

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 1031

Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1031

VOLUME 18 - NUMBER 69

October, 1996

1st QUARTER

ESTABLISHED JUNE, 1973

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

OFFICERS: President - Lottie Klein Vice President - Margerie Fuhrmann
Secretary - Ginger Houser 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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The Madison County Genealogical Society is well on the way to a great year. We gained two new members during our September's meeting. In September we enjoyed a very interesting and entertaining program presented by Aage Anderson about his visit to Sweden this past summer. Aage visited several relative members he recently discovered and adding them to his maternal family line.

The program for October is an audio titled "Scams, Suckers and Mega-bucks- The Shady, Shaky Side of Genealogy" that was presented by Helen Hinckfiff during the past early summer National Genealogy Convention.

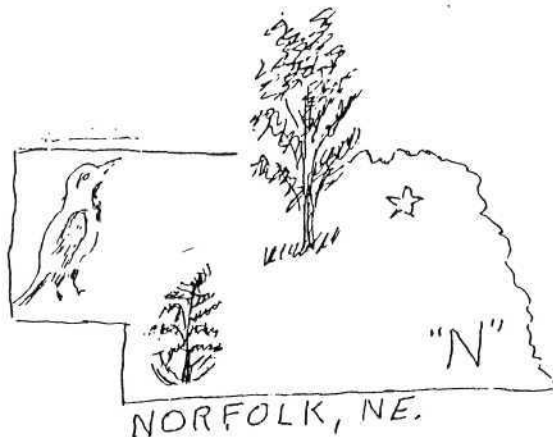
Our money making project this year is the sale of mugs displaying symbols of Nebraska on them. We will join other non-profit organizations having a booth at the annual bazaar selling the mugs plus crafts and baked items.

May each of you enjoy these lovely Autumn days. The foliage is spectacular with the golds, orange-yellows, and reds. These sunny days with the fleecy clouds floating in October's bright blue sky also enhance the scenery.

May each of you enjoy the happy holidays that are rapidly approaching.

Sincerely,

Lottie Klein
Lottie Klein



MUG LOGO

ANCESTORS

ANCESTORS is a series of 10 half-hour programs that will begin airing on PBS member stations in January 1997. The series hosted by genealogists Jim and Terry Willard, is designed to give viewers the first steps that they need to know in order to begin searching for their ancestors.

Each *ANCESTORS* episode begins on location with stories of people who have experienced dramatic changes in their lives because of their search for roots.

Following each story, an expert joins Jim and Terry on the *ANCESTORS* set. These friendly and helpful conversations yield valuable tips for the beginning family historian.

The series will be distributed nationally on PBS. Each of the 351 member stations across the country will have access to the series. The Programming Director at each station will choose when and where to carry *ANCESTORS*.

The programs will be available on videocassette. A companion book and multi-media package are also being prepared.

Quoted/adapted from *ANCESTORS*, Issue 2 May 1966
- Published by KBYU-TV Provo, Utah

EPISODE PREVIEWS

Fascinating stories combined with friendly interviews make Ancestors an engaging and informative entertainment experience.

Episode One: *Getting Started*
Exploring the simple and universal question, "Who am I?" with tips on how to start a search for roots.

Episode Two: *Looking at Home*
Starting at home to find clues to your family's past.

Episode Three: *Gathering Family Stories*
Mining the memories of your older family members.

Episode Four: *The Paper Trail*
Searching records to fill in the blanks of your ancestor's past.

Episode Five: *Libraries and Archives*
Taking the fear out of library and archive research.

Episode Six: *Census and Military Records*
Exploring these rich sources of amazing biographical information.

Episode Seven: *African American Families*
Overcoming obstacles to African American research.

Episode Eight: *Your Medical Heritage*
Probing the life-saving potential of family medical pedigrees.

Episode Nine: *High Tech Help*
Combining genealogy and the computer revolution.

Episode Ten: *Leaving a Legacy*
Asking, 100 years from now, will anyone know who you were?

Lincoln NE Stake

FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

NOTE: The Family History Center will be closed from August 18 through September 2.

Telephone: (402)423-4561

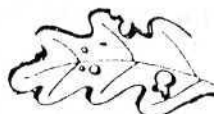
FROM THE EDITOR:

The following is from a letter I received recently from Kathleen Lucas, Patron Services Coordinator of the Family History Center, Lincoln:

We have had an update to Family Search. In July the Social Security Death Index was expanded and now includes data for 1995. At the same time we received updates for the Addendum and the Germany section of the International Genealogical Index (IGI). The catalog on compact disk was updated earlier in the summer. We also received a new edition of the Family Registry. This is the final update of this source which is on fiche. Ancestral File has a similar function and is accessible to more people.

Elsewhere in this issue is a schedule of the classes offered at the Family History for the Fall.

If you are interested in any of the single (individual) classes, please check with FHC to confirm to make certain the class is being held on the night indicated. Sometimes last minute changes have to be made to accommodate volunteer instructors' schedules.



REUNIONS!

A copy of the *Reunions Workbook* has been received in the LLCGS Library. You may want to stop by the library at Union College and inspect this reunion organizing tool.

Copies of this workbook are available for half price, \$5.00 while supplies last.

Subscriptions to **Reunions Magazine** are \$24.00 (including a copy of the workbook). A sample copy of the magazine is available for \$2.00 (shipping and handling).

The mail address is:

REUNIONS Magazine
P.O. Box 11727
Milwaukee, WI 53211-0727

LLCGS Newsletter Vol 20, No. 8 - Aug. 1996

Woman compiles war stories

Norfolk Daily News—Nov. 10, 1990

By Kent Warneke
News Managing Editor

For Helen Henry of Madison, Veterans Day this year will be a time to remember the many soldiers serving the United States in far away lands.

But Mrs. Henry also has a more personal way to remember the Veterans Day holiday. Her father, Paul Moore, who lived on a farm north of Battle Creek until his death in 1974 at the age of 85, was a veteran of World War I. During his stint in the military, Moore had a habit of making notes about the experiences he encountered and the feelings that confronted him.

Mrs. Henry has compiled some of the notes her father made during World War I as a way to help others better understand the importance of Veterans Day.

"They say old soldiers never die, they just fade away," Mrs. Henry said. "They do die, but they never fade away in the hearts and memories of families and friends who loved them."

Moore served with the 355th Infantry, Company B of the 89th Division and was sent overseas in June

1918.

"By boat, we crossed the Atlantic and sailed around the north coast of Ireland, landing at Liverpool, England on June 15, where we entered Camp Rumsey for a five-day rest," Moore's notes indicate.

Moore's company arrived at the war front on July 28, 1918 and took its position in the Beaumont Trenches, which was held by the American troops until Sept. 12, Mrs. Henry said.

During one battle, a captain was injured in the leg with flying shrapnel. Moore's notes indicate that a fellow soldier carried the captain for more than a mile across territory occupied by opposition troops.

"Dad never mentioned that it was kill or be killed," Mrs. Henry said. "He never mentioned that it was he who carried Charles Perkins through 'No Man's Land.'"

Shortly thereafter, American troops pushed German troops back across a nearby river. But before the troops could continue their offensive, German planes flew over and dropped copies of a letter that urged the Americans to surrender, Mrs. Henry said.

"Do your part to put an end to the war," the letter says. "Put an end

to your part of it. Stop fighting. That is the simplest way you can do it. You soldiers just stop fighting and the war will end, of its own accord. You are not fighting for anything anyway.

"What does it matter to you who owns Metz or Strassburg? You never saw those towns or knew the people. What do you care about them?"

"Your country needs you, your family needs you, and you need your life for something better than being gassed, shot at, deafened by cannon shots and rendered unfit physically by the miserable life you live here."

On Nov. 11, 1918, firing stopped near where Moore's company was located and several German towns were captured. But work remained as the company was stationed at various German and French locations until the spring of 1919.

"We arrived at New York on May 22. It took another three days to reach Camp Funston, Kansas, where we were discharged from the army on June 3, 1919," Moore's notes indicate. "Many of us returned to the peace and quiet of farm life on the plains of Nebraska."

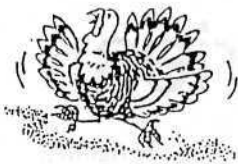
Battle Creek Mills Burned.

The Battle Creek roller mills were completely destroyed by fire last Saturday night about midnight. The fire was discovered about 11:30 o'clock and an alarm turned in. Strenuous efforts were made to save part of the property by the citizens but all to no avail and the property was entirely destroyed. Besides the usual contents of the mill it contained about 500 bushels of wheat. The building and its contents were valued at perhaps \$4,000. This was partially covered by insurance, there being \$2,000 worth in effect at the time of the fire.

The history of the mill during the past few months has been one of continual trouble, litigation and loss. It was recently purchased by Hugh J. Herbison of Madison under mortgage sale. This did not include the right to use the dam of which J. D. Hoover of Battle Creek claimed possession. When Mr. Herbison went over

to start the machinery up Mr. Hoover refused him the use of the water from the dam and threatened him with a shotgun if he didn't desist in his efforts. Hoover was finally arrested and taken to Madison and the matter in some way adjusted by law. During the high water this spring the dam went out. Mr. Herbison, shortly afterward, began the construction of a new dam and it is understood that it was just completed and he was ready to turn on the water this morning, but the fire destroyed his mill and there will be no use for the new dam, at least, until another mill can be constructed.

It is generally believed that the mill was set on fire but there is at present no definite clue as to who was responsible and the matter will probably go into the history of the village as one of its mysteries. An effort will be made to trace the origin of the fire to its proper source, but it is doubtful if it proves successful.



PRESERVING FAMILY DOCUMENTS

by Linda L. Beyea

from Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly, Summer 1995

For those of us who appreciate and want to know more about our family history, finding or inheriting original family documents is an exciting prospect. So often those documents - the pages of our family history - are lost or destroyed, sometimes intentionally.

Family documents like birth and marriage certificates, old letters, newspaper clippings, diplomas, child's papers, military records, etc. deserve to be cared for and preserved. Just like an heirloom piece of jewelry or furniture, our family documents can be passed on to be cherished by future generations.

Unlike a ring or a chair, however, paper documents require special treatment in order to ensure a long life. The following is a list of elements that pose a danger to your documents and suggestions for what you can do to protect them:

- Perhaps the greatest threat to paper documents is damaging acids which result from the paper making process. Chemicals used in making paper from wood pulp react with light and the environment to produce acids that cause paper to yellow, become brittle and eventually disintegrate. Moreover, lignin - a naturally occurring substance in plants - contributes to the deterioration of paper. Paper documents need to be stored in an acid-free environment, such as an archival storage box, acid-free folders, or polyester film sleeves.
- Acid migration from one document to another is also a problem. Documents should be separated by interleaving sheets of acid-free paper or tissue.
- Light - especially direct sunlight - can bleach ink from documents and can react with the chemicals in paper to produce acids. Documents should be stored away from sunlight.
- Heat and humidity are dangerous as well. While exposure to heat can dry documents, causing them to become brittle, humid conditions can lead to the growth of mold and mildew and will weaken paper fibers. Professionals do not agree on a specific recommended level of relative humidity for storage (their figures range from no greater than 40%

Source: Bureau Co. Gen. Soc Vol VII:1 - Jan, 1996

all the way up to a maximum of 70%). But since most of us do not have a clue as to the relative humidity in our homes, the most practical advice is to keep your collection in a dark, dry and cool place. Never store documents in an attic or basement. A closet in a bedroom, for example, would be a reasonable location.

- Objects such as paper clips and staples can rust or tear papers. Potentially harmful items such as these should be removed from documents before storing them.
- Tape and other adhesives contain acids which will actually eat away at your documents. Never use tape or glue to mount or repair a damaged document. Acid-free adhesives are available for safe repair.
- Storing documents folded places stress on paper fibers. The creases are particularly susceptible to deterioration. Documents should be unfolded and stored flat.

SOME FINAL GUIDELINES INCLUDE:

- It is a good idea to photocopy documents onto acid-free paper, so that even if the document cannot be preserved, the information can.
- Organize and inventory your collection to make identification and retrieval easier, thus reducing wear and tear on your documents.
- Avoid writing on documents. If you must, however, use a No. 2 pencil. Never use a ballpoint or felt-tip pen that could stain or bleed.
- Never attempt to repair a valuable document. Contact a professional conservator for help.
- Finally, large or historically significant documents can be shared with others when donated to an archives.

The Maryland State Archives has developed a kit specifically for preserving individual collections. This paper Preservation Kit enables anyone to care for their family documents as described in this article. For more information and a free brochure, write or call: My Time, PO Box 8247, Warwick, RI 02888, telephone (401) 941-1073.

LAND RECORDS

Land records are important to genealogists because:

- In early rural America nearly all adult males can be found in land records.
- Land records exist uninterrupted from early settlement to the present time.
- Older land records contain more genealogical data than the modern records do.
- Land records are among the most accurate and reliable records available to genealogists.
- These records have almost always been indexed which makes them an easy resource to use.

—Decatur Gen. Soc.



DEFINITIONS:

Headright: Usually practiced in the 17th century in British North America, this was the grant of a set number of acres of land given for each person or settler whose ship passage the sponsor paid.

Indenture: In connection with land, this was a deed usually written twice on a long sheet of paper. Cut on a wavy line or in "indented" line between the two manuscripts, the two parts were given to the parties concerned, that is, the buyer and the seller. Later, if the two halves fit together at the wavy line, it was apparent proof of legitimacy.

Inmate: Far from its apparent meaning, this term was used in earlier times to designate an adult male or female who was renting property rather than owning it.

Message: Often mentioned in deeds of earlier days, this means that a house or some habitable structure was then standing on the property.

Patent: Concerning land, such a document was proof of possession of real estate purchased from a state, the federal government or colony. Once an individual had a patent for his land, all other disposals of that property could be made by deed or will.

Squatter: Although seemingly highly derogative, this term was used officially and in common language to describe individuals who had taken up residence on land they didn't legally own.

—Niagara Co. Gen. Soc.

Source: Bureau Co. Gen. Soc VII-1 - Jan, 1996

GLOSSARY

B.L.W. : Bounty Land Warrant

Bounty Land: Portion of Public Domain given to soldiers for military service, in place of money payment.

Chain: Measurement used in surveying; 66 feet in length or 100 links of 7.92 inches.

Dower Right: The right of a widow to a portion of her deceased husband's estate. In a land record a release without any conditions or restrictions.

Link: A measurement of land; one link is 7.92 inches.

M.L.W.: Military Land Warrant

Metes and Bounds: A method of survey used in eastern United States in which boundaries were determined by locations of physical landmarks.

Public Domain: Land which belonged to the Federal Government. All land except the original 13 Colonies, Kentucky, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, and Texas.

Quit Claim Deed: An instrument by which a person releases all interest or claim he has in a particular piece of land.

Range: A land measurement east or west of a principal meridian used in locating land.

Warranty Deed: A document of conveyance of property in which the seller guarantees a clear title to the property sold.

—Christian Co. Quarterly



COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Are you writing a family history and want it protected by copyrighting it? Here are some suggestions:

While you are writing your history, you can protect it by writing "Copyright" followed by the year in which you began writing and your name. This is called "Common-law Copyright" and will protect your work until it is printed. When it is printed, the copyright notation needs to appear on the title page only.

After you have finished writing and want to print and distribute your book, protect it further by filing official copyright papers with: Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20559.

—The Illuminator 11:3

Free Information From The National Archives



1. The **National Archives 1994 - 95 Publications Catalog** offers a wide selection of guides, finding aids, microfilm catalogs, and special archival publications that are useful to serious scholars, archivists, historians, and researchers. Also listed (though **not necessarily free** are general-interest books about the National Archives and its holdings that will appeal to anyone with an interest in U.S. history.

2. The **Media Resource Catalog** contains over 600 audiovisuals that are ideal for home, community, or school use. Subjects covered include American history, aviation, health, medicine, natural resources, science and space exploration.



3. **National Archives Teaching Aids** describes a variety of publications, posters, and teaching packages for use in the classroom.

4. **Information About The National Archives For Researchers** is an informative booklet which describes the National Archives Building in Washington, DC as well as the National Archives facility in College Park, MD which is expected to hold more than 1 million cubic feet of records when the move is completed in 1996.

5. **THE RECORD** is a fairly new newsletter which is published five times a year (September, November, January, March, and May) by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Its purpose is to bring to public attention the activities and issues surrounding the agency and to promote discussion and dialogue among its constituents. It is **free** and available to anyone who might be interested in the files of the National Archives. (In my opinion, it is a valuable tool for anyone interested in genealogy because there is plenty of information about what records have been opened and declassified and how to get them, as well as a family history section which is very helpful whether or not you can go to Washington to get them on your own. BV) For more information— write or call the numbers listed below:

To receive copies of the above listed free publications, write to: **Publications Distribution (NECD), National Archives, Room G9, Seventh & Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20408** or call (202) 501-5235 or 1-800 - 234-8861.

USING RECORDS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN MICROFILMED

*Excerpted from an article by Claire Prechtel-Klusens
(THE RECORD — MARCH 1995)*



Getting Started

The key to using records in the National Archives for genealogical research is determining how a person interacted with the Federal Government. The National Archives arranges and describes records by Federal agency. Each Federal agency (or major part thereof) is designated a "record group" that has a name and number — such as Record Group 59, General Records of the Department of State, or Record Group 28, records of the U.S. Postal Service.

Finding Aids

The researcher's second step is to carefully read the finding aids for that record group. In libraries, the "finding aid" is the card (or computer) catalog which lists each and every *item* in the library. The National Archives' finding aids are much different because they cannot list each of the five billion individual items in our holdings. Instead, the finding aids describe the records at the "series" level. (continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

A "series" is a body of documents arranged under a unified filing system or maintained by the records creator as a unit because of some relationship arising out of their creation, receipt, or use. Thus, "Letters Sent by the Topographical Bureau of the War Department" is a series because that Bureau maintained its outgoing correspondence separately from other records at the time they were created. "The Letters Received by the Topographical Bureau of the War Department" is likewise another series because the Bureau kept the letters it received separately from all other records. A series could consist of one inch to several thousand cubic feet of records.

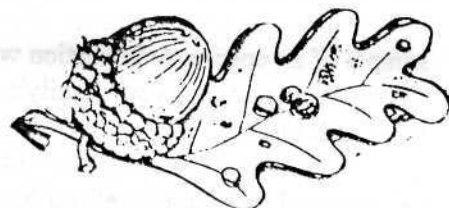
Some of the different kinds of **finding aids** are listed in a **free brochure** titled "**Select List of Publications of the National Archives and Records Administration**" (*General Information Leaflet No. 3*). See address on page 743.

Some record groups have a finding aid called an "inventory" or "preliminary inventory". The inventory or preliminary inventory's description of records includes the following information: name of the series, series number, date span included in the records, amount of records (in cubic or linear feet), and arrangement of the records (by name, subject, chronologically, or some other order). The inventory also describes which branch of the agency created or received the records, what information the records contain, and the type of record (telegram, carbon copy, map, photograph, etc.).

A "special list" may be available. These describe in detail the contents of certain record series or units of records having the same form or function. The special list presents information at the level of individual record items, and are often subject related. Two examples are *Special List No. 44, Lists of Logbooks of U.S. Navy Ships, Stations, and Miscellaneous Units, 1801 — 1947* and *Special List No. 34, List of Free Black Heads of Families in the First Census of the United States*. Source: Prairie Pioneers Gen. Soc., August, 1995, Pg 743



Remember Where the Closet Was?



Could you draw the floor plan of the house or apartment in which you lived as a baby, a small child, a teenager, a newlywed, or any of the other places which you've lived? Could you draw a floor plan of your grandparents home and remember the good times in the different rooms? Try it! Be sure to include windows, doors and furniture, don't forget what was outside - garage, sidewalks, trees, bushes, fences, barns and anything else that made it "your place".

Searching for family roots and writing family histories is a popular hobby these days, and drawing these house plans bring back many memories. On the same sheet of paper as the plan you might include the total house price and monthly payments or rent (what a change in the last twenty-five years!), the salaries and occupations of family members, the brand of cars owned and the family pets. If a photo of the home isn't available, draw it as you remember it.

Maybe you'll have just one house plan and all its memories; maybe you'll have a dozen or more - people do move around.

Ask other family members for details you might have forgotten over the years. Remember the icebox? That huge radio? Mom's closet and the fragrance of potpourri? This is a great way to stir happy memories!

From the Neighborhood Digest, Feb. 1985, used with permission of Century 21 Realty

Source: Platte Valley Kinseekers, page 4, Aug, 1994



Journalism Interviewing Techniques: All the Tricks of the Trade

Effective interviewing is essential to getting good family stories and information. The September speaker at the Los Angeles Westside Genealogical Society meeting, Professor Roger Graham, gave an excellent talk on how to accomplish these goals. The following article appeared in the LAWGS newsletter:

A good way to ask for the interview is to ask the subject if you may have about 20 minutes of his/her time, since an hour is often intimidating. A tape recorder will sometimes make a person nervous, so it is OK to take notes (but be sure to transcribe them while they are fresh in your memory).

One important step is to do your "homework" on the person you will be interviewing. Learn what you can about him or her and prepare some questions, but don't stick to them rigidly. Establish a cordial relationship.

Open-ended questions are a good way to start out an interview because they are not threatening. This way the subject can really start talking and quite often will bring out other facts and much more than was originally asked. A sample of an open-ended question would be "What brought about your family's move from Ohio to Kansas."

One important aspect of interviewing is to be a good listener and refrain from interruptions. Wait for the entire response. Then you can go after key points and try to keep the subject as focused as possible. A good interviewer isn't blunt. Don't force a "yes" or "no" answer.



Another pitfall is to be too general with questions such as "Tell me about Uncle James."

When the interview is close to ending, it is appropriate to ask some closed-ended questions in order to get specific answers.

Professor Graham also suggested that since quite a few people clip obituaries from newspapers, you might ask your subject if he or she has any. You may save yourself a lot of extra work.

When writing up your family information be sure to use the "5 W's and the H" (Who, What, When, Where, Why and How). Quite often it is a good idea to place these at the beginning of a story which creates the "lead".

To make the start interesting, use a "hook" or some humorous, dramatic or entertaining anecdotal story to make your reader want to continue reading. Many times people put things in chronological order, but this is often the most boring reading, so start with the important information and then fill in the rest.

Not only did Professor Graham give interviewing and journalistic techniques, but he gave information about newspaper "morgues" where obituaries and other family information may be located. In searching for these, two important resources for newspapers are the "Ayers Directory", which is a national listing of U.S. newspapers, and the CNPA, the California Newspaper Publishers Association, which has a directory of all California newspapers.



Source: Prairie Pioneers Gen. Soc, Jan. 1194, pg 594

Civil War Soldiers Photos Available - This file contains 80,000 photos. When you request a search for photos you will need to give the State, Regiment and Company, along with the name. Write to: Curator, Dept. of the Army, US. Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks., Carlisle, PA 17013-5008. If the file contains the photo you will be sent a copy along with information about ordering a print. Up to ten photos may be requested. Also, if you have a photo to lend it will be copied and a complimentary print sent back with the original.

Coastal Bend Genealogical Society (TX) Reflections Vol. 30, #2, June 1994 and Greater Omaha Genealogical Society, July/Aug. 1994

Source: Platte Valley Kinseekers, Aug. 1994

COURTHOUSE RESEARCH - - - ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS

At last! You have interviewed the relatives. Forgotten facts have been noted along with additional clues. You have used all the local sources, Fairview Park Library, Cleveland Public Library, Family History Library of the LDS, OGS in Mansfield, and our own Western Reserve Historical Society Library. You are ready to make that courthouse trip.

You have made a traveling notebook that includes duplicate records on the family being searched. It even includes a general section on the history of the county and specific townships with copies of maps and what has been published on the area. You have 2 zippered pouches. One with stationery, envelopes and stamps for late night letter writing. The second with supplies including pens, pencils magnifying glass, scissors, stapler, long strips of paper to mark pages to copy, and rolls of change for copying fees.

You have written ahead to the courthouse verifying hours of operation, requesting a map and materials on the area they have available and, permission to take your laptop computer. You even included a long SASE. Hotel reservations have been confirmed.

To make this a happy experience we need to remind ourselves of a few more details. Do wear layered clothing. Extra sweaters or jackets are a necessity if you are working in a cold or damp room. Volumes are dusty so never wear anything you would hate to see ruined. If you are lucky enough to get into a courthouse attic or basement and pull from the files your ancestors 200 year old will packet filled with all kinds of loose papers, the last thing you will think about is what your clothing is! Do wear comfortable shoes. Many courthouses have rather small areas to work in when you research. There may be inadequate seating for everyone and you may stand all day. Remember, the offices you are working in house the records of our county government. Lawyers, paralegals, title clerks, professional researchers and others like the county clerks are using these records for their daily case work and business.

PLEASE DO!

1. Park in a parking lot. Don't take time to worry about feeding a meter.
2. When you enter the building, check out the exits, bathroom facilities, water fountains and see if there is a coffee shop. One is usually found in the basement or on the first floor.
3. Identify yourself! Wear a name tag with a society affiliation. Tell them who you are, where you are from and SMILE! Be brief and concise, as a professional attitude will gain their respect for you and all other genealogists who follow after you are gone.
4. Maintain a small working area and a quiet atmosphere. Please leave the area as neat as you found it.
5. Copy records exactly as written and **PRINT!** If the spelling of the name bothers you, in brackets print the name you think it should be alongside the spelling according to the record found.

Source: WRHS Gen. Committee Bulletin, Spring/Summer 1996
MCGS-Vol 18 - 69

COURTHOUSE RESEARCH

6. List all spelling variations of the family name in the upper right hand corner of your paper as a reminder to check all variations of the spelling of the name being researched.
7. Make photocopies. It saves time while you are away, and there is no human error to contend with. Copies should be requested periodically during the day. This will relieve the clerk of the pressure of trying to help you and others at closing time.
8. Keep all notes and materials together until you return home and have more time to evaluate all the facts.
9. Take breaks, especially a lunch break to work more efficiently. It does wonders for your energy level!

PLEASE DON'T!

1. Have more than one book out at a time piled on top of each other. What happens? The bottom ones get smashed and bindings get broken.
2. Replace volumes or packets in wrong slots.
3. Lean or write on the volume itself.
4. Criticize handwriting or contents or records. Clerks don't want to hear our comments.
5. Try to bring in your lunch from a fast food restaurant.
6. Bring children along to be amused, or to amuse others. No matter how well behaved the children are, please; leave them at home.
7. Tell a long story about your ancestor and expect a clerk to analyze the evidence for you. You are excited about your finds on the family, not them!
8. Try to stay past closing time. At least 20 minutes ahead start finishing what is being transcribed and indexed.
9. Leave personal belongings unattended, or worse yet, ask the clerk to watch your things. That is not their job.

If you plan to do other work in the courthouse, be kind. Ask the clerks if they want anything when you are going to the coffee shop. Remember to take them a coffee mug or box of candy from our city.

If you follow these guidelines they will remember you, and you will always be welcome when you return. And they just may be extra helpful for not only you when you return, but, for the next genealogist walking through the door. I promise you. Trust me!

Shelvey Butler Madama

DOUBLE DATING - JULIAN/GREGORIAN STYLE

Before the Gregorian calendar was adopted in 1752 making January 1 the first day of the year, Ladyday, or March 25 was day one, but all of March was the first month. Thus dates before 1752 are noted as, i.e., February 1740/1, or Feb. 1740 Old Style, Feb. 1/41 New Style for a year that began in January. The calendar had also gotten ahead of sun time so several days were deleted from September. In 1752 September had 1, 2 and then skipped to September 14. Not everywhere converted their calendars together. Catholic countries changed in 1582. England and her colonies changed over in 1752, but the Russian and Greek churches did not. Greece, Bulgaria and Russia continued to use the Julian dating until World War 1.

Gina Hamister

SOCIAL SECURITY RECORDS IN FAMILYSEARCH

One of the problems in "Collecting Dead Relatives" after the 1920 Census is the lack of sources. Have you tried the Social Security Death Index - a part of FamilySearch?

The FamilySearch program is available at the Western Reserve Historical Society Library, the Family History Centers in Westlake and Kirtland, and the Chardon Library. For those who live outside Northeast Ohio, find out where the nearest Family History Center is located.

Most facilities require registration and an appointment to use the program. At the WRHS Library, there is a sign-up sheet which allows 1/2 hour. At the Chardon Library, you are allowed one hour and you may call ahead to make an appointment (216-285-7601).

FamilySearch operates on a menu system. Select Social Security. You are greeted with this information: "Contains many records of deaths reported to the U.S. Social Security Administration from 1937 through 1993. The majority of the death records are from 1962 and later." The operative words are "reported" and "1962 and later." It was in 1962 that computers began to be used.

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Press F4 to begin a search. Enter a given name, press enter, enter a surname, press enter, and enter the approximate year of birth. The records are arranged in chronological order according to the year of birth. Remember that you are dealing with the entire country, so you may have screens of the same name.

The first column is the name; the next column is the year of birth; then the state where the Social Security number was issued; next the year of death; and lastly, the state of residence at death (if it was known).

It is possible to limit your search by using F10 and telling the computer that you only want those who were issued an SS card in Ohio or who died in Florida (be careful of this as there are many without a state in that column).

Once you have found a match, press F2 to print the record for that individual. This will give you a complete birthdate, the Social Security number, the state of issuance, the month and year of death (much easier when hunting for an obituary) the residence locality, and the death benefit locality.

Press F5 (Record Offices) and you will see this: "You may apply to the Social Security Administration for a full copy of the SS-5 Application for Social Security card for any deceased individuals in this index. If you know the name and correct Social Security number, the fee is \$7.00. If the Social Security number is unknown or incorrect, the fee is \$16.50. Send check or money order, made payable to the Social Security Administration, to: Attention: Freedom of Information Officer

4-H-8 Annex Bldg.
6401 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21235

Be patient - probably at least six weeks. When you do receive the form, it will give the names of the parents and other tidbits of information.

You need not send for every single record: you can fill
MCGS-Vol 18 - 69

in your family group sheet with the dates of birth and death. Perhaps your ancestor isn't listed, but it is possible that some of the siblings are. Don't pass up this opportunity. There are very few researchers who wouldn't find something in this valuable tool.

Teeter Grosvenor

OLD LAND MEASUREMENT TERMS

Many terms found in old records about land are no longer in use, and a short description of some of the most common follows.

ACRE: 43,560 square feet, 160 square rods.

CHAIN: Sixty-six feet or twenty-two yards (100 links).

FURLONG: 660 feet or 220 yards (ten chains).

LINK: 7.92 inches. There are twenty-five links in a rod and 100 links (or four rods) in a chain.

MILE: 5,280 feet (eighty chains, 320 rods, or eight furlongs).

PERCH: 5½ yards or 16½ feet; also called *rod or pole*.

POLE: 5½ yards or 16½ feet; also called *perch or rod*.

ROD: 5½ yards or 16½ feet; also called *pole or perch*.

ROOD: As a measurement of length this varies from 5½ yards (rod) to eight yards, depending on locality. It was also used sometimes to describe an area equal to one-quarter acre.

Source: WRHS Gen. Committee
Bulletin Spring/Summer 1996

Omaha World-Herald
LibraryLink



The Omaha World-Herald LibraryLink,
your connection to The World-Herald Library.

Published Stories

Have you tried locating an article you know you read in the paper, but just can't seem to find it? Are you working on a paper for school, or looking for the missing branch on your family tree? LibraryLink can assist you with your search.

Published stories and research are available through The World-Herald LibraryLink for a fee. Searches can be conducted to locate and provide the stories you are interested in. A citation list which will enable you to pull stories off microfilm at the public library, can also be provided. If you're simply interested in finding out the date an article appeared, that information can be provided as well.

Call Ann Walding-Phillips at The World-Herald LibraryLink, 402-444-1561. All requests should be submitted by phone or mail. The library is not available to the public on a walk-in basis.

The ABC's of Genealogy

by Phil Dawson, from the Peoria Co. G.S. Newsletter, December 1995

- A** = Ancestor chart, Ahnentafel, Archives, Adoption records
- B** = Birth certificate, Bibles, Baptismal records, Books, BBS (Bulletin Board System)
- C** = Cemetery, Census, Courthouse, City directories, County records, Church records, Computers, CD-ROMS
- D** = Death certificate, Descendant chart, Deeds, Diaries
- E** = *Everton's Genealogical Helper*, Evaluate, Evidence
- F** = Family group sheets, Family reunions, Funeral records, Family histories, Federal records
- G** = Genealogies, Gazetteers, Gravestones
- H** = *Heritage Quest*, Histories, Heraldry
- I** = Interviews, Immigration records, Internet
- J** = Journals
- K** = Knowledge, Keepsakes, Kin
- L** = Library, Land grants, Letter writing, Lineage charts
- M** = Marriage applications, Maps, Military records, Mortuary records, Microfilm, Manifests
- N** = Newspapers, Newsletters, Naturalization records
- O** = Obituaries, Oral histories
- P** = Photos, Plat maps, Passenger lists, Pensions, Pedigrees, Probate
- Q** = Queries, Quarterlies
- R** = Research, Read, Reunions
- S** = Societies, Social Security, Soundex, Software, State records
- T** = Tax lists, Trusts
- U** = U.S. Government records
- V** = Vital statistics, Voting registers
- W** = Wills, Wedding announcements
- X** = Xpect something for every letter, did you?
- Y** = Yearbooks, Ye Olde Genealogie Shoppes
- Z** = Zoning records

Bureau County's first coroner was Jacob Galer.

EMIGRATE WITHOUT PERMISSION?

This article by John Ostertag was printed by Immigrant Genealogical Society. It appeared in the Ostertag/Easterday Association Family Newsletter in October 1995.

In Germany the men had to complete their military training before receiving permission to emigrate. Because of this, many families left Europe without official permission. Some of these undocumented emigrants can now be identified.

Six genealogists in Germany are compiling a database of persons who were not found when the government tried to contact them. It is called *Germanic Emigrants Register* and it will eventually cover the years from 1820-1918 and include 800,000 entries. The database includes information from the entire former German Empire - Prussia, Alsace-Lorraine, Bavaria, Saxony, Wurttemberg, Baden, Oldenburg, Hesse and other German states.

Immigrant Genealogical Society has the microfiche index to the first 277,000 entries in the database covering 1895-1918. Information included is: year of mention, name, age, birthdate, time of departure, and destination. The place of origin is not in the index, but it may appear in the source of the record.

Even though your ancestor's name is not in the index now, you may submit your query to the operators of the database to be checked against future entries (about 12,000 per month). They check twice a year. If a match is found in the future, they will notify you and quote a fee to research the source documents and send you copies. There is no charge unless you wish to pay the cited fee.

IGS volunteers can send you a list of persons of your ancestor's name appearing in the index, translate and list all information in the index about him, and provide a form and instructions for submitting your information and securing a search in Germany of the database.

Immigrant Genealogical Society
PO Box 7369
Burbank, CA 91510-7369

(Continued on page 12)

UPDATE/CORRECTION

Our January 1996 newsletter contained information about the *Germanic Emigrants Register*. We have received a letter from the Immigrant Genealogical Society containing updated and correct information.

The *Germanic Emigrants Register* database is compiled of names of persons not found when some German government agency wanted to contact them. The Immigrant Genealogical Society in Burbank, CA, is now referring all inquiries to the office in Germany. Search of the database is done only twice a year. The submitters' information is accumulated in a separate file and all submissions are checked completely at the end of each year.

There is no fee required to submit an ancestor's information for checking against the database. Persons desiring acknowledgement of

receipt of their submission should enclose 2 or 3 IRC's purchased at a U.S. post office.

If the place of origin is identified, the submitter will be notified. The submitter may then ask to secure copies of original documents and maps for a fee of \$250, paid by personal U.S. check. Responses may take from 3-6 months.

Because the database is compiled from notices in newspapers, the *Reichanzeiger*, the dates are those when the government discovered the desired person was missing—not the date they left. This could be up to 40 or so years after their actual departure.

There is a special form for submitting information. The address in Germany is: Germanic Emigrants Register, Postfach 1720, D-49347 Diepholz, Germany.



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