

MADISON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 1031

Norfolk, Nebraska 68702-1031

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January, 1997

2nd 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

My thoughts today is coping with this Klondike blast we are experiencing at present. I am looking forward to the arrival of Spring. From the seed catalogues I have received reminds me that the pleasant days of Spring may be just around the corner.

Some interesting books I have recently read are: "Pioneer Women" by Joanna L. Stratton. It is an excellent story of the lives of some women who settled in the Midwest. This book gives us an inkling of experiences our grandmothers and great grandmothers probably experience when they came to this area of the United States. "The Colonel's Lady on the Western Frontier" by Alice Kirk Grierson. This story relates the life of a pioneer who followed her husband while in his duty for the United States Government shortly following the Civil War. the Third book I read was "The Dirty Thirties" by William H. Hull M.A.

January 21st, we will have our post-Christmas dinner at a local restaurant. Our spouses and families will be our guests. February 18th, the program will be a video "New England Tradition" sponsored by Harold Lyon.

I hope all of you will survive the winter. I also hope that we have some very pleasant days sandwiched among the frigid days.

Sincerely,

Lottie Klein

Lottie Klein

Madison County Genealogical Society Membership List
January 21, 1997

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Mary Carlisle - 1316 Prospect Ave., Norfolk, NE	371-1777

EARLY DAY MILLINER WILL CLOSE BATTLE CREEK SHOP
MINNIE TEGELER IN BUSINESS PAST 57 YEARS

by Alice Leffler

The old time custom of wearing black for a year in mourning worked hardship on many people, state Miss Minnie Tegeler, 86 year-old resident who is closing out the remnants of her millinery and fancy work store in Battle Creek, which she has conducted for the past thirty years. She moved to Battle Creek from Concordia, Kan., where she was a milliner and dressmaker for twenty-seven years.

In early days both hats and dresses were made in the sales establishment and when a death occurred, Miss Tegeler and her assistants often had to work all night to complete costumes for the mourners. One night job was the making of a black velvet suit for a school teacher who felt that she should wear mourning for a young man who died she said.

Dyed Quilts Black

Miss Tegeler recollected when her mother died that all of the clothes of the feminine members of the household were dyed black as they did not feel able to discard them for entire new outfits. That with what new clothing they purchased did nicely until the year of mourning was complete. Then convention decreed that they should go out of mourning and the problem arose concerning new wardrobes as they had not omitted any dresses from the dye kettle.

"I don't think much of dressing up for funerals" Miss Tegeler declared and recollected that pallbearers at least in her part of Missouri wore white gloves which were tossed on top of the casket after it was lowered. According to her recollections, flowers played no part in funerals during early days.

Weddings made another period of long hours in the dressmaking conducted in connection with her millinery shop until ready-made dresses became plentiful. Now, she makes aprons and fancy work, including crochet articles and waits on trade with the help of a friend, formerly her dressmaking assistant who has been with her since the night of the blizzard last January.

The rear door of her apartment connected with her place of business, was open a crack and snow sifted on the linoleum. As she stepped on the snow, she slipped and fractured a bone. Because Dr. F. X. Rudloff could not get her upstairs to his office for an x-ray, he called the county commissioner who cleared the road to Norfolk, so Dr. Rudloff could come here for a portable x-ray machine.

She can get about with crutches or a wheel chair.

"You said you made hat frames and trimmed them. How did you know the style?" she was asked. "We went to the wholesale house in spring and fall." she replied. "We stayed two or three weeks studying those we thought would sell in our communities and patterned after them. Milliners, when I first went into business, made the entire hat."

Miss Tegeler said she believes that hat business in small towns has been hit harder than along say any other line, as a woman wants to go to a larger town where there is a greater choice.

Enjoys Crocheting

She displayed some fancy work she has done and remarked that she can sew simple things like aprons, but enjoys crocheting and mat weaving more because it is easier on her eyes.

"My eyes are getting so bad that I can no longer get glasses," she remarked, adding that she expects to get her second sight before long. She names March 20 as her birth date.

Source Norfolk Daily News Aug 11, 1947

ACCORDING TO THE FAMILY TREE (JAN-FEB '96), MISSOURI BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS HAVE BEEN REDUCED FROM \$22 TO \$5 FROM THE MISSOURI BUREAU OF VITAL RECORDS, PO BOX 570, JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102.

BIOGRAPHY OF A TEACHER

by Mollie A. Taylor

I taught the kindergarten two years.

For many years the attendance in the grade school was very large but in recent years it had gone down considerably. During all these years I worked hard. No doubt but what I made many mistakes. I always had the children's interest at heart more than they realized and often asked the Lord to help me bring out the best that was in them. If I had to do it over again, I might do better and I might do worse. One never knows.

Each year around Christmas time I get dozens of cards and letters from former students and teachers with whom I have taught. I got one for the first time from a lady in Idaho who as a child went to school under me the last year I taught in the country.

The superintendents under which I taught were all men. I will name them in the order in which they came, Stewart, Funk, Vantine, McCarthy, Zuck, Housel, Richardson, Jacoby, Blackstone, Erickson, Aldrich, Dawson, Walz, Gifford, Witte, Salter, Hansen, Kelley and McPharran.

A number of these have passed on. Some of these I have lost track of, But Mr. Kelley is superintendent at Fairbury, Mr. Hansen at Ballantine, Mt., Mr. Salter a lawyer in Lincoln. Mr. Walz lived in Battle Creek and ran a hatchery south of town. Mr. McCarthy is a doctor in Lincoln. I taught under Supt. Hansen longer than any other superintendent. He was here fifteen years.

During my fifty-six years of teaching in Battle Creek, recognition has been shown to me at different times. On one anniversary the citizens and students and town band met south of the school building. They had a short program and presented me a collection of money and on another anniversary they presented me with a wrist watch. At another time the teachers gave me a fountain pen. Then in 1945 when Mr. G. G. Hansen was superintendent and Ralph Gray was band master they gave me a musical. They had a very nice program and presented me some money again.

At the district Teacher's Association at Norfolk the last fall, they gave me a salute for my many years of service. The Improvement Club which consists of the ladies clubs in an around Battle Creek got out a recipe book. They featured my picture in the front of the book. The county superintendent, Mrs. Musetta Gilman, composed a poem on "His Teacher" and had made into a greeting, for her rural teachers and others for their Christmas greeting. This she lovingly dedicated to me:

HIS TEACHER

If she were tall or short, he could not say"
But vivid memory held her kindly way.
She put within his baby hands, the learning tools.
To think, to dream, to build. She made no rules
But one, and that to grow, grow straight and tall
In body, mind, and soul. To serve was all!
Discouraged? Often tired? He never knew.
Her laughter met and conquered fears, and she could woo
The most unlovely child with patient love.
He learned to care about his fellow men, to look above.
To call his Father's name, to seek His will for she
Had learned that teaching was a part of immortality.

Dedicated to Mollie Taylor on her sixtieth year of teaching.

A few years back when Cappa Delta Gammas organized in Norfolk they took me in as an honorary member due to my years of service. The Battle Creek woman's Club made me an honorary member. Some time back the WSCS and the National RNA gave me pins for fifty years of service.

The first year that I taught in Battle Creek they were paying \$35.00 a month. Since I was a home teacher they paid \$33.33. Guess they thought I could raise my own garden and I did and raised it every since. I spend much time working outdoors in the summer time working with the fruit, flowers, and vegetables. Mr. Housel used to say it was this outdoor work in the summertime that kept me going the other nine months.

I was always greatly interested in nature. The birds, trees, flowers, etc. For eight years soon after I began teaching in town, Mr. C. Crum was county superintendent. He was a great naturalist. Each summer at county institute he would take us on field trips. On these trips I learned to love nature more and more, especially the birds. He moved to Edmore, Mich. I've heard from him each Christmas for a long time.

In June, 1927, I had a goiter operation. People said that my teaching days were over but they weren't. In the spring of 1949 I fell on some ice in front of the school house and injured my right leg. Was unable to teach anymore that year, but started again that fall.

I am sorry I never got to school anymore in my earlier years but did the best I could under the circumstances. My parents were not young any more and soon after I began teaching here I assumed the head of the house. I went one summer to Peru and several summers to Wayne.

To be sure I had my ups and downs, more ups than downs. On the whole I have enjoyed my work and was thankful I could carry on and earn a living.

I got a good deal of pleasure out of my little kindergarten. In 1914 the attendance became so large that it became necessary to build an addition to the four-room building, an office and gymnasium was built. The day before dedication we were moved to the southeast room on the first floor. For two weeks we had no shades and it was like going from darkness to daylight. Was pretty hard on our nerves but we were certainly glad to get that room.

I was asked to write a history of Battle Creek School for this occasion. I had collected considerable data but the night before dedication I was up nearly all night getting organized. Mr. Blackstone was the superintendent at this time.

In 1935 the attendance had become so great that more space was needed so plans were made to construct an entirely new building. Hence our new modern high school. Mr. Hutchinson, now in Oklahoma, was principal at the time. He took my history, revised and added to it and completed the history up to that time. G. G. Hansen was the superintendent at that time.

All the grade teachers now occupy the new part addition to the old school building. In the old part was the lunch room and storage rooms. Under the old part was the furnace room. Some say the building was condemned.

Submitted by Mollie A. Taylor

(She taught three years, three months in Madison County and fifty seven years in Battle Creek with a total of 60 years and 3 months of teaching. She quit in the spring of 1953. She is now deceased.) Source Battle Creek Enterprise, Battle Creek, NE Nov. 19, 1970

GALVANIZED SOLDIER

A galvanized soldier is a member of the Confederate forces during the Civil War who was captured and sent to prison. If he agreed to enlist in the Union Army, he was released. Those that did enlist for the Union may have received pensions. Many families are unaware that their ancestors fought on both sides.

HOW ON EARTH DID MY GRANDMOTHER GET SUCH A NAME

On March 12, 1988, there was a terrible blizzard in the eastern states. Many people could not leave their homes. Children born following this terrible time were given names such as: Snowflake, Storm, Snowball, and, yes, even Blizzard!

Source BCGS Vol. VII:3 May, 1996

Christmas letters benefit from planning, rewriting

By MARY ZACHMEYER
News Correspondent

A snowflake melts on your sweater sleeve as you grab a fistful of cards from your mailbox. You sit down with a mug of steaming coffee and slide a letter opener along the edges of each mailing.

There's the card from Aunt Margie with writing covering every inch of white space, the lone "John and Jane" scribbled under Rudolph-and-his-friends card, and the two-pager filled with typing blunders, bravados and boredom. Sometimes you receive that Christmas form letter that you tuck away in a letter box to be reread next year.

Up until 1968, I hand wrote each Christmas letter beginning in October. It took months to write everyone about the merry-making of four children. After a few dozen letters, I couldn't think, couldn't remember, and had lost the Christmas spirit.

That was when I decided to write a form letter. Besides, it'd save my wrists and my sanity.

Basically, there are five steps to follow: RECORD, COMPILE, THEME, WRITE and FINAL WRITING. Anyone can do it with a little planning.

1) RECORD. Find an easily accessible place to record events, cute sayings by children, anecdotes you discover over the year, or that short poem you like. (Or try composing one yourself. Even non-poets can write a four-liner.)

A kitchen calendar is where I began. I've recorded such things as the day a tornado followed us home from the park, the summer

I was pregnant and both grandmothers died within a month of each other, and the day our 12-year-old son misread a cookie recipe putting in 1½ cups of water instead of 1½ teaspoons.

Record anything unusual, witty or moving to you. As the year progresses, you'll find yourself jotting things down automatically.

2) COMPILE. Around Nov. 1, take your calendar down, read your notes and begin a list of the most interesting items. Flavor them with humility and humor. No one likes to read about aches and pains, nor a litany of Johnny's prowess.

3) THEME. Find a thread that holds everything together. I've used such themes as thank yous to people involved in our lives that year; organized by months, seasons, holidays or birthdays; planned the letter according to our five children's ages, activities, or cute sayings; our struggles as parents; big events in each member's life (like the year when six of the seven of us were hospitalized); and trips/vacation themes.

A friend from Martell developed a theatrical theme. She used such phrases as "recurring role of Mom and Dad" and "phenomenal performance." She mails her letter in March with an Irish quote and poetry because December is too busy. Another friend sends a Valentine's Day letter.

A friend in Washington rewrites "Twas the Night Before Christmas" to fit her family's activities. A friend in Kansas City uses a newspaper format.

She includes small clip art images and photos that are easily done on a computer.

4) WRITE. Beg, borrow or steal a computer and printer. Choose a print size large enough for the elderly to read and a simple font. Write all you can. The mundane is easily deleted.

Create an introduction that will make friends and family want to drop everything to read your newsy letter. Read it aloud to yourself. Note where you stumble over words. Read it to family members. It's their life, too. Be willing to accept suggestions.

5) REWRITE. The final step is to rewrite your letter to fit the length you want. Two sides of paper hold a lot. A ream of colored paper costs 4 cents per sheet.

When you have that stack of freshly printed pages, ask the children or a friend to help. Do any designing such as stamping, stickers or free-hand holly drawings in the corner first.

Post office clerks and machines go haywire over red and green envelopes, so white is best. The clerks say that typed addresses really speed delivery and that few people add their return addresses during the Christmas season. The zip-plus-four digit is not necessary as a computer will add it for you.

Be sure to put your return address on the envelopes. Now you're ready to fold your letters to fit the envelopes.

Children love putting on postage stamps. Tear them in horizontal lengths. Lick, stick, tear, go to the next envelope.

Source: Norfolk Daily News - Dec. 6, 1996

Now is a good time to start marking your calendar or keeping notes and thinking about your annual Christmas letter. Include family happenings - important dates, other pertinent family information on birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, deaths, and other happenings during the year

Family reunions become more rare as years fly by

By STASIA SCARBOROUGH

Scripps Howard News Service

Last time you saw your cousin's children, they were begging for a push on the swing set. But the most recent Christmas card delivered news of their high school graduation.

How long has it been since the family got together?

Those who keep the family ties tight say a regular family reunion is key to making sure the generations stay close.

"People are going like this" says Chris Mangum of Redding, Calif., spreading her arms outward. "We're more mobile. We need closer ties."

The answer for many is a family get-together — one that gathers as many as 200 of the clan. It's not that tough, but it does take some advance planning.

"We schedule a park in advance — about a year in advance," said Shirleene Thiel of Anderson, Calif., who will be in charge of her family's next reunion.

While Mrs. Thiel's family rotates the assignment, others seek a group effort in planning.

"We pick a committee" that will assign duties like site selection, food, family notification and special projects, Mrs. Mangum says.

She also sends out notices to those who are likely to attend, asking for input.

Finding family isn't usually a problem. When Jan Dawson of Milville, Calif., began plotting her family's first-ever reunion, she turned to the family she knew for help.

"It wasn't that difficult. It was other people (who) found other people," she says. And pretty soon, the far-ranging connections were made. About 80 attended the June reunion.

"I had a cousin show up that I hadn't seen since I was young," she says. "My cousins' two sons were here — they're in their late 20s and I didn't even know they existed."

Sending out invitations can also be a chance to coordinate other family projects at the same time.

"We sent out fliers (asking family members) to send their favorite recipe from the family," Mrs. Thiel says. Each person contributed \$10 and one or two recipes, which were then compiled into a book.

In fact, reunions offer an opportunity to cooperate on family projects and fun ways to remember each other.

Mrs. Mangum's clan picks a theme for each reunion, then purchases T-shirts with the theme and date of the get-together printed on them.

But the telling feature is the color of the shirts — each generation wears a different color "so when you take pictures it's really fun," she says.

Opinions on where to hold a reunion depend on the family. Some go to a public campground, some stick very close to home.

When Devon Walton and his father gathered the family about five years ago, it was held at his father's house at Anderson, Calif., and the nearby Anderson River Park. Generally the guests stayed with families.

"We had about 65 people and had them staying with different relatives in the area, and some people stayed at hotels," he says. "I made arrangements for trailers and we parked a couple of trailers in my dad's back yard."

Mrs. Thiel's 200-member gathering is also scheduled in a park, usually somewhere in Idaho because it is centrally located for

family members living in the West.

The exact location depends on the family's priorities. "We generally rent it where there's a swimming pool," or a lake for swimming, she says.

Evelyn Baer says she generally schedules her family's reunion at a large hotel, because it gathers people from so many locations. All have been held on the East Coast, nearer the family's center of gravity.

Then there are other details that have to be considered, including money. Even if everyone provides their own food, there are going to be some costs involved, such as renting a park or providing drinks.

Two families suggest auctions can be a fun way of offsetting expenses.

Mrs. Thiel's and Mrs. Mangum's family members each donate an item to be auctioned at the gathering.

"Everyone brings something. My brother makes arrowheads and arrows. One cousin lives near the coast and brings abalone steaks — there are all kinds of things," says Mrs. Mangum.

Most agreed that you also need some planned activities during the day — but keep it simple.

"We just wanted to have people have a good time, but to involve everybody," Walton says. "I had games for the younger kids ... to get to know one another."

"We had a horseshoe tournament and we played volleyball and went swimming," he adds.

But veteran planners say don't plan too much.

It doesn't work "if you try to get too structured because they like free visiting time," Mrs. Mangum says.

Source Norfolk Daily News - Dec 12, 1996

FAMILY REUNION TIME

It is never too easy to start planning your family reunion. Your reunion can be as small as a family picnic in a local park or as large as a special weekend with relatives attending from all over the country and even other countries.

The type of reunion will be determined by how much contact or networking you have within the family. For your first reunion you may wish to invite those of the local families. With each successful reunion, plans can be made to encourage attendance from those who live farther away.

It does not always have to be inter-related families. you could have a Clan Gathering with others sharing the same surname. You may even find a long lost relative where you least expect him.

Small or large, there are a number of ways to make your reunion memorable. Special events at a family reunion will help to make it unique to those who attend.

You could have different colored name tags for each family tree represented at the gathering. Sturdy name tags are needed if people have to wear them for more than a couple of hours.

You could have a video buff interview those attending. Have them tell about family memories, special events through the past year, or thoughts about just being together.

A memory booklet is one way of sharing the older generations with the younger ones. Have someone interview the older family members or tape record the interview. Be sure to have them include comments about their happiest times or their saddest ones. Events that happened to them or the family would be of interest to the younger generations. These interviews could be made into a small booklet and shared with all attending. (Gleaned from the Cleveland Family Chronicles Research Society, written by Estela Pryor on *Organizing a Family Reunion*.)

Via New Brass Key - NE State Gsn. Soc - Summer 1996

WHAT A BACKGROUND

Next time you're feeling rather unimportant, try a little arithmetic trick based on the undebatable fact that it took two people, your parents, to get you here. Each of your parents has two parents, so in the generation just prior to that of your mother and father, there were four people whose pairing off and sharing love contributed to your existence.

You are the product of 8 great-grandparents, 32 great-great-grandparents, etc. Keep on multiplying the number by two. If you figure an average of about 25 years between each generation, you'll discover that a scant 500 years ago, there were 1,048,576 people on this planet beginning the productions of you.

*(Courtesy of Rev. Gene Britton, East Point, GA;
from Southside)*

Gen Soc of Wayne Co. NE=Oct 1995

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YEARBOOKS

School yearbooks represent an excellent hidden resource available in most communities. High school, middle school, or even elementary school annuals may contain such information on graduating seniors as individual photos, candid shots, athletic photos, class highlights, class will, or class prophecy. There is also often a summary of the student's activities, a favorite quote, course of studies, and honor society membership. You will find a section for staff and faculty. Local sponsoring merchants may also be mentioned, sometimes with a photo.

Although basically a 20th century phenomenon, yearbooks may include information on alumni and faculty which extends back into the previous century. Such updated data might include name, year of graduation, current residence, college attended, occupation, employer and if deceased.

Be on the lookout for places to find yearbooks. (Via LAWGS Newsletter, June 1996)

A GENEALOGIST TIP:

ALWAYS note the source of any material that you photocopy. Occasionally, you may need to refer to the source again or copy more information. Note the Name of the Book, Author, Date, Publisher and also where you found the book (library, church, genealogical society, courthouse, etc.). Photocopying the title page is a quick way to get all the information. Until next time, see you at the meetings and Happy Digging !!

Diane

Life Lines Magazine Nov/Dec 1996

January, 1997 - 2nd Quarter

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR CONDUCTING A REMINISCENCE

Would you begin by telling me your earliest memory?
 What are some of your favorite memories of your childhood?
 Was there a special person or group that strongly influenced your early life? Who? Tell me about them?
 Can you tell me the meaning of your family name?
 How did your parents meet?
 Can you describe your family, parents and siblings, as you saw them as a child?
 What did your father do for a living? Did your mother ever work outside the house?
 Did you know your grandparents well? What stories do you remember hearing about your great-grandparents?
 What did you like about being a girl/boy?
 What was the first house you remember like?
 As a child, did you have a room of your own, bed of your own, or did you share it with someone else? Whom?
 Did you house have a parlor? Was the family allowed to use it?
 How was your home heated? Was it warm in winter? How did you keep cool in summer?
 What kind of kitchen stove did your parents cook on?
 Did you burn wood, coal, cobs and was this a chore of yours?
 Did you always have indoor plumbing? Electricity? If not, when did you get it?
 Did your family always have a refrigerator?
 Did you buy or make your own clothing? Who did the cooking? Ironing?
 Did you learn how to sew? Crochet? Knit? Embroider? Who taught you?
 Did your family have a garden? Orchard?
 Did you raise chickens, hogs or cattle for meat or keep a cow for milk?
 Did you make your own butter? Cheese?
 What were your favorite foods as a child?
 Tell me about the pets you had as a child.
 Were you ever very sick as a child? Who took care of you?
 Did you get any allowance as a child?
 What got you into the most trouble as a child?
 What were your favorite pastimes as a teenager?
 What do you remember about your first boyfriend/girlfriend?
 Tell me about your first job? Did you like it?
 What part did religion play in your growing up?
 What did Saturday mean to you?
 Was Saturday night bath night? Tell about baths.
 How did the family spend its evenings?
 Which holiday stands out in your memory and why?
 What was the happiest birthday you can recall?
 What was the most memorable present you ever received?
 How was your birthday celebrated? Did you have a birthday cake?
 Did you family observe Easter? How?
 How was the 4th of July celebrated when you were little?
 Describe a Christmas from your childhood. The tree. Stockings.
 Did you have special shopping habits at Christmas time? Did you
 earn your own money to buy presents?
 Did you visit relatives often? Near? Far? How did you get there?
 Did you ever travel on a train while you were young? Where did you go and with whom?
 Did your family attend picnics? Family reunions? What do you remember about them?
 Share an adventure you had.
 Did you or your family own a horse? A buggy?
 When did you family acquire its first car? What make? How much did it cost?
 Who taught you to drive?

Fill-in-the-blank reminiscence books
 are available at most major book
 stores and some museum and country
 gift shops. These include:
Grandpa Was Quite A Boy
Grandma Was Quite A Girl
Father Was Quite A Boy
Mother Was Quite A Girl
This is My Life
 Family Heirloom Books by
 Harry & Gloria McMahan
 P.O. Box 1537
 Escondido, Ca. 92025

Grandmother Remembers
 Stewart, Tabori & Chang

*Roses in December, my life story
 and other memories*
 Paint Box Studio Press

Blank books are also available.

Sample Questions cont....

Do you remember any blizzards, tornadoes or floods?
Where did you go to school?
Did you ever attend a one-room schoolhouse? Describe.
How did you get to school? If you walked, how far?
What do you remember about these walks? Did you walk alone or with friends?
What kinds of grades did you get? What were your favorite subjects? Who were your favorite teachers?
What about Junior High or High School – how large was your class? Did you "board" in town with someone?
Who was your best friend?
Did you and your playmates play any organized games? Football? Baseball? Hockey? Kick the can?
Did you participate in 4-H or scouting organizations?
Have you ever received a special honor or medal?
Whom did you most admire when you were young?
When you were small, what did you hope to do when you grew up?
Tell me about an experience with "love at first sight."
When and where did you meet your husband or wife?
What first attracted you to the person you married?
Describe your wedding. Did you go on a honeymoon?
What surprised you about being married?
What kinds of things did you and your spouse face together?
What can you remember of your children's baby days and childhood?
To what organizations have you belonged?
Which political party did you belong to? Whom did you vote for in presidential elections?
What was the most interesting period of history you lived through?
What was your greatest disappointment and your greatest achievement?
Could you tell me about the most difficult thing you had to deal with during your life?
What about your moment of greatest joy?
Did you ever make major changes in you life? Divorce? Switch careers? Move a great distance? Why did you decide to make this change?
What was the happiest time in your life?
How did your life change during the depression? How did the war effect you?
What was the best news you received?
Who was the most famous person you ever met?
If you got an award for "Best _____", what would it be?
If you got an award for "Worst _____", what would it be?
What is the biggest difference between your childhood and that of your children? Grandchildren?
What advice did your parents give you? Did you hand down that same advice to your children? Why/why not?
What one thing would you do differently, if you could?
How would you sum up your life in one or two words? Why did you choose those words?

Behold the mark of the Old...
Let your Heritage not be lost,
But bequeath it as a Memory,
Treasure and Blessing...
Gather the Lost and the Hidden
And preserve it for thy Children.
Christian Metz 1846

Combine questions if you wish, and skip those that do not seem to apply to you or that you cannot, or choose not, to answer. And answer any additional questions that occur to you.

Do not start out trying to produce a finished composition; just let your memories flow naturally. Later, you, or perhaps your child or great-grandchild, can edit it. Right now, you are simply gathering the all-important facts and memories.

Work for short periods of time. You can continue your answers at odd moments, or you can stop to ponder or discuss them. But spend your time writing, rather than rereading your earlier answers, or slow progress may discourage you.

Compose your answers as though you are writing a letter to your family — to people you know and love — for that is essentially what you are doing.

Sources: Reminiscence Training Supplement, by Barbara Haight

A Family History Questionnaire, by Virginia Allee in Family Heritage via Zion Genealogical Society newsletter
Games to Play at Family Reunions, Hall County Extension Office

Source PPGS, February 1992

TIPS TO TRY

TOWN NAMES-If your ancestor arrived from the "old Country" and you know the name of the town, but you can't find it on the map, Rand McNally it has an archivist who may be of help: Phil Forrester, PO Box 7600, Chicago, IL 60680 (312)673-9100 ext 2339. Another good source is the Map Library at UCLA (Los Angeles WGS Newsletter Vol 11 No. 4)

ADOPTION RECORDS Adoption records did not become confidential until 8 July 1941 when Acts 1941, Chapter 146, Section 6, became effective. Legislation pertaining to adoptions that had been enacted prior to 1941 focused on the issue of providing legal proof of heirship so that the adopted child became an heir at law of the adoptive parents. The intent of the pre 1941 legislation was to make the adoption a public matter. All adoptions prior to 1941 were recorded in the civic or probate order book which were (and are) public records.

Records pertaining to adoption after 8 July 1941 are confidential; all court orders, judgments, case files, etc. pertaining to post 1941 adoptions are to remain confidential. (Via The Illuminator, Zion, Ill.)

FEMALE NICKNAMES: The Clark-Oconee Genealogical Society, PO Box 6403, Athens GA 30603-6403 has published a list of female nicknames that will help researchers. Did you know "Margaret" could be Millie, Maisie, Daisy, Meta, Mitzi, Madge, Midge besides the better known Peg, Meg and Maggie? "Martha" often was Patsy, Patty, Mattie, or Pat and even the simple name "Mary" became Mamie, May, Maisie, Minnie, Molly or Polly. "Ann" was Nan, Nancy or Nannie. If interested write to them for the publication.

REACHED A DEAD END? If you are having trouble locating death or cemetery records in the last locality known, check the Register of Deeds Office. Sometimes people moved on before selling property. When the property eventually sold the deed will tell where they moved to. If you don't know the location of the property check the Grantee-Grantor Index. Can't find a will? They too are sometimes found in the Register of Deeds Office.

CATHOLIC GENEALOGICAL MATERIAL: Two sources of historical and genealogical material for the Catholic Church are: Dept. of Archives and Manuscripts, Catholic University of America, Washington DC 20019 and University Archives Notary Dame University, Sout Bend, IN 46624.

DATES OF EUROPEAN CENSUS: First census for each of the following countries were : France-1801; Saxony-1815; Austria-1815; Bavaria-1818; Prussia 1810; Spain-1789; Great Britain-1815; Norway-1815; Sweden-1749; Greece-1836; Switzerland-1860.

DAR PATRIOT INDEX: The Centennial Edition was published in 1884 in three complete and revised volumes which include the previous volumes and supplements, corrected and updated, plus patriots added since the 1982 supplement. The cost is approx. \$75. Sent payment to : Treasurer General, DAR at: National Society DAR, 1776 D Street., N. W. , Washington, KC 20006-5392.

WHAT'S IN A GIVEN NAME? History lives in given names, just as place names etch the history of a region on a map. The first settlers leaned toward English, Hebrew origin and intended to convey a moral significance. Names such as Content, Mindwell, Obedience, Patience, Temperance, Ransom,, Deliverance and Remember. The Revolutionary War caused names as Freedom, Liberty, or Independence, and America. Girls born out of wedlock were sometimes named Lament or Trial, and boys were given the name of a reputed father. Another source was classical literature: Virgil and Homer. Then the borrowing of English aristocracy: George, Frederic, Caroline, and Henrietta. The Civil War introduced a generation of Lincolns, Shermans, Grants, and Lees.

(The above were borrowed from Helen's Helpful Hints)
Source PPGS - February 1992

TV FAMILY HISTORY SERIES ON PBS

In January 1997, PBS member stations will have the opportunity to air a series of 10 half-hour programs called *ANCESTORS*. Genealogists Jim and Terry Willard will host the program. Each episode will begin with the story of a person who has experienced dramatic changes as a result of his or her genealogical research.

Corporate sponsors for the series are: Eastman Kodak Company, Broderbund's Family Tree Maker, AGLL, Lineages, and Palladium Interactive.

The episodes will include: Getting Started, Looking at Home, Gathering Family Stories, The Paper Trail, Libraries and Archives, Census and Military Records, African-American Families, Your Medical Heritage, High Tech Help, and Leaving a Legacy.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies, the National Genealogical Society, and the New England Historic and Genealogical Society have provided support and encouragement for this series. Visit the World Wide Web site:

<http://www.kbyu.edu/ancestors>

Perhaps you would like to tape them for future reference

This series of "ANCESTORS" is aired on a PBS Station each Sunday noon at 12:30 p.m. The last seven episodes are still to be shown on NTV.

Source: Western Reserve Historical Society--WRHS--Winter, 1996

★★★★★

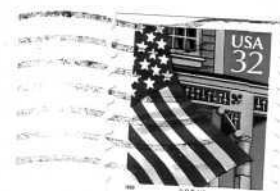
TRUE STORY: Two little boys attended their uncle's wake and later that day decided to play funeral. They gathered around the final resting place while one said, "In the name of the Father, the Son, and in the hole he goes!"

Bureau Co. Illinois Gen. Soc--Summer 96
TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS

Renee BUNCK reported that the catalog for the topographical maps is by State, they are free and you must call 1-800-USA-MAPS. This will put you in touch with the Dept of Interior and they will send you the catalog for the desired state(s). She is now using her Kentucky Maps she ordered \$4.75 each and found where her ancestors lived. What a great find. THANKS, Renee!!

Eastern Nebraska Gen. Soc. Oct. 1995

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