## MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLEJJER

P. O. Box 1031

Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1031

VOLUME 16 - NUMBER 64 July, 1995

4th 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 - JoNelle Linnaus Treasurer - Donald & Dorothy Monson

Newsletter Editors - Joyce Borgelt and Jeanne Allison

DUES: Due September 1 of each year

or \$8.00 per couple

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Summer has arrived and we were quite aware of the change of the season from the high temperature. But we were reminded that Spring has not quite finished by the pleasant days and the delightful sleeping weather nights.

Our society recently purchased a two volume set of books of all the cemeteries in Antelope County plus information of two cemeteries in each Holt and Knox County.

Several members of our Society are re-walking cemeteries in Madison County to update information we have. We are Checking possibilities of putting this information on a computer.

In June Harold Lyon gave a very interesting program from a book about life in Montana during the early thirties written by Alice Jackman Hutchens. Harold knew the author and he and a friend lived with Alice and her husband. He will continue with this story adding his personal experiences when we meet in July. August meeting will be a family picnic.

During June's meeting we elected the following people for officers for September 1995 through August 1996. President-Lottie Klein; Vice President-Richard Strenge; Co-Secretaries Marjorie Fuhrman and JoNelle Linnaus; and Treasurers Don and Dorothy Monson.

May all you Genealogists have a pleasant summer with fun and joy finding another ancestor or ancestors during your family reunions or travel.

DUES ARE DUE

Lottie Klein Vice President

### I AM YOUR FLAG

I was born on June 17, 1777.

I am more than just cloth shaped into a design.

I am the refuge of the world's oppressed people.

I am the silent sentinel of Freedom.

I am the inspiration for which American Patriots, gave their lives and fortunes.

I have led your sons into battle from Valley Forge to the Bloody Ridges of Korea; and Viet Nam.

I walk in silence with each of your honored Dead, to their final resting place beneath the silent White Crosses, row upon row.

I have flown through Peace and War; Strife and Prosperity, and amidst it all I have been respected.

My red stripes symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious Nation.

My white stripes signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their sons.

My blue field is indicative of God's heaven under which I fly.

My stars clustered together unify 50 states as one, for God and Country.

"Old Glory" is my nickname, and proudly I wave on high. Honor me, respect me, defend me with your lives and fortunes. Never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position, lest I never return.

Keep alight the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy.

Worship Eternal God and keep His commandments, and I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all.

(UNKNOWN)

Source - Southwest NE Gen. Society - Vol 19 - No. 2





"That's your tummy, Jeffy. Your heart is up higher.

NEW FILE GIVES OBITUARY NOTICES: A new unique history computer file is now available to the Norfolk Public Library. This file, still under construction, allows users to locate funeral and obituary notices published in the Norfolk Daily News, then view (and for a fee, photocopy) the actual notices on microfilm. Notices published in 1888-1892, 1906, 1907, 1962 and 1963 are currently searchable, with more notices added daily. Plans are to eventually make this a comprehensive database from 1888 to the present.

Source March, 1995 Norfolk Daily News

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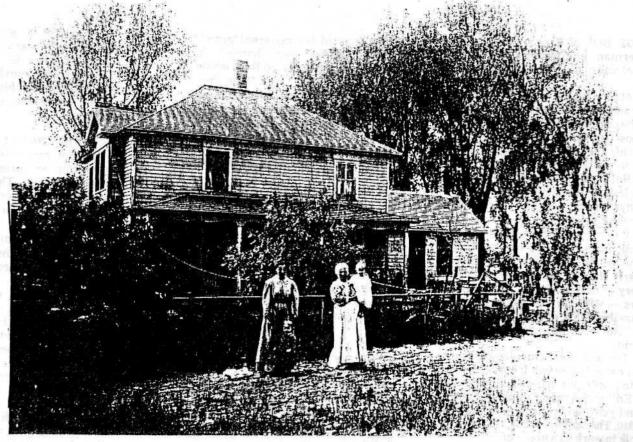
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A 1910 photograph shows Dora Eppler (at left) and her niece, Esther Raasch, with Christina Eppler and her granddaughter, Eveline Eppler, at the Eppler homestead five miles north of Norfolk on First Street. Dora was the mother of Norfolkan Lu Bree. Esther, Christina and Eveline were Mrs. Bree's cousin, grandmother and sister, respectively. Source: Norfolk Daily News-June 7, 1994

# Longtime Norfolkans see several parallels

By Mary Pat Finn-Hoag News Staff Writer

Parallels exist between the new wave of Hispanic immigrants to Norfolk and the city's founding fathers' arrival here almost 130 years ago, say two longtime members of the Elkhorn Valley Historical Society.

Luile "Lu" (Eppler) Bree and Walter E. "Wally" Truex said back then, just like now, the immigrants came to American for a better life for their families and they first learned English from their children.

Mrs. Bree's maternal grandparents, John Raasch and Johanna Braasch, were among Norfolk's founding German families. The

'I wouldn't live any place else, and that's what they're (minorities in Norfolk) finding out,' Wally Truex said. 'It's the Land of Opportunity.'

pair came to Norfolk as youngsters with their families in the first caravan of German settlers from Ixonia, Wis., in 1866. They later marned and reared their 11 children on a homestead located six miles northeast of Hadar.

Mrs. Bree's paternal grandfather, Edward Eppler, was a German immigrant. Her paternal grandmother, Christina Busse, was a native of France who first settled in Louisiana.

Following their marriage, the couple homesteaded five miles north of Norfolk on First Street. The house is still inhabited today, with the farm still known as the Eppler homestead.

The Edward Epplers reared 13 children, including a son, Otto. He and Dora Raasch, both lifelong Norfolk residents, were married in 1907.

Their five children include Mrs. Bree. She and George Bree, also a lifelong Norfolkan, were married in 1932. Both of Bree's parents were German immigrants; they later met and married in Hoskins.

MRS. BREE SAID all of her grandparents came to America 'for better living conditions." Almost immediately after their arrival, they learned English from their children, Mrs. Bree said.

But Mrs. Bree said her motherin-law, Helen (Bordt) Bree, "always spoke German to us. We

spoke English to her."

Volumes of history, spanning decades and compiled by Truex, line shelves in his apartment. He eagerly shares early-day Norfolk history - dating back to the fur traders - with various audiences, primarily youths.

"Norfolk's been good to me," he

şaid.

Truex was only months old when He came to Norfolk from St. Louis, Mo., with his parents, Robert E. "Ed" and Anna (Eminger) Truex, and year-old brother, Bob, in June 1910. The senior Truex came to Norfolk to work as a mail carrier.

Wally Truex said his maternal grandfather, Engelbert Eminger, and his friend, Jacob Mebold, were encouraged to come to America at age 21 in 1865 to seek a new life in the "Land of the Free," rather than stay in the Black Forest region of Germany and likely be drafted into the compulsory army of either Prussia or Austria.

After an arduous journey via a sailing vessel for almost six weeks, the two young men caught sight of the New York City harbor and Ellis Island. Truex said the two men were "glad to be here where jobs were plentiful as the railroad building crews were heading west through Ohio."

IN 1866, MEBOLD'S sister, Caroline, and Eminger were married in Ohio where the latter was involved in railroad construction. The newlyweds were later lured to Missouri by the promise of free land under the Homestead Act.

Caroline and Engelbert Eminger, who became U.S. citizens, gradually learned to speak English. As teachers had cautioned the couple to not speak German in their house for fear it would make learning more difficult at school, their younger children were not bilingual, Wally Truex said.

Truex said his maternal grandparents were "real happy" in America. "They raised their whole family of 13 kids here. When they came to America, they stayed. It was so much better here."

Today, minorities coming to the Norfolk area are here primarily for economic reasons, Truex said. "There are a lot more jobs here

than in Mexico," he said.
"I wouldn't live any place else, and that's what they're (minorities in Norfolk) finding out," Truex said. "It's the 'Land of Opportunity.' "

Continuing, Truex said, "This is the Land of Opportunity for anybody, anybody if they want it to be. All you have to do is be ambitious and go to work. All should learn English, get an education and go to

Regardless of race of the Norfolk area's newest residents, Truex said, "They're all God's 'chil'uns."

Truex, a 1929 graduate of Norfolk High School, was involved with Wetzel & Truex Jewelry for 50 years. His business partner was the late Paul Wetzel.

TRUEX SAID the early-on customers would converse with each other in German. Wetzel, who knew German, would conduct transactions with his German-speaking customers. If running a business in Norfolk today, Truex said he would have at least one employee fluent in Spanish.

Truex said his maternal grandfather, who died in Norfolk in 1927 at age 82, subscribed to a German newspaper to keep up on happenings in his homeland. Truex said he remembers that the "Norfolk Press," a local newspaper, included a section written in German.

Truex said some of the ministers of several local churches would conduct their sermons in both English and German until about 1940.

Through the years, Norfolk has been a "melting pot" for various nationalities, but predominantly German Lutherans, Truex said.

He adds that he remembers few minorities in Norfolk in his early growing-up years in Norfolk.

Truex said he does remember "King" Gamble, an African-American, and his four daughters and one son. The children's mother had returned to the Philippines, her homeland.

Mrs. Bree, a 1932 graduate of Norfolk High School, said Gamble's son, Hystand, was in her high school class before moving away Mrs. Bree remembers his father as "a tall, stately fellow, clean, immaculate, poor."

SHE REMEMBERED that he would dole out candy to children downtown from an apron he wore with large pockets. The candy, Mrs. Bree said, was probably donated by downtown Norfolk merchants.

Mrs. Bree said the Gamble fam ily was accepted by other Norfolkans. "Everybody was equal," she

No matter their race, no matter their origin, Norfolk's early-day residents all sought "a better way of life," Mrs. Bree said. "Only I think we adapted (to others) a little more years ago."

Perhaps it was based on econom-

"Maybe you didn't have the money - well, nobody had money years ago," Mrs. Bree said. "We were all in the same boat. There used to be so much honesty (back then). Times are different now.'

Mrs. Bree said, "I think I can relate to them (minorities in Norfolk). People came to better themselves before and it took hard work, that's for sure. But there's a lot missing (today); too much is taken for granted today

Mrs. Bree said her descendants "were very happy here (in the Norfolk area). I never, ever heard any one of them wish for the times they had left. They were happy and thankful and God-fearing people."

NORFOLKANS need to be accepting of the city's newest residents, whatever their race or color. "We're all God's children — that's for sure," she said.

In reference to the minority population, Mrs. Bree said, "They need to learn our laws and they should learn English. It's to their advantage."

And sometimes their mode of dress and hairstyles - while they're proud of their heritage sets them apart from longtime residents and makes their acceptance here more difficult, she said.

1st of May 1995

Nebraska State Genealogical Society Bob Plisek, President 810 Volkman Drive Norfolk, Nebraska 68701

Dear Bob,

It is with great pleasure that the Madison County Genealogical Society nominates as the 1995 outstanding Genealogist from this area; The Rev. Walter M. Pinnt of Norfolk, NE.

Walter has been a contributeing member of The Madison County Genealogical Society for several years. He has helped the society by spending lots of time on the cemetery recordings that were on a computer disk that had become obsolete. He worked and worked with the computer to retrieve the information and set it up so we can make use of the information. Walter has found a computer whiz who will put the cemetery recordings on a newer disk and add more of the information that we had recorded. This has been a BIG contribution toward our cemetery recording project.

Rev. Walter also gives of his time to the Northeast Community College; serves as a part-time Pastor and officiates at funerals. He truly deserves a Certificate of Appreciation.

Sincerely,

Dee Sewell and Hargerie Fuhrmann

Nominat ing Committee.

## QUICK ANSWERS TO GENEALOGICAL PROBLEMS

For a quick answer to a quick question, you may call the Family History Library in Salt Lake City at 1-800-453-3860. The number is the LDS church office's switchboard which will connect you to the library (you get a recording, after which an operator comes on the line, and you tell her you need a question answered by someone at the library and she connects you.) If you have a long, involved question, don't expect a long involved answer, but they might know where you can turn for help.

-Leafy Branches, Adams Co. NE Gen. Soc.; via Carroll Co. Gen. Soc. May 1994, via Bureau Co. Gen Soc-ILL, March 1995 July 1995 - 4th Quarter MCGS - Vol 16 - 64

#### HIELIP APPEALS FOR

RAILROAD RECORDS AT RISK -- The National Archives is considering trashing the historic Railroad Retirement Pension Board papers When asked about it, one archivist said, "Well, most of the information is available elsewhere." This is a valuable historic resource that is not available elsewhere. These records are equivalent to Social Security records since people who receive Railroad Retirement do not receive Social Security. If you feel these records should be preserved, please write now to: Dr. Trucy Peterson, Acting Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, c/o Curt B. Witcher, FGS President, P. O. Box -- from SENGS The Homesteader Newsl., Winter 1994-95 2270, Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270.

HELP SAVE CONFEDERATE DOCUMENTS -- In a recent issue of the Confederate Veterans magazine, there was a reprinted editorial from John Perry, editor of the Confederate Gazette. He told how over 5,700 cubic feet of Confederate Archive records, which include muster rolls, payrolls, hospital records, prison records, and government correspondence are in danger. These historic and genealogically-important records are currently stacked in card boxes in the non-climate-controlled area of the National Archives. Dr. Miscall Meir, a National Archives spokesperson, admitted they are "going to seed" rapidly. The documents are not slated to be housed in the new building at College Park, MD, so their future is uncertain. Please write your Senators and Congressmen to urge their assistance in helping to preserve these records.

-- The Family Tree, publication of Odom Library, Moultrie, GA, April-May 1995

CIVIL WAR VETERANS IN CALIF. WANTED -- Sheila Benedict is a professional genealogist & 2nd VP of the Calif. State Geneal. Alliance. She is gathering data to compile the names of Civil War Veterans, Union & Confederate, buried in California. She would appreciate hearing from anyone who has information about an ancestor who served in the Civil War. She needs cemetery data from county and/or city genealogical/historical societies or from individuals who may have records. Please send data to CGRS, PO Box 335, Nuevo, CA 92567 or call 909-928-9875. -- ibid.

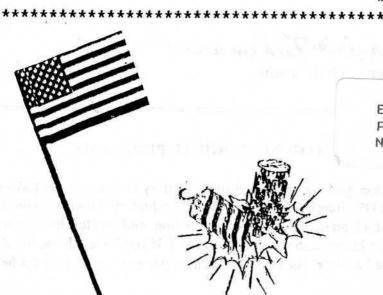
NATIONAL ARCHIVES SEEKS MILITARY RECORDS -- The July 12, 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132 destroyed many military records. The Center officials have been working to create a reconstructed file for US Army and Air Force personnel who served during the period from World War I through 1963. If you have copies of original documents concerning any military man in that time period whose records may have been destroyed, write to the above Records Center telling them who and what you have. Discharge papers, awards, & official papers are all needed. -- ibid. Source Adams Co. Gen Soc-Apr 95

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY P. O. Box 1031 Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1031

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