the pupils to safety but several lost their lives by freezing at that time. But really I have seen many blizzards at different times. Our winter entertainment in Nebraska was occasionally a spelling bee at neighboring school or sometimes a little show passing through or dancing. My brother Tim and I were the dancers of the family. The other brothers were not so much to go as Tim and I. We danced all the popular dances at that time. Even the Squares and Tim was called on nearly all the time to call the Squares. I guess that must have been one reason he became an auctioneer as he had got so well with his calling. However, he became a very popular auctioneer and traveled many miles at the business. Early times he traveled by team or if at a distance, went on train to many sales. Was met by the manager who would take him where he was to cry the sale. Later he would go by motor car to farm sales and kept it up for years. Later he worked in a sale barn in Norfolk and still (did) farm sales until he retired. He was named the oldest active auctioneer in the U.S. Brother Tim passed away January 4, 1959. God rest his soul. How I miss him. He stayed at the old hometown Battle Creek. Raised his family there. With his wife Elene (Elene Wade) and then two daughters (Marion and Jean Preece), a niece (Bess Flood) and three sons (Wade, Gerald and John Preece). Two of the sons who are M.D.'s. However, when we were children at the old home we were a very affectionate little group. I being the youngest perhaps noticed it as the brothers were so sweet and good to me. They always looked after me.

Well (in) the early days as I have stated had little excitement except when a circus came to Norfolk. We all got to go and we all enjoyed the circus. You may know then the County Fair. Also horse racing. My brother Eli was a good rider, made many winning races. Our cousin Levi Evons (son of Catherine Montgomery Evons Light) had a race horse named "Last Chance." My brother Eli rode him in many winning races.

Then the Grand Army Encampments. Often near gave quite a change for entertainment. They would last a whole week--different things, parades, speakers, Indian dances. They furnished tents for to camp in and all camped if wanted to.

Norfolk at one time had a sugar factory built by Oxnard Sugar Co. It was north of town. Well, I went to their grand opening. It was fine. Saw the sugar finished. All from start to finish. I don't know what they did with all the nice buildings they once had there. Then when Norfolk got the Insane Hospital, we often visited there on visiting days. On one New Year's (eve) the Institution gave a Ball for all there. Help (workers) were allowed to invite their friends and as we had quite a number (of) friends working there, Tim and I got invitations to attend so we did and it was grand affair. We often attended the Balls in town also. They were carried on very good. No rowdys ever. My brother Eli and I attended one when they gave a prize for the best waltz couple. A young man selected me for a partner for the waltz and believe me we took the prize. Each a Silver Cup. Engraved our names. His name was Toney Hesling and I never saw him after. His home was Omaha. Well that happened the same week that brother Tim was married in January 1891, many years ago.

In the early days, the folks made their own sorghum molasses, raised the cane, ground through mill, cooked the juice. We generally took the green coffee berries and browned in oven, stored canisters, then ground what was needed for the meal in the old fashioned coffee grinder and believe you, we could have a good cup of coffee. I often went with grandfather to mill at Battle Creek. The old water wheel powered mill to get our corn ground for meal. It was not as the say bolted. One had to sift it to get it ready to use, but it was surely good for bread or mush. I don't remember whether they ground wheat there or not, but think they did. It was known as the Hoover mill.

Brother Tim loved to hunt ducks in the fall and spring. They came in droves and lit on the slough for rest. And Tim would go on cloudy days. Shooting ducks. Come home loaded with ducks. Then it was up to me to dress ducks. How tired of ducks I became. But the nice soft feathers made nice pillows. In summer it was shooting prairie chickens. He and Daddy got out early to get the nice young chickens to fry. They would take these hunting dogs and early to get them.

Then in autumn of 1892, Daddy, (Douglas Preece age 47), Grandma (Sarah Montgomery Preece Lilytee, 80) and I started for Oklahoma by teams. I (age 20) took the rear team

over land. Camped as really pioneers. It broke my heart to leave my old home and brothers. We were several weeks on our trip. (400 mile trip). Weather was nice. We stopped in Barber County, Kansas with relatives (unknown who these were but may have been Charles Montgomery's wife and/or children. Barber County is just north of the area of Oklahoma where Douglas Preece took his mother and daughter). Spent Thanksgiving with them. I cooked the turkey dinner as our cousin was not too well. She was so happy to see us as she had not seen me for several years and crops were poor that year in Kansas, prices poor. It was another dry year. Wheat was no price. It seemed one could get a 50 lb. sack of flour for \$1.00 and everything else was no price. After our stay there we left for our place in Oklahoma called at that time Cheyenne County (Cheyenne-Arapaho Unassigned Lands) as there was a large piece of land opened for homesteads that season and Daddy had got a piece of land there which his mother took (qualified) as homestead (Selling, Oklahoma). When we arrived there, there was no house to move into. But a good bachelor who had a place near offered us his home to move into. And it was nice weather, so didn't have to bother about a place then. Everyone there had all come from a distance. All poor and had to build all their houses as well as possible with as little as they could. No close place to get building material and the people not able to buy. So most of them got logs from the timber and built log houses, some half dug in the ground. Some picket houses as there were lots of nice cedar trees on the South Canadian River. But quite a task to get them out of the deep canyons so one could raise them. But many were very ingenious and good workers and they worked together and got these houses ready to live in before very long. After we were there a few days, Daddy went to get a deer. Went out on the North Canadian River. Just a short distance. Was only gone a short time. Sure enough, here he came with a deer. We had no place to keep meat. Then only hung the deer in a tree covered with canvass and it being cool weather it kept well. And there was quite a lot of other game there for the hunters to get. No restrictions. We were located north about 12 miles from the South Canadian River and about 2 miles south of the North Canadian River. Was dry most of the time but very treacherous when high water came. The North Canadian River was dry also a lot and very angry when high water came. They had no bridges when I was there so we crossed the river occasionally with team and wagon.

There was no land in cultivation in the Cheyenne Country when we arrived except one ranch owned by a Squaw man as his wife's allotment and the foreman had raised some nice wheat that year. He had Indian machinery furnished by (the) U.S. for the Indians, but none of them knew much of how to use them and he didn't have anyone who could run a thrasher. And he came by and got my Daddy to run it for him and also hired Daddy to haul wheat to market--the nearest about 40 miles was Woodward, Oklahoma. And so Daddy hauled it for him as the boys, my brothers, had come down there. At that later date they took the first wheat to that place as it was never near any farming community. After Eli (William Eli Preece) and Ben (John Benjamin Preece) came, they all did hauling for that ranch.

The boys both took claims. They got homesteads near where we were, but as summer came no work near and expenses kept climbing. Eli traded his place off for cows and went back to Battle Creek to get something to do. (He) left the cows in my and Dad's care. Stayed a couple of years. Sent me money for to help with expense. That darling brother would give me the last dollar if he thought I needed it anytime. And we sure did them days in 1893.

The Cherokee Strip opened for settlement. It was right against our location. A strip $1\frac{1}{2}$ wide divided the Cheyenne Country and the Cherokee Strip as it was called and it extended north to the Kansas state line. Some 100 or more miles. Some good land and much poor and mountainous. When it was opened for settlement the 15th of September, 1893, I was (21) old enough to take a homestead. So I went to Hennessey, Oklahoma to register. Everyone had to register before the Run as they called it. At a given signal at noon the 15th of September, the people were supposed to run in on the land and stake a claim, name on stake and had 60 to 90 days before they had to get their filing on record. So I ran and got me a homestead and staked my land. Then later in autumn went to Alva, Oklahoma, quite a distance, and filed on my quarter of land. Earlier after September 13, I took ill with typhoid fever (and) was not able to go until the cool weather. Daddy took me and to be sure had to camp out as there was not any other town near and the settlers had not moved in. East of us there was quite a struggle for land and many had trouble getting their claims as perhaps more than one got on the same piece and staked their claim and would claim they were first. Some quit rather than scrap. Some held on and had

lawsuits to prove their claims. Land east was more expensive and that caused a lot of trouble. When we settled, the federal law claimed the homesteaders would have to pay \$1.25 (per acre) for these lands at the end of five years, but the law was changed before that time so we didn't have to pay the \$1.25. The people could never of been able to at that time. But in a few years, crops were fine and they could raise anything they put out and markets were established. The people soon became quite prosperous as one could raise about anything.

We were near the Indian Reservation. Could hear their tom-toms beating on summer evenings as they were quite often dancing. They were very peaceful and it was common for them to call on the people trading for something they would like. They would have moccasins to trade. Also cloth they didn't know what to do with. They would want sugar or meat or melons. When summertime came, they loved watermelons and would trade anything they had for melons. We had very little amusement (in) early days. Picnics, fish fry and dances and to be sure plenty of work. My brother Eli and Daddy built me a log house on my land and then out buildings with pole corrals to put the cattle in as we were getting a nice bunch to care for.

Grandmother (84 in 1894--Sarah Montgomery Preece Lilytee) was getting pretty feeble. (I) had to be with her a lot. We all moved on my place and she was with me. She was quite sick for a long time with dropsy. She passed away in 1895 after a long sick spell. I was with her night and day and she wanted me every moment. It was so comforting to her for me to be there.

(All of the above was transcribed by Tim Preece from Nettie Preece Doles actual notes, except parenthetical words or names were added to assist in clarity or for full names of persons referred to.)



FALL



NATIONAL ARCHIVES ELECTRONIC ACCESS PROJECT

By

Bob Plisek, Editor

In the last Issue of THE NEW BRASS KEY, I told you about the National Archives was to be in Nebraska conducting a study to determine how to provide broad, computer access to its services and information.

I have had the pleasure of attending two meeting in the last couple of months. The National Archives Electronic Access Project is being conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

In the first sets of meetings in Lincoln and Omaha, people were invited from different areas of work; Schools, Government; Genealogical, etc. These two sets of meetings in June and July were attended by staff of the National Archives, Director of the National Archives- Central Plains Region of Kansas City, MO; and Judi Moline and Steve Otto from NIST.

The Meeting started with a general slide show of the National Archives, and showed some of the items that it holds. Then a general discussion was held on what information they were looking for in order to put this project together. The two hour meeting was interesting and informative on both sides.

Since then Judi Moline and Steve Otto both from Maryland have been back visiting the state with smaller meetings all around the state. Last month they had a meeting here in Norfolk. Basically going over the information they had discussed in Omaha and Lincoln and to see what others in localized areas might provide.

It is not to far in the distant future when you may inquire about documents from you home or library and receive them through your computer.

Nebraska State Gen. Soc
Aug.-Sep 1994

SHERIFFS OF PIERCE COUNTY
Pierce County Nebraska . Orgnized 22 June 1870
County Seat - Pierce, Nebraska
Copied by Joyce E. Barlow -Osmond, Nebraska.

1870 & 1871	Albert Breyer
1872 thru 1875	Aug. Brissow
1876 & 1877	T. C. Verges
1878 & 1879	Aug. Brissow
1880 & 1881	C. T. Braasch
1882 & 1883	H. Ahlmann
1884 thru 1887	J. W. Heath
1888 & 1889	I. W. Heath
1890 thru 1895	Geo. W. Littel
1896 thru 1901	E. C. Haas
1902 thru 1905	Ben Jones
1906 thru 1909	E. A. Dwyer
1910 thru 1918	Geo. W. Goff
1919 thru 1925	Eugene Kincaid
1926 thru 1930	Earnest Lambrecht
1931 thru 1939	Ed. Schwartz
1939 thru 1949	G. E. Dean
1949 thru 1974	Elmer Kuhl
1975 thru 1977	Roger Bailey
1978 thru 1984	Bill House
1983 thru 1984	Gary Umberger (Temporary)
1984 thru 1994	Rick Eberhardt

Crazy weather quiz

When you want to know the weather report, you probably turn on the news. But, before the TV weather forecast ever existed, people could predict the weather simply by observing nature.

Below are 10 statements about weather and nature. Each one is followed by three words. Underline the one that you think is correct.

1. They behave strangely just before a violent storm.

- a. people
- b. animals
- c. flowers

2. They run out of their holes, squeal and frolic just before a storm.

- a. field mice
- b. gophers
- c. ants

3. They fill up the beach just before a storm to seek shelter on land.

- a. turtles
- b. sea crabs
- c. crocodiles

4. They try to fly in homes under low pressure systems.

- a. butterflies

- b. mosquitoes
- c. bats

5. They carry their young away from their homes just before a flooding rain.

- a. raccoons
- b. monkeys
- c. weasels

6. They sing only when the air is hot and dry.

- a. bluebirds
- b. locusts
- c. sparrows

7. Their leaves turn about 24 hours before a rain.

- a. morning glories
- b. ferns
- c. hardwood trees

8. Outdoor fires burn more vigorously just before:

- a. bad weather
- b. good weather
- c. a tornado

9. You will never see a toadstool unless:

- a. It is hot
- b. The air has almost reached saturation point
- c. There is no humidity

4 6 8 0 2 9 6
6 7 8 9 4 5 1
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Answers

Elkhorn Valley Hist. Soc July 94

LOST & FOUND

Looking for a missing heir or long-lost friend? The Social Security Administration's letter-forwarding service will send a letter from you to the missing person providing the purpose of your search is either humanitarian (locating an estranged family or lost friend) or monetary (tracing a missing heir). "The letter has to contain information that we determine the missing person wants to know," says spokesman Phil Gambino. You have to provide the person's date of birth, parent's names or other identifying information. The agency won't reveal the person's whereabouts or verify that the letter was received. It simply acts as the intermediary. There's no charge for humanitarian requests; other searches cost \$3. Write to: Social Security Administration, Office of Central Records Operations, 300 N. Greene St., Room 1312, Tower Metro West, Baltimore, MD 21201.

—Family Circle Magazine, 26 June 1990

IMMIGRATION SOURCE

An unused resource available at the New York City Municipal Archives is the microfilm covering ten volumes of records from 1859-1894 entitled, "Bodies in Transit". Anybody arriving in Manhattan via ship, train or local ferry had to be registered.

'Did you know' facts given by Social Security

By Thomas O'Connor
Special to Daily News

Here are some "Did you know" facts from Social Security:

• A note to genealogists: The Social Security Administration did not begin keeping records until 1936.

• To obtain genealogical information about a deceased person from Social Security, if you don't have the person's Social Security number, you will need to provide the person's full name, date and place of birth and parents' full names. Even if Social Security is unable to locate any information, you will be charged a fee for the records search.

• Unless specifically exempt by Norfolk Daily News, Apr 1993

law, everyone working in the United States is required to pay Social Security taxes on earnings from employment. These earnings are subject to Social Security tax without regard to the citizenship or place of residence of either the employer or employee.

• In 1989 (the latest information available), 78 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries received some reimbursement from the Medicare program.

• In 1960, 57 percent of women receiving Social Security benefits qualified only on their husband's record. By 1990, as more women earned their own Social Security coverage, only 40 percent had to rely solely on their husband's Social Security record.

In the May issue of America Heritage magazine, there is an article about Ireland and Irish heritage. In a box and side-line article is an announcement of significant interest to all genealogists with Irish ancestry. The Irish government has funded a new program which will, at completion, make research easier in Ireland than in almost any other nation!

Called the Irish Genealogy Project, it is a massive collection of records. The church and civil registers, along with tombstone extraction for every county are being collected and computerized. Each county will then have a genealogy center in which data will be housed and where it can be used by genealogists.

The report also notes that the clans of Ireland are now organizing and compiling histories and genealogies. Already 243 of these collections are completed and others are under way. To acquire information about the clans, their records, and reunions or gatherings they may be planning, you may contact: Clans of Ireland, c/o Genealogical Office, 2 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.

This project appears to parallel what the LDS Church is now undertaking with the computerization and circulation of the 1880 US Census, the 1881 British Isles Census, and the new extraction projects dealing with death records and cemetery records. The Irish project has a target date of 2000 for completion. The LDS projects will doubtless take much longer.

--from Bluegrass ROOTS

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For a FREE copy of the *Family History Publication List* from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, just call 1-800-537-5950.

--from So. Suburban Gen. & Hist. Soc. Newsletter June 1994

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WHEN IS IT?

England and its colonies adopted January 1 as the beginning of the calendar year in 1752. Scotland adopted January 1 as the beginning of the year ca 1600. The old style year ended March 24, and the new began March 25.

The change in calendar would have been conformed to sporadically. The Julian calendar has gradually been abandoned since 1582 in favor of the Gregorian calendar. Ten days were lost to the change between October 4-15.

The Italian states, Portugal, Spain and the German Catholic states adopted the change within the first year, German Protestant states in 1699, Sweden in 1753, Japan in 1873, China in 1912, the Soviet Union in 1918, and Greece in 1923.

The Muslims tend to use a Muslim calendar where the months do not remain the same but retrogress through the year every 32 1/2 years.

It might be a good idea to keep this information handy so that when you are researching these countries, you will always be aware of which calendar the country was using at what time.

--from The Family Tree Apr/May 1994, via Nuggets from Paradise.
Source Bureau Co. Gen Soc. Princeton, ILL July 1994

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has maps for \$.25 each for the following counties:
Cerro Gordo, Clinton, Linn, Muscatine and
Scott. *in Iowa* Source Lynn Co Gen Soc

Now Thank We All
OUR GOD



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ADDRESSES FOR VITAL RECORDS

The 1990 edition of Where to Write for Vital Records, published by the Dept. of Health and Human Services, can be obtained for \$1.75. This booklet, which tells how to obtain certified copies of birth, death, marriage and divorce certificates, is available from R. Woods, Consumer Information Center - Y, P.O. Box 100, Pueblo, CO 81002. Order publication No. 161X.

from Consumer Information Catalog, Fall 1991, p. 13, via Winnebago-Boone GS, Mar 1992

SWEDISH RESEARCH

The Swedish Federation of Genealogical Societies will answer any question about Swedish genealogy and give information about professional genealogists. The Swedish Federation of Genealogical Societies was formed in 1986 and includes more than 80 of the 120 societies that exist to help in Swedish research. They do read and write in English. Their address is Sveriges Släktforskaeforbund, Box 15222, S-161 16, Bromma, Sweden.

from Family Tree Digest, Oct 1991, via Winnebago-Boone GS, Mar 1992

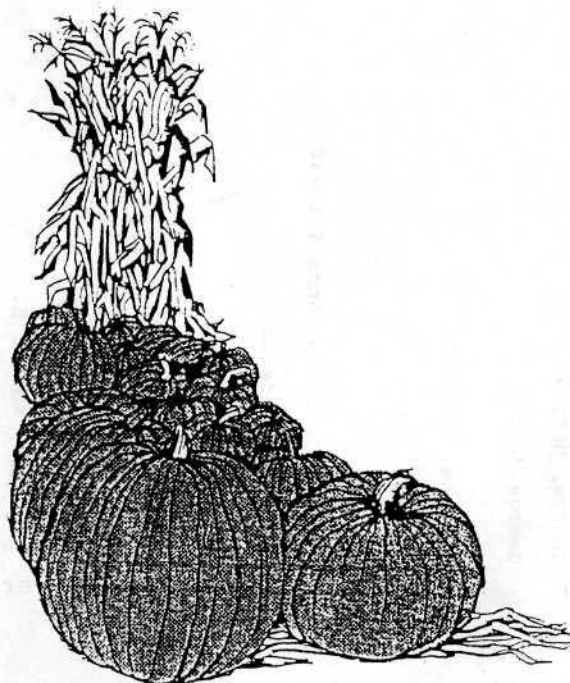
IRISH RESEARCH

The Irish Tourist Board in New York now provides a free brochure on how to trace Irish ancestors. To obtain a copy, write to the Irish Tourist Board, 757 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017. The Irish government has launched two major programs to assist researchers...the National Genealogical Project and the Irish Family History Cooperative. Both are linked to research centers. A special Clans of Ireland Office has opened at the Irish Genealogical Office in Dublin to register clans, aid in research and help organize and promote family reunions. For further information, write to the Clans of Ireland, Genealogical Office, 2 Kildare St., Dublin 2, Ireland.

from Prairie Pioneer GS Newsletter, Aug 1991, via Winnebago-Boone GS, Mar 1992

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