

# MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 1031

Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1031

VOLUME 17 - NUMBER 68

July, 1996

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 - Lottie Klein

Vice President - Richard Streng

Secretary - JaNelle Linnaus

Treasurer - Donald and 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 winding down the year which ends in the month of August. We plan to have a potluck picnic combined with an outing out of town.

September will start a new genealogical year with the following slate of officers; President - Lottie Klein, Vice-President Margerie Fuhrmann, Secretary Ginger Houser, and Treasurers Don and Dorothy Monson.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Edna Nykodym and family due to the death of Edna's husband, Gilbert.

The program for June was a tape titled "The Records of Old Settlers." The program for July will be a video "Old Sturbridge Village." The theme is New England in the 1830's as seen through the eyes of Sarah and her brother, Jonathan as they relate their way of life on the family farm and their teenage experiences in the Center Village.

I hope the remainder of summer has pleasant livable weather sandwiched among the typical hot days of July and August and we will receive ample amount of moisture minus damaging winds and hail storms.

The best to each of you this summer.

Sincerely,

*Lottie Klein*

Lottie Klein



Madison County Genealogical Society honors a local society member as outstanding genealogist.

It is the pleasure of the Madison County Genealogical Society to recommend to you JoNelle Linnaus' as an outstanding genealogist from this area for 1996.

JoNelle is a member of Madison County Genealogical Society and at present is serving as our secretary. She is always willing to present a program whenever she is asked.

She is also a member of the Nancy Gary Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and presently is serving as treasurer. She also belongs to Colonial Dames XVII Century and Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America.

JoNelle is a caring and sharing person and exemplifies the characteristics of an Outstanding Genealogist.

Submitted by Joyce Barlow and Lottie Klein



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#### PRESERVING MEMORIES-PHOTOS BEST PROTECTED IN ACID FREE ALBUMS

Magnetic albums which have sticky cardboard pages and a layer of plastic, use a polyvinyl chloride plastic that gives off gases that destroy photographic images. Pages with rough textures often signify high acidity. Deterioration in magnetic albums starts right away and the image will begin to disappear in 10 to 15 years. The acid will eat the paper away and in 50 years you won't have an image left.

Construction paper, black backing paper, adhesives such as rubber cement or glue and plastic pocket pages that are not made of acid-free materials also emit gases, chemicals, and impurities that accelerate deterioration. Newspaper articles and documents, which yellow and contain damaging ink, should be photocopied on acid-free paper. Some fine art supplies stores carry a spray product called We T'o that deacidifies some paper documents.

Photo-safe albums should have pages that do not contain lignin, an organic substance that binds paper fibers. Plastic overlays or sleeves should be made of acid-free plastics such as Mylar, Tyvek, polypropylene, polyethylene, or triacetate. Some albums in stores may have acid free plastic, but the cardboard may be full of acid.

Once photos are placed in photo-safe albums, they should be stored in a safe place. A room that stays about 70 degrees is best. Albums should not be kept in light, humidity or heat. They should be stored upright, never stacked. If negatives are stored they should be in archival quality vinyl pages. Remove them from the sleeves the developer puts them in, place them in acid-free pages, and keep them in a three-ring binder. It's a good idea to label them with the date and event for better organization if you want to make copies. Negatives now can be placed and stored on photo compact discs, which hold 100 photos.

It has been found that 60 percent of the photos are stored in shoeboxes, 30 percent are stored in drawers or suitcases, and 10 percent in other places that are not suitable for them to be stored.

Creativity may be considered when you put your collection of photos in an album. Ways to do this are texturing the edge with scissors or use templates to cut photos into shapes. Decorate the pages with safe stickers that are archival safe. You can add photos that are sent to you at Christmas time or any time during the year, in your album. Try Trimming your pictures with too much sky or thumbprints can be done creatively.

Look for album labels that read "No PVC" and you will have one that is archival safe.

If you have pictures in magnetic albums it is wise to take them out immediately. They would even be safer in a shoe box rather than in such an album.

Some people keep their negatives in a different location in case of fire. Some even keep their negatives in a safe deposit box of special events, so that they are further protected from anything happening to them.

These ideas should give you food for thought and maybe spend some time improving your photo keeping memories for the next generation to enjoy. Source: Prairie Pioneers Gen. Soc - Jan., 1996



*Believed to be the family of Henry T. Thurber, private secretary to President Grover Cleveland. Vital records can sometimes provide important data on nuclear family units. National Archives*

**D**f all available primary documents, vital records offer the most immediate source of trustworthy genealogical information. By definition, vital records are official registrations of birth, marriage, and death, information that local and state governmental agencies are required by law to keep. They also often include data on parents. Over the years, the definition of vital records has been broadened to include church registers, cemetery inscriptions, and diary notations of the births, marriages, and deaths that occurred in a particular community. Most of the published vital records incorporate such unofficial information.

You must be wary, though, of accepting such information as fact. Even such highly touted sources as cemetery inscriptions can be misleading if interpreted incorrectly. In some volumes of published Massachusetts vital records, for example, it was customary to take the dates of birth from gravestones or calculate them from death dates listing ages, then add the data among the town births, whether or not the individual was

actually born there. For instance, among the births in the published Natick, Massachusetts, vital records to 1850 is that of Albert C. Dearborn, born in November 1829. Next to his name, the key "GR 5" indicates that the record comes from his gravestone in the North Natick Cemetery. Albert died in Natick on July 15, 1902, age seventy-two years, eight months (hence the calculated date of birth). His official death record, however, filed with both the town and the state, lists his birthplace not as Natick but as Saco, Maine, and his parents as Thomas and Abigail (Merrill) Dearborn. This information is correct, for in the Saco vital records, among the children of Thomas and Abigail Dearborn recorded in 1842, we find the birth of Albert on November 4, 1829.

### *History of Vital Records*

Of all the classes of documents available to genealogists, vital records are, curiously, among the most modern. Their history in the English-speaking world dates from the beginning of the Reformation, when the Church of England, following its break with Rome in 1538, instructed its individual parishes to maintain registers of baptisms, marriages, and burials. Despite this sixteenth-century origin, vital records were not uniformly required by statute or maintained as standard practice in either Europe or the United States until the nineteenth or early twentieth century.

The first laws requiring vital records in the American Colonies were passed in Virginia and the Massachusetts Bay. In 1632 the Virginia assembly decreed that the minister of each parish report annually to the court all baptisms, marriages, and burials in his jurisdiction. In 1639 the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony required "that there be records kept of all . . . days of marriage, birth and death of every person within this jurisdiction." Legislation of a similar kind was soon passed by lawmakers in other New England colonies.

Although Virginia legislated the keeping of vital records as early as 1632, these laws were not generally enforced. This lack of concern reflects a problem with such records in the South until the nineteenth century. The failure to keep them in a systematic way during the Colonial period and after can be attributed to the high rate of geographical mobility that characterized the South during that era. Families often migrated four or five times, especially in the decades after the Revolution, always in search of new and productive land. Because the population was so unstable, legal instruments such as wills were not always used, and

inheritance of property, though always a serious matter, occurred informally, often before the death of the father or grandfather.

Americans changed their attitude toward vital records only when they realized how useful these records could be for developing statistics concerning health and sanitation. Organizations such as the American Medical Association, the American Statistical Association, and the National Board of Health, all created during the middle decades of the nineteenth century, convinced federal and state leaders of the value of maintaining such records.

Massachusetts in 1841 became the first state to pass legislation requiring vital records to be maintained on a state level. The chart that follows provides a list of states and the dates when laws were passed requiring birth and death registration.



State	Death	Birth	State	Death	Birth
Alabama	1908	1908	Montana	1907	1907
Alaska	1913	1913	Nebraska	1905	1905
Arizona	1909	1909	Nevada	1911	1911
Arkansas	1914	1914	New Hampshire	1905	1905
California	1905	1905	New Jersey	1848	1848
Colorado	1907	1907	New Mexico	1919	1919
Connecticut	1897	1897	New York	1880	1880
Delaware	1881	1881	North Carolina	1913	1913
D.C.	1855	1871	North Dakota	1908	1908
Florida	1899	1899	Ohio	1909	1909
Georgia	1919	1919	Oklahoma	1908	1908
Hawaii	1896	1896	Oregon	1903	1903
Idaho	1911	1911	Pennsylvania	1906	1906
Illinois	1916	1916	Puerto Rico	1931	1931
Indiana	1900	1907	Rhode Island	1852	1852
Iowa	1880	1880	South Carolina	1915	1915
Kansas	1911	1911	South Dakota	1905	1905
Kentucky	1911	1911	Tennessee	1914	1914
Louisiana	1914	1914	Texas	1903	1903
Maine	1892	1892	Utah	1905	1905
Maryland	1898	1898	Vermont	1857	1857
Massachusetts	1841	1841	Virginia	1912	1912
Michigan	1867	1867	Washington	1907	1907
Minnesota	1900	1900	West Virginia	1917	1917
Mississippi	1912	1912	Wisconsin	1907	1907
Missouri	1910	1910	Wyoming	1909	1909

In early New England, it was often the custom to record births in family groups, usually one or two families per page in the record book. Sometimes the births would be listed shortly after they occurred, but usually they were recorded all at once (though sometimes before the couple stopped having children).

In the vital records of Corinna, Maine, we find recorded the births of the twelve children of Henry and Polly (Wiggin) Dearborn between 1801 and 1825. Only the youngest child, however, was actually born there. Examination of land and tax records shows that Henry and Polly had lived in New Durham, New Hampshire, from 1815 until 1825, and before that in Deerfield, New Hampshire. The vital records of these New Hampshire towns do not show the births of the older children born there. Therefore, the place where a birth is recorded is not always the actual place of birth.

Even if your family lived in a town where vital records were kept, their names still may not appear. Parents were generally responsible for making certain that their children's births were properly recorded. Some families carefully entered them in the family Bible, but failed to notify the town clerk. The town clerk might not have performed his duties carefully, or one or more of the town record books might have been lost over time. Any one of these causes might prevent you from finding vital records for your ancestor. Do not be discouraged if this situation arises. While vital records may provide the easiest proof of family relationships, such proof may also be gleaned from church records, wills, censuses, deeds, and various other documents as well.

### Some Examples

Dr. Benjamin Dearborn was a young physician who lived in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in the mid-1700s. Although the town of Portsmouth kept vital records, the records do not cover his family. Baptismal records reveal that by his wife, Ruth, he had two children, Ruth and Benjamin, baptized in the North Church in 1752 and 1754, respectively. Benjamin himself died in 1755, age thirty, as attested by his gravestone, which still stands in the North Burial Ground. Although we have no record of the marriage of Benjamin to Ruth either in town or church records, we know that she was the daughter of Dr. Nathaniel Sargent of Portsmouth, as she is specifically named in the latter's 1760 will. Thus, we have a basic record of Benjamin Dearborn and his family without recourse to vital records.

## Census Records

Census records will prove immensely useful in tracing immigrant ancestors who arrived in this country after 1880. Beginning in that year census schedules asked (1) the birthplace of each parent (usually answered with a country or state, not a town, parish, or county), and (2) whether either was of foreign birth. The 1890 census, almost completely destroyed by fire, also asked (1) the number of years respondents had lived in the United States, and (2) whether they were naturalized or in the process of becoming so. A final additional column in the 1900 census asked mother tongue. Thus even if your ancestor immigrated to America much earlier, say 1840-1860, some information about his origins can be surmised from the 1880 and 1900 censuses — if he was still alive then. Often the 1900 census provides the only information you can find on a forebear's year of arrival. If from his residence you can reasonably guess the port of arrival, you can then search customs or immigration passenger lists with some hope of success. And if the census reveals he was naturalized before 1900, you can begin looking for naturalization papers as well.

Henry Dearborn, born in Canada in December 1810 of New Hampshire-born parents, was enumerated with his family at Georgetown Township, Ottawa County, Michigan, in the 1900 census, age eighty-nine. The census shows that he was a naturalized citizen and that the family immigrated to the United States in 1878. It is quite possible that his naturalization papers are filed in the Ottawa county courthouse. Among those enumerated in the household is a married daughter, Patience Crawford, and a grandson, James Crawford, who was born in South Dakota in December 1885. If this family group was a long-standing unit, then Henry's naturalization records could be in a South Dakota courthouse.



Danish mother and three children. Ben Watson

## Passport and Homestead Applications

Until World War I, except for a brief period during the Civil War, U.S. citizens traveling to foreign countries were not obliged to obtain passports. As a precaution, however, many Americans did so. Passports generally recorded less information before the Civil War than after, but usually included the name, signature, residence, age, and personal description of the applicant. Also given were the names or number of family members intending to travel. Exact dates and places of birth of the applicant, his spouse, and any accompanying minor children were sometimes included. Most important for research on immigrant ancestors, if the traveler was a naturalized citizen, the passport would contain the date, vessel, and port of his arrival in the United States, as well as the date and court of naturalization. If you cannot find a forebear's court of naturalization, ask relatives if he ever revisited his native country. If so, look for a surviving passport. Even if your ancestor was not born abroad, you should still check the passport application because each document includes the applicant's birthplace and much descriptive data.

For example, in his application for a passport, dated at Boston, June 1, 1866, Joseph F. Dearborn stated that he was born at Hampton, New Hampshire, May 14, 1817, and described himself as age forty-nine; stature six feet; forehead middling high-retreating; eyes small gray; heavy eyebrows; nose long, nearly straight; mouth small; chin slightly projecting; hair very dark brown; beard black; complexion dark, florid; face long.

Passport applications received by the Department of State between 1791 and 1925 are deposited in the National Archives. Applications less than seventy-five years old may not be seen without permission. Finding aids for those filed from 1834 though 1923 are discussed in chapter 19 of *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*.

Because all homestead applicants had to prove that they were either U.S. citizens or candidates for that status, homestead application files often contain copies of naturalization papers. Like passport files, homestead files — further discussed in chapter 8 — sometimes identify an elusive court of naturalization. They, too, are found at the National Archives.



Source: *Sharing Your Family Tree*

### CENSUS CLUES FOR PROBLEM CASES IN NEBRASKA

Many genealogists do not find who they are looking for in the census records due to county, state, or territory changes of which they are not aware. Following is a list of oddities found in the Nebraska census records.

Although there were supposed to be no slaves in Nebraska in 1860, slaves were enumerated in Otoe and Kearney counties. Those in Otoe county are not identified by name and are included on a slip of paper following the population schedules for Otoe county. Those in Kearney county belonged to an officer stationed at Fort Kearny (note that the Fort is spelled differently from the county) and are identified by name. They are enumerated with the families to whom they belonged and are identified by the designation: (s) placed before their occupation, in column seven of the census form.

For the 1870 census of Blackbird county, see also Winnebago Indian Reservation. Blackbird county absorbed Winnebago Indian Reservation after 1870. For Blackbird count 1960 census, see Omaha Indian Reservation. Blackbird county was created from Omaha and Winnebago Indian Reservations, as noted above, absorbed the rest of Winnebago Indian Reservation after 1870.

The 1860 census has been filmed twice. On the first filming, the Otoe Indian Reservation was filmed adjoining Burt county, which

was appropriate since it physically adjoined Burt count. However, in the new filming the Otoe Indian Reservation was filmed with the last page of Cuming count. The American Genealogical Lending Library has the second filming available for loan or purchase.

The 1860 census of Madison County is included with Platte county. The enumerator couldn't determine the county boundary and enumerated these two counties as "Platte and Madison counties.."

Persons searching the 1870 census of Gage county and using the older filming should see the first page of the roll (Otoe Reservation, in Gage county) as well as Gage county itself, which is located toward the end of the roll. In the newer filming Otoe Reservation is filmed adjacent to Gage county.

The 1870 census of Webster county (then unorganized and attached to Lincoln county for judicial purposes) was taken with the census for Lincoln county. However, the Webster county portion is pointed out as such on the film.

In 1870, the entire area of Nebraska between Dawson and Cheyenne counties and between the South Dakota and Kansas borders was enumerated with Lincoln county, Nebraska.

For Jefferson county 1860 census, see also Jones county. Jones county was merged with Jefferson county between 1860 and 1870.

For the 1870 census of Nance county, see the Pawnee Indian Reservation. (From AGLL News)

### 1960 CENSUS—GONE!

Already the National Archives has computer records that can't be read. A number of records are lost or out of reach:

A total of 200 reels of 17 year old Public Health Service computer tapes were destroyed in 1990 because no one could find out what the names and numbers on them meant.

The most extensive record of Americans who served in World War II exists only in 1600 reels of microfilm of computer punch cards. No manpower, money or machine is available to turn the data to a computer so ordinary citizens can trace the war history of their relatives.

Census data from the 1960's exist on thousands of reels of tape. Some may have decomposed, others may fall apart if run through the balky equipment which survives from that era.

Sloppy record keeping of how the machines operate, and organized data is on each tape.

Sometimes deciphering the old programs is not enough. New programs must be written to reorganize the data before newer computers can analyze it.

At present spare parts to a 1960's computer are not available and there are no operators who remember how to run it.

There are 4000 tapes that weren't copied and they are parts of the 1960, 1970, and 1980 censuses.

(Source: U. S. History Could Be Lost In Computer Mumbo Jumbo, from a 1991 issue of the Lincoln Journal) (Via Lincoln-Lancaster Co Genealogical Society)

## PITFALLS IN GENEALOGY

A book devoted to this subject is one authored by Milton Rubicam, titled Pitfalls in Genealogical Research.

A listing of these include:

- ♦ Surnames and forenames (including diminutives.)
- ♦ Family traditions, e.g... the three immigrant brothers, the Indian "princes," the Huguenot, and the younger son of a disinherited noble son
- ♦ The calendar Julian to Gregorian and the Republican calendar in Napoleonic Europe
- ♦ The problem of Junior/Senior, 3rd, 4th, etc.
- ♦ The use of the alias
- ♦ Confusing terms of relationships, e.g. brother, sister, cousin, nephew, and in-laws
- ♦ Changes in definition, e.g. ordinary, inmate, freeman, crazy, and casual
- ♦ Confusing abbreviations, e.g. IA, IT, WF, DK, Col., Dr., Fr., etc.
- ♦ Titles, e.g. Mrs., Mr., Goodman, Goodwife, & Esq.
- ♦ Legal terminology, e.g. orphan
- ♦ Ambiguous ethnic labels, e.g. Pennsylvania Dutch, Scots-Irish, Coloured, & Cajun
- ♦ Coats of arms
- ♦ The sanctity of the printed word
- ♦ Enslavement to spelling
- ♦ Orthography, e.g. the thorn and the double "ss"
- ♦ Failure to think; remember the word is research i.e. search, search, and search once more.

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### German Pedigrees

Half a million German pedigrees dating from 1650-1850 are available on microfilm at the Family History Library and family history centers. Many pedigrees are hundreds of pages long. The collection Die Ahnenstammkartei des deutschen Volkes includes:

- 638 index films under computer number 688651 are a handwritten, phonetic index.
- Over 600 pedigree films are listed under 677728.

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## OLD PHOTOS

Rather than spending \$4.00 or more for an old family photo to be copied, you can do it yourself with a manual focus of a 35mm camera. Here's how:—Take the picture outside in natural light, and lay it down on the sidewalk or other flat surface, focus your camera and snap away. Do not use the flash, as it will reflect off the picture and will not work. You can take pictures of up to 36 old photos, and get 36 3x5 pictures back and pay only for the developing and you will have your own negatives. They then may be used to make enlargements. It's a real money saver. Hint: the bigger the picture the better, but any picture will work. You will have to crop them a little because you can see a little of the sidewalk or whatever background you used. a plain color throw rug or a thick artist matting may be used instead. (You might be able to use an automatic focus 35 mm camera. Try it and see if it works.)

## SOME HELPFUL ASSUMPTIONS

To aid you if your research goes back to 1850 or earlier—

- There are approximately 3 (or 4) generations per century.
- Average age for men to marry was 24; they rarely married before 20
- Average age for women to marry was 20; they rarely married before 16.
- BIRTH usually occurred at 2-year intervals
- Frequently the first child is born a year after marriage. As women aged, the intervals grew slightly. Child bearing usually ended around age 45
- Families and neighbors generally migrated together from their old homes. women rarely traveled alone
- Men usually married a woman from his neighborhood. If a stranger shows up, check with the man's former home. Men often returned to their prior residence to find a wife.

- If you can't find an old parent, chances are he "went West" with a son.
- If you have a male ancestor born circa 1840, strongly consider Civil War service.
- If your ancestor had a virtue name (E.G. Patience, Silence, Prudence) consider a New England Heritage.
- Children were often named for grandparents, both male and female.
- Frequently a middle name or even a first name was the mother's or grandmother's maiden name especially if the name was repeated through several related families.
- Women generally outlived their husbands, but old widows frequently married much younger women who had never been married before (Revolutionary War soldiers and Civil War soldiers are good examples of this.)
- First marriages were usually between couples near the same age
- After 1850, Ohio pioneers frequently moved to counties in other states in the same latitude (Via LCIGS Quarterly, Fall 95)

Source: New Brass Key Spring 1996

**CONSANGUINITY** When trying to decide how you and a cousin are related, if your common ancestor was: a grandparent—you are first cousins, a great grandparent—you are 2nd cousins, a g-g-grandparent—you are 3rd cousins, a g-g-g-grandparent—you are 4th cousins. If your parent is a 3rd cousin to someone, then you are a 3rd cousin once removed, not a 4th cousin. —ibid via Leafy Branches.

Source: New Brass Key Fall 1995

## PRECIOUS TINY KEEPSAKES

With their sentimental value and long history, antique miniature portraits can make a unique and heart warming collection. Made to be worn as jewelry or displayed, miniatures range in size from tiny portraits of the eye, favored by romantic minded couples in the early 1800's (designed to be secreted away for private viewing only) to larger family portraits (still only three or four inches in height) in elaborate frames or cases.

Miniature portraits have changed with the changing fashions throughout the centuries. They first appeared during the reign of Henry VIII in the early 16th century and are believed to have been inspired by portraits on classical coins and carved cameos. The tiny portraits, painted with brilliant, jewel-like colors on vellum, quickly became a royal rage and were originally kept in small "portrait boxes" for private viewing. Soon, the miniatures were set in jewelry and worn as pins, locket, and bracelets. Enamel portraits on copper were fashionable for a while, but this style gave way to something more delicate.

By the early 18th century, artists in England and Europe developed the technique of using watercolors on ivory. It was a painstaking process, but one that produced portraits with a lovely delicacy and luminosity. The portraits became more detailed even as they shrunk in size, rarely exceeding an inch and a half at this time. It was this type of miniature that eventually found its way to America and became a hit with the early Colonists who commissioned portraits by traveling European artists. But once again, changing fashions led to a change in style for miniatures.

Perhaps to make room for the high hairstyles of the day, miniatures grew in size to 3 or 4 inches, but were still often worn by ladies as elaborate necklaces. An interesting addition to the portraits emerged around this time that also had to do with hair. The portrait painters elaborately wove and braided a lock of the sitter's hair, and decoratively arranged it on the back of the portrait frame. Often the hair was entwined with another's, emphasizing the symbolic, sentimental value of the tiny keepsakes. But like the styles before it, this too gave way to fashion's whim.

Portraits grew larger in size again by the middle of the nineteenth century and became works of art for public viewing, rather than personal mementos. Attention to detail and accuracy increased producing a smooth finish that mirrored the slick, often cold look of the newly invented daguerreotypes. Unable to compete with the speed and economy of the new photographic portraits, the popularity of miniatures gradually declined and eventually became nothing more than a novelty for the very rich, coming full circle from the beginnings of the Court of King Henry VIII.

While miniature portraits can still occasionally be found today for a reasonable price at estate sales or better flea markets, collectors will have to work hard to find these tiny works of art. Their small size, rarity, and ever-increasing value keep them out of most antique malls, but they can be found in stores dealing in antique jewelry or specialty items from England and Europe. Most of the more valuable, older, or signed portraits are dearly treasured in family collections and are rarely seen for sale.

Your miniatures can be displayed as originally intended - worn as a lovely locket or brooch, or displayed in intimate arrangements on a tabletop or wall. Hiding your miniature in a small cabinet or closed box is true to its early personal nature.

It may not be easy to collect a large number of miniature portraits, but even one or two will be rewarding. Because of their highly personal origins, miniatures provide a more intimate connection with the past than is often possible with other antiques. Be certain that the painting you purchase speaks to you; if you are like most collectors, it is likely to be in your family for a long time.

One of the finest collections of miniature portraits can be found at the Winchester Art Museum in Worcester, Massachusetts. The Museum's holding of over ninety portraits. They date from the late 18th century through the 1940's. Source: New Brass Key Winter, 1995-1996



## OUR FLAG



We should all realize how much American fiber is in the cloth that makes up the texture of the Stars and Stripes.

- Our flag is not just a piece of cloth to be spat upon by people with contempt in their hearts for a symbol that represents no contempt at all.

- Our flag is not just a piece of cloth to be stepped upon and trampled in the dust when young men courageously tramp through dust, jungle and mine fields to defend it.

- Our flag is not just a piece of cloth to be desecrated when it is a banner our young people have been taught to honor, respect and preserve.

- Our flag is not just a piece of cloth that should be tarnished by those who say they are right and our leaders are wrong and who claim that God is dead and would advocate Mao instead.

- Our flag is not just a piece of cloth to be burned at a demonstration when it holds more hope than any national banner.

- Our flag is not just a piece of cloth to be ridiculed when ridicule perpetrates rebellion, revolution and rebuke and forsakes resolution, reason and respect.

## OUR FLAG



Instead, our flag is the fiber that has attracted immigrants, like your forefathers and mine, to this land of opportunity.

- Our flag is the fiber that stands for liberty, freedom, guaranteed rights and protection.

- Our flag is the fiber that stands for free elections, free speech and free choice of occupation and religion.

- Our flag is the fiber to which freedom-loving people from everywhere can turn.

- Our flag is the fiber by which young men fought in the Pusan perimeter with their backs to the sea. They unselfishly upheld this standard during the Battle of the Bulge with the enemy on all sides.

- Our flag is the fiber for a country that believes in the freedom of the individual; not government by police state; not government by the privileged; not government by the elite.

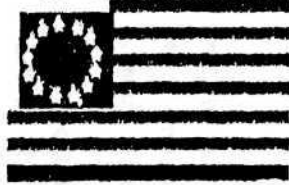
But, rather, government by the people through an orderly election process. It is the system whereby the majority rules.

Therefore, our flag simply must be more than just a piece of cloth . . . It is the true texture that represents the highest fiber of our American democracy.

FRED MASEK

# THE TWENTY-SEVEN FLAGS OF THE UNITED STATES VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS - AMERICANISM DEPARTMENT

The First Flag (1777-1795)



The Second Flag (1795-1818)



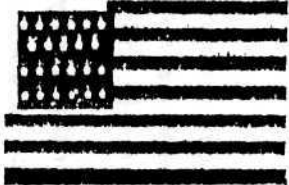
The Third Flag (1818)



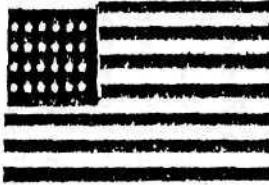
The Fourth Flag (1819)



The Fifth Flag (1820)



The Sixth Flag (1822)



The Seventh Flag (1836)



The Eighth Flag (1837)



The Ninth Flag (1845)



The Tenth Flag (1846)



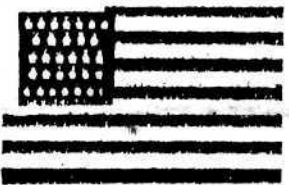
The Eleventh Flag (1847)



The Twelfth Flag (1848)



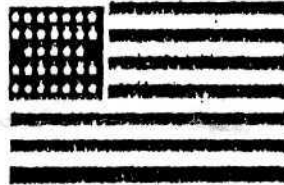
The Thirteenth Flag (1851)



The Fourteenth Flag (1858)



The Fifteenth Flag (1859)



The Sixteenth Flag (1861)



The Seventeenth Flag (1863)



The Eighteenth Flag (1865)



The Nineteenth Flag (1867)



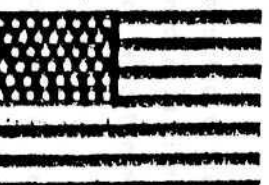
The Twentieth Flag (1877)



The Twenty-First Flag (1890)



The Twenty-Second Flag (1891)



The Twenty-Third Flag (1896)



The Twenty-Fourth Flag (1908)



The Twenty-Fifth Flag (1912)



The Twenty-Sixth Flag (1959)



The Twenty-Seventh Flag (1960)



Source:  
VFW

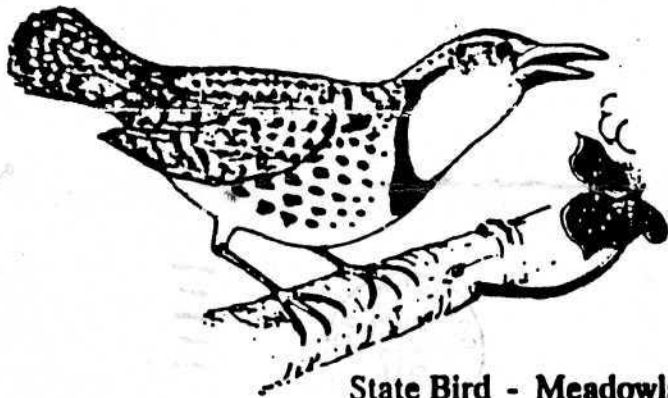
# Symbols of Nebraska



State Seal - Adopted 1867  
State Day - March 1

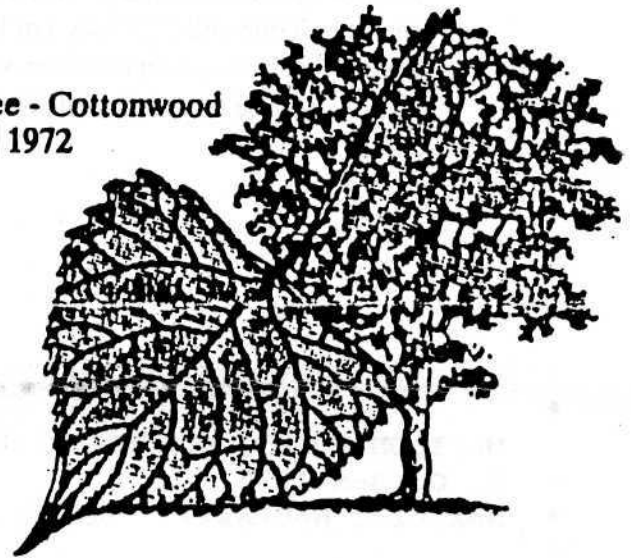


State Flag - Gold on Blue  
Adopted 1925



State Bird - Meadowlark  
Adopted 1929

State Tree - Cottonwood  
Adopted 1972



State Song - Adopted 1967

"Beautiful Nebraska"

Beautiful Nebraska, peaceful prairieland,  
laced with many rivers, and the hills of sand,  
dark green valleys cradled in the earth, rain  
and sunshine bring abundant birth.  
We are so proud of this state where we live.  
There is no place that has so much to give.

Chorus:  
Beautiful Nebraska, as you look around, you  
will find a rainbow reaching to the ground.  
All these wonders by the Master's hand,  
Beautiful Nebraskaland.



State Flower - Goldenrod  
Adopted 1895

Source: Nebraska State Fair 1995

**FADED WRITING** - If you have a document with faded writing that is too dim to read, try a 75 watt black light bulb. It works wonders.

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Source: New Brass Key - Fall 1995

\* \* \* \* \*

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Source Oct, 1926 NE Gen Society

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