

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

N E W S L E T T E R

P. O. Box 1031

Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1031

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April, 1996

3rd 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 - Lottie Klein V. President - Richard Strenge
Secretary - JaNelle Linnaus Treasurer - Donald & Dorothy Monson
Newsletter Editors - Joyce Borgelt and Jeanne Rix

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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The Madison County Genealogical Society is looking forward to the day we have our cemetery records updated and put on computer discs. This will be a wonderful aid to genealogists.

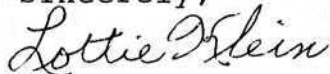
Our program for April 16th meeting will be a tape taken from the National Genealogical Society Conference held in 1995, which was presented by Katherine Scott Sturdevant. The titled "Trailing Families: Westward Migration Patterns in Family History" On May 21st the program will be presented by Lois Wegner of Beemer, Nebraska titled "Running Older Cemeteries".

Madison County Genealogical Society extends our sympathy to a member Joan Moody because of the death of her husband, Louis.

The calender says Spring is here - but there are days when it feels like it has not entered through the gate.

The best to each of you until next time.

Sincerely,



Lottie Klein

We extend our sympathy to Joan Moody on the death of her husband, Louis, on March 22nd. and to Pearla and Gene Benjamin on the death of their son Scott.

We welcome Jo WAARA to our membership. Her address is P. O. Box 598, Madison, NE 68748. Her phone number is 402-454-3936. Jo is the daughter of Glenn and Betty (Knull) Makelin from Madison



By Becky Beth Barry

Madison County Poor Farm Has Very Interesting History

If only the walls could talk! Going through the record books at the Court House, some of the facts of the Madison County Poor Farm were discovered. With the dismantling of the "poor farm" dwelling almost completed, I thought perhaps these unique stories pertaining to the farm, the house and its many residents might be of interest to others.

The land was purchased for the Madison County Farm for the purpose of housing the county's "paupers". In a special session on October 14, 1892, County Commissioners A. C. Johnson, Pete Zimmerman and D. R. Daniels contracted 160 acres of land one and one-half miles southwest of Battle Creek from Herman and Ida Hogrefe for \$3500.00 subject to a \$500.00 mortgage. The Citizens of Battle Creek, even then a generous and forward-looking group, donated \$200.00 toward the purchase of the farm.

Erection of several buildings was soon to follow. The 22-room, three story building was the most prominent of the eleven buildings built by John B. Herrman for a total sum of \$1315.00. In addition

to the 22 rooms, there were also four bathrooms and two full length 9 ft. halls and two porches on the east and west. The ceilings on the main floor were 12 ft. high with windows measuring 9 ft., which is quite a distance to fall - ask my mother! Upon completion of the house on April 25, 1893, it was ready for occupancy. S. W. Thatch was hired as the first overseer with a starting wage of \$50.00 a month. Fifteen inmates entered during the first quarter.

Dr. L. J. Daniels was appointed as the first physician. He was to receive \$1.35 including medicine for each call he made to the "poor farm". He was to be given a bonus of 25c if he cared for more than one patient per call.

Equipment and livestock included two milk cows, two sows and a team of horses. The line of machinery purchased the first year included a wagon, double harness, a mowing machine, drag, hay rake and cultivator, all of which was purchased for \$70. In Mr. Thatch's final report for the year he raised 1000 bushels of corn which was sold for 25c per bushel;

700 bu. oats for 25c per bushel; 90 bushels of potatoes, 2 barrels of sauerkraut, two barrels of pickles and 40 ton of hay. The only request made during the first year was the following: "I would recommend that you make a small appropriation to buy a hand organ and, I, with the "monkeys" I have on hand, can make the institution self-supporting by exhibiting them on the streets in front of the saloons in the various towns of the county."

The 1894 report by Mr. Thatch went like this: Like all the farmers in this vicinity, all I could raise on the farm was a disturbance and it required an exertion to do that. I sowed 16 acres of oats - raised nothing. Planted 2 acres of potatoes and got 25 bu., but they are like the corn, they will make good seed if you plant two to a hill.

County Commissioner Paul Terry, whose father was county commissioner for many years, related some interesting facts his father recollected. It was known that a leper lived in a small house himself and food was delivered within a certain distance. There is no record how long the leper actually stayed there. At one time a negro lady was a patient and was supposedly buried on the farm.

Visiting with Mrs. Bert Johnson was most interesting. She and her late husband, W. W. Motz, were superintendent and matron in 1930 through 1938. She told of baking as many as 20 or more loaves of bread at once. There were 5 home rules which had to be obeyed: (1) Obey the Golden Rule. (2) Go to church services which were held in the home. (3) Come to the table on time. (4) Clean own room. (5) Take a bath regularly. Often it was hard to make the people abide by them. In 1933 Mr. Motz won a silver cup in a corn yield contest sponsored by the Nebraska Crop Growers Association. He raised 100 bushel corn per acre, which was extremely good for that year. Mr. Johnson tells of taking care of all kinds of people from a blind

gypsy and her daughter to nursing cancer patients.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Tegeler were the next overseers of the farm from 1938 through 1948. Mr. Tegeler stated there were two corn picking contests held on the farm while he was there. He commented on the volume of canning done by his wife for the entire household - quite a sight to behold!

Mr. and Mrs. George Barry assumed the duties of the farm in 1948 until 1959 at which time the voters of Madison County voted to sell the property. I can vividly remember seeing the huge kettles that my Aunt Libby cooked the enormous amounts of delicious food in. It was sent upstairs via the dumbwaiter system which went from the kitchen in the basement up to the third floor. Many times the patients required different foods and she would send up special food for them if necessary. Some of the men helped with the gardening, chicken chores, etc.

On January 15, 1959, the property was sold at a public auction to Louis F. Barry for \$246.00 per acre, bringing to an end the era of the "poor farm". Most of the patients were either sent to nursing homes or given aid of some sort or other. The house is almost gone now and I say this with nostalgia. Being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Barry and the "poor farm" being my home the past three years, it has been a wonderful home for me and my family and we shall always cherish the few years it was our home even though it did not offer lavish and convenient comforts. God was good to give it to us those few years!

It's hard to convince people. It's relatively easy to persuade them.

Anniversary of Great Flood at Emerick

The following article was submitted by Lennie Horn. It was taken from the Meadow Grove News, dated June, 1936.

The editor asked Mr. E.L. McIntosh for this interesting story of the flood in the Emerick school district which occurred June 16, 1891.

"Although I was a very small boy, and it was a long time ago, in fact, forty-five years ago the 16th of this month, the things that took place that day come to my mind very vividly.

I can yet imagine myself standing at the window of that little schoolhouse and looking out upon that whirling mass of water.

The schoolhouse was a little frame building about the same size of most country schoolhouses of that time. It stood on the north bank of the Battle creek, which is a dry creek only when it rains. The schoolhouse was one mile west of where the old Emerick store and blacksmith shop used to stand, nine miles south of Meadow Grove. A modern and more pretentious school now stands on the same site.

It had been raining for several days previous to this date, and the ground was completely saturated. It started raining soon after school called and it certainly came in torrents. The creek started to rise and was soon out of its banks. When it was time for the afternoon recess, the schoolhouse was in the middle of a channel of water nearly one-fourth mile wide and it was coming into the building.

Fred Miles, Bert Homan, father of the present county superintendent, and myself were about the same size. We got in one corner to talk things over, went into a huddle, so to speak. Of course, we thought the schoolhouse was going to float off before very long, if the water should keep raising. There was an attic in the building and Bert and I proposed we all get up there. But, Fred decided against this as he said if it should tip over we would drown sure. We then agreed to try to get to Bert's home which was one-half miles east. We went to the door and quietly passed out. The water at that time was about waist deep. We didn't get far going east as the water got deeper. We then decided to go

north. Up until this time we all had hold of hands. We did not get far north until we ran into a channel that was over our heads. We were all thrown down and floundered around for what seemed to be a long time. I finally got on my feet and Fred and Bert were on the south or opposite side of the channel.

They called to me and said they could not cross to where I was, and they would have to go the other way.

I remember distinctly Fred waving his hand and saying, "Goodbye Ern." His body was found about a mile from there some time later, after the water had gone down. Bert managed to keep his head above the water and drifted with the stream. As he was drifting he caught hold of a windmill tower and climbed to the top and stayed there until help came.

Back at the schoolhouse, the teacher, Miss Eva Johnson, had decided to try and get the rest of the scholars to higher ground. Of course, the water had been rising all the time and by the time they had gone a short distance, the smaller children began to go down. The teacher and Richard (Dick) Horrocks, Samuel Letheby, Robert Hamlin and a girl named Johnson, who were a little older and stronger than the rest, were having trouble keeping the smaller ones from floating off. They then saw the utter uselessness of trying to get away from the schoolhouse and started back.

The older boys worked like troopers and were getting them back to the schoolhouse when a little girl, Mary Cox, started to float off. Bert Hamlin, who was the only child of a widow woman, started after her. He was too late, and they both floated away. Their bodies were also found later.

At the time there was considerable argument pro and con, and some criticism of the teacher and pupils leaving the building. Of course, it would have been better to have stayed in the building, but standing in that little old shell of a building that day with that terrible flood lashing it, I still think it would be a hard question for anyone to decide just what was best to do."

(NOTE) The writer escaped injury in the flood by reaching higher ground on the other side of the channel.

Petaleshoro statue placed in Battle Creek park

The legend of Petaleshoro lives on in Battle Creek, Nebraska, a former campsite of the Pawnee Tribe.

A 7-foot tall, 900-pound statue of the legendary Pawnee Chief has been placed in Battle Creek's Parks of Pride Arboretum. It is the centerpiece of a park area that will include walking and jogging trails, but more than that it will serve as a reminder of a

Native American who helped stop what could have been a massacre in 1859.

Julia Johnson Noyes and Faridun Negmat-Zoda spent 6 months creating the statue. The artists began learning about the chief after receiving a commission to do the statue. During their research, they discovered two chiefs were named Petaleshoro. The second Petaleshoro

wrapped an American flag around himself and stood between the Pawnee Indians and the Nebraska Militia.

Irene Zimmerman, president of the Parks of Pride Foundation met with several representatives of the Pawnee tribe at the benefit dance in Lincoln, Nebraska, April 22, 1995. She told those Pawnee representatives of the planned statue in Battle Creek.

She said then that the statue was to honor Petaleshoro and the first residents of the Battle Creek area, the Pawnee

Indians.

Since then, she has subscribed to the tribal newsletter and sent the material included in this story.

Petaleshoro prevents uprising

Gen. John M. Thayer, for whom Thayer County is named, told the story of what happened when Pawnee Chief Petaleshoro reportedly kept a group of Nebraska militia from attacking a Pawnee village at a site which is now the community of Battle Creek.

The incident occurred after Thayer and his calvarymen planned to "punish" the Pawnees for "depredations against settlers, according to the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Thayer didn't like the Pawnees and believed they had stolen some of his group's provisions which included bread, meat, doughnuts and "a bottle of very choice brandy."

The calvarymen charged upon the village one morning in 1859, said historical society records.

Thayer said he saw male Indians leaving their teepees as his men formed a line. The men's guns were loaded when the chiefs came running toward them. Some held a white wolf skin as a token of surrender, he said.

About the same time, Chief Petaleshoro draped an American flag around himself and ran toward Thayer, who was on horseback.

The chief reportedly said he was a "good Indian," and that the commander couldn't shoot him while he was under the flag.

Thayer said he was ready to give the order to fire, "when some invisible agency seemed to hold me back."

"I had time to realize this, that if I fired upon them I should be charged with having been guilty of inhuman massacre, for my men with that piece of artillery (a cannon) would have mowed down hundreds of them," he said.

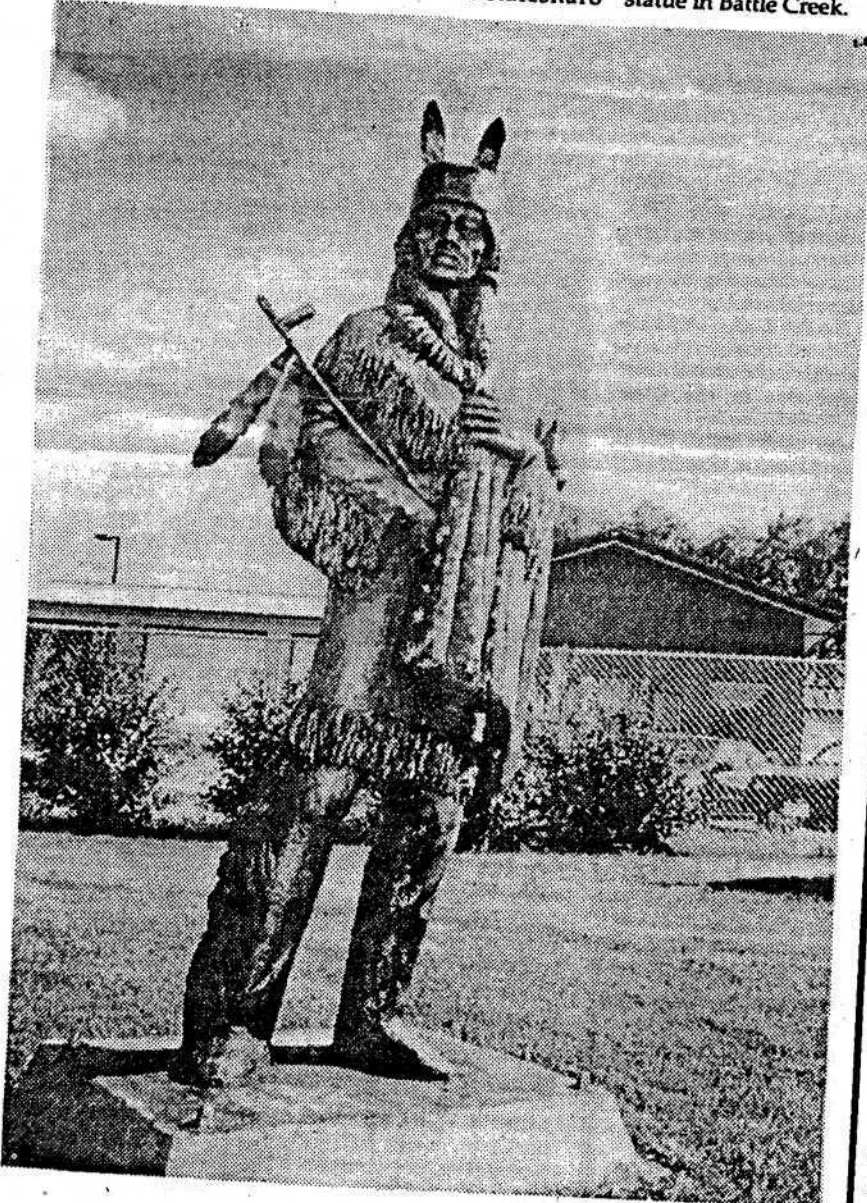
Thayer later was glad that he didn't give the order to fire.

"Now, I have rejoiced since ... that I did not; for the result afterward was accomplished without shedding blood. I say they surrendered completely," he said.

Two or three Pawnees — those who supposedly took the food — eventually went to an Omaha jail for some time.

"There was never a depredation committed upon any settler afterward," Thayer said.

The U.S. Government soon afterward placed the Pawnees on a reservation in Nance County, where Genoa now lies. Some of the Pawnees later became scouts and served the government troops in their wars against Indians on the plains, Thayer said.



Petaleshoro Statue

News From Yesteryear

BATTLE CREEK ENTERPRISE
Battle Creek, Madison County, Nebraska

Thurs., Nov. 23, 1939

From the files of Ann & Aage Petersen.

DR. SHELDON SPEAKS OF THE PIONEER DAYS

Tells of General Thayer's March Up the Elkhorn Valley and Peaceful Disbanding of Pawnees. — Proposes Marker Monument for Battle Creek.

Dr. Addison E. Sheldon of Lincoln, superintendent of the Nebraska State Historical society, and Raymond J. Latrome, librarian of the society, were guests of the Battle Creek Commercial Club at a dinner last Thursday evening.

Dr. Sheldon expressed pleasure at having the opportunity to meet business men of Battle Creek as he had met them in the early '80s, when he was a publisher of a paper at Burnett (now Tilden) and devoted one page to Battle Creek news and advertising which he styled the "Battle Creek Blade," mentioning among his friends of the early days, "Fleeks" Hale, L. B. Baker, Bob Maxwell, Fred Richardson and a number of others, all now deceased.

Following the dinner Dr. Sheldon addressed a community meeting at the high school auditorium, where a large assemblage was entertained as well as enlightened by his portrayal of the early history of Nebraska and amusing incidents of the pioneer days when a journey of fifty miles was an event and travel by oxen was not uncommon.

Dr. Sheldon spoke at length on events which led to the alleged "Battle of Battle Creek" from which the stream and the town derived their names. In 1859, he said, there came a report that the Pawnee Indians were on the warpath and were massacring white settlers in the Elkhorn valley west of Fremont. General John M. Thayer, stationed in the south-east part of the state, with a

company of some 170 soldiers moved north, crossed the Elkhorn river at Fremont and began the march up the valley in pursuit of the redskins.

The soldiers found no evidence of any serious depredations, nor had they been able to locate the tribe until after passing through West Point. It appeared the Indians, well mounted, were always a day or two ahead of the troops. Finally the soldiers surprised them in camp on an unnamed creek in north central Madison county, but not a shot was fired. The Indians hurriedly decamped, but one old chief who carried an American flag stood his ground, claimed protection as an American citizen, and convinced the general that it was the Sioux, not the Pawnees, who were sworn enemies of the whites. Thus it was that about one hundred of these Pawnee braves became valuable scouts and joined the soldiers to rid the country of the marauding Sioux. July 13, 1859, was the date of this friendly pow-wow between the Pawnees and General Thayer which has been erroneously alluded to as the "Battle of Battle Creek."

Primarily, Dr. Sheldon's visit on invitation to Battle Creek was to interest the community in the erection of a marker or monument to commemorate the peaceful solution of Indian troubles and the naming of the town and the creek which borders it.

To start a movement toward this end, there was appointed from the floor a committee comprising four men and three women: Dr. M. W. Hunt, Henry F. Walz, S. W. Steffen, F. E. Martin, Miss Mollie Taylor, Mrs. G. G. Hansen and Mrs. J. B. Dufphey.

Petalesharo Statue Story in Pawnee Tribal Newsletter

The October issue of the Pawnee Tribal Newsletter published in Pawnee, Oklahoma, carried this full page (shown reduced here from tabloid size) telling of the statue being placed in the Battle Creek city park.

12/27/95
PAWNEE TRIBAL NEWSLETTER

RESEARCH IN GERMANY

Have you ever wondered how and where you could place a query or an ad in a German genealogical magazine?

Here's the place for you:

Familienkundliche Nachrichten is published six times a year and is devoted intirely to ads for "missing ancestors." It has a circulation of over 13,000 and is a very popular way for Germans (and us) to publicize their genealogical questions.

Ads cost about \$15.00 in U.S. funds.

The publishers prefer payment to be in the form of German Marks. Their next choice is American cash; or third, a check for U.S. dollars which should include an extra \$2.00 to cover the expense of changing the money.

The *Familienkundliche Nachrichten* is published the first day of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Ads must arrive at the publisher at least six weeks prior to the date of publication.

A written narrative (in English) should detail all that you know about the German background of your family as well as the approximate date your ancestor emigrated to America. A free copy of the *Familienkundliche Nachrichten* will be mailed to you when your ad appears. The address of their publisher is:

Familienkundliche Nachrichten
Verlag Degener 7 Co.
Postfach 1340
D-8530 Neustadt (Aisch)
West Germany.

Source: *Pinery Pedigree*, 1990, via *Mennonite Family History*.

Plenty Of Indians, But No Rats In Tilden Early Days

The Pawnees were weary and had no food except a little parched corn, so the hunters fed them and they slept and rested. The English speaking Pawnee related to them the story of a Sioux and Pawnee battle fought a short while before, almost where the hunters were camped. Mr. Leach located it as on a bend in the creek on each half of the south quarter, section 3 Cedar township. In this battle a Pawnee warrior was killed and the Pawnees buried him near this location.

After the Indians had rested they started for their Indian village on the Loup, though their mocassins were almost worn through.

There were no rats in Tilden vicinity until the coming of the railroad.

There were no honey bees here when the settlers came.

Mormans' wagon tracks were visible for many years and possibly in 1955, on section 4, Burnett township. Great deep ruts were made as if heavy wagons had traveled over the ground in the rainy wet weather.

Evidences of Buffalo hunts were found near the Tilden vicinity. On a piece of land about a mile across, hundreds of buffalo skeletons indicated that Indians had surrounded and slaughtered hundreds of them.

—1870—

(Information taken from Sheldon's history, not quoted, however.)

Forest L. Putney, (Judge Putney), had a varied and interesting career. He was a veteran member of the bar of Madison Co. F. L. Putney was born in Iowa, October 12, 1857. F. L. Putney's grandmother, Eunice Alden, was a direct descendant of John Alden of Plymouth colony fame.

In 1870, Judge Putney's father, W. W. Putney, was a pioneer settler in Antelope Co. and took a pre-emption of 160 acres, about 8 miles southwest of Tilden. F. L. was then 13 years old. The nearest trading post was Norfolk. Putney's built a dug-out home and endured many hardships of pioneer days, on this isolated homestead.

W. W. served as first clerk of Antelope Co., and was present at the organization of Antelope County, in 1871. F. L. Putney as a boy

accompanied his father to this first meeting of pioneers held in the log house, on the homestead of A. H. Snider.

In 1881, W. W. Putney represented Antelope Co. in the state legislature and later, under President Harrison, took the census of Antelope, Boone, Madison and Platte counties.

W. W. Putney died in 1912.

History records that W. W. Putney stood virtually alone in fighting the Burlington and Missouri River R. R. Co., which owned 32,000 acres of Antelope Co., and eventually succeeded in collection of \$50,000 in tax returns to the county, which the railroad company had refused to pay.

F. L. Putney was able to attend school only at times when not needed on the pioneer farm. F. L. gained his education in pioneer schools. He delivered addresses in public frequently in his later life. He was known as an able and eloquent speaker.

At one time he operated the *Oakdale Journal* for 18 months. He then journeyed to Washington state where he operated newspapers. He was married in Washington in 1891. He was also a member of the second legislature of Washington state.

In 1893 he returned to Tilden and having completed his law studies and having been admitted to the bar, was Tilden's attorney. For 15 months he served as Antelope County judge.

In World War I, F. L. Putney was defense council member of Madison County. His three sons were in war service.

In 1902 Mrs. Putney died leaving him and Fred D., oldest son, born in 1892, in Washington, who graduated from the Tilden High School and Nebraska University. He married in 1917, to Cornelia Frazer of Lincoln.

William W., second son, was born approximately 8 miles southwest of Tilden, on the old Putney homestead. He must have attended Tilden school, also. He served from June, 1818 to Nov. 1919 in World War I. He married Hazel Snell in 1921.

Lelia G., only daughter, was born in Tilden in 1895. She graduated from Lincoln High in 1913. She studied business in Los Angeles and returned to Nebraska and

taught school. During World War I, she was a private secretary in the state office of State Council of Defense. She was also a journal clerk in the Nebraska legislature in 1918 and 1919. She married Lloyd Whitney and they operate the Whitney Co. Industrial Service in Chicago, Illinois.

Edward M., was born in Tilden in 1898. He later graduated from Tilden. He served in the navy in World War I, 1917 to 1919. He married Lois Shepard of Lincoln in 1919.

This is an example of a letter sent in as an example of the family histories we are seeking.

This depicts a pioneer in 1870.

—Williams—

Richard Williams came to Madison County in 1870 in the early summer of that year. There was no Burnett at that time and the closest town was West Point, Nebraska. He went there to do his trading for some time, Oelsleigles were the only people there at that time as far as we know.

We can remember hearing our mother tell about the big cattle herds driven through from Texas in 1878 to the north and the deep trails were there for years afterwards.

He moved his family there in a covered wagon pulled by a mule and a horse but later they used oxen. Columbus was not there at that time and was built up later. He hauled wheat to Columbus.

Grandad was in the army until the war was over in 1865, he was in the battle of Gettysburg. After the war he went back to Missouri after the family which he had left in a barracks while he was gone. He had to move his family at once because the bushwackers were so bad there. They went from there to Iowa and then to Nebraska and settled on what was later know as the Frank Ives place.

In 1868 they lived on the Turkey River in Iowa and while they were there he went to Oregon on a trip after grandmother died. He bought a revolver and a knife to take with him on the trip, for they went through Indian country; We still have the knife.

He mowed his hay with a scythe the first year he was in Nebraska and later hauled it in on a little flat rack. He hauled 221 loads on it and the wind blowed so hard he did most of the hauling at night after the wind went down. The boys did most of the hauling but grandad cut it all.

(Continued on page 36)

FAMILIES LOOKING TO GENEALOGY TO FIND MEDICAL PROBLEMS

By MIKE SNIDER
USA TODAY

In the spring of 1989, sisters Kathy Whalen and Gerry McCartney have traced their family medical "tree" for clues to their risks for diseases, especially ovarian cancer. Their mother had it, their father and grandfather died of colon cancer. "This is clearly a family with an increased link to cancer," says geneticist Aubrey Milunsky. "It's already known that the people downstream are more susceptible." The tree has led to better awareness of what symptoms to watch for, and more frequent

checkups. That same spring, comedian Gilda Radner died of the disease. And the sisters felt compelled to do what more and more people are doing: Quiz relatives about medical problems in their family that might also strike them.

The familial link in ovarian cancer "was all over the news. That really brought to light how prevalent it was in families," said Whalen, 46 a Doylestown Township, Pa., business owner. Radner, who was 42 when she died May 20, 1989, was unaware that her mother, aunt, two cousins and possibly a grandmother had bad ovarian or breast cancer.

Whalen and McCartney, 49, of Holland, Pa., each have two daughters in their 20s. They worry that the disease that killed their mother might strike more family members.

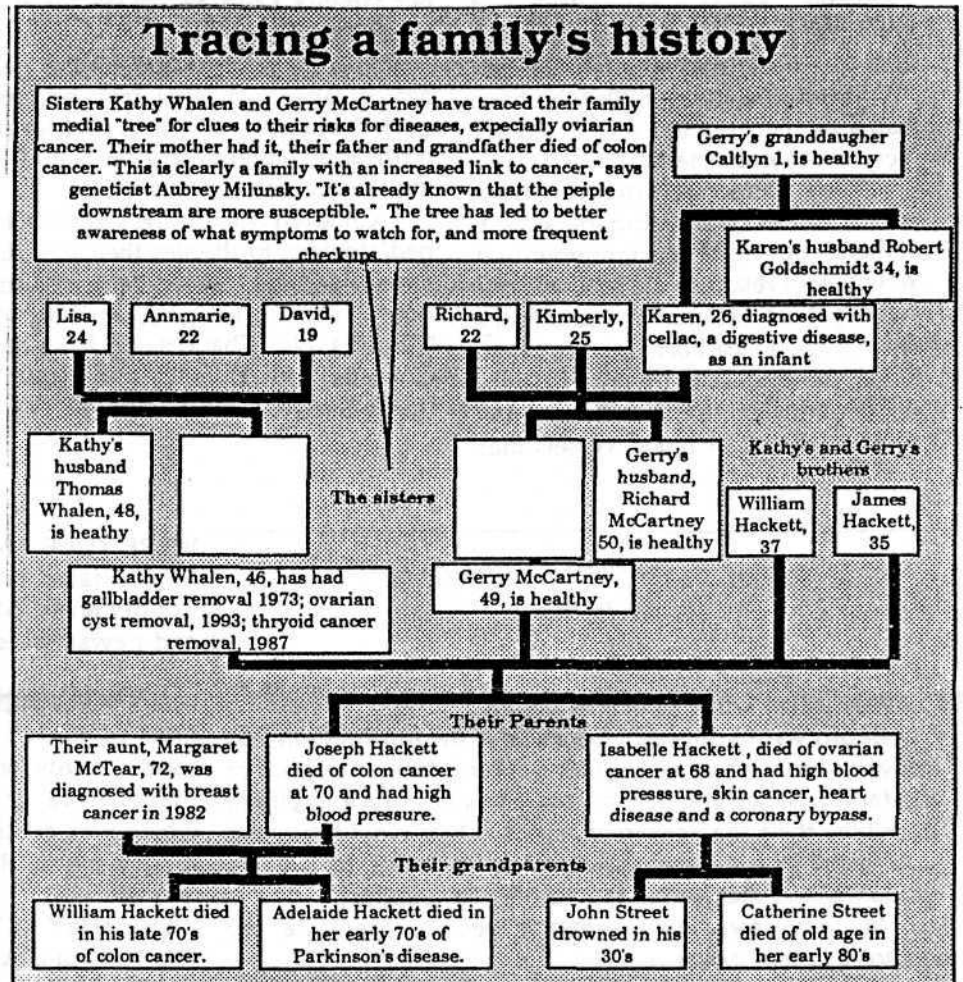
In the past, family health problems often were kept hush-hush.

But now that scientists can test for inherited disease susceptibilities, more families discuss medical problems.

Scientists devised the first genetic tests in the 1970s for sickle cell anemia and Tay-Sachs disease. Since then, tests for cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, thalassemia, the fragile-X syndrome and many other disorders have been developed. Tests for Marfan syndrome, neurofibromatosis and phenylketonuria carrier status are at the works.

Testing can help determine:

- Whether you have a genetic disease or if you're a carrier.
- Whether you run the risk of a child being affected with a disease.



This can help couples decide whether to consider prenatal diagnosis, abortion, artificial insemination or adoption.

With the federally funded Human Genome Project working toward mapping all of the human body's 50,000 to 100,000 genes by 2004, "it is expected that researchers will identify genes that contribute to the development of Alzheimer's disease, alcoholism, coronary artery disease, the different forms of cancer, and virtually every other illness," reported an American Medical Association's ethics committee in the current issue of the group's journal

"When they finish mapping ... we won't know all we need to know, but we'll find out a lot more things have a genetic component than we thought," said genetics counselor Beth Fine, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago.

Experts hope tracing disease patterns and identifying genes will result in cures. But until cures are found, knowing one's genetic makeup can be unsettling, and not just in terms of health, said oncologist Mary Daly of Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia. "There's lots of levels of scarieness. What's it going to mean to their insurance policies or employer? There's lots of implications."

MEDICAL PROBLEMS CONTINUED FROM PAGE

He and Daly are among experts discussing such advances this week at the International Congress of Human Genetics in Washington D.C.

Public awareness is growing, especially among younger people, said Daly, who heads a counseling and screening program for families at high risk for breast and ovarian cancer. "Women in their 20s or 30s who have had a mother or sister diagnosed are very much interested.

They collect information from aunts, uncles, grandmothers, grandfathers: but "it's important you do it now before relatives die and you can never get the information," said Mary Burris, 45, of Dearborn Heights, Mich. Burris' family detective work shed light on the familiar link in vascular tumors, made up of blood vessels that

usually appear on the skin's surface, but can also grow internally, possibly causing death.

Burris—who has had 17 of the tumors herself—found 59 relatives in seven generations who've had them, too. That led researchers at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, to use her family's DNA to search for the tumor-causing gene.

In the near future, all this genealogical gumshoeing may be less vital. Babies may get DNA profiles at birth; adults might carry cards profiling their inherited traits.

Children will routinely go to their pediatricians to discuss their genetic susceptibilities, "just like for shots now," said Milunsky, author of "Choices, Not Chances, An Essential Guide to Your Heredity and Health" (Little Brown and Co., 1989, \$22.50).

In their research, Whalen and McCartney found that both their paternal grandfather and father died of colon cancer and their paternal grandmother died of Parkinson's disease. An aunt on their father's side had breast cancer.

Because their mother had ovarian cancer, both have four times the risk of the cancer than the norm Daly said. Last month, they joined Daly's experimental cancer screening, and prevention programs. High-risk women like them may be given tamoxifen, a compound now used to treat women already diagnosed with the cancer.

(Courtesy Great Falls Tribune 14 Oct 1994)

Via the NEW BRASS KEY
Dec., 94-Jan, 95

THE "I CAN'T" SYNDROME

Linda Rossi

I CAN'T TRACE MY FAMILY HISTORY because...

I wouldn't know where to begin...

Begin with yourself. Compile all the information you know and then start seeking information from members of the family. Once you beg, borrow, buy or steal everything possible, then the research begins. We would suggest you enroll in a beginning workshop or class to provide guidance and that you join a society for support.

My ancestors were common people; therefore, no record of them exists...

Very few of us have the distinction of having famous ancestors; but for those of us "common folk," there is hope.

DID YOUR ANCESTORS LIVE?

Since 1790, the Federal Government has conducted a census every ten years. Starting with 1850, they listed every member of the household; thus you are able to compile complete family groups and trace them through 1910--the last federal census that is publicly available. [Editor: *I believe the 1920 Census is now available.*] Census records provide some interesting information--they tell what occupation your ancestor had; where he was born; whether he could read or write; how long he was married; if he was a citizen. In addition to Federal Censuses, states conducted censuses, and there were special military censuses. If your family were city dwellers, there were city directories available listing your ancestor's family.

MCGS - Vol 17 - 67

WERE YOUR ANCESTORS MARRIED?

Most States required marriages to be recorded at the County level. Marriages are also found in church records and newspapers. Some jurisdictions required posting of marriage bonds.

DID YOUR ANCESTORS OWN LAND?

Prior to the Civil War, most white males owned land. Land records are available at the County level. Many States have computerized indexes of records on land which was purchased directly from the State. Of course, if they owned land, they paid taxes; and there are tax records.

WERE THEY IN THE MILITARY?

The Federal Government has records of all who served in the Revolutionary War to the present. There are even records for those who served in the Colonial Militias. Pension records are especially helpful to genealogists.

DID YOUR ANCESTORS DIE?

Even if a person died without a will, their estate must be passed on to their heirs, and the estate papers may list the heirs and relationship. Land records would record the passing of land to a new owner. Obituaries were printed in newspapers. Tombstones will show the date of death. Some Counties and States recorded deaths in the 1800's; as of 1919, all deaths must be recorded.

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS--

School records, voting records, criminal and civil court records, church records, membership records in professional and social organizations.

Source--LLCGS Newsletter Vol. 19, No. 11
Nov. 1995

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April 1996 - 3rd Quarter

Fairview Methodist Church celebrates 91 years

Church closes as of June 1, 1994

Members, former members and friends gathered Sunday afternoon, May 29, to celebrate the 91st anniversary of the Fairview Methodist Church, rural Madison. It was also the last service to be conducted at the church, which closed its doors due to a dwindling congregation.

"Our hopes is that the people in the community around the church might form a nonprofit organization and purchase the church for community use," Rev. Marshall Johnson said. Johnson, pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church in Madison, performed a monthly service at Fairview, which didn't have its own pastor. The church is owned by the Nebraska Methodist Conference.

The church was built in 1903 on a patch of land donated by Pappy Reigle. The church's origin can be traced back to 1870 when Fairview School was organized.

"Many ministers included the Fairview schoolhouse as a place to preach, and from 1899 to 1901,

Duncan, Columbus, Kalamazoo and Fairview societies were under one minister," according to the Madison history book.

"Although the early settlers included Seventh Day Adventists, Latter Day Saints and Methodists, the community began to lean toward Methodism," according to the book.

When the actual church was established in 1903 charter members included the families of Gottfried Schulz, Charles Witzel, August Volk, Wm. Volk, and Fred Linse.

The congregation merged with the Nebraska Methodist Conference in 1917 after having been organized under the West German Conference.

Parish members thought they had lost their church for good when a tornado took the church in April of 1933. The piano was the only piece of furniture left whole following the storm.

But Mrs. William Robbins, who

lived across the road from the church, had taken an insurance policy out on the building, paying the premiums with her egg money. When the other parishioners thought the church was lost, she produced the policy and the church was rebuilt, serving as a place of worship until the May 29, 1994 celebration. It officially closed June 1.

Rev. Johnson said the parish had dwindled to 21 members, three of whom were active. When two of those three active members moved into town recently it was no longer practical to hold services at the church.

People attended the May 29 celebration from 18 different towns across eastern Nebraska from Laurel to Palmyra, including Omaha and Lincoln. States represented were South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Alabama, Colorado, Utah, and California, as well as Nebraska.

Special guests were former pastors and their wives, Willis and Alice Taplin (retired) of Columbus; Bill and Shirley Arnold of Holdrege; and Northeast District Mission

Coordinator Judy Dye of Rosalle.

Lighting candles were David Schulz and Stacy Schulz. Karen Osborn, pianist, accompanied the congregation in a time of singing hymns of faith.

Letters from Nebraska Conference Bishop Martinez, former bishops, district superintendents, pastors and members were read. Remembrances were shared by the congregation.

A quartet - Kenneth Reeves, Eloise (Reeves) Pike, David Reeves, and daughter Donna Borger, sang a special hymn, "In The Garden."

Pastor Johnson brought the service together with scripture, sermon and prayer.

Bishop Martinez summed up the outreach of the Fairview congregation in the words, "Countless persons have been blessed by the ministry of Fairview Church. They are serving in other places and giving witness of the love they learned from growing up in the church. You can take great pride in having been a faithful congregation that nurtured its members for Christian service."

Source: Madison Star Mail, Madison, NE

June, 1994

DISPOSING OF YOUR GENEALOGY

Diane Dieterle's new publication, *Genealogy Tomorrow*, has an excellent article on how we can make plans for the time when someone else must dispose of our genealogy.

Isn't it time to consolidate what you have and provide for the disposition of this information should you die? None of us likes to think about it, but even worse is thinking about two other possibilities: 1. no one will be able to figure out what you did, and 2. your genealogy might just wind up in the trash!!

Are there title pages on your binders/notebooks, giving the reader a clue about what is inside? An easy way to do this is to put a copy of your pedigree chart in the front, and circle whatever family is included in this binder/notebook.

Get some manila envelopes, write the surname on the outside, put any unfilled information (letters, certificates, census reports, Xeroxed pages from books, etc.) in the envelopes and put them in a box in alphabetical order.

Are there some projects you had in mind, some things you wanted to do with your genealogy, a book you wanted to write?

Then write down all that and label it FUTURE PROJECTS.

If you keep your certificates, letters, notes, records, etc. in a file cabinet, make sure the folders are labeled and in order. You might know that this is a letter from Aunt Sue and should be in the Dawson folder, but nobody else will.

Check your pictures to make sure you have PRINTED the names on the back in pencil.

Give this some thought: does the person you want to give your genealogy to want it? Why not write him or her and ask?

If you want any of your material typed or published or distributed as I have mentioned before; have you left money in your will for that to be done?

An hour's worth of thought can save your precious, expensive records from being destroyed. Once you have thought this out, make out a codicil to your will, providing for the disposition of your materials.

Provided to PPGS by Mary Munch
Source: Lincoln-Lancaster County Genealogical Society Newsletter, January 1991

Nebraska's rural history can be found in country cemeteries

by Gail Blankenau

"A grave with a name imparts information not only about the dead, but also about the living: That we fear death, but not the dead; that the dead have disappeared from our midst, but not from our past." Leon Wieseltier, The New Republic.

This Memorial Day, many of us will go to our local cemeteries to honor our country's veterans and to remember our ancestors.

Winfield Delle, history professor at Western Nebraska Community College, refers to these cemeteries as "libraries of the past."

Through the Nebraska Arts Council, Delle presents a program titled "Nebraska History in Cemeteries."

According to Delle, "Cemeteries reflect our pioneer history and the many cultural changes our society has undergone."

Old country gravestones testify to the hardships of pioneer life. They tell of rattlesnake bites, prairie fires, blizzards and diphtheria.

Although pioneer times were hard on everyone, they were especially hard on children, many of whom died at childbirth or shortly thereafter.

At times, deaths would occur in rather bizarre ways.

Once, in a Sandhills field, Delle came across a gravestone which marked the spot where a sod house had fallen upon and killed an early pioneer.

"He was already buried, so a stone was erected right there," said Delle.

Among the dangers faced by pioneers were attacks by Indians. However, gravestones stating "Killed by Indians" may not be totally accurate.

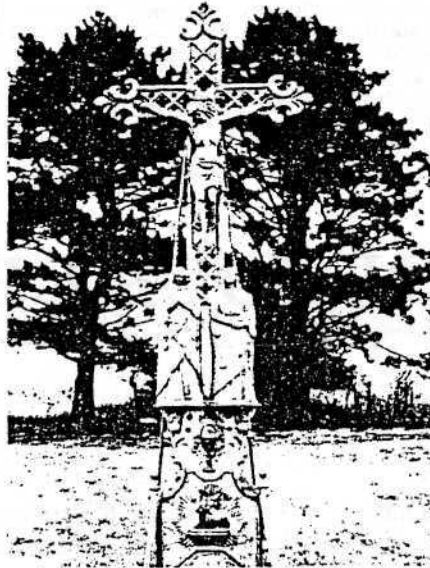
After some people died from drinking bad water, some survivors would assume that Indians poisoned the waterhole, according to Delle.

One notable pioneer gravesite tells a story of love. Susan Hale died on the Oregon Trail near Kearney. Her hus-

band, knowing someone on the next wagon train would pull up a wooden marker for firewood, walked to Independence, Missouri and brought a gravestone back to Kearney in a wheelbarrow. The trip covered 460 miles.

Rural cemeteries also reflect Nebraska's cultural history. Many eastern Nebraska cemeteries have names of English origin in their oldest sections. Over time, these would give way to German, Czech and Scandinavian names.

Early American cemeteries were



This cross is the central monument in the St. Wenceslas cemetery near Dodge, Nebraska.

usually located by churches or Puritan meeting houses. They contained a medley of individual stone markers.

In the 1800s, graveyards were moved away from cities and churches, and the use of a large family monument with small plaques for family members became the custom.

However, immigrant groups were less likely to change their burial practices as they wanted their grave sites associated with churches.

Today, many of Nebraska's country cemeteries are still associated with churches. Old-style individual markers and the more "modern" family monuments often stand side-by-side.

One cemetery by a country church tells of grudges taken to the grave.

Delle explains, "The church members disagreed on the presentation of communion, therefore graves of one faction are on the right side of the church and graves of the other faction are on the left."

Many country cemeteries reflect the belief that, when Christ returned, he would come from the east. Most old gravestones face east so Jesus can read the names of the faithful.

"Stones of criminals and other outcasts usually faced west for this reason," says Delle. Such is the case with the tombstone of Elizabeth Taylor near the ghost town of Spring Ranch. An alleged cattle thief, Taylor is believed to be the first woman hanged in Nebraska.

A stroll through a rural Nebraska cemetery can reveal changes in gravestone art. A skull and crossbones, a symbol of death, appeared on early stones. Angels were common on many stones, and lambs, symbolizing innocence, would often adorn the stones of children.

Newer stones are plainer, with few sculptures. Those with art are more likely to have the art engrained into the stone. The varied religious symbols of the past are not as common. A simple cross often suffices for the modern taste.

Many farmers and ranchers have rural themes on their gravestones.

"I've found horses, cattle and wheat on stones of western Nebraskans," says Delle. "Dairy cattle and corn are more common in the east."

Some stones depict farm scenes, complete with a windmill and barn.

Nebraska is losing many of its country cemeteries, according to Delle, especially small family plots on farms. He supports efforts to preserve these bits of Nebraska's heritage.

Let us hope country cemeteries are preserved. They are, indeed, libraries of our past. We can look for and ponder stories in the stone — stories of hardship and hope, sorrow and love, war and peace.

Source Rural Electric Nebraskan Spring 1995

**NEBRASKA STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MAY 3, 4 1996**

FRIDAY MAY 3, 1996

9:00 NSGS AREA REP & COMH MEETINGS
 9:45 NSGS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

 9:00 REGISTRATION
 9:30 RUBY COLEMAN
 10:30 Social Security Records
 10:30 Break
 10:45
 10:45 LAVAILLE (ROSY) GLEASON
 11:45 Computers In Genealogy
 NOON LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
 1:30 WELCOME FROM CHAMBER OF
 COMMERCE
 1:45 IMPORTANT MESSAGES
 1:45 HANK JONES - When Sources are
 2:45 Wrong
 2:45 BREAK
 3:15 Visit the Vendors
 3:15 HANK JONES - Tracing the Origins
 4:15 of early 18th Century Palatine
 Emigrants
 4:15 BREAK - Visit the Vendors
 EVENING MEAL ON YOUR OWN
 7:00 HANK JONES - Saints and Sinners
 8:00 & and Occasional Horse Thief
 8:00 BREAK
 8:15 Visit the Vendors
 8:15 HANK JONES - I Don't Chase Dead
 9:15 Germans They Chase Me

SATURDAY MAY 4, 1996

8:30 REGISTRATION
 9:15 NSGS ANNUAL MEETING
 9:45 Introduction of Officers
 10:00 HANK JONES - Jost Hite, Baron
 11:00 of the Shenandoah Valley:
 How to Separate Fact from
 Fantasy in Research
 11:00 BREAK
 11:15
 11:15 HANK JONES - Other
 12:15 Palatines
 12:15 NOON LUNCHEON
 1:30 Outstanding Genealogists
 1:30 HANK JONES - What's New in
 2:30 Palatine Genealogy?
 2:30 BREAK
 3:00 Visit the Vendors
 3:00 HANK JONES - Psychic Roots
 4:00 became an Unsolved Mystery
 4:00 Conference closes
 4:30 Vendors Close

CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS

STOCKHAM INN
 1402 S. JEFFERS STREET
 NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA
 RESERVATIONS
 800-237-2222

ROOM RATES:

SINGLE (1 PERSON) \$38.95
 DOUBLE (2-4 PERSONS) \$44.95

HENRY Z. (HANK) JONES

Hank Jones has been a professional genealogist since 1965 and has lectured around the country since 1976. This is Hank's first chance to speak to us. He is a graduate of Stanford University. He began a 25 year career as an actor in motion pictures featuring in 8 films for Walt Disney and many television appearances. Mr. Jones discovered that he descended from Abraham Bergmann a German from the Pfalz which fueled his interest in the Palatines. Mr. Jones has published *The Palatine Families of New York - 1710*. He is the recipient of the Donald Lines Jacobus Award as well as the Award of Merit from the National Genealogical Society. He has been elected as a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists of whom there are only 50 in the world. We are pleased to welcome Mr. Jones as our key speaker for this conference.

N S G S ANNUAL CONFERENCE - - MAY 3 & 4 1996

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: N.S.G.S.

MAIL TO: N.S.G.S. CONFERENCE
 C/O RUTH McCLURKIN
 4252 LARIAT LANE
 GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA 68803

I wish to join NSGS and qualify for members rates. Separate check is enclosed payable to NSGS MEMBERSHIP

FOUR SURNAMES WILL BE LISTED IN THE SYLLABUS IF POSTMARKED BY APRIL 10, 1996.

Example: VESTAL 1750---1900 NC, VA, IL, KS, NE My Four Surnames Are:

1. _____ 2. _____
 3. _____ 4. _____

PRE-REGISTRATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 15/1996

N S G S MEMBERS:

FRIDAY SESSIONS: \$10.00 _____
 SATURDAY SESSIONS: \$10.00 _____
 SATURDAY LUNCHEON: \$10.00 _____

NON-MEMBERS:

FRIDAY SESSIONS: \$15.00 _____
 SATURDAY SESSIONS: \$15.00 _____
 SATURDAY LUNCHEON: \$10.00 _____

SYLLABUS \$ 5.00 _____

[ALL REGISTRATIONS MADE AFTER APRIL 15 OR AT THE DOOR ADD THE FOLLOWING: \$ 5.00 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED FOR REGISTRATION MEAL SYLLABUS \$ _____

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a charge for the Conference Syllabus which contains all handouts of \$5.00 please mark the space and include the amount with your registration. All registrations made after April 15 and at the door please add \$5.00. There will be no meal tickets sold at the door. No refunds will be given for any registrations or meals.

Indians, But No Rats In Early Days

(Continued from page 7)

They had very little money but grandad got some and went to get some shoes for the children, but didn't have enough money to get shoes for all. When he got there he went into the store and bought what he could and started out and he found a ten dollar bill on the step. He went back and asked all who were there if they had lost any money and told them that if they had lost it he would give it up if they told him how much it was. No one had lost any so he told them he had found ten dollars and he said, "God has put it there so I could buy shoes for all my children." He then proceeded to buy all his children shoes.

—By Mrs. Frank Stone,
Midland, South Dakota

THE CITIZEN, TILDEN, NEBR.,

THURS., OCT. 27, 1955



Remember Her on

Mother's Day

A mother stands alone
In the sea of time.
Her human heart
Modeled after God's own
Holds grief and joy.
The fire of love
Burns in it strong.
In her eyes
Children do no wrong.
Sometimes they cause pain,
But, through it all
Her love remains.
Gently, she makes way
For a new generation,
Stepping aside silently
Praising, caring, supporting
Her offspring.
Her love does not wither,
Rather, it blooms on, forever

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



Bernice Dewey
306 E. Prospect Ave
Norfolk NE 68701

